**MINUTES**

Livingston Parish

February 25, 2021

Pursuant to notice duly posted in the public lobby of the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, the Livingston Parish Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at the hour of five forty-five (5:45) p.m. in the Parish Council Chambers, located in the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, 20355 Governmental Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana with the following members present:

~~Shane Mack~~

Gerald McMorris

Maurice “Scooter” Keen – Vice-chair

Jeff Ard – Chair

**Also Present**: Jennifer Meyers, Finance Director

**Absent:** Shane Mack

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The Chair, Councilman Jeff Ard, called the meeting to order and asked the Deputy Clerk, Angie Cornett to call the roll. Councilman Shane Mack was not present.

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The Chair read agenda item 3) *Old Business.* Having none, he called on the parish finance director, Jennifer Meyers to address item 4a) *New* Business: *Monthly/YTD Financials.* She stated that the standard paperwork provided included financials for 2020, a check register, and sales tax. She noted that ad valorem taxes (a 2.5-million-dollar check) were not yet recorded due to software issues with the Sheriff’s Office. Meyers said that the report which broke out the General Fund, Health Unit, and Road Millage could not yet be generated. This, Meyers added, could cause an issue due to general government rules for accounting which could lead to a budget violation on ad valorem revenue. She mentioned that such was also the case with PEG and perhaps others. On the 2020 financials, Meyers stated that not all grants had been booked as she was still posting and closing them out through Monday (*March 1, 2021*). However, she had closed out the 2020 year for sales tax and noted that we did better than budgeted since she always budgeted sales tax conservatively to avoid overspending. She said that we are up about two million dollars over budget and that will mean ‘in the black’ on the jail fund this year and so we can begin paying back the deficit early. Councilman Keen inquired as to whether they could look for that reoccurring if sales taxes stayed up. Meyers replied that the 1.7 million debt on the jail is now gone so we will have that much, and she is hopeful that the growth of sales tax will continue. She also hoped that the debt could be brought to zero in four years to begin planning for future needs, such as space for inmates. She moved to 2021 projects and stated that DPW would need vehicles when the leases ran out. They learned that it was more economical to buy rather than to lease due to the upkeep on their vehicles. In addition, more space on the server, due to growth, would be an additional expense.

Councilman McMorris asked about where funds were budgeted for the Master Plan Committee. Meyers reminded him that they were moved from the 2020 budget to the 2021 year. That would be seen in the General Fund for 2021 at the next Finance Committee meeting. The chair allowed a brief discussion as they guessed the amount to be around $150,000 or $160,000. Meyers asked for a projected budget from the committee as she did not want to hire someone (*a Planner*) and realize that they were out of money. Councilman Keen added that the board would get some bids on that.

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Having no further business to come before the committee, it was moved and agreed that the Finance Committee adjourn until the Chair decides.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Gerald McMorris and duly seconded by Mr. Maurice “Scooter” Keen for the Livingston Parish Finance Committee to adjourn until the next Finance Committee is called.

YEAS: MR. GERALD MCMORRIS, MR. MAURICE “SCOOTER” KEEN, MR. JEFF ARD

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: SHANE MACK

ABSTAIN: NONE

**/s/ Angie Cornett**  **/s/ Jeff Ard**

Angie Cornett, Deputy Clerk Jeff Ard, Chair