

Village of Folsom

*Mayor-Bettye Boggs
Alderman-Lance Willie
Alderwoman-Jill Mathies
Alderwoman-Paulette Lee*



*Ronnie "Beau" Killingsworth
Chief of Police
Susan Willie, Municipal Clerk
Delbert Talley, Attorney*

Village of Folsom Public Agenda Meeting February 24, 2015

Present: Mayor Bettye M. Boggs
Alderwoman Jill Mathies
Alderman Lance Willie
Alderwoman Paulette Lee
Attorney Delbert Talley

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order and a quorum established. The invocation was led by Mayor Boggs, pledge was then led by Alderman Willie. Mayor Boggs informed residents that the board is using this Public Agenda Meeting to address items on the agenda for their discussion, investigation, and interaction, so that they can execute the General Meetings in a more efficient matter. Mayor Boggs asked all residents to please hold their questions and comments until after each item.

Item I – Magnolia Park Utility Issue:

Leak was found on Magnolia Park side, and Magnolia Park turned off their meter. Maintenance turned the meter on and the pressure of the leak caused another major, leak resulting in a higher than normal utility bill.

Magnolia Park feels that our maintenance guys went on their property and turned the water back on when there was a leak; then this would not have made a \$450 water bill. Question being asked by board is if Wesley and maintenance men turn water off after they realized there was another leak caused when they turned the water back on.

Question being asked also is about the clerk possibly estimating, coping and pasting of rate charges and changing of numbers to meter readings. There was nothing put into writing of issue.

The park is contesting the utility bill.

Mayor Boggs stated that at a previous meeting with Jennifer from the park, Jennifer didn't have an issue with paying the bill as long as it was a reasonable amount.

Mayor Boggs and board came to an agreement that they could meet with Jennifer and rectify the billing issue by splitting or coming up with a negotiable amount.

Mr. Talley stated as long as we accept fault we can compromise.

Mayor Boggs and Alderwoman Mathies will set up an appointment with Jennifer from Magnolia Park to resolve utility billing prior to March the 9th General Meeting.

Item II – Curtis Environmental / Maintenance Supervisor:

Mayor Boggs stated since we have a new maintenance supervisor we won't need a two year contract with Curtis Environmental. We are looking into a shorter contract of two or three month period with two days and provide us with the same services. This will make sure were doing everything correctly and help us with the transition which will allow that we are in order with DEQ, DHH and EPA and our concerns are to make sure we're no longer in a deficiency status.

Mayor Boggs stated I will negotiate the contract then verbally share it with the board.

Alderman Willie stated he will get with Mike from CE and check with him about a shorter contract.

Mayor Boggs did inform board and residents of the hiring of the new maintenance supervisor that has 4 levels of certification. He's coming from Mandeville and lives in Folsom and will begin with us on March 9th. Wesley did state he will stay to help new guy in the transition, for a week or two.

Item III – Utility Rate Study:

Mayor Boggs, and Alderwoman Lee met with Tim Lemoine from LRWA. He looked at our water, sewage rates and our losses of funds. He did a study that will enable us with utility rates to do what should have been done a long time ago, which is to bring the village up to current utility rates. He stated that we have got to look at our expenses and get to a breakeven point.

Alderwoman Mathies stated this has been brought up to us several time by the CPA.

Mayor Boggs found in the water and sewage ordinance there was a commercial rate that hasn't been charged. We are charging \$9 but should be charging \$16 for commercial water rates.

Mayor Boggs stated we are not charging the correct utility rates and we have tons of water leaks. Paul Shoemaker with LRWA stated he will come in for free and test our whole system for leaks.

We need to also put in a resolution or ordinance for a yearly utility rate increase.

Alderman Willie stated he wanted the majority of increase to go towards commercial rather than residents but not the highest rate study amount of \$25 and going up on red tag fees, reconnect fees and disconnect fees. Then he questioned why we need to have so much money in water and sewer funds and increase all at once.

Alderwoman Lee agreed with Alderman Willie but had different fee amounts to go up on.

Alderwoman Mathies stated we need to increase in both areas residential and commercial, if you don't want to increase in residential then you're going to have to go up in commercial rates. We need to increase up to standard. We also need to look at 2014 budget and see where we are in the whole with water and sewage and what do we need to generate.

Alderwoman Mathies also stated that each board member needs to come up with a proposal and present it to Mayor Boggs. Boggs stated that numbers need to be plugged in by Mr. Lemoine so he can give you rates.

Board members came up with an agreement with contacting Tim Lemoine and plugging in their figures for him to give them a rate and then they all will compare.

Alderman Willie said he will get with Tim and see what we are in a deficit of for water and sewer in residential and commercial. Then get sets of three numbers of what we are, what it can be and what I would like it to be.

Item IV – Infrastructure / Impact Fee:

Mayor Boggs stated Greg Lemons sent us information on how their municipality handles this fee.

We need to put in a plan for fees for all these upcoming businesses and residents coming to Folsom.

Mr. Talley said we need to pass a ordinance for these fees and that fees should be allocated into General Fund.

Alderwoman Mathies stated we need to look at St. Tammany parishes fees/rates and compare them with our inspection fees being charged. We need to look at the cost of commercial vs residential. It's definitely a direction we need to go.

Board said they would come up with a figure for residents and commercial builders and check with other municipalities. Also when do they collect the Impact fees, whether at the beginning or at the final inspection.

Item V – Changing Deposit Utility Fee:

Clerk suggested that commercial needs to go up on deposits.

Alderman Willie gave some suggestions on rates to go up one. Residential (owners & renters) \$100 water & sewage each and Commercial (owners & renters) \$150 water & sewage each.

Board also spoke of whose name to put utilities under for renters.

Clerk also informed board to think about Barrier Construction or any Contractors that come in for water usage and administration fees. They asked for this to be added to agenda.

Item VI – Village Trace Alley Way:

Alderman Willie informed Mr. Beard that the street he is talking about is a dedicated street and if opened up it would have to be paved.

Alderman Willie and Mayor Boggs will look into getting prices to have street paved. Will look into having it paved when state comes to put in 3 way lanes in September to see if it can be done or even check with the parish.

When we know if we have money and get prices, we can then get with Planning and Zoning to then open up this dedicated street.

Item VII – 2013 Unresolved Audit Items:

Mayor Boggs said she spoke to Terry with St. Tammany Farmer about the audit because it's been release to the public.

Two items in discussion are Donald Burris utility bill and Phillip Bickham car usage expenses.

Alderwoman Mathies stated that she doesn't know what were appropriate charges and what were inappropriate charges. I don't feel comfortable giving that a price tag.

Mayor Boggs asked if we should come up with a total on charges. Alderman Willie stated he has already done that and it was given Bickham the amount of \$2,400 several times.

Mr. Talley said Bickham has received amounts on several occasions. We can't force him to pay it but can take legal action which will cost more to collect than you would get. There were no policies and procedures at the time.

Mr. Talley said we need to have these issues removed from our audit. He suggested that we turn Mr. Burris over to the collection agency with the state. As for Bickham, you can't make him admit he owes anything but we have reported it.

Alderman Willie stated so what we need to do is let the auditors know it won't be cost effective to collect, and can't prove amount owed and have them take it off our audit findings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Alderwoman Mathies, seconded by Alderwoman Lee. (3 Yeas, 0 Nays) The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Bettye M. Boggs, Mayor

I attest that the above is a true and correct copy of the notes taken at the Public Agenda Meeting held February 24, 2015.

Attest:
Susan Willie

Municipal Clerk