

TOWN OF ADDIS MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Addis was called to order by Mayor David Toups at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at the Addis Municipal Center. The pledge to the flag was led by Paula Rhodes. Mayor Toups congratulated those who were re-elected and newly elected to serve on the Addis Council.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Toups; Councilors Rusty Parrish, Bliss Bernard, and Ray Lejeune Sr., Rhonda Kelley, and Kevin LeBlanc

Absent: None

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 8th, 2024, regular meeting were approved on a motion by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion to amend the agenda to add (1) Police Personnel Executive Session and (2) ARPA Project Phase II Bid Acceptance; was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anatole Vincent, Director of West Baton Rouge Parks & Recreation presented everyone with information on the tax renewal and why it's so important. The renewal started in 2005 and if passed it will fund the department for another 10 years, allowing continued growth and program stability. Funds are needed for routine repairs, playground equipment updates, and ensuring parks remain clean and safe. The tax renewal will ensure continued operation of sports leagues and programs, fitness classes, summers camps, and community events that engage both youth and adults. Well-maintained parks and active recreational programs attract visitors, boost local businesses, and enhance property values for residents. Funding ensures that recreational services are affordable and accessible to all residents, regardless of income. The renewal keeps the 5.0 millage rate intact, ensuring consistent funding without an increase. The cost per household is only \$125/year, which equals \$0.34/day. The millage is up for renewal on December 7th, not an increase, just a continuation of current funding. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote and thanked Mayor Toups and the Council for allowing him to share the information.

Paula Rhodes, a resident of Sugar Mill and an outgoing HOA board member, thanked Mayor Toups and the Council for hearing their concerns of speeding and passing on the parkway. She thanked them for approving the purchase and installation of the radar speed limit signs as well as the no passing signs. She said that she personally believes they are helping to resolve the issues.

Mark Badeaux of 2545 Myrle Drive would like to have the drainage near his home inspected. He stated that his shop has flooded in the past during large rain events.

CORRESPONDENCE

BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL THANKSGIVING LUNCH: Mayor Toups announced that the BHS Thanksgiving lunch is scheduled for Thursday, November 21st at 12:00pm. All council members/staff members are invited to attend.

ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD: Mayor Toups reminded everyone that the final ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD event for 2024 is on Friday, November 22nd with music by After 8. He encouraged everyone to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL BID – THE ADVOCATE: Mayor Toups advised that the West Side Journal is no longer in business, so we need to name a temporary official journal. A motion to name The Advocate our temporary official journal, was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted unanimously.

2024 ADDIS ROAD REHAB PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER NO. 1: A motion to approve Change Order NO. 1 for an increase of \$19,764.25 for three additional patches on Main Street and mill/asphalt overlay on Ray Rivet Street, was made by Councilor Parrish; seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted unanimously.

WATER SECTOR PROGRAM – ENGINEERING DESIGN CONTRACT – OWEN & WHITE, INC.: Owen & White, Inc. submitted their engineering design contract for the Water Sector Program, which would allow them to design the project, contingent upon successful receipt of funding through the program. Design work will only commence if awarded the necessary program funding. Additionally, executing the contract awards the applicant (Town of Addis) 5 points in the scoring calculation. The Water Sector Program is a 75/25 grant program and the deadline to submit project grant applications is December 14th. It takes the state about one month to score the applications they receive, and denial/approval letters are issued mid-January. A motion to approve the Town of Addis to apply for the Water Sector Program grant was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously. A motion to approve the engineering design contract submitted by Owen & White, Inc. and approve Mayor Toups to execute the contract for the Water Sector Program project, was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

SURPLUS PROPERTY RESOLUTION: Councilor Lejeune moved the following resolution, seconded by Councilor Kelley:

WHEREAS the Town of Addis owns the following movable property which is no longer needed for a public purpose:

DESCRIPTION	VIN/MODEL NO.	BRAND	DEPARTMENT
2020 (28X102) GOOSENECK TRAILER	4ZEGR2832L1196399 GR0228073_24197	LOAD TRAIL	PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the moveable property will be assigned to the LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program, 6767 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to be listed and auctioned/sold online "as is; where is" at <https://lamats.net/surplus>, at the highest bid which shall be subject to acceptance or rejection by the Town of Addis said bidding to last a minimum of 7 days, commencing 15 days after publication of an advertisement in the municipal journal of record. The items may be prelisted online prior to the official newspaper publication, The Advocate.

WHEREAS, the Town of Addis reserves the right to reject all bids that are not deemed to represent the fair market value of the surplus item at the time sold, and to relist same online until sold or withdrawn;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Addis has hereby declared the above-mentioned movable property as surplus, to be sold through online auction at <https://lamats.net/surplus>.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN READ SECTION BY SECTION, at a regular meeting of the Addis Town Council on the 12th day of November 2024, was adopted by the following yea and nay votes on the roll call: YEAS: Bernard, LeBlanc, Kelley, Lejeune, Parrish; NAYS: None; ABSENT: None

ARPA PROJECT PHASE II (BACKUP PUMPS) BID ACCEPTANCE: Mayor Toups advised that bids for the project were received and publicly opened at 10:00am this morning. PEC has reviewed all bids received and are recommending that the project be awarded to the lowest bidder, Barker Brothers Plumbing Works, LLC of Plaquemine, LA with a total base bid of \$477,000.00. A motion to accept the low bid and award the contract to Barker Brothers Plumbing Works, LLC, was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

ENGINEER REPORT: Drainage Engineer, Toby Fruge provided an update on the Sugar Mill drainage failure emergency repair. He reported that the Town of Addis received the repair invoice, and the cost was substantially higher than the original estimate of \$60,000. Per Mayor Toups' recommendation, Toby reviewed the invoice submitted by Southern Underground of Louisiana, LLC. and it appears that additional issues were identified after they began the work. The original estimate was for 4 days on one joint, but the contractor worked 13 days on 3 joints and navigated through multiple unforeseen complications (ground caving beneath the house which required more in-depth shoring, working around multiple utilities, striking an unmarked ATT line, additional equipment required to move all additional spoils, a dump trailer to move spoils out of the area, and additional hydraulic shoring boxes to prevent trench and house collapse.

PLANNING & ZONING: The meeting was cancelled due to Election Day. No business.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: No report.

POLICE REPORT: The October 2024 police report, given by Chief Langlois, consisted of 121 traffic citations issued, 229 calls for service, 4 misdemeanor arrest, 2 felony arrests and 8 auto accidents. Task Force stats include: 2 felony narcotics arrests and 2 misdemeanor narcotics arrests.

PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER REPORT: The October 2024 report, given by Public Works Director, consisted of 39 residential/commercial control panel issues, 29 residential/commercial tank issues, 22 collection system issues, 0 sewer plant issue, 6 new inspections, 78 dig tickets and 174 total calls.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON INTRODUCED ORDINANCES

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 2024-6 (2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET): A motion to introduce **Ordinance 2024-6** "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ANNUAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF ADDIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2025" was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously. A Public Hearing will be held on this proposed ordinance at a special meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

ORDINANCE 2024-7 (2025 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET): A motion to introduce **Ordinance 2024-7** "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ANNUAL SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF ADDIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2025" was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously. A Public Hearing will be held on this proposed ordinance at a special meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

ORDINANCE 2024-8 (BOTTLE CLUB PROHIBITION): A motion to introduce **Ordinance 2024-8** "AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING ADDIS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 4: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARTICLE I, BY AMENDING SECTION 4-1: DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE A DEFINITION OF "BOTTLE CLUBS" AND BY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 4: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARTICLE 1, BY INCLUDING SECTION 4-4: BOTTLE CLUBS AND OTHER CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PROHIBITED WHICH DEFINES BOTTLE CLUBS AND CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR DE FACTO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PROHIBITS THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL ON PREMISES OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS." was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously. A Public Hearing will be held on this proposed ordinance at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE:

- i. **Pay Bills Found in Order:** A motion to pay bills found in order was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously.

- ii. **Monthly Budget to Actual Reports:** The monthly budget to actual reports were reviewed with no comments.
- iii. **Special Meeting Reminder:** Mayor Toups reminded everyone that a Special Meeting to review and adopt the 2025 budget has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00 pm.

POLICE: No report.

PERSONNEL:

- i. **Annual Required Trainings:** Mayor Toups reminded everyone about their annual required trainings. Jade Simpson advised that she would send everyone an email with training links. All must be completed before the end of the year.
- ii. **Annual Employee Meeting:** Jade Simpson advised that the Annual Employee Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm at the Addis VFW Hall.

SEWER: Mayor Toups reported that construction for Phase I of the ARPA project has started.

DRAINAGE: No report.

BUILDINGS: No report.

STREETS AND ROADS: No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into executive session to discuss police personnel was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously. A motion to return to regular session was made by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously. As a result of executive session, a motion to accept the resignation of full-time Officer Rushing Juneau and part-time Officer Timothy Gilbert was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously. A motion to re-hire Christopher Hogan as a full-time patrol officer at a starting rate of \$18.99/hr. was made by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilor Parrish; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously by those present.

/s/ Jade V. Simpson
JADE V. SIMPSON, TOWN CLERK

/s/ David H. Toups
DAVID H. TOUPS, MAYOR