

VINTON, LA
March 17, 2020

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Vinton, Louisiana, met in regular session at the regular meeting place of said Mayor and Council, in the Town Hall, Vinton, Louisiana, at 6:00 p.m. on the 17th day of March, 2020, with the following members present:

Kenneth O. Stinson, Mayor
Stephanie Hardy, Council Member
Paul Patin, Council Member
Marcus Renfrow, Council Member

ABSENT: Diane Conner, Council Member
William Loyd, Mayor-Pro- Tem

ALSO PRESENT: Cade R. Cole, Town Attorney

The following Reports were submitted:

Total Payroll for February, 2020	\$ 123,052.10
Total Receipts for February, 2020	\$ 1,091,338.27
Total Disbursements for February, 2020	\$ 1,221,857.49
Total Bills for February, 2020	\$ 380,216.52

Kenneth O. Stinson, Mayor called the meeting to order and Pastor Rick Watson led in prayer, and then followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Council Member Renfrow that the minutes of prior meetings, copies of which were mailed to each council member prior to the meeting, be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hardy and carried.

Mary Vice, City Clerk gave the monthly Administration Department report.

Bills for the month of February, 2020, were approved and payment authorized upon a motion by Council Member Hardy seconded by Council Member Renfrow and carried.

Mayor Stinson reported that the agenda would need to be amended to hear an item regarding the adoption of a Resolution declaring a Public Emergency in the Town of Vinton.

It was moved by Council Member Renfrow and seconded by Council Member Hardy that the agenda be amended to hear an item regarding the adoption of a Resolution declaring a Public Emergency in the Town of Vinton. Mayor Stinson called for comments from the public present, being none, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS: Council Members Hardy, Patin and Renfrow

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION RELATED TO A PUBLIC EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE
OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 AND THE EFFECTS OF ITS RISKS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
TOWN OF VINTON

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council, as governing authority of the Town of Vinton, that based on the recommendation of Mayor Kenneth O. Stinson, a Public Emergency is hereby declared in the Town of Vinton, to minimize the potential effects on the population of the Town of Vinton and to provide all necessary funding in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby authorized and directed that the Town shall not apply utility bill late charges during the pendency of this public emergency, which shall extend until advised in writing by the Mayor that it shall commence, which shall occur not later than the lifting of any gubernatorial declared emergency declaration, and the Mayor is authorized and directed to suspend utility cut offs during this period of public emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to utilize any emergency powers and to take any action necessary and proper to effectuate the proper handling of this public health crisis.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT VINTON, LOUISIANA this 17th day of March, 2020.

Attest:

APPROVED:

Mary Vice, City Clerk

KENNETH O. STINSON, MAYOR

Mayor Stinson updated the governing authority on pending grants and projects.

Coy Vincent, CPA presented the 2019 Audit report to the governing authority. He reported that the Town received a clean opinion and is in good financial condition.

It was moved by Council Member Renfrow that the 2019 Audit report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hardy and carried.

Assistant Chief Buffy Vice gave the monthly Police Department report.

Terry Vice, Director of Public Works gave the monthly Public Works and Electrical Department reports.

Chief Chris Vice gave the monthly Fire and Civil Defense reports.

Scott Fields was not present at the meeting to discuss his exception request.

Patrick Vice requested an exception to the Lot Size Ordinance regarding having more than one residential unit on a lot. He stated that he would like to move a new manufactured home onto the property at 2303 Center Street where his grandparents reside and there are 25 (undivided) acres available for his home.

It was moved by Council Member Hardy to grant Mr. Vice an exception to the Lot Size Ordinance to allow him to put a new manufactured home on his grandparents property at 2303 Center Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Patin and carried.

A RESOLUTION regarding CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (HB428, HB 429)

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana grants local governments the right to levy and collect local sales tax and use taxes; and

WHEREAS, there are several constitutional amendments and bills introduced in the 2020 Regular Legislative Session that would transfer collection responsibility of local sales and use tax levies to the state Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, local taxing authorities possess the best knowledge and experience to properly collect its own taxes and have a proven record of proactive advancements in the areas of enforcement, audit coverage, dispute resolution, reporting technology, and successful litigation; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana's budget issues do not offer prospects for the Department of Revenue to have sufficient resources to provide the necessary taxpayer assistance, enforcement programs, and training of its employees on the specific application of local sales and use tax ordinances without significant cost contributions from local governments, thereby resulting in the direct and indirect loss of local tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, many local taxing authorities have issued bonded indebtedness guaranteed by the passage of locally adopted sales and use tax levies, collection of said levies are the direct responsibility of local governments, and the transfer of that responsibility to a state agency may generate legal challenges and jeopardize future bond issuances; and

WHEREAS, the central local collector in each parish is directly responsible to the local taxing authorities and their elected officials for the performance of local tax administration, and the Secretary of the Department of Revenue being an appointee of the Governor of the state, uncertainty exists as to who in the Department of Revenue will be accountable to local taxing authorities for the performance of such critical local tax administration,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Vinton, as a local taxing authority and governing body, that each member of the delegation of the parish of Calcasieu is urged to vigorously oppose any and all proposed legislation that transfers the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to said legislators so that they will be made aware of our position on this matter.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Council Members Hardy, Patin and Renfrow

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Council Members Conner and Loyd

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the meeting held on March 17, 2020 at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Mary O. Vice, City Clerk

There being no further business to come before the governing authority, it was moved by Council Member Patin that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hardy and carried.

Kenneth O. Stinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary O. Vice, City Clerk