OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TOWN OF WELSH

 WELSH, LOUISIANA

 JUNE 06, 2017

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Welsh met in regular session in their

regular meeting place, the Town Hall, on Tuesday, June 06, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Carolyn Louviere called the meeting to order and Lawrence Mier led the pledge.

Roll call follows:

Present: Mayor Carolyn Louviere; Aldermen: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier,

Colby Perry, and Robert Owens.

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Richard Arceneaux, Town Attorney; Stephanie Benoit, Town Clerk;

Marcus Crochet, Police Chief; Michelle Ramagos, Director of Parks and Recreation;

 Co-Superintendent, Wayne Hebert; Co-Superintendent, Tracy Goodwin.

Mayor Louviere started the meeting with a response to a letter she received from one of the Alderman. She expressed how she knows you will receive criticism but being called a racist was one she would not accept. She explained her family values and working with the public all of her life that people are all equal.

089. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to adopt the Agenda of the Day which consisted of 103. Jim Wright-Zoning; 104. Bengt Lindell-Accusations against the Police Department; 105. Marcus Crochet-New Hire Blake Bergeaux; 106. Jackie Balmer-Political Divide.

 Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

090. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Colby Perry to approve the minutes of May 2, 2017 as presented. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

091. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened the public hearing. Alderman Bob Owens said it would be nice to look at putting a fence up to divide the property. Town Attorney Rick Arceneaux said it would be worthwhile to get the property surveyed. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to close the public hearing. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

092. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened the public hearing. The Welsh/Roanoke Reunion will be held in Richmond Park on June 17, 2017. Open Container needs to be lifted only in the park from noon until 6:00 p.m. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

093. The following resolution was offered by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan.

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2017

 A Resolution granting the authority to the Mayor to sign and submit

 all necessary documents, appoint an Administrative Consultant and

 Engineer and to commit costs for the FY 2018-2019 Louisiana

 Community Development Block Grant Program.

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

094. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to introduce and set a public hearing for Proposition No. 268, “An Ordinance to Amend Police Chief, Marcus Crochet’s annual salary to $55,000 annually.”

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

095. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Lawrence Mier, to adopt Proposition No. 266, Ordinance No. 770 “An Ordinance to surplus an immovable property described as lot 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and all that part of lot 6 lying East of the drainage ditch of block thirty-four of the original plat of the Town of Welsh and authorize the lease and/or private sale.”

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

096. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Lawrence Mier to adopt Proposition No. 267, Ordinance No. 771 “An Ordinance Amending Sec. 15-66 regulating the consumption of alcoholic beverages on public streets and in public parks.

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

097. Deferred

098. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to name the Official Municipal Journal as Jennings Daily News. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

099. Alderman Colby Perry would like to see the Town of Welsh get bids on auditors since it is a very large expenditure. It was discussed that the Auditors needed to be voted on and get an approval so they can start the audit process. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to appoint McElroy, Quirk, & Burch as the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Auditors.

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: Colby Perry

 Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 4-1.

100. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Andrea King to lift open container already in an ordinance for the Alumni Tournament to be held at Sportsman Park on July 21st from 6pm-11pm and July 22nd from 10am-11pm. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

101. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to lift open container already in an ordinance for the 9th Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Richmond Park to be held from 9am-7pm on July 8, 2017. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

102. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Lawrence Mier to Surplus 2007 Chevrolet Impala VIN#:2G1WS55R179283977 to Kenjabruch. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

103. Jim Wright presented recommendations to the Council from the Zoning Commission that met to present their annual report.

104. Bengt Lindell questioned Colby Perry about the newspaper article accusations against the Police Department. He told Bengt that he would provide him with photographs.

105. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Robert Owens to accept the Police Chief’s recommendation to hire Full Time Blake Bergeaux as a Detective. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

106. Jackie McGee Woodard Balmer spoke on the controversy going on within the current Administration and it needs to change. There are healthy and unhealthy relationships. Everyone can change if they want to. People make mistakes and it is good that they are pointed out but once it is confirmed that everything is working properly we need to move forward and not continue to bring up the same issues. She loves how we open our meetings in prayer. She overall gave a talk on wanting everyone to make amends and move forward for the Town Citizens because that is the job of the officials.

 The Mayor gave a report on things going on in the Town of Welsh. The Town received a $975,000 low interest loan with 20% being paid by a grant to build two new ground water storage tanks. The I-10 project is now using electricity and will bring in around $30,000 per month for usage. Had over $500,000 in grants that just was completed on Sewer in the Town. The New Garbage Truck that was purchased should be in within the next month or so. Recently applied for a grant for Street improvements and will have a 5 year plan to do improvements.

107. There being no further business, it was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

ATTEST: APPROVAL:

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Stephanie Benoit, Town Clerk Carolyn Louviere, Mayor