

The Livingston Parish Recreation District 2 met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in Watson, La. at 6 pm at the Administrative Office (Live Oak Sportsplex) located at 36965 Louisiana Highway 16, Watson, La.

Present- C.Prescott, T.McRae, J.Hood, A.Curtis, B.J.Guerin, B.J.Clark

Absent: V. Brown

Guests/Public: Ryan Chavers, Livingston Parish Councilman, citizens-Tiffany Stafford, Mr. and Mrs. Justin St.Romain, Karla Morris, Charles Harper, Doug Causey, Loretta Chandler, Adrienne Bordelon

Director Mike Hansen and staff member

Public Hearing on Ad Valorem Tax millage adoption was held.

Administrative Secretary presented for all in attendance a recap of millage rates that were assessed in 2023 and a list of millage rates by the eleven entities forecasted for 2024 inside the District boundary. He explained that this District is not rolling forward to the maximum millage of 15 mills, but is adopting the adjusted rate of 10.57 of the 15 mills for 2024. Various citizens made comments of their concerns for the rise in their tax bill later this year due to the large re-assessment of values. One citizen thanked the board on their effort to not roll forward the millage. Several board members explained the past history of the District regarding saving funds from each year's budget for future capital improvements from a budget surplus over the past six years versus the pursuit of funds through a new tax. The public hearing was closed at 6:45 pm by the Chairman.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chris Prescott.

Pledge of allegiance was given and prayer led by Administrative Secretary.

Motion to adopt the minutes as mailed for the July 10, 2024, meeting with no public comment, by T.McRae seconded by B.J.Guerin Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-V. Brown

Administrative Secretary read aloud the 2024 millage adoption resolution for consideration at the 10.57 mill rate and noted there were no public comments.

Motion to authorize the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Livingston, State of Louisiana, be empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law with a millage set for 10.57 mills with no public comment by T.McRae seconded by B.J.Guerin Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-V. Brown

Under public comments, Parish Councilman, Ryan Chavers, mentioned that a new Parish Ordinance states that heart defibrillator equipment must be available to the public. Director stated that the equipment will have public access in the days ahead. Several public comments were made on enlarging recreational sports at the current complex. Chairman noted that public survey research is being investigated to prove the public's wishes at the facility.

Director, Mike Hansen, reported on the various small projects completed (dugout painting, turf replacement, etc.).

*He reported on an electrical outage (short) on fields 9-10-11 that required electrical repair with rented lift equipment.

*He noted that an official code of conduct was issued to all coaches assisting with league play.

*He discussed the remaining fall tournaments scheduled. He stated that fall baseball and softball league meetings were held and practices have begun. Fall play should begin around September 30th through October, 2024.

*He stated that fall soccer coaching positions have been secured except for one age group. He noted that each soccer field size will be enlarged due to the specific soccer age group this year.

*He noted that there will be a new soccer commissioner added with a September 28, 2024, begin date.

*He covered that bathroom floor work will begin soon and that a portable rest room trailer will be used during the construction (Thursday through Sunday).

*He reported on continuing vandalism concerns and the past several year history of vandalism at the park.

*He presented quotes on a walk in freezer with a low quote of \$11,044.50 from Ka-Tom Restaurant Supply Inc.

Motion to approve the low quote for the purchase of one new walk in freezer unit for a price of \$11,044.50 with no public comment by B.J.Clark seconded by A.Curtis Vote passed Yeas-6, Nays-none Absent-V.Brown

Director stated that the park will be closed daily from 11 pm until 4 am.

*He stated that quotes on the re-surfacing of the track were not compliant to the general specifications. He will get assistance from the engineer on writing special specifications for securing quotes on the track work needed for the near future.

* He reported on the potential of a new hire for a maintenance position and discussed pay rates to be negotiated per the experience. Board agreed on the need.

Administrative Secretary presented the financial report with the board for the July, 2024, period of operations as compared to budget with August bills.

Motion to accept the financial report of July and pay the bills as presented for the August period with no public comment by C.Prescott seconded by T.McRae Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-V.Brown

Chairman reported that there was no new factors to discuss relating to the 20 adjacent acres.

Under Committee reports, B.J.Guerin gave a progress report on estimated construction costs of a four to eight pickle ball court facility which will be forwarded to the engineer for inclusion into the expansion plans.

Tracy McRae noted that a step system for hourly compensation per each job position is being researched for consideration by the Personnel Committee.

Under board comments, April Curtis recommended to write a survey for soccer parents in order to receive accurate feedback on soccer as well as all general recreational sports in order to get direct ideas and feedback from parents.

Ryan Chavers also recommended to consider a nature walk on the Fore Road property in the expansion plans.

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by B.J.Clark seconded by J.Hood Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-V.Brown



Randall Smith - Administrative Secretary

Next public meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 6 pm