

**Village of Folsom
General Meeting
June 11, 2012**

Present: Mayor Phillip Bickham
Alderman Jill Mathies
Alderman Lance Willie
Alderman Donald Burris

Absent: None

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

Amended agenda to add Renewal State Contract for up-keep Hwy 25 & 40: of motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays)

Item No. I – Approve Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013:

Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 was introduced for Approval on motion of Alderman Burris, was denied by Alderman Willie which stated that he would like to meet with Mayor about adding an increase to the Budget for employee pay raises. Mayor stated that 5% has been added already to Budget, Mayor also informed Board members that employee raise's are strictly decided by the Mayor and not Board members according to the letter that was issued to them last month from The Attorney General. Alderman Mathies then stated that she is aware of her responsibilities but her concern is that the 5% will exceed what has been figured into Salary Budget for employee pay increase. Alderman Burris stated that we have had a month to look over budget and we need to have it approved so that we can move forward. Alderman Mathies stated she is torn with the decision and has reviewed the budget but feels that it is a reliable cause that needs to be considered by the Village for our employees. Mayor agreed and stated that Health Insurance has increased \$100 per employee and Police Department Retirement increasing 24% to 27% and come June 30th will increase again to 27% to 31% that the Village will pay. Alderman Mathies stated she understands but that is mandated by the State and nothing can be done about that increase, but we have taken benefits from the employees that we use to pay 100% for employees and dependents and they are now liable for half that expense and we have not given them a pay increase in return. Mayor stated that we have not taken anything away from the employees there is no where in the ordinance where it shows we are responsible to pay for their dependents, the Village is responsible for the employees and the board will determine the benefit plan and percentage. Motioned by Alderman Willie to move and table Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2012 till the next meeting and second by Alderman Mathies. The motion tabled. (2 Yeas, 1 Nays)

Item No. II – LDR - 2009 State Tax Balance due \$524.67

Mayor brought to the boards attention that this was State Taxes from 2009 that were filed incorrectly and the amount of \$524.67 isn't a budgeted item but needs to be paid in full. Alderman Mathies stated that she felt that the Clerk might want to check into the penalties/fee that she thinks we might be able to get the amount of \$93.50 waived by the State. On motion of Alderman Willie to pay the tax balance due to the State in the amount of \$524.67 from the Sales Tax Fund, seconded by Alderman Willie. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Item No. III – Resolution to secure Funds for Karen Moise Activity Center and appear before State Bond Commissioner

Mayor stated that we submitted a grant to build an Activity Center, but received information from our Grant Writer that we are not going to be receiving our Capital Outlay Grant to build this building. So I thought of another angle to build this building, we are putting \$1962.60 into our Sinking Fund account which we used these funds to pay off our building and we continue to deposit the \$1962.60 into the Sinking Bonds Account. What I'm asking the board is for a Resolution to go before the State Bond Commissioner to see if they will allow us to qualify for a loan in order to build an Activity Center. I contacted a building company and they stated it would cost around \$141,000 for a basic building and \$150,000 for turn key building. Once we go before the Bond Commissioner we will need to see how this debt will be secured. On Motion of Alderman Burris to issue a Resolution to secure funds for the Karen Moises Activity Center and appear before the State Bond Commissioner. Alderman Willie asked if this is to get the loan Mayor stated no we will meet the commissioner to allow the Municipality to encore the debt. Motioned second by Alderman Willie (3 Yeas, 0 Nays). The motion carried.

Item No. IV – COAST – Mary Toti

Mayor introduced Mrs. Mary Toti – Executive Director for Council on Aging for St. Tammany Parish. Ms. Toti stated she is there to ease the minds of seniors on what they are trying to do to help them. She has been to Baton Rouge to fight to make sure their Budget is approved for this next fiscal year so that they can help our seniors and provide them with what they need. Our seniors here in Folsom are using the Masonic Lodge, but they are very limited to what they have access to and we would like to see them in a better environment. We are paying \$8000 a year for utilities and rent at the Lodge. Mrs. Toti went into detail that she would like to move the seniors out of the lodge and into a local church or another building until Activity center is built. It's not just the fact of having a building but that COAST can provide services and meals to our seniors. Mrs. Toti stated that we need our community to invest in our seniors and encourage our Mayor because he needs our support.

Item No. V – State Contract Renewal

Mayor informed board members that we have entered a contract with the State to have grass cut along Hwy 25 and Hwy 40, State pays \$4000 a year to cut both sides (cut 4 times a year). Alderman Willie asked if this amount covers expenses, Mayor stated it covers fuel, man power & man hours. Alderman Burris passed a common concept to renew State contract to continue to have them maintain Hwy grass.

Also, in other business the Veer off's Fund Raiser was cancelled due to the weather and will be rescheduled to June 23, 2-9 pm all proceeds will be donated to the Karen Moise Activity Center.

There being no further business, the 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 June 11, 2012.

Attest:

Susan Willie
Municipal Clerk