

THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND OF THE BOARD OF
ALDERMEN OF THE VILLAGE OF CANKTON, LOUISIANA

May 11, 2020

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of Cankton meet in regular session. Present at the meeting were Mayor Kevin Colligan, Aldermen Danny Uriegas, Matt Smith, and Malcolm Bussy, Duke Hebert, Tommy Faul, Ervin Menard, Harris Bellard, and Cinderella Miller, Clerk.

Mayor Colligan stated that a quorum was present and ready to transact business. He stated that because of restrictions due to the Covid19 pandemic, the public was not allowed in the meeting hall, but the meeting was being streamed live and the public was able to comment. He opened the meeting with a prayer and pledge of allegiance. He also asked that a moment of silence be held in memory of Mr. Earlin "Choc" Creduer, a long time resident of Cankton and owner of the Cankton Drive Inn for years, who had passed away earlier in the afternoon.

A motion was made by Alderman Smith and duly seconded by Alderman Bussy to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2020 meeting Motion Unanimously Carried

A motion was made by Alderman Bussy and duly seconded by Alderman Smith to accept the minutes of the April 19 special meeting. MUC

A motion was made by Alderman Uriegas and duly seconded by Alderman Smith to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2020 meeting. MUC

There was no police department report because Brent Breaux was not present at the meeting.

Tommy Faul gave the water department report. He stated that all was going well. They would be reading meters soon and the Board of Health took the TTHM tests. They should get results in soon. They had a problem with the chlorinator but in had been repaired and was working good. Mayor Colligan stated that the penalties and disconnections will be reinstated as of the May billing. Alderman Uriegas asked about the situation with a water customer on Creduer Rd. He was informed that the situation had been handled and the customer was issued a summons.

Harris Bellard gave the maintenance report. He was keeping up with the grass. He had planted the shrubs and bushes at the park. He thanked Alderman Bussy for helping with the grass cutting at the fire station. He had also put up the flags for Memorial Day. Mayor Colligan explained that the Village had gotten a grant to level the park property where the walking trail was going to be. They will apply for as grant to get a walking trail also. Alderman Uriegas wanted to publicly thank Damon Savoie and Harris Bellard for all of the work they had put in. The park looked nice and several people had commented on it. He also asked about the trash littering the sides of the road and if something could be done. The clerk will call litter

abatement with the parish and try to schedule a crew.

On old business Mayor Colligan stated that the web site was now live and it looked very good. They were getting a lot of positive feedback. The site was getting better each day.

Alderman Uriegas asked if it was a violation of separation of church and state if the information concerning the events at the church were posted in the newsletter because the Village paid for the printing? He said it was brought to his attention by a constituent. Town attorney Chris Granger stated that information about church events was not, but the prayer in the newsletter may be a conflict. Alderman Bussy asked if the prayer to start the meeting was wrong if the prayer in the newsletter was in conflict?

Mayor Colligan stated that it was not because the meeting had not yet started and was not called to order. Putting community events in the newsletter was okay. Chris Granger also stated that the separation of church and state was so government could not force its citizens to worship just one religion. Technically that was not what was happening but they could argue the case nonetheless. Mayor Colligan stated they were going to continue as is until further notice.

Mayor Colligan wanted to give an update on the road paving project. The crew had moved to another location but would be back in town by end of May. Thibodeaux Rd. Had been surveyed and they were ready to proceed with it and entrance/exit to Noah's Ark Blvd in Dupre Oak Subdivision. Mayor Colligan asked if they would like to reopen the discussion on the other roads that needed be done or which roads they wanted done. He stated that they could discuss or not. Prices were not going to go down. They could use the money for roads or they could save it. The Village's finances were in good shape. He also stated that the parish had save Cankton quite a bit of money when they paved Savoie and Creduer Roads.

Alderman Uriegas stated that he had spoken with a few people about the roads and ideas. They all want what's best for Cankton. He feels the most important thing is to be proactive not reactive. That's reason he would like to see the Sts. Marie, Nicholas, & Ignatius Circle in Dupre Oak repaved before they deteriorate any further. It was less expensive to overlay a road than to have to reconstruct the roads.

Aggregate roads should be done also and he definitely wants to see Lydia and Menard Rds done.

He would like to see them follow the parish's Smooth Ride Home program. Paved roads first then gravel roads. He also stated that property purchased on gravel roads were not expecting paved roads, but if property was purchased on a paved road then they expected paved roads. It was a disservice to residents living there if it was not maintained.

Alderman Smith stated he was all for repaving the paved part of Menard Rd and paving Lydia St along with Thibodeaux Ln and Noah's Ark Blvd entrance and exit. He also added that the first 3 streets in the subdivision should be done with the rest of Noah's Ark Blvd was done. The gravel part of Menard Rd. is all washed out and he would like to see the drainage issues taken care of first. Flooding is a problem on both Lydia St and Menard Rd. Ditches would need to be dug and 18" culverts installed. Mayor Colligan stated that the drainage was a lateral issue. They would have to start in the back and work their way forward to be done properly. He stated that it was a constant fight with the cane farmers trying to make them take of the ditches they crossed. It may cost 5 -10 thousand dollars to do drainage on Menard Rd. He will contact the

engineer and speak with Kenny Boagni about the drainage and see what can be done about widening the road. He will also ask the parish drainage man to be there also. Alderman Smith stated that he did not want to put off the drainage problem on Menard Rd any longer. It needed to be addressed now.

Mayor Colligan stated that Ted Johnson with Entergy will be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss moving the right of way utility lines along Menard Rd.

Alderman Bussy stated that 9 roads needed to be paved or resurfaced and he agreed they should do the worst roads first. He was in agreement to do Thibodeaux and Noah's Ark Blvd entrance and exit. He stated that the first 3 streets in the subdivision only needed repairs and should not be done now. He stated that they should do Vena while doing Thibodeaux and Menard Rd should be repaved. He does not feel that Lydia Street should be paved.

Mayor Colligan asked that they go down the list and take a vote on each street to be done in Phase One of the road project.

A motion was made by Alderman Uriegas to resurface Sts. Marie, Nicholas, and Ignatius Circle. That motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderman Smith and duly seconded by Alderman Bussy to resurface the paved section of Menard Rd only. The vote taken was as follows:

Yays: Aldermen Smith, Bussy, Uriegas

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Unanimously Carried

A motion was made by Alderman Bussy and duly seconded by Alderman Smith to pave Lydia Street. The vote taken was as follows:

Yays: Aldermen Smith, Bussy and Uriegas

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously Carried

A motion was made by Alderman Smith and duly seconded by Alderman Uriegas to add a clause to include drainage project on 3 sides of Lydia Street. Motion Unanimously Carried

A motion was made by Alderman Bussy to pave Vena Lane. That motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Colligan stated that they can look at what to include in Phase 2 and 3 of the road project after the next meeting or next years budget
Alderman Uriegas asked that the minutes reflect the motion he made to pave the streets in Dupre Oak but it died for lack of a second.

Alderman Bussy stated that he will step down from serving as Mayor Pro-Tem. He will no longer be able to perform the duties of the Mayor Pro-Tem. Alderman Uriegas asked Alderman Bussy if he would mind giving a reason and Alderman Bussy said it was a private matter.

Mayor Colligan asked for a motion to open the nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem. A motion was made by Alderman Bussy and duly seconded by Alderman Uriegas to open the floor for nominations of a Mayor Pro-Tem. MUC

A motion was made by Alderman Uriegas to nominate himself as Mayor Pro-Tem. This motion died for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderman Smith to nominate himself for the position of Mayor Pro-Tem. It was duly seconded by Alderman Bussy. The vote taken was as follows:

Yays: Alderman Smith, Bussy, Uriegas

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Unanimously Carried

A motion was made by Alderman Bussy and duly seconded by Alderman Uriegas to pay the bills. MUC

A motion was made by Alderman Bussy and duly seconded by Alderman Uriegas to adjourn the meeting. MUC

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Kevin Colligan, Mayor

Cinderella Miller, Clerk

