

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 10, 2013**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr. presiding, the meeting was called to order.

The Mayor requested the City Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Blair Briggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 11/12/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: adding under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 7-A, "Presentation by Mr. Hubert White regarding the J.S. Clark Alumni Association Future Memorial Walkway"; correcting under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 25, "Approve the hiring of Brent Fontenot and Logan Guillory in the Fire Department, effective 01/05/2014, pending successful completion of physical agility and medical testing" should read, "Approve the hiring of Brett Fontenot and Logan Guillory in the Fire Department, effective 01/05/2014, pending successful completion of physical agility and medical testing"; deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 6, "Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month"; adding a RESOLUTIONS Section, Item No. 14-A, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE VALVE INSTALLATION PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"; moving the CONSENTS Section, Item Nos. 15-25, under the PRESENTATIONS Section to replace Item No. 6 because Police Chief Perry Gallow has another engagement to attend.

#### **CONSENTS**

*Approve the recommendation for termination of Police Officer Chasity Carriere, effective 11/13/2013, and approve payment of all unused vacation hours, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board.* Mayor Cravins asked Officer Carriere if she wished to have this discussion publicly or privately. She stated that she would like to have it publicly. Chief Gallow stated that Officer Carriere was injured in the jail with an inmate the year prior. Subsequently, she went out for two months and came back on light duty status which meant that she was not responsible for going into the jail, with booking the inmates, to minimize the opportunity for any type of confrontation with any inmates at her doctor's request for light duty status which is basically sitting at a desk. A couple of weeks later her doctor said she couldn't do that so she again went out. On November 13, 2013, that made one year where she was out for this particular injury. Her doctor at that time informed them that she could come back light duty. They don't have a light duty position available. Based on the fact that she could not satisfy her ability to perform as a Police Officer, he has no choice but to recommend termination because they no longer have that additional year. He stated that he went to Fire & Police Civil Service to request that this is looked at because it gives an employee an additional year to be paid to basically sit at home. He stated that he informed her of this beforehand and he informed her of this the time she came into the office but November 13, 2013 is one year. Chief Gallow stated that if she cannot come back to work at one hundred percent then he has no choice but to recommend termination based on the Civil Service law—her inability to perform as a Police Officer. Mayor Cravins stated that he finds this to be a very bad law. If you are genuinely and truly hurt, through no fault of your own, you are injured on duty, at that point are we supposed to just discard those people and say "go make it on your own?" Chief Gallow stated that at that point, workman's comp picks up based on the fact that it was an on-the-job injury; but as far as the employment status, that is not his law. Mayor Cravins asked if there is a provision where the insurance company would say you have to get an opinion from another doctor they chose rather than her own doctor. Chief Gallow stated that he was not aware of this. Alderman Reginald Tatum asked if the worker's comp was going to pick up immediately. City Clerk stated that it has been a worker's comp case from the very beginning because it was an on the job injury. They are only allowed to get a full pay because the Police Department and the Fire Department have a one year sick leave policy which means you can be out of work for a whole entire year on sick leave and still get paid your full pay. It used to be that you could go six months at half pay but that was changed three or four years ago. Now, after the one year, if you can't come back at one hundred percent according to Fire & Police Civil Service rules then you have to be terminated. Worker's Comp will continue to pay until that case is closed. Mayor Cravins pointed out that when it has been abused, it's been abused and we all know but there should be some safeguard that you can put in that you don't have to terminate a person because they are sick. Alderman Tatum asked the City Attorney if they, as a Council, can vote not to terminate her, legally. Attorney Duplechain pointed out with the worker's comp issue as long as she's still getting worker's comp from the insurance company and still being treated by her treating physician, then you cannot just terminate her because they have a worker's comp issue going with an injury received on the job. At some point, the treating physician is going to declare the worker to have received maximum benefit—maximum recovery. At that point, if the worker cannot return to work, she cannot return to work. On the Civil Service side, if the Civil Service worker has sustained an injury where they can no longer perform the job, then they can be terminated. He suggested that they contact the worker's comp company. Ms. Frank stated that this is not a worker's comp issue; it is a Fire & Police Civil Service issue. Alderman Alsandor stated that it is the Council's job is to look at what the Chief has presented to them and make a decision on that. No one up here wants to tell anybody else they no longer have a job; but if this is the rule of Civil Service, then they have to implement it. He pointed out that at the end of the statement it says pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service. He stated that Civil Service may reverse it right back and give her job to her. Chief Gallow pointed out that his recommendation is based simply on the Civil Service law. Mayor Cravins called up Officer Chasity Carrier. Officer Carriere stated that she was injured on duty and got hurt attempting to stop a violent, mental inmate who was attempting to escape. Officer Carriere stated that she was not aware that the inmate was mental. Officer Carriere presented paperwork of medical tests that her doctor ordered that will take several months to complete and that

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Worker's Comp has denied. Alderman Alsandor asked Chief Gallow to summarize Officer Carriere as an employee. Chief Gallow stated that Officer Carriere has faced disciplinary actions more than once which led to her being placed in the jail area. He stated that this today is not about what she did or didn't do; it is about her inability to perform as a police officer. Alderwoman Martin asked if the Civil Service Board took into consideration the tests that her doctor requested and the fact that they were denied by Worker's Comp. Officer Carriere stated that several of the medical tests are still pending. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved not to terminate Police Officer Chasity Carriere.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Reginald Tatum and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr. and Blair Briggs.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Cravins voted YEA to break the tie vote.

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

Mayor Cravins instructed Ms. Frank to consult with Ms. Balthazar and Attorney Duplechain and get with the Worker's Comp attorney who represents the City and find out exactly what the status is.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for Offsite Motor Fuel (Gasoline and Diesel).

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Permanent Police Officer Segus Jolivet, effective 11/04/2013.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Permanent Police Officer First Class Morris Leday III, effective 11/11/2013.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Probational Police Communications Officer Gloria Newman, effective 12/01/2013.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the hiring of Rodney Daigle as a Police Officer, effective 12/16/2013, pending the passing of a prerequisite psychological exam for employment.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the hiring of Bryan Wiles as a Police Officer, effective 12/16/2013.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the hiring of Daisy Grabert as a Provisional Police Communications Officer, effective 12/09/2013, pending the passing of prerequisites for employment.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the retirement of Paul David Gaines in the Fire Department, effective 01/01/2014, and approve payment in the amount of \$6,170.40 for unused vacation hours, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the retirement of Wilfred Kinnerson in the Fire Department, effective 01/01/2014, and approve payment in the amount of \$10,296.00 for unused vacation hours, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the hiring of Brett Fontenot and Logan Guillory in the Fire Department, effective 01/05/2014, pending successful completion of physical agility and medical testing.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the CONSENTS Section as follows:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

*Presentation by Mr. Cabbot Ballard regarding the Old St. Landry Training School Museum.* Mr. Ballard thanked the Council for granting them a portion of the property where the memorial building will be erected for the St. Landry Training School and J.S. Clark. He stated that they want to bring something positive to Opelousas by having a memorial building that will house memorabilia from those organizations.

*Presentation by Mr. Hubert White regarding the J.S. Clark Alumni Association Future Memorial Walkway.* Mr. Charles Renaud, one of the vice-presidents of the J.S. Clark Alumni Association, introduced the project and noted that they are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In the past four years of the organizations existence, they have put into the Opelousas/St. Landry Parish community roughly \$46,000 to the boys and girls of the community which includes \$31,000 in scholarships, \$7,500 to the Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana, \$2,500 to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund, \$2,000 each to Opelousas High and Northwest High Schools, and \$1,000 to North Central High School. Mr. Renaud stated that they are an agency on the move with some ideas of bettering the City of Opelousas. All monies they've raised were spent in Opelousas on boys and girls here. At this time, Mr. Renaud introduced Mr. Hubert White, president of the J.S. Clark Alumni Association, and Mr. Mike Daniels, project leader of the J.S. Clark Memorial Walkway. Mr. White stated that J.S. Clark has left a very positive image to him because it was the only thing he had when he was living here. He stated that they are looking for corporate sponsors. Mr. Daniels stated that J.S. Clark Alumni has a vision and they want to build a beautiful walkway in the Village (*Le Vieux Village*). Mr. Daniels stated that they are going to honor several pioneers associated with St. Landry Training School and J.S. Clark, such as Rodney Milburn, world's number one hurdler; Lawrence Emerson, principal who started out at St. Landry Training School; and Preston Fontenot, who died in 1959 on the football field of J.S. Clark. They have raised around \$30,000 themselves for the walkway and they need sponsors. Mr. White stated that they are seeking assistance from the City Council and, whatever they do for the Alumni Association, the City is going to get it back many times more. Mayor Cravins stated that he thinks the City should invest in that project because it will bring in people and it will be a good fit to complement the Village. On a motion by

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Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to sponsor \$7,500.00 for the J.S. Clark Alumni Association Memorial Walkway with funds to come from the Fund Balance. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

*Discussion by Mrs. Crystal Guillory and Ms. Anna Nix regarding payment for damages to house located on Westwego Street. Mrs. Guillory and Ms. Nix were not present.*

*COMMITTEE REPORTS: (Budget Committee)*

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 @ 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin

ABSENT: None

1. **DISCUSSION REGARDING SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, AS IT RELATES TO SALARY REDUCTIONS AND BENEFITS.** Alderman Tatum stated that he disagrees with the salary reductions for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. He pointed out that in Port Allen, which has a population of 5,000 to 6,000 people, the Mayor makes \$85,000 a year and the Aldermen make \$25,000 a year not counting benefits, so you really can't go by the population—it depends on how much you work. This is not a part-time job—it's a full-time job for the Council. He feels like they work 24/7. Alderman Tatum also gave a report on the Legislators' salaries. He stated that they reported that they receive a base salary of \$16,800 per year but they make much more than that with per diems and other benefits. He stated that Legislators work a lot less than the Council members do. Alderman Tatum stated that he spoke to other council members from the Parish and other municipalities and they are all taking about raising their salaries—not reducing them. Alderman Briggs stated that if they do make a cut on the Councilmen's salary then it needs to be something people agree with and can live with—maybe ten percent as a starting point. He would not be willing to sacrifice a cut in health benefits but in pay only. Alderwoman Martin stated that she cannot afford to have the health insurance taken away from her. She feels like Alderman Tatum does that this is not a part-time job for her because even when she is on her other job, she has people come to her even from other districts for help. She stated that she has already given herself a cut because she gives back to her district. She pointed out that this was something that was already in effect before they even got in office so why is it being questioned. Alderman Tatum pointed out that they gave up their 2 ½ percent raise back in 2007 to be given to the Library so they have never received a raise since that time. Alderman Alsandor stated that at the last full meeting, he suggested that they take a ten percent (\$3,000) cut across the board. If it were to pass, then it would not take place until next term—January 2015. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was recommended to table this matter until the budget process for 2014-2015 has been handled and forward to the full council for approval. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Julius Alsandor, Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Cravins stated that there needs to be some gesture from them to show that they are serious about asking everybody to tighten up and it would be well received—a cut of some kind right now and then look at it again later. He stated that this is not going to go away—it's going to be back on the agenda again in January or February. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to table the salary reductions for the Mayor and Aldermen matter until the budget process for 2014-2015 begins next year. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Joseph Charles and Reginald Tatum.

NAYS: Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, and Jacqueline Martin.

ABSENT: None.

THE MOTION FAILS.

Mayor Cravins asked if there was a substitute motion or is the motion to address the issue again in the budget committee meeting and then make a recommendation or were they going to deal with it today. Ms. Frank stated that it has to be an ordinance and they would have to introduce the ordinance. The Mayor stated that this is the ordinance they are dealing with now. Alderman Briggs stated that there is no ordinance on the agenda. Mayor Cravins stated that they will have a meeting in January and they will have to deal with the issue with that ordinance.

2. **DISCUSS REVENUE SUMMARY.** Ms. Karen Frank gave an overview of the revenue and expenditure summary to the Board and a break down of departments that have gone over from where they should be at this time of the fiscal year.
3. **DISCUSS THE MARSHAL'S BUDGET.** City Marshall Paul Mouton stated that there was an incident in which his gas card for his department vehicle was stolen without his knowledge. He stated that it was his stepson who lives with him that took the card. The charges were brought to his attention by Ms. Balthazar and his stepson's mother has made arrangements to make restitution of the charges which totaled \$7,930.54. Mr. Mouton is asking the Council to give additional funds to the Marshal's budget for gas for the remainder of the year until the restitution is made. Alderman Alsandor asked how this theft had occurred. Mr. Mouton stated that his stepson took the card out of his department unit and was using the card. Alderman Alsandor asked if something has been put in place to make sure this does not happen again. Mr. Mouton stated that there have been safeguards put into place. Ms. Frank stated that the funds will be transferred from the Marshal's capital outlay account so no action needed since he is staying within his budget.
4. **AMEND BUDGET FOR MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT.** Ms. Walker is requesting funds to pay for attorney's fees for October 2013. The invoice runs from September 26 to October 31, 2013. She stated that she has \$1,047.29 in her line item which she has applied to the invoice and she only needs \$1,584.01 to pay the remaining balance due. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was recommended to amend the Civil Service budget by \$5,000.00 for attorney's fees and forward to the full council for approval. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:  
YEAS: Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.  
NAYS: Julius Alsandor.  
ABSENT: None.

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**On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to amend the Civil Service budget by \$5,000.00 for attorney's fees. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:**

**YEAS:** Joseph Charles, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

**NAYS:** Julius Alsandor.

**ABSENT:** None.

5. **PRESENTATION BY FIRE CHIEF LEE CAHANIN.** Chief Cahanin stated that he has had a few questions from the Council about closing down fire stations. He stated that this was part of his budget package that was presented. He mentioned that it would not happen often—more so during the holidays. He stated that they have reduced staffing (brown outs) on a temporary basis for a 24 hour period until staffing gets back on a normal level. Those instances have saved them about \$2,600. Alderman Tatum asked if this will affect our fire rating. Chief Cahanin stated that it would not and it has not affected response times. He stated that they have received a \$135,000 communications grant and they are going to take the ten percent match from the Training and Equipment account. He stated that they have terminated one employee and will have two employees retiring in January 2014. He stated that they have been out recruiting individuals who are on their certified recruit list which will be a \$2,500 savings. He is looking to hire two individuals by December 29, 2013 and will make his recommendations at the full council meeting. No action needed at this time.

Attorney Garett Duplechain apprised the Council that he has been getting a lot of claims from individuals who have hit potholes. He stated that he does not know what the timeline is for fixing the holes but it is very easy for a personal injury attorney to send their client to a chiropractor after they have hit a pothole. Ms. Frank stated that they don't normally pay out claims on potholes. Mr. Wilbert Levier stated that he is requesting that they bring it to the full council to pay the employees their 2 ½ percent back pay from the last year. Ms. Frank stated that there is a disagreement on that because some employees feel that since they did not get their raise from 2012-2013 until now that the City owes them the money that they would have received had they received it back then. Alderman Alsandor stated that this would equate to a 7 ½ percent increase instead of 5 percent. He stated that this needs to be addressed to the full council. Ms. Frank stated that she would bring it to the auditors to review. Ms. Linda Walker stated that this is why the City had a class action lawsuit filed years ago because for three years they had suspended the pay. Alderman Alsandor stated that if they want to file suit again then let them do that and let's see what kind of pickle we are going to be in when that occurs. He said they are going to have to get the auditors to come here to explain this to us. Ms. Frank stated that they are paying it back on a bi-weekly basis. Alderman Alsandor stated that, in essence, the City did what that lawsuit did. They didn't just give the employees 2 ½ percent—they gave them 5 percent. Chief Cahanin stated that Mr. Levier is talking about his lost earnings from 2012 not the rate of pay because that amount of pay is correct. **Alderman Tatum stated that they had to discuss Mr. Wilbert Levier's statement regarding the 2 ½ percent. Ms. Frank stated that Mr. Slaven, the auditor, could not be here today because he is out of town and she stated that if they wanted to put it to the agenda for January then that was fine. Alderman Tatum stated that he doesn't think they need Mr. Slaven here first—they just need to decide if they are going to handle this. Ms. Frank stated that Mr. Slaven needs to make the Council understand that those funds have been given to the employees. Alderman Tatum stated to Ms. Frank that he disagrees because they haven't been given—that was the issue in the budget committee meeting. They didn't agree that the employees had gotten those funds. Alderman Alsandor stated that, as the Governing Authority, all parties need to be heard until this decision is made; our auditor is not here and they all agreed last week that they should have the auditors here to have some input; and if they have this discussion this evening without getting input from the auditors, then they are going to be here thirty minutes discussing this when they really need the finance gurus to give us some insight on this. Alderman Tatum stated that he doesn't think it's the auditors that need to tell us but he thinks it is legal counsel because it is a legal issue because of the way it is stated. Ms. Frank stated that she just disagrees—she stated that as anyone knows, you can't retroactive pay these employees. Alderman Tatum stated that it is not retroactive. Ms. Frank pointed out that if you are going back to pay for 2012—that would be retroactive; she spoke to one of the auditors and that auditor would like for Mr. Slaven to actually address the Council in regards to that. Mayor Cravins asked if they decided tonight to pay the employees, where are you going to find the money. He stated that he thinks there is a legitimate argument to be made that during the time you didn't get your money, it would be owed to you. As far as to Ms. Frank's statement about retroactive pay, there is a statute that deals with that and he doesn't know that she is necessarily wrong but it needs to be looked at. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to table the 2 ½ percent retroactive pay discussion until January or until such time as the auditors can be present.**

**Engineers Monthly Report.** Mr. William Jarrell stated that they are waiting on a couple of items to do the startup for the Ground Storage Tank on Grolee Street. They are receiving bids on the Burr Street Bridge on Thursday. They are waiting on the contract and the bonds for the generator project and the contractor is waiting on the materials to start the roof for City Hall—weather permitting. The City has awarded the bid for the Mouton Street Bridge Project which should start around mid-January.

**BIDS**

**Accept Bids Bulk Lime (Bid #06-13).** Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Bulk Lime (Bid #06-13), two (2) bids were received:

<i>BIDDER NAME</i>	<i>BID AMOUNT (per ton)</i>
LHOIST NORTH AMERICA (formerly CHEMICAL LIME)	\$227.53
CARMEUSE LIME	\$226.38

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Aldermen Julius Alsandor and Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to take the bids under advisement and award to the lowest bidder meeting specifications.

**Accept Bids for Concrete (Bid #07-13).** Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Concrete (Bid #07-13), two (2) bids were received:

<i>BIDDER NAME</i>	<i>3000 PSI Per yard</i>	<i>4000 PSI Per yard</i>	<i>EXTRA CEMENT Per bag</i>	<i>CA. CHLORIDE Per Percent Per yard</i>	<i>FIBER Per bundle</i>
PORT AGGREGATES, INC.	\$98.00	\$102.00	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$7.50
BARRY CONCRETE	\$100.00	\$104.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$7.50

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On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to take the bids under advisement and award to the lowest bidder meeting specifications.

At this time, Mayor Cravins commented that the Lighting of the Village on Friday was probably one of the most beautiful lighting that has ever taken place since he has been here. He congratulated Tourism and all the people who worked to make it a success. He also stated that on December 28, 2013, they are doing the charity gala at the Civic Center to raise money for people's utilities. Last year they raised about \$30,000. He asked that they would support it because the funds they help people, especially the elderly, go a long way. The Christmas Parade is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:45 p.m. regarding the following properties:

- a. Jimmy W. Hildreth & Jimmy W. Hildreth, c/o Adair Assessment, 218 S. Liberty Street (Abandoned Oaks Motel – Brick Veneer) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.
- b. Jennifer Lachelle Jackson, 713 Halphen Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.
- c. Roderick Landry, 716 Laurent Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.
- d. Josephine Daniel, c/o Lionel Daniel, 804 Pulford Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.
- e. St. Landry Parish Police Jury (Deeded Parish 2009), Lucius Weatherall, Jr., 1229 Daniel Alley (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.
- f. St. Landry Parish Police Jury (Deeded Parish 2012), James B. Henry T/S, 910 Sandoz Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.
- g. St. Landry Parish Police Jury (Deeded Parish 2009), Albert L. Shelvin T/S, 1021 N. Market Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition)*.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m.

On a motion was made by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to accept the recommendations made regarding the properties listed. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

**RESOLUTIONS**

*A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE VALVE INSTALLATION PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.*

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 16 OF 2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS APPROVING  
THE VALVE INSTALLATION PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION'S  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(The Valve Installation Project)

WHEREAS, the Legislature has established the continuation of the Local Government Assistance Program within the Office of Community Development and, through a grant program, is providing assistance to local governments for assistance of various community projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas intends to continue new valve installation throughout the Opelousas water system. To improve the aging system, we will continue the process of installing valves to isolate water service. Installing additional valves will increase the safety of City employees by allowing them to turn off water flow during repairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS HEREBY approves the filing of an application for funding from the Louisiana Government Assistance Program.

The above resolution having been submitted to a roll call vote was adopted on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013 as follows:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR