

**Village of Folsom
General Meeting
January 13, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

**Present: Mayor Phillip Bickham
Alderwoman: Jill Mathies
Alderman: Donald Burris
Alderman: Lance Willie
Attorney: Delbert Talley
CPA: Minda Raybourn**

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established. The invocation and pledge were led by Alderman Donald Burris. The Agenda and financial statements were approved on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderwoman Mathies. The motion carried. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays)

Old Business:

Activity Center Loan:

Alderman Willie stated that we have discussed this matter at a previous meeting that Mayor wasn't present for and feel in my best opinion by looking at our financial statements we have other issues that need to be resolved in our Village. Mr. Wesley Burris has given us a list of things that need to be repaired and replaced. We can't afford this activity center right now and I don't want to put us in a debt with going thru with this loan and we should pay it back. I think maybe in the future we can come at it a little more prepared, organized, and knowing what we need and more financially set. Alderman Burris asked clerk if she had figures of the activity of the loan. Clerk Willie stated that the loan was for \$150,000, we have paid out \$5,712, our balance in account is \$144,288, and in sinking fund we have \$9,454.88. Clerk also stated on January 8th Mrs. Raybourn our CPA as per the Village's request sent out the following email to board and Mayor, I spoke with Alan Offner at Foley and Judell regarding the bonds. Per Mr. Offner, if the Village decides to pay back the principal and accrued interest, the bonds are callable at any time so there will be no penalties, and the Village will be required to give Whitney Bank notice of 30 days. Mr. Offner said he would be able to handle that for the Village, read clerk. Alderman Burris stated that this activity center doesn't have any impact on the finances of the town. Alderman Willie stated that we have unforeseen finances since our last audit. Money that we thought we had has to go to back to street funds; Alderman Willie asked clerk how much was put into account. Clerk Willie stated last month was about \$9000 and this month was about \$15,000 and previous month before was close to \$60,000. Alderman Willie started going into detail again about our need for upgraded sewer pumps; Mayor interrupted Alderman Willie and stated that he isn't going to tie these pumps into this loan because we have grants for these pumps. Alderman Willie stated this is based of financial town issues. Alderwoman Mathies motioned to return the activity center money back for the loan, Alderman Willie second. Mayor stated that this needs to be done in a form of an ordinance that it was presented; I will get with Attorney Mr. Talley and we will do whatever the board wants to do. There were a few questions

asked by residents such as one from Mrs. Paulette Lee whom asked our CPA Mrs. Raybourn what her opinion is on the loan, Mrs. Raybourn stated, we need to do a cost analysis on the building of what it's going to cost the village to operate if they decide to build it. Mayor said we need to table matter until we revoke ordinance for the loan and then do a public hearing. Alderman Burris stated he wants to make public record that he is abstained to vote. Alderman Willie motioned to table until next meeting so that Mr. Talley can write up an ordinance to return the money, second by Alderwoman Mathies. All Oppose. (2 Yeas, 1 Nays)

New Business:

Item 1: Garbage renewal Service:

Mayor stated that the gentleman with our garbage company Progressive Waste was supposed to come out tonight. I am aware and have been trying to work with him on these garbage service issues. We need to renew our contract and put it out for bid for a new service company. Motion carried by Alderman Burris to put it out for bid for a new garbage service, Attorney Mr. Talley stated that we had a contract at one time and we all need to agree if you all want to use that same contract or I have given each of you a copy of a contract from the attorney of Franklinton. I've called the city attorney offices in Franklinton, Covington, Slidell, Pearl River and the Louisiana Municipal Association because some of the municipalities are not going to public bids and some are. The statute seem to specifically say its public bid, the attorney general specifically say its public bid, but you all are going to need to agree what you want on the contract to protect yourselves. Public bid is going to require that their bidding on a specific contract, stated Mr. Talley. Alderman Willie also stated that he had a list in his box of skipped garbage services for residents and some were requesting for refunds. Are we able to do that? Attorney Talley stated that we have an ordinance that says that Folsom will be responsible if residents garbage isn't being pick-up. This isn't a situation of an illegal donation I don't see a problem with reimbursing them or not changing them. Alderman Willie stated then we need to get back with the garbage company since they are still getting paid. Mr. Talley stated we need to put it out for public bid but first we need to decide on a contract, to look at the provisions, that it serves the interest of the village and the people, protect us against liability, they carry insurance and I can check the contracts out. Motion of Alderman Burris to table the garbage renewal service and get the necessary paperwork from Mr. Talley to look over and address this at our next meeting, second per Alderwoman Mathies. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays), the motion carried.

Item 2 = Utility accounts to be written off as per Attorney General opinion:

Alderman Willie stated that he got with Utility Clerk Diane Sanders and Clerk Willie about this situation; they're old water bills that need to be written off as per Attorney General. CPA Raybourn said these are accounts sitting on the books since 2009, 2010 and 2011 that are uncollectable and this is an audit finding. When written off we should still have a record of it in your utility system stated Mrs. Raybourn. Alderwoman Mathies asked is there somewhere in the ordinance where we can put a lean and take civil action after so much of an amount? Mr. Talley said it's not much of an amount, I asked the attorney general they responded that we can't forgive them but we can write them off and put them in an uncollectible account and also said to justify the fact there uncollectible

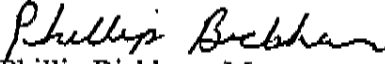
that we should enter into an agreement with a collection agency before we say that they are uncollectible. Alderman Willie questioned so if the auditors are looking into that and there in their own separate uncollectible account how does that affect when the audit come in? CPA Mrs. Raybourn stated what will happen is that we will write-off and they will be out of the account receivable which will then make your accounts receivable cleaner. Motion of Alderman Willie Burris to go with the attorney general's opinion that we make a new uncollectible accounts for when our audit comes back and our account receivable will be cleaner, Attorney Mr. Talley also said the attorney general recommended that we should also agree into entering into an agreement or professional contract with a collection agency to support the fact that their uncollectable. Mayor then asked shouldn't their be a deposit that should of covered these accounts. Mrs. Raybourn stated that Diane went thru these accounts and none of these have deposits. Motion of Alderman Willie Burris to go with the attorney general's opinion that we make a new uncollectible account and look into a collection agency service as per what Mr. Talley suggested, second per Alderwoman Mathies. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays), the motion carried.

Announcements:

Alderman Burris stated he wanted to recognize Mrs. Mary Toti and Pastor Kathleen Javery-Bacon with COAST. Then thanked local businesses and citizens for our Christmas toy drive. Mrs. Toti asked where she could get access to our town study to see how much our city can handle as far as a new senior center here in Folsom? Mr. Talley stated that the Comprehensive plan was filed with the court house. Mrs. Toti also stated that if we choose not to build this center then they will have to see what our other options are out there. Alderman Willie stated that he has met with Mr. Beard and has offered this Town Hall meeting room as an option place for Senor's to meet that would accommodate them. Other comments and suggestions pertaining to activity center were discussed. Mrs. Paulette Lee asked if we ever found out about getting water and electricity in the back for the village market? Mayor stated that getting water over there is quit simple and will get with WST, but didn't want to act just yet until we found out what is going to happen with the building, will look into it. Mayor asked if there were any other announcements.

Meeting was adjourned on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Phillip Bickham, Mayor

I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the General Meeting held January 13, 2014.

Attest:

Susan Willie, Municipal Clerk