

**Village of Folsom
General Meeting
November 11, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established. The invocation and pledge were led by Alderman Donald Burris. The Agenda was approved on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. (2 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried. (2 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies also asked board to approve financial statements was motioned by Alderman Burris and second by Alderman Willie. (2 Yeas, 0 Nays)

Old Business:

Item No. 1 = Activity Center:

Alderman Burris stated that he has received estimates for the activity center. He stated that Mr. Talley has given them a review in which one must do in acquiring estimates. The bid law recommends that any project exceeding \$25,000 be advertised 3 times so that anyone has an opportunity to bid on job. Alderman Burris read draft specification by the engineer; Mr. Talley stated that they will have till December 29th after we advertise to get their estimates in. Alderman Burris stated that before we do anything he would like to make sure that any estimates he has now must fill out new forms that Mr. Talley has created in accordance to specifications, taxes, and site preparation, Mr. Talley stated, yes they must. Alderman Willie stated, that he spoke to Mrs. Raybourn Village CPA that she was informed him that we have a certain time frame to use bond finances or we will begin to accrue interest and penalties. Mrs. Raybourn stated that if the bond money is not used in according and for that specific purpose then we are violating our agreement and we will have penalties and fees. Alderman Burris stated, that we did pass an ordinance and everyone that has given me a quote must comply with the plans and specifications and contractor must have his own permits, bid performance bond and license for his own work. Alderman Willie stated that we need to all sit down in a meeting and have a discussion only about this building. In the past months I have seen some down falls of what needs to be changed in this building, spoken to an architecture of what needs to be added, and what I like to see in the building. We are putting out some estimates from these contractors and they are informing me that the kitchen won't have a stove; men's bathroom only has one stall which isn't a handicap stall, the ceiling being incomplete and you will need more then what is in these estimates. These are just a start of all the questions I have on this building. It's been over 2 in-a-half years, I have asked to give raises to our police department and for the employee's that work for the town hall. I've been told by the Mayor we don't have enough money to give raises, we have employees

that haven't had a raise in over 8 years. Now we want to spend all of this money on a building that isn't up to code or functional for the senior citizens. Alderman Willie asked Mrs. Raybourn for the figures of last year's budget's surplus. Mrs. Raybourn stated the audit for June 30, 2013 had a surplus of \$136,000. Then Alderman Willie stated, we now have to take \$56,000 (\$55,910.91) from Sales Tax and put it into Streets and Drainage from that surplus. Then according to Mr. Wesley Burris we have a lift station that needs an extra pump on an estimate of \$12,000. Then another estimate for \$2000 and these are things that are necessary that must be taken from surplus. We have had our police department using unworthy cars and this is all because we can't afford it according to the Mayor. This building is a luxury and we need to bypass it and not be stuck in a financial hardship. I sat down and spoke to Mrs. Raybourn, her professional opinion was that the town shouldn't take on a financial hardship. We haven't checked on up-keep, electricity, water, insurance, and maintenance. We can't give our maintenance people raises but expect them to take over another job. The Mayor isn't here today but I think we need to stop tabling this building and have it decided on next meeting to really see if our town can actually afford it and I want to see it proven. We can't rely on weddings and other functions to pay for this building. I don't just want the alderman but also the citizens and residents to give us your input about this building. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies stated that Alderman Willie's comments were very well put and agreed, we need to look at this to make sure it's not a hardship on us financially. Mr. Beard a resident of Folsom stated from the audience that the counseling on aging has been paying rent for over 10 years and they will continue to. Mr. Boggs then stated from the audience that he hasn't really had a chance to look into depth at plans but feels it's a major surprise that there is only one stall in the men's restroom and it's not handicap. If we start to make changes to this plan you all should realize the cost can go out of site and we really need to get our ducks in a row before we move forward if we are not in compliance. Mrs. Boggs then asked, the board do the plans accommodate handicap restrooms? Alderman Burris stated, "yes and any building that the fire Marshall approves has to be handicap accessible". Alderman Willie stated no, it doesn't. Mrs. Boggs stated my other question for qualification for the Village is where were these funds for the building of the senior center suppose to come from? Alderman Burris stated that we borrowed money for the building from the bonding commission about two years ago. This is money we have been paying and putting this money into an account. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies stated, we borrowed the money and are now paying an interest only note. Mrs. Boggs asked, when and at what point will this money run out or no longer have access to it or when will the penalties then begin with the village? Alderman Willie stated, that's what Mrs. Raybourn is going to check on for us. Mrs. Raybourn stated, as far as the penalties she wasn't sure but will check the agreement to see when penalties begin. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies then stated the money runs out when the money is gone. Mrs. Paulette Lee also a resident of Folsom stated, do you think the town could look at a plan B, if the town doesn't have the money and we can't give out raises to our police officers and our town employees, I believe in what Mr. Willie is saying. Mrs. Paulette also commented a plan B I do believe in a Senior Center so what about checking into having an agreement with Magnolia Park, or this part of the meeting room to allow them to use. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies stated honestly I don't know if a plan B has been addressed. Alderman Burris stated we have never had a plan B. Mrs. Paulette said I agree as a tax payer my heart goes out to the senior citizens but on the other hand my pocket book & common sense tell me we shouldn't get ourselves in a lot of debt so we need to look into a plan B. Alderman Willie said I agree I was never really informed about plan A to begin with. Alderman Burris and Mayor Bickham have

always been head of the building. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies stated, I think there are also other avenues to consider in making senior citizens happy and made financial cost negotiable, in order to move forward. I have always considered this a financial hardship. Alderman Burris stated lets get this meeting back together and I would like to get all of your questions answered and continuing to try to get your activity center built. Here again we have been in compliance, we passed an ordinance, we've gotten everything so whatever questions you all need I want to continue to try and do what we have to do to satisfy everyone so that our seniors will hopefully have a facility that they can enjoy. We are public servants to do what you all ask, every question is important, we will move forward and get our senior center completed.

New Business:

Item No. 1 = Donna Alford Utility Bill:

Clerk stated that Mrs. Alford wasn't here. Alderman Willie stated he would like to discuss it. Municipal Clerk stated that there was an issue that had happened back in August where like 75 residents that were issued new electronic water meters had been billed for two months. New utility bills were issued to those residents and they were given a guess-ta-ment for the month rather than the two months. According to Mrs. Donna Alford she had a disagreement with the amount that was being charged to her. She felt she should have had an additional \$18 credit to her utility bill and she informed me that she keeps up daily with her meter readings. There's really no way of telling, Clerk also stated that Mrs. Alford has always been a customer that pays on time and has never had a problem with her bills. Since this was an error on our part I'm not sure how you all want to handle this. Clerk also stated that the company that installed the meters were the ones that had to correct the re-reading of the bills. Alderman Willie stated he would like Mrs. Alford to call him or someone from the board to discuss this matter in order to get a better understanding of it.

Item 2 = Sales Tax / Growth Management Agreement (Streets & Drainage):

Mrs. Raybourn Village CPA stated that this pertains to the Growth Management Revenue Agreement that the town has with St. Tammany Parish Government as you all are aware we have a part of Sales Tax from District 3 of local businesses that are close to town and have met with Bob Thompson from the Parish with St. Tammany to identify those businesses. In this agreement any monies that are collected within that district have to go towards streets and drainages. Last month we opened an account, these funds \$55,910.91 (April - September 2013) are currently still sitting in the Sales Tax funds and must be transferred into this account so that we are in compliance with the agreement. After 90 days of the closing of the physical year we are to report to the parish the activity in the account and we have complied with the agreement. Alderman Willie motioned to transfer the \$55,910.91 to the new Streets and Drainage Account and continue monthly transfers of percentage to account second by Alderman Burris. (2 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Announcements, Mrs. Paulette Lee stated that she wants to speak on behave of Tina Pierre the market coordinator whom was unable to make it tonight. She asked what are the possibilities of getting water and electric in the back for the market? Alderman Willie stated we can check with the Mayor and Wesley to see if the equipment is there already or what it will take to get it. Mrs. Paulette also encourages residents to come out and

support our market and to please have the potties cleaned on a regular basis because their not getting done. Board stated they will look into that for them. Mr. Beard stated he will get with the Counseling on Aging and have them come in and look for a local Folsom area meanwhile because we are getting desperate. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies stated to Mr. Beard that they are really going to check into a plan B option. Mrs. Marcella Ziifle stated she wanted to complain about her garbage service and them not picking it up in over 5 weeks. She stated that if she continues having them skip her she wants her fee cut in half since she getting half the service then her bill should be half. Alderman Willie stated he will check into this with clerk. Chief Killingsworth stated he has also been getting a lot of complaints as well at the PD station. Clerk stated that she did speak to the Mayor on Tuesday and informed him about the garbage issues; he stated he wanted a list from our utility clerk of the areas and of residents complaining and he personally stated he would check into it and handle it. Clerk also stated that we no longer have a contract with Progressive Waste it expired in September 2013. Mrs. Paulette Lee showed great concern about making sure we purchase a backup sewer pump. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies stated that she believes we have filed for an emergency grant for a back-up sewer pump. Alderman Burris then acknowledge our military & arm forces and gave thanks for their services to our country. Mayor Pro Temp Mathies also thanked supportive wives and families of these men and women.

Meeting was adjourned on motion of Alderman Burris, seconded by Alderman Willie. (2 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Mathies, Mayor Pro Temp

I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes taken at the General Meeting held November 11, 2013.

Attest:

Susan Willie, Municipal Clerk