

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8th day of September 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Reginald Tatum presiding, the meeting was called to order.

Mayor Tatum requested the Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Julius Alsandor led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Calvin Moore of Little Zion Baptist Church led the Prayer.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to DEFER approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 08/11/2015 and the Special Meeting held on 08/25/2015 until next month. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to add under the PRESENTATIONS Section, **Item No. 7-A**, "*Proclamation for Gun Safety Awareness*". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to delete under the PRESENTATIONS Section, **Item No. 8**, "*Presentation by Mr. E. J. Foreman to discuss certifications for Water Plant Operators*". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin it was resolved to delete under the RESOLUTIONS Section, **Item No. 20**, "*A RESOLUTION MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOUISIANA STATE BOND COMMISSION FOR CONSENT AND AUTHORITY TO REFINANCE NOT EXCEEDING SIX MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,645,000) OF UTILITIES REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012, OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, EMPLOYING UNDERWRITERS, BOND COUNSEL AND LOCAL COUNSEL AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.*". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to delete under the CONSENTS Section, **Item No. 21**, "*Authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the fiscal year ending 08/31/2015*". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

No motion was made to add an INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Section, **Item No. 17-A**, "*INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE CLASS OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE AS A COMPETITIVE CLASS*". *Item died for lack of a motion and cannot be added to agenda.* On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to adopt the agenda as amended with Item No. 17-A not being added due to lack of motion being made for addition.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Mr. Link Savoie regarding a Veterans Funeral Honor Guard sponsored by the American Legion Post 514 in Opelousas. Mr. Savoie, US Army Retired and a member of American Legion Post 514 addressed the Council regarding

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a need to establish a funeral honor guard for veterans in St. Landry Parish. He stated that approximately 5,500 veterans reside in St. Landry Parish and that the Honor Guard is normally supplied by Fort Polk and the Louisiana National Guard; however, they will be cutting back on staff and Post 514 plans on soliciting monies throughout the community to finance this project. Mr. Savoie asked that the Council consider a resolution of support for their endeavor. Mayor Tatum stated that a resolution will be presented at next month's meeting. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to provide a Resolution of Support for the Veterans Funeral Honor Guard Project at next month's meeting. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Proclamation for Gun Safety Awareness.

*Proclamation
"Gun Safety Awareness"*

Whereas, there are three fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling; and

Whereas, the first fundamental rule is ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage; and

Whereas, the second fundamental rule is ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger; and

Whereas, the third fundamental rule is ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

Now, therefore, I, Reginald "Reggie" Tatum, Mayor of the great City of Opelousas, and its Board of Aldermen, do hereby proclaim August 16th as

"Jaylin Randal Levier Day"

in the Historic City of Opelousas, Louisiana.

*In Witness Thereof, I have hereunto set
my hand and caused the Official Seal of
the City of Opelousas to be affixed this
8th day of September, 2015.*

Reginald "Reggie" Tatum, Mayor

Presentation by Mr. E. J. Foreman to discuss certifications for Water Plant Operators. (ITEM DELETED)

Presentation by Mr. Clarence Watson regarding obtaining bids for Sports Park land development. Mr. Watson stated that he had received three proposals for tree removal for the proposed soccer fields on Cherry Street as follows:

Boudreaux's Services - \$7,500.00

To bush hog tall grass, cut and remove approximately 15 trees, grind stumps and haul off.

AOK Services, Inc. - \$8,500.00

Remove 18 trees as discussed, grind stumps and haul off all debris.

Twin Oaks Tree Service - \$4,350.00

Cut and clear trees as discussed (group of trees by road and 3 large groups of trees in middle of field), haul and grind stumps.

Mr. Watson requested that the creation of the soccer fields be turned over the Engineers to provide a cost estimate. Alderman Alsandor asked if the trees are on those 10 acres assigned for the soccer fields and if so they need to look at the cost of creating the soccer fields before proceeding with removal of the trees. Mr. William Jarrell stated that he could do a scope of work and a cost estimate within a week. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to request a cost estimate from the Engineers for the creation of the Soccer Fields on Cherry Street and take the proposals under advisement pending the outcome of the cost estimate. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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Discuss request by Police Chief Donald Thompson to increase the starting pay for Communications Officers and Records Clerks to \$9.00 per hour, adjusting current personnel salaries, by \$1.50 an hour. Chief Thompson stated that some of the cost of the increases will be offset by grant funds but the Police Department does have funds in their existing budget to cover the increases. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the request by Police Chief Donald Thompson to increase the starting pay for Communications Officers and Records Clerks to \$9.00 per hour, adjusting current personnel salaries, by \$1.50 an hour. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Presentation by Alderman Jonathan Tyrone Glover regarding proposed upgrades for North City Park. Alderman Glover requested that cost estimate for resurfacing or overlaying the North Park Tennis Courts in order to place a multi-purpose building there be collected. Alderman Alsandor stated that he thinks they should have new names assigned to the North and South Parks in order to prevent division and further stated that having our own facility would serve the City better since this is a part of the Master Plan. Alderman Glover noted that the boulevard around North Park is already named after an Olympic Gold Medalist (Rodney Milburn). Mayor Tatum stated that "naming" parks has been found to work. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to have a cost analysis for the project compiled by the Engineers. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Presentation by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin concerning the Football program at the Park. Alderwoman Martin requested that the fee for Youth Football be lowered from \$75.00 to \$50.00. She also requested that they could personally help sponsor a few of the kids. Mr. Watson stated that the season is already behind schedule. He pointed out that in other places, the cost is \$60.00 and the kids have to purchase their own equipment. He also stated that a lot of the kids do not turn the uniform back in at the end of the program. Alderman Richard was also requesting this reduction in fees. Mr. Larry Martin, Jr., and Mr. Smith stated that they are coaches for the Youth League and they have helped to sponsor several of the kids. They agree that the fee is too high especially for families with more than one child participating. Alderman Alsandor commended the coaches for their efforts. He pointed out that part of the fee includes a deposit amount and if the uniforms are not returned, then the deposit is not to be returned. Alderman Glover stated that he was in agreement with this. Mr. Watson stated that they are running late with starting the season and asked if a reduced fee can be implemented next year. This item will be sent to the Parks & Recreation Commission for review. No action needed.

Presentation by Alderman Marvin Richard regarding reduction of fees for Youth Football Program at the Park. (This matter was handled during the previous discussion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin).

Discuss request for VARIANCE for property located in a R1 (Residential 1) Zone at 123 Martin Luther King Drive to build and operate a Barbecue Stand (Christian Bryant). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 09/08/2015 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman J. Tyrone Glover, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE for property located in a R1 (Residential 1) Zone at 123 Martin Luther King Drive to build and operate a Barbecue Stand (Christian Bryant). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for VARIANCE for property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 1016 W. Bellevue Street to build a Fellowship Hall. (St. Paul Baptist Church). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 09/08/2015 and recommended approval of this item with the stipulation that a copy of the plans are brought to the Planning Commission. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE for property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 1016 W. Bellevue Street to build a Fellowship Hall. (St. Paul Baptist Church) with the stipulation that a copy of the plans be brought to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Claiborne stated that he had no presentation.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Council was provided with a copy of the Engineer's Monthly Report for their review. Mr. William Jarrell stated that he had no presentation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SOLICITATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE LOUISIANA EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM. Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World, A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SOLICITATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE LOUISIANA EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM was opened at 6:33 p.m. One proposal was received from New Life Center. Alderman Alsandor asked for clarification of what this program is. Mrs. Catherine Thomas, shelter grants coordinator, explained that the Emergency Solutions Grants Program is for the two shelters that are in Opelousas but the Lighthouse Mission is not taking part this year. She stated that Louisiana is giving two million dollars toward shelters in different municipalities. Alderman Briggs asked why the Lighthouse Mission is not participating this year. Mrs. Thomas stated that the Lighthouse Mission did not want to participate this year because of the burden of paperwork involved in the shelter grants project. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to accept the proposal and proceed with necessary paperwork for disbursement of funds for agency program. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BIKE ROUTE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 07 OF 2015

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BIKE ROUTE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS
WHEREAS, a safe and efficient trail system creates the foundation for economic growth, public health, and enhanced quality of life;
and

WHEREAS, investing in safe and connected trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, and multi-use paths will encourage our residents to be more active, enable them to spend more time with their families via active transportation, and result in improved personal and community health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Council of the City of Opelousas do hereby support the adoption of a bike route plan for the City of Opelousas.

The above foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Whereupon the presiding officer declared the Resolution duly adopted on this 8th day of September 2015.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

A RESOLUTION MAKING APPLICATION TO THE LOUISIANA STATE BOND COMMISSION FOR CONSENT AND AUTHORITY TO REFINANCE NOT EXCEEDING SIX MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,645,000) OF UTILITIES REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012. OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, EMPLOYING UNDERWRITERS, BOND COUNSEL AND LOCAL COUNSEL AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. (ITEM DELETED)

CONSENTS

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Authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the fiscal year ending 08/31/2015. *(ITEM DELETED)*

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for Sewer Pump Parts. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the Administrative Leave with Pay for Permanent Police Sergeant Baxter Iford, effective 08/20/2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the Termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for Permanent Police Sergeant Baxter Iford, effective 09/01/2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the Promotion of Tyron Andrepont from Patrolman First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 09/13/2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the recommendation for hire of Ms. Jomanda Angelle as a Police Communications Officer, effective 09/14/2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to accept the Resignation of Police Officer Glenn Stephen, effective 9/03/2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Donald Broussard submitted a speaker request card at the beginning of the meeting. Before Mr. Broussard spoke, he was cautioned by the Mayor and City Attorney regarding his presentation because it is dealing with a sensitive personnel issue and the employee is not present. Mr. Broussard stated that he had permission from the employee in question to discuss this matter openly. The attorney again cautioned that the individual in question was not present and the bottom line is that this issue would have to go into Executive Session in order to be discussed. Attorney Claiborne informed Mr. Broussard that he was not in order to bring up this particular situation without this individual being physically present and his advice to the Council is for them to tell Mr. Broussard not to proceed. Mayor Tatum pointed out that Mr. Broussard's allegations also include another employee who is also not present. Attorney Claiborne pointed out that anytime you discuss an employee's personnel issues, they have a right to be present. Alderman Briggs pointed out that they are talking about two different people—the guy who gave him permission to do this and the guy he is accusing of wrongdoing—and the guy he is accusing was not notified so they cannot talk about the issue at all.

Mr. Wilbert Levier asked about the progress of the attorney's review of the 2 ½ percent increase from 2012. Attorney Claiborne stated that he is still reviewing this matter but has not finished yet and will provide an update once his investigation is complete.

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Ms. Lena Charles addressed the Council and suggested changing the name of the North Park to Rodney Milburn Park. She also thanked the City of Opelousas for all of their participation and support of the Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Festival. She also thanked Mrs. Melanie Lebouef for all of her help with this endeavor. She stated that this year was dedicated to the legacy of Mr. John Delafosse, Sr. He was one of the five bands that the Zydeco Festival showcased in 1982. The City was well represented at the Festival with the proclamation they submitted in recognition of Mr. Delafosse and with the presence of the Alderman-at-Large and the City Clerk during the Festival. She stated that she continues to need the City's support on behalf of the Southern Development Foundation.

Le Vieux Village and Louisiana Orphan Train Museum Received Two Grants awarded from the Union Pacific Railroad Foundation. Mayor Tatum invited the public to visit the Orphan Train Museum. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, unanimously motioned, seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR