## REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2021 6:30 P.M.

The Mayor and Councilmen of the Town of Jean Lafitte met in a Regular Meeting with the following members present: Mayor Kerner. Councilman Bartholomew, Councilman Creppel, Councilman Guillie, Councilman LeBeau and Councilman Smith. Mayor Kerner presided calling the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. asking everyone to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

On a motion by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Bartholomew the following was offered:

A motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2021.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

On a motion by Councilman Guillie and seconded by Councilman Smith the following was offered:

A motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 19, 2021.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

#### **RESOLUTION #2222**

On a motion by Councilman Creppel and seconded by Councilman Smith the following resolution was adopted:

A resolution requesting the State of Louisiana, the US. Coast Guard and any other permitting and regulatory agencies with jurisdiction investigate the cause of a barge colliding with the Kerner Swing Bridge on August 29, 2021, that said agencies conduct a compliance review of the owner(s) and custodian(s) of the barge and take all appropriate actions for any instances of non-compliance and that the Town Attorney pursue any available legal remedies to cover costs incurred by the town as a result of the incident.

WHEREAS, the Kerner Swing Bridge services as a crucial vehicular access point for the residents of Barataria, and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2021, a barge in the custody of Tom's Marina & Salvage LLC collided with the Kerner Swing Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the collision resulted in significant damage to the bridge and rendered it unsafe for travel; and

WHEREAS, the resulting bridge closure eliminated Barataria residents sole vehicular access point across Bayou Barataria and hindered emergency response activities following Hurricane Ida; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020, two boats and two barges in the custody of Tom's Marine and Salvage, LLC broke free from a dock during Hurricane Zeta, and one of the barges appeared to have collided with the Kerner Swing Bridge as it passed beneath it; and

WHEREAS, in effort to avoid future incidents, it is essential that permitting and regulatory agencies investigate the circumstances that led to the August 29, 2021 barge collision; and

WHEREAS, it is likewise appropriate for said agencies to review the operations of the barge owners and custodians for compliance with all permitting and regulatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, if compliance failures or deficiencies are identified, then the appropriate agencies are requested to take all proper actions against the responsible parties.

WHEREAS, since 2019 forty- nine (49) 911 emergency calls were made due to concerning issues and fires at this location,

SECTION 1: That the State of Louisiana, the US Coast Guard and any other permitting and regulatory agencies with jurisdiction are hereby requested to investigate the cause of a barge striking the Kerner Swing Bridge on August 29, 2021 to, to conduct a complete compliance review of the owners and custodians of the barge and to take all appropriate actions for any instance of non-compliance.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

Councilman Bartholomew Councilman Creppel Councilman Guillie Councilman LeBeau Councilman Smith

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2223**

On a motion by Councilman Guillie and seconded by Councilman Smith the following resolution was adopted:

# A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF JEAN LAFITTE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TIM KERNER TO PROPERLY ADVERTISE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY IN HURRICANE SEASON

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida and its aftermath have created a public emergency affecting life, health, property and public safety in the Town of Jean Lafitte; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution is to authorize the Mayor to file a request for qualifications for disaster recovery, per House Bill No. 388, HLS 18RS-859, and per R.S. 9:2793.8, R.S. 23:893, R.S. 29:733, R.S. 33:4712.18, R.S. 29:735.4 and R.S. 42:1102 relative to emergency preparedness and disaster management, to provide for credentials of volunteers; to provide for definitions; to provide for background checks; to provide a limitation of liability for volunteers; to provide relative to leave from employment; to provide for applicability; to provide limitations; and to provide for related matters.

**WHEREAS**, the need for complete documentation on the amount of damage to land or structures is essential to preserving the investments home and property, in order to facilitate a speedy recovery and a return to normalcy within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon home and property owners to vet all potential vendors and authorize only those contractors which are fully licensed, bonded, and in good standing in the state of Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS,** in doing so, the Town of Jean Lafitte will be able to respond to the needs of its citizens in a fast and more efficient manner.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

Councilman Bartholomew Councilman Creppel Councilman Guillie Councilman LeBeau Councilman Smith

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2224**

On a motion by Councilman Creppel and seconded by Councilman Bartholomew the following resolution was adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF JEAN LAFITTE TO ACCEPT THE SUPPORT OF A MATERIAL POINT OF DISTRIBUTION TO ASSIST IN HURRICANE SEASON

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida and its aftermath have created a public emergency affecting life, health, property and public safety in the Town of Jean Lafitte; and

**WHEREAS,** is all but certain that the town will face threats posed by severe tropical weather in the future; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate a speedy recovery and a return to normalcy within the Town of Lafitte, the Mayor and Town Council in conjunction with Build SOS, do hereby accept the support offered by those vendors approved by the Administration and deemed necessary to better the recovery process for the citizens, and shall be given authority to proceed with a Material Point of Distribution. All merchants will be required to obtain an occupational license and follow all the regulations that apply.

WHEREAS, doing so, in doing so, the Town of Jean Lafitte will be able to respond to the needs of its citizens in a fast and more efficient manner.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

Councilman Bartholomew
Councilman Creppel
Councilman Guillie
Councilman LeBeau
Councilman Smith

#### **RESOLUTION # 2225**

On a motion by Councilman Bartholomew and seconded by Councilman Smith the following resolution was adopted:

# A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF JEAN LAFITTE IN SUPPORT OF A DIGITAL PLATFORM MANAGEMENT COMPANY TO ASSIST IN PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE SEASON

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida and its aftermath have created a public emergency affecting life, health, property and public safety in the Town of Jean Lafitte; and

**WHEREAS,** is all but certain that the town will face threats posed by severe tropical weather in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for complete documentation on the amount of damage to land or structures is essential to preserving the investments home and property, in order to facilitate a speedy recovery and a return to normalcy within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, insurance adjusters and policy holders greatly benefit in ascertaining the most accurate possible assessments by home and property owners who have gathered extensive photographic records of their buildings and land prior to the storm, before any damage to the insured properties have occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon home and property owners to vet all potential vendors and authorize only those contractors which are fully licensed, bonded, and in good standing in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Build SOS is the premier digital platform management company for residential communities to assist in preparation for natural disasters. Build SOS provides resources for homeowners, non-profits, and government agencies with integrity and vision for new construction, disaster recovery, repairs and remodeling; and

**WHEREAS**, Build SOS with its partners, have built, and continue to develop, a free robust digital platform for property owners to document their properties in a secure data base; and

WHEREAS, since its inception (2016), along with Contractor Integrity Systems (2007),

Build SOS has worked to create a system that brings all the audiences together under one platform to assist the public during times of need; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, the Town of Jean Lafitte will be able to respond to the needs of its citizens in a fast and more efficient manner, through the use of real time analytics.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

Councilman Bartholomew Councilman Creppel Councilman Guillie Councilman LeBeau Councilman Smith

#### **RESOLUTION #2226**

On a motion by Councilman Creppel and seconded by Councilman Bartholomew the following resolution was adopted:

A resolution in support of the digital platform that can help when planning for Hurricane Season: Build SOS is the premier digital platform management company for the residential communities to assist in preparation for natural disasters. Build SOS provides resources for homeowners, non-profits, and government agencies with integrity and vision for new construction, disaster recovery, repairs and remodeling.

WHEREAS, Build SOS with its partner, has built, and continues to develop, a free robust digital platform for property owners to document their properties in a secure data base; and

**WHEREAS,** since its inception (2016) along with the Contractor Integrity Systems (2007) has worked to create a nimble system that brings all the audiences together under one platform to assist the public during times of need; and

**WHEREAS**, Build SOS has developed an identification card program for industry service provider' that legitimizes the relationship between the person in need of services and the person or company providing services; and

WHEREAS, Build SOS is committed to protecting the citizens from storm chasers and undocumented workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Build SOS app can be downloaded by all citizens for free on their and their family's and friends' mobile devices to upload and store 8 pictures or more of their property pre and post disaster event; and

WHEREAS, the officials of the town in conjunction with Build SOS, for the betterment of the community recovery, this resolution allows the Town Administration to accept the support offered by the Home Depot to provide a MPOD (Material Point of Distribution) located inside the town limits at the discretion of the Mayor and his/her staff. At the discretion of the mayor and other merchants that the mayor deems necessary to better the recovery process for the citizens the mayor shall have the authority to act. All merchants will be required to obtain an occupational license and follow all the regulations that apply,

**WHEREAS,** doing so, the Town leadership will be able to respond to the needs of its citizens in a fast and more efficient manner, through the use of real time analytics:

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council, hereby requests the community to support The Town of Jean Lafitte in its endeavor to assist the citizens during natural disasters by utilizing the Build SOS digital platform.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

Councilman Bartholomew Councilman Creppel Councilman Guillie Councilman LeBeau Councilman Smith

#### **RESOLUTION #2227**

On a motion by Councilman Guillie and seconded by Councilman Bartholomew the following was adopted:

A resolution approving the proposal for Hurricane Ida Damage Assessment of Municipal Buildings from Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc.

ABSENT: 0

WHEREAS, Mayor Timothy Kerner, Jr. has permission to sign and/or all documents. NAYS: 0

YEAS: 5 Councilman Bartholomew Councilman Creppel Councilman Guillie Councilman LeBeau Councilman Smith

## **RESOLUTION #2228**

On a motion by Councilman Creppel and seconded by Councilman Smith the following was adopted:

A resolution ending the Hurricane Ida Mandatory Evacuation for the Town of Jean Lafitte on Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Hurricane Ida Mandatory Evacuation was implemented on Friday, August 27, 2021.

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 Councilman Bartholomew Councilman Creppel Councilman Guillie Councilman LeBeau Councilman Smith

On a motion by Councilman Creppel and seconded by Councilman Guillie the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Town Clerk