

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2014**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 11th day of March 2014 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.

Mayor Cravins asked that everyone bear in mind the tragic killing of the young man about ten days ago in Opelousas and all of the other incidents of violence that have been prevalent over the last few weeks and months. A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Reginald Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Aldermen Blair Briggs, Julius Alsandor, and Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 02/11/2014.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: **adding under the Presentations Section, Item No. 12-A, "Authorize the Public Works Director to get prices for the Karma Schad Road repair project"—discussion on this matter has already been held, therefore, no action needed; adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 24, "Approve the hiring of Mr. Ryan Fisher in the Fire Department, effective 03/07/2014"; deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 7, "Presentation from the "Keep Opelousas Beautiful" Program to the City of Opelousas"; adding under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 7-A, "Presentation by Mr. Mike Hefner regarding Redistricting Plan for Opelousas".** Alderman Tatum pointed out that the Budget Committee did not meet to discuss the Introduction of Ordinance. Alderman Alsandor stated that all they are doing is introducing it this month so that they can discuss at next month's Budget Committee Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month for February 2014 is Mrs. Lisa Boudreaux. Mrs. Boudreaux has been employed with the Opelousas City Court for 15 years. She was married to the late Bruce Boudreaux who served on the Parish Police Jury. Mrs. Boudreaux has four children.

Presentation from the "Keep Opelousas Beautiful" Program to the City of Opelousas. (ITEM DELETED)

Presentation by Mr. Mike Hefner regarding Redistricting Plan for Opelousas. Mr. Hefner, with Geographic Planning and Demographic Services, went over a proposed plan that would re-balance the City's districts with the goal being that they all represent properly the same number of people. There are five single-member districts and one at-large district. The five single-member districts, if they were all were equal based on the 2010 Census, would each have 3,327 people which they do not. The percentage should be within a plus or minus five percent. He is proposing changes to two areas which would re-balance all the numbers. District "A" would pick up some of District "C"; and District "D" would pick up some of District "E". The minority percentages are good in each district. There would be no changes to District "B". Mr. Hefner is recommending that the City hold a Public Hearing next month regarding this matter. Alderman Alsandor asked what kind of drop in numbers overall did the City see in the Census numbers from 2000 to 2010. Mr. Hefner stated that the 2010 Census listed a population of 16,634. Alderman Alsandor stated that the reason he was asking was to find out if it was necessary to have six sitting members on the Council with such a significant drop in numbers. Mr. Hefner stated that this would be a decision of the Council. The 2000 Census listed a population of 22,963. The next Census will take place in April 2020 with the results being released in February 2021 and they will start the redistricting process after that. Alderman Tatum stated that he thinks that a lot of people—based on his district—just did not turn in the Census. Mayor Cravins stated he agreed with this and that there was a major undercount based on utility services in the City. He stated that it puts a burden on our facilities because they have to serve a larger number of people that are uncounted with fewer resources. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize a Public Hearing to be held on April 8, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss redistricting.

Presentation by Mr. Paul Gennuso regarding the Mouton Street Bridge and CLECO. Mr. Gennuso stated that it had been 30 days from the last time he inquired about the Mouton Street Bridge and he was told that it would take 10 or 11 days. Mayor Cravins requested that Mr. Kim Fontenot address this inquiry for Mr. Mouton. Mr. Fontenot stated that the contractors came on Monday to assess it. There is a gas line on the west side of the bridge and an AT&T cable on the east side of the bridge so they stopped the project and called the gas company and the phone company who will both come out and show them exactly where the utilities are located. Mr. Gennuso responded that DOTTE comes out and marks all lines and those lines have been marked—it is the contractor's responsibility to dig around those lines—sounds like excuses to him. Mayor Cravins stated that he has no reason to believe that this gentleman would come in and say they've just been delaying the project—there were some issues because the contractor was tied up on another project. Mr. Gennuso stated that this has been since April of last year and he is getting tired of the excuses and would like for them to do something about it. Next, Mr. Gennuso spoke about CLECO regarding their illegal charges. He stated that no one else wants to pull official court documents to read them. He stated that CLECO cannot charge customers for the storm charges and referenced an ordinance that states that these charges are already imbedded in the regular charges that CLECO charges and then they turn around and charge the customers a second time for this. He also pointed out that the Louisiana Public Service Commission does not have the power to authorize CLECO to charge the customers this because the City owns its own distribution system. They are doing it anyway which is a violation of their contract which the City signed; also they are required to keep insurance on the equipment that the City owns which is the line, the poles, etc. According to this audit, that has not been done up to the year 2009 when this audit stopped. From 2009 to present, the City would have to find out if they have insurance or not because they would not give him that information. He stated that CLECO will tell the City that they collected a storm charge and they are using that as insurance. Again, in this presentation to the courts

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that went all the way to the Supreme Court, it says they cannot do that. Mr. Gennuso stated that CLECO is not a good neighbor and is not trying to help this community out whatsoever—they are in this for profit, period. He stated that CLECO owes the City several million dollars just on the storm charges. Mr. Gennuso stated that this contract needs to be reviewed by a specialized lawyer.

Discussion regarding the payment schedules for South Park Concession Stand contract. Ms. Karen Frank stated that this is a mobile concession stand in South Park. She informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that it was brought to her attention the payments were not being made on a consistent basis; but the Lessee has since come in and caught up the payments. Mayor Cravins inquired as to who is in charge of collecting these payments. Ms. Frank stated that the Lessee comes in and pays the accountant. She pointed out that they have had problems with payments for both parks. She stated that they are going to have someone monitor this on a monthly basis to make sure that they are making their payments consistently. She pointed out that this particular Lease is up in October 2014.

Discussion by Police Chief Perry Gallow regarding illegal activities at Fastway Convenience Store located at 708 E. Vine Street. Chief Gallow was not present. Alderman Tatum stated that he spoke to Chief Gallow regarding this matter because the business is in his district. He stated that Chief Gallow was going to ask to have the license pulled. Ms. Frank stated that the license has not been issued for this year yet. Ms. Frank stated that last year the business was in compliance and the Board did grant them to get their license back. Ms. Balthazar stated that the business owner called her on yesterday and she advised him that he was required to be present at today's meeting. It was noted that Abdul Cipriano, the Fastway manager, was present. Mr. Cipriano stated that he lives in Baton Rouge and was not aware that this was occurring. He stated that the police advised him that one of his employees had sold liquor to someone underage. Mayor Cravins stated that, in the absence of the Police Chief, no action will be taken at this time. He informed Mr. Cipriano that the store is to remain closed until he receives further notice of what action will be taken.

Discuss request for approval for VARIANCE of property located in an R1 (Residential) Zone at 819 S. Court Street for an Ongoing Construction Project (Reggie & Marie Dupre). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 03/10/2014. It was determined at the public hearing how the variance would be allowed according to the property owner being able to put up a firewall which is allowable. The Commission approved the request. On a motion Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve the request for approval for VARIANCE of property located in an R1 (Residential) Zone at 819 S. Court Street for an Ongoing Construction Project (Reggie & Marie Dupre). 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.

Presentation by Mr. Vic Slaven, City auditor, in regards to the 2012-2013 Audit Report. Mr. Vic Slaven presented the 2012-2013 Audit to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Mr. Slaven went over the balance sheet for all governmental funds. He also went over the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in the fund balance. The fund balance for the General Fund is \$1,353,338 and the Sales Tax fund balance is \$1,672,132. Mr. Slaven reviewed the statement of Net Position for all proprietary funds and he stated that every department did well with the exception of the Police Department. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the 2012-2013 Audit Report as read.

Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Garett Duplechain stated that he had no business to discuss.

Engineers Monthly Report. Mr. William Jarrell stated that he had no business to discuss.

BIDS

Accept Bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand. (Bid #02-14). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #02-14), two (2) bids were received:

BIDDER NAME	BID AMOUNT
OLIVER THIERRY	\$110.00 per month
SANDRA DAVIS	\$100.00 per month

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to take the bids under advisement and award to the highest bidder meeting specifications.

Accept Bids for Uniforms for the Police Department. (Bid #03-14). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Uniforms for the Police Department (Bid #03-14), two (2) bids were received:

GUIDRY'S UNIFORMS

ITEMS	PRICE, each	OVERSIZE CHG
1. Long sleeve shirt, white w/piggy back trim, unstitched epaulets, gold P buttons Brand Bid – Southeastern Style # - as specified	\$49.90	NONE
2. Short sleeve shirt, white w/piggy back trim, unstitched epaulets, gold P buttons Brand Bid – Southeastern Style # - as specified	\$47.90	NONE
3. Long sleeve shirt, navy w/piggy back trim, Brand Bid – Southeastern Style # - as specified	\$51.80	NONE
4. Short sleeve shirt, navy w/piggy back trim, unstitched epaulets	\$49.80	NONE

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	Brand Bid – Southeastern		
	Style # - as specified		
5.	Long sleeve shirt, navy polyester, wool, lycra	\$55.50	NONE
	Brand Bid – FC		
	Style # - as specified		
6.	Short sleeve shirt, navy polyester, wool, lycra	\$51.50	NONE
	Brand Bid – FC		
	Style # - as specified		
7.	Pant, polyester, wool, lycra	\$53.90	NONE
	Brand Bid – FC		
	Style # - as specified		
8.	Raincoat/reversible, black/hi-vis yellow	\$119.90	NONE
	Brand Bid – Blauer		
	Style # - as specified		
9.	Rain slicker, 3 piece reversible, black/hi-vis yellow, with hood, pant	N/A	N/A
	Brand Bid – Blauer		
	Style # - as specified		
10.	Jacket, water proof, wind proof, with hood and pull down reflective panels	\$161.89	NONE
	Brand Bid – Blauer		
	Style # - 9810Z		

LAWMEN'S & SHOOTERS SUPPLY

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>PRICE, each</u>	<u>OVERSIZE CHG</u>
1. Long sleeve shirt, white w/piggy back trim, unstitched epaulets, gold P buttons Brand Bid – Style # -	NO BID	
2. Short sleeve shirt, white w/piggy back trim, unstitched epaulets, gold P buttons Brand Bid – Style # -	NO BID	
3. Long sleeve shirt, navy w/piggy back trim, unstitched Brand Bid – Style # -	NO BID	
4. Short sleeve shirt, navy w/piggy back trim, unstitched epaulets Brand Bid – Style # -	NO BID	
5. Long sleeve shirt, navy polyester, wool, lycra Brand Bid - Style # -	NO BID	
6. Short sleeve shirt, navy polyester, wool, lycra Brand Bid - Style # -	NO BID	
7. Pant, polyester, wool, lycra Brand Bid – Style # -	NO BID	
8. Raincoat/reversible, black/hi-vis yellow Brand Bid – Style # -	NO BID	
9. Rain slicker, 3 piece reversible, black/hi-vis yellow, with hood, pant Brand Bid – Style # -	N/A	
10. Jacket, water proof, wind proof, with hood and pull down reflective panels Brand Bid – Style# -	NO BID	

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

Accept Bids for Type E Multi-Grade and Type B Cold Mix (Bid #04-14). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Type E Multi Grade Mix and Type B Cold Mix (Bid #04-14), two (2) bids were received:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Price</u>
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Material Resources, Inc.

High Performance Cold Mix

BULK

Picked up at Material Resources facility	\$90.00 per ton.
Delivered to Maintenance Yard	\$98.00 per ton. 25 ton minimum.
Freight will be added for delivery.	

50# BAGS

Picked up at Material Resources facility	\$8.25 per bag
Delivered to Maintenance Yard	\$11.80 per bag. Minimum 1 pallet (48 bags) -\$566.40.

Modified Cold Mix

Picked up at Material Resources facility:	\$86.00 per ton.
Delivered to Maintenance Yard	\$94.00 per ton. 25 ton minimum.

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The EZ Street Company

High Performance Cold Mix

BULK

50# BAGS

Delivered \$11.00 per bag. Minimum 1 pallet (56 bags) - 2,800 lbs. - \$616.00

Delivered, 1 Ton Bulk \$425.00 each, 1 pallet sack – 2,000 lbs.

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

Accept Bids for Chlorine. (Bid #05-14). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Chlorine (**Bid #05-14**), two (2) bids were received:

Harcros Chemicals, Inc. \$685.00/one ton cylinder
\$147.00/one hundred fifty pound cylinder

DPC Enterprises, L.P. \$674.00/one ton cylinder
\$109.00/one hundred fifty pound cylinder

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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE I, SECTION 2-4.1 OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS CODE OF ORDINANCES, SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, AS IT RELATES TO SALARY REDUCTIONS AND BENEFITS. The ordinance was not introduced today. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to send the Ordinance to set the compensation of the Mayor and the City Councilmen to the Budget Committee for review.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:06 p.m. regarding the following properties:

- a. Distributors Oil Co., Inc., c/o Pamela Lakeisha Auzenne, 734 W. Vine Street (Abandoned Bulk Plant)
Mrs. Margaret Doucet stated that upon measurement of the property, it was determined that no action is needed on Ms. Auzenne's portion of the property which is owned by Distributors Oil Co., Inc. This item has been deleted.
- b. Distributors Oil Co., Inc., c/o Midwest Management, 734 W. Vine Street (Abandoned Bulk Plant)
(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition). Mrs. Doucet stated that there are some environmental concerns regarding this property and the demolition will have to be contracted out because Code Enforcement cannot handle this matter.
- c. Roy Daniel Dave, Jr., 1038 Garland Avenue (2 Abandoned Wood Frame Structures)
(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition).
- d. Jimmy W. Hildreth, 218 S. Liberty Street (Abandoned Motel – Brick Veneer)
(Recommendation is condemnation for demolition).

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:14 p.m.

On a motion was made by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, 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.

CONSENTS

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve payment to Ms. Notoya Brown for 215 hours of unused annual leave, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board. Ms. Brown was terminated from the Opelousas Police Department, effective 12/11/2012.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve payment to Ms. Roslyn Bruno for 195 hours of unused annual leave, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board. Ms. Bruno resigned from the Opelousas Police Department, effective 03/29/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Joseph Charles it was resolved to approve payment to the following from the Police Department, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board:

- a. Edward Smith, 69 hours
- b. Darren Zachary, 80 hours
- c. Shane Beard, 42 hours
- d. Dwain Grimmett, 80 hours
- e. Estate of Peggy Sylvester, 84 hours

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the hiring of Mr. Ryan Fisher in the Fire Department, effective 03/07/2014.

A roll call vote of the Consents Section 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.

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At this time, Mayor Cravins introduced Coach Colby Thierry from North Central High School and Principal Victor Lewis from J.S. Clark Leadership Academy. Mr. Lewis gave a brief update of activities at the school.

Alderman Alsandor wanted it noted for the record that the time the officers are requesting is the "Use It or Lose It" time and that it will take time to verify this information according to the original time sheets.

Mrs. Sandra Davis addressed the Council regarding concerns about the bidding for North City Park. She feels that it was not fair that North Park Concession went up for bid because she was not notified that it was up for bid until she got a phone call from someone else other than the City. Ms. Davis stated that the matter regarding the South Park contract was placed on the agenda to discuss payment of their contract. It did not go up for bid and they did not follow their contract. She feels that she should have the opportunity to continue her lease. She pointed out that there were no activities on the park and she did not have the opportunity to make any of her money. She is requesting that they give her back her contract for three years because that is what they are doing on the South Park. Ms. Frank pointed out that the North Park lease was for one year. Mayor Cravins stated that it is up to the Council to decide if they are going to honor Mrs. Davis' request. Ms. Frank stated that it would be in violation of the Public Bid Law if they did that and they should consult the attorney. Mr. Thierry, who has the South Park Mobile Concession Stand and who bid against Mrs. Davis this year, pointed out that last year Mrs. Davis bid she was unopposed and got the bid but this year he bid against her and his bid was higher. Mrs. Davis stated that the North and South Park contracts were not equal and the North Park should not have gone up for bid. The attorney will be review the matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Margaret Doucet announced that the Trash Bash will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Alderman Alsandor announced that on March 18, 2014, the first phase of LEAP testing will begin. Next year a new phase of testing will be implemented which will be much harder.

Mayor Cravins stated that Mrs. Delores Guillory, with the Opelousas Museum and Interpretive Center and the Harlem Trotter Ambassadors hosted an event a few weeks ago at the Museum which was a great success.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR