

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 12, 2013**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 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.

Mayor Cravins asked that everyone keep in mind the tragedy that occurred in the Philippines as well as the tragedies that occur on a daily basis in our own country. A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Julius Alsandor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Cravins acknowledged all of the veterans that were present in the audience.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 10/08/2013.

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 RESOLUTIONS Section, Item No. 16-A, "A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2013-020, REQUESTING A TRAFFIC STUDY FOR TWO (2) TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON HIGHWAY 182"; adding under the PRESENTATION Section, Item No. 9-A, "Request to amend Police Department budget expense account 54210-7021 to reflect a grant for \$3,500.00 received from St. Landry Crime Stoppers"; and correcting under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 18, "Accept the resignation of Solomon Batiste, Jr., in the Opelousas Fire Department, effective 11/09/2013, and approve payment in the amount of \$2,441.12 for one hundred seventy-six (176) unused vacation hours" should read "Approve the termination of Solomon Batiste, Jr., in the Opelousas Fire Department, effective 10/30/2013, and approve payment in the amount of \$2,441.12 for one hundred seventy-six (176) unused vacation hours".**

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month.* The Employee of the Month chosen for November 2013 is Ms. Octavia Irving.

*Presentation by Mr. Raymond Duplechain regarding the Keep Opelousas Beautiful Program.* Mr. Duplechain informed the Council that the Keep Opelousas Beautiful Program had received a grant for \$8,400.00. He is requesting that his expense account in Community Development be increased by this amount and the money will be used to purchase trash cans which will be placed around the City. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to approve the line item increase of \$8,400.00 in the Community Development expense account for the Keep Opelousas Beautiful Program. 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. Bill Ortego regarding payment of unused annual leave following resignation from the Opelousas Police Department as of 08/04/2013, pending verification from Fire & Police Civil Service Board.* Mr. Ortego is requesting payment of his unused annual leave. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to pay Mr. Bill Ortego his unused annual leave pending verification of hours.

*Presentation regarding Hampton Hotel Proposal.* Mayor Cravins read the following prepared statement from Mr. James Adams regarding the Hampton Inn Hotel Project:

11/11/2013

Statement of James L. Adams in support of Hampton Inn TIF Request

Ladies and Gentlemen: Due to a long standing commitment to attend our National Pool and Spa Trade Show I will be unable to attend Tuesday's City Council Meeting.

As I've learned from attending your last 3 meetings the City is not in very good financial condition. It needs every dollar of additional revenue that can be generated to deal with its aging infrastructure, substantial legal claims from former and present employees and many other pressing financial obligations. If the Desai Hotel Group was asking the City to contribute in cash or kind to the development of its Hampton Inn project from its General Funds I would be first in line to object to such expenditure.

The revised Desai proposal simply asks the City to create a TIF District on the 2 acre motel site it owns and authorize an additional 2% sales tax and 2% hotel-motel tax, the proceeds of which will be used to pay \$850,000 in Revenue Bonds sold by the City to an Institutional Lender. The Bond Proceeds will be used to reimburse the Developer for certain of its development cost. Desai must fully complete the project, at his cost, before the Bonds are sold and he receives reimbursement. Not one dime of City funds will ever be used for this project and it will not have any obligation to pay the Bonds or any cost related to their issuance or the construction of the hotel. Hotel guests at the Hampton Inn will pay the additional sales taxes to the City to redeem the Bonds. All regular sales and hotel-motel taxes generated by the hotel operations will be paid into the City's General Fund on a regular basis.

The direct and indirect benefits to the City, St. Landry Parish, local businesses and its citizens will exceed several million dollars and provide much needed new revenue to help improve the City's financial condition.

Several members of the Council have expressed varying reasons for rejecting the TIF. It appears that certain members of the Council are more interested in protecting existing hotels from competition and raising questions about the viability of the Project or the City's liability

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if the project fails, than approving the TIF and the revenue it will produce. Those issues and others have been fully addressed by Mr. Desai, but quite frankly, it's not appropriate for the Council to be making these types of business judgments. It's totally outside the scope of their responsibility. The Developer is risking \$5 million to build this hotel and Hampton Inn has clearly approved his proposal by granting him a franchise for this location, so why should the Council care if he hires more or less employees than his competitors or how he handles any of the other trivial issues that have been raised.

As the governing body of the City of Opelousas you have an obligation to run its business in an appropriate and proper way; maximize its income and minimize its operating expenses consistent with the needs of the City. In all due respect, protecting the interests of a small number of existing businesses from competition does nothing good for the City, its employees or its citizens. It sends the wrong message to every business here now or thinking about coming to Opelousas. TIFs are being used throughout Louisiana and elsewhere to promote economic development. Opelousas needs to do the same if it wants to compete with other area cities for new business.

How do you explain to your fellow citizens, who badly need a job, why you turned down a project that will produce 15-20 permanent jobs with \$228,000 in annual payroll and 50-60 construction jobs estimated to produce a \$1,000,000 payroll? I don't I suspect they will be pleased when they learn you acted just to protect a limited number of established businesses who are not likely to produce any new jobs or more tax revenue in the near future. More importantly, how do you explain to the City's hardworking department heads and employees, who are faced with severe budget constraints, insufficient salaries and other benefits, why you turned down a project that would generate significant short and long term benefits for this area, including, but not limited to, \$31,000 in tax revenue for the Parish and City and increased revenues for the Water and Sewer Dept.

As an aside, if Mr. Tatum is still concerned about the issue of liability for the City in connection with this project, you can approve the ordinance and move forward with the TIF and simply require that as a

condition to the issuance and sale of the bonds, that the City receives an opinion of its Bond Counsel to that effect.

Thank you for your consideration of this revised proposal.

Mayor Cravins stated that if the City refuses to allow the TIF to be created within the City then the property owner would probably ask that his property be de-annexed and let the Parish create the TIF.

Mr. Charles Renaud stated that he grew up here in Opelousas and he is 68 years old. He stated that during those terrible times of his youth, every time a business attempted to come into Opelousas, there were some entities that kept them from entering the City thus stifling economic growth. He asked that they give this TIF or any other proposal an opportunity to bring economic development to the City. In order to make money, you have to invest.

Mr. Lewis questioned Aldermen Charles and Briggs as to why they didn't vote for the TIF?

Alderman Alsandor insisted that they follow protocol—when a speaker comes up to the microphone, they are not supposed to address an individual member of the Council and when that individual is speaking then he or she has the floor according to Robert's rules of Parliamentary procedure.

Mrs. Casanova stated that she has been here for 83 years and Mr. Briggs is her alderman but she does not agree with him on his opinion. She asked if our City can please pull together and consider in their heart of hearts what they are doing.

Rev. Walton Dunbar requested that the members of the council would make a statement as to why they oppose or not oppose the Hampton Inn or the TIF.

Mrs. Frankie Bertrand read a prepared statement of the Chamber of Commerce's position on this matter:

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
OPELOUSAS ST. LANDRY

November 7, 2013 - Special Board Meeting - Re: Hampton Inn Project

The Opelousas-St. Landry Chamber of Commerce supports Hampton Inn's desire to construct a hotel facility in Opelousas. This motion is made with the following objectives, reservations and understandings:

1. Consistent with over-all objectives of the Chamber this motion encourages new business to locate in Opelousas.
2. Whether the market can or cannot support a new hotel, as it has been suggested, it is the Chamber's position that competition in a free market should control this issue. This promotes free enterprise.
3. Whether a TIF district should be created to assist Hampton Inn in its efforts to construct a hotel in Opelousas is a political issue and that issue should be resolved in a political forum, not the Chamber; and the Chamber takes no position on the political issues in this undertaking.

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Mr. Jerry Red, Parish Councilmember, stated that he stands as a citizen of St. Landry Parish, not as a councilmember. He stated that if the Council chooses not to take in Hampton Inn, please take it out of the City and they would be more than happy to welcome it into the Parish. He stated that it will benefit not only the Parish but every municipality that is within St. Landry Parish. He pointed out that the Parish has already started the process of creating a TIF District for St. Landry Parish to bring in businesses into the Parish.

Mr. Patrick Fontenot stated that for most of his 67 years he has been a resident of Opelousas. He is asking the Council to not let this happen—to ride by a hotel and see the Parish get the taxes but our kids in Opelousas lose again. He stated that he had a group of young men who had a meeting today and one young man asked why we look for the reasons not to. Mr. Fontenot asked why limit competition—we should limit predatory lending. He also noted that he is not paid by Hampton Inn and asked that they bury the hatchet and rethink this idea because Opelousas has to move forward.

Mr. Robert Bordelon spoke on behalf of the owners of Holiday Inn. His client is asking to make it free enterprise and not give one company the money to do it. He stated that this is not the right project for a TIF. He cited other large projects that have been created without TIF's. He stated that the tax alone will put us at around 19 percent which will cause customers not to even look at the other hotels.

Mayor Cravins stated that this does not create a 19 percent tax. The tax is paid for by people who use the hotel. Mayor Cravins stated that it is also not true that the City is giving Hampton Inn \$850,000. This administration spent \$380,000 for a lift station exclusively for Comfort Inn and when Tractor Supply came, the City spent \$80,000 for their sprinkler system. He asked what is going to be the right business—is it going to be a business no one else has?

Mr. James Bellard stated that this is a great opportunity for the City. He pointed out that day after day he gets people who walk on his jobs begging him for work and it is a sad day when those men walk away from you knowing you cannot hire them. He stated that hopefully Hampton Inn could come here and hire some of these local citizens and contractors.

Mr. Alvin "Chubby" Haynes stated that he can't believe what he is hearing that we are fighting to keep business out of Opelousas. His business has been here since 1932. He stated that he agrees that this has been going on for years—certain factions keeping businesses from coming to Opelousas so that they can control this community. He pointed out that this is a sad day that we are fighting not to allow businesses to come into our community and saying that we are using taxpayers' money. He stated that it is our money and we can do what we want to do with it. He urged them to take a look at close themselves for what they are doing to this community.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was recommended that the City adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana to proceed with the creation of a sales tax area for the purpose of utilizing sales tax increment financing for certain economic development projects with such area; authorizing the levy, collection and dedication of taxes in such area; authorizing the issuance of Revenue Bonds, in one or more series; providing certain terms of said bonds; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; appointing Bond Counsel; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

It was noted by Alderman Tatum that the resolution was not an item on the agenda and it was not legal to vote on it at this time. Attorney Duplechain suggested that is matter be put on next month's regular meeting agenda. At this time, Alderman Alsandor withdrew his motion.

*Request to amend Police Department budget expense account 54210-7021 to reflect a grant received for \$3,500.00 from St. Landry Crime Stoppers.* Chief Perry Gallow stated that the Police Department had been awarded a \$3,500.00 grant from St. Landry Crime Stoppers to purchase a Triton vehicle to be used at the high school to allow officers to move around the school much more quickly. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend Police Department budget expense account 54210-7021 to reflect a grant for \$3,500.00 received from St. Landry Crime Stoppers.

At this time, Ms. Frank stated that she forgot to add Ms. Linda Walker's request to pay for Civil Service attorney's fees. This item will be handled at next month's meeting.

*Discuss request for VARIANCE of property located in a C1 (Commercial) Zone at 528 E. Landry Street to open a Video Poker Facility (Asad Enterprises, Inc.).* A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 11/12/2013. Mrs. Margaret Doucet stated that it was brought before the Code Enforcement Department by a citizen that Mr. Asad had opened up a video poker room at his establishment. Mr. Asad had come before the Planning Commission back in November 2011 requesting to be able to open that Video Poker room and, after some opposition then, Mr. Asad decided to rescind his request but since then the Poker Room has been opened. Mrs. Doucet stated that the City of Opelousas has a Zoning Ordinance that states that for a video gaming or lottery establishment, it must comply with all applicable state regulations and the following conditions: 1) it may locate no closer than 500 feet from another video gaming or lottery establishment; 2) it may locate no closer than 500 feet from a church, school, hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility, or residential uses of any type; and 3) proof that the establishment meets these requirements must be submitted by the applicant. The discussion was that this establishment is closer than 500 feet to another establishment that does have video poker at this time and also that it is closer than 500 feet to property from a church. Ms. Doucet stated that one thing Mr. Asad had pointed out was the fact that the City did issue him licensing for this establishment. The Planning Commission at this time did not send a recommendation to the Council because of the circumstances and they felt that it would be something that the Council would have to make the decision concerning whether or not to grant a variance. Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., asked if the City and the State had granted Mr. Asad his licenses. Mrs. Doucet stated that both had issued licenses. Mr. Chris Lear, with Doran & Cawthorne Law Office, was in attendance to represent Mr. Asad. He stated that there is a dispute as to the measurements. They have measured three times and have never come up with 500 feet. He stated that they came up with 700 feet and 600 feet. Mr. Lear stated that they were granted their permits from the City and the State and have been in business for four months. He stated that Mama's Fried Chicken would be the only entity that would have grievance. He stated that they sent Mama's certified mail but they did not show up so they have no opposition. State law says that the church hall is not considered a part of the church but the City ordinance considers it to be a part of the church which is why the business would be within 500 feet and require a

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variance. Attorney Pride Doran stated that this boils down to an interpretation of the City's present ordinance. He stated that the ordinance states "churches and places of worship may include customary accessory uses...". He stated that there may have been some confusion regarding the methods of measurements. He stated that the City's ordinance allows for measurement along the sidewalk as a person would walk. It would be important for them to get an exact measurement to get a clear idea of exactly how far Mr. Asad's business is from this church property. Secondly, they will have to take into account the practical aspect of the church's property line as to where it conducts worship. Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy stated that when Mr. Asad first appeared in 2011, he was made aware of the ordinance and given copies of it and at that time he withdrew his application because he realized there were problems with his proposal. After that, rather than coming back before the Zoning Commission, he went to the City and received his City licenses and then he went to the State and got his State licenses; but the City license was given incorrectly because he did not get a variance and he is in violation of the City's ordinance. Dr. St. Clergy stated that, in answer to Mr. Doran's point, the ordinance also says "...a building where persons regularly assemble...together with all accessory buildings and uses customarily associated" and it does not have the word "may" in that sentence. In addition, the church was conducting church services in this building during the entire summer. On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr. it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE of property located in a C1 (Commercial) Zone at 528 E. Landry Street to open a Video Poker Facility (Asad Enterprises, Inc.). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor and Blair Briggs.

ABSENT: None.

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

*COMMITTEE REPORTS: (Budget Committee)*

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 @ 4:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None

1. *Discuss the adjustment of salary for Code Enforcement Director based on Municipal Civil Service lawsuit judgment.* Alderman Reginald Tatum requested clarification from legal counsel regarding this matter. Attorney Garrett Duplechain stated that there was a court hearing scheduled to have the City held in contempt but was cancelled because the City is currently in compliance. He stated that the City should find out what the Code Enforcement Director should be making under Civil Service and adjust it like that. Alderman Tatum did not see where the judgment said her salary should be changed—it just said she was not a principle head of a department. Attorney Duplechain stated that there was nothing in the judgment in regards to salary. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was recommended that the City leave the salary as is for the Code Enforcement Director. Alderman Alsandor pointed out that Mrs. Doucet's salary that she is presently being paid was given her by the previous administration for duties she is no longer performing and her salary is still at the same rate. If she is Civil Service then her pay rate is beyond the maximum of pay range 26. If that is the case then that is a violation of Civil Service rules. Also, if that is the case, her increases for the past few years have been based on that salary. Mrs. Doucet stated that every year since 2011, this administration has come against her to reduce her salary. She stated that when the Mayor called upon her to take on those departments, then they would hire someone else and then take back her salary increase. Alderman Alsandor asked that the motion be repeated and pointed out that if Mrs. Doucet is Civil Service then there is a problem with the pay and the rank. He stated that this has to be changed. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was recommended that the City leave the salary as is for the Code Enforcement Director. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor.

ABSENT: None.

Alderman Alsandor stated that he needs the attorney to tell them what the judgment is. Attorney Duplechain stated that currently Mrs. Doucet is Civil Service. The judge says that that department is not a head of a principle executive department. The court's opinion—not a head of a principle executive department.

Alderman Tatum stated that after doing research, Mrs. Doucet is over the maximum pay range in Civil Service and they should reduce her pay as such. Also she is ineligible for any additional raises.

**On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to put the Code Enforcement Director's salary back to the maximum for Pay Range 26 according to Civil Service rules. 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.**

2. *Discuss requests for payment of the unpaid annual leave for the following retired/resigned employees:*

a. *Terry Miller*

b. *Kenneth Edwards*

c. *Yolanda Lewis*

Attorney Scott Nettles represented Kenneth Edwards, Attorney Paul Bell represented Terry Miller, and Yolanda Lewis represented herself. Ms. Karen Frank stated that the City would have to verify all of the times that have been submitted for payment by going through all of their timesheets by hand dating back to 2001. She stated that this method was not used by Major Scott Aymond when he calculated the figures for those employees. Alderman Julius Alsandor stated that the numbers they are talking about are arbitrary because they have not been verified. Chief Perry Gallow pointed out that a City ordinance cannot supersede a State law. Alderman Alsandor stated that the Chief stated it clearly that an ordinance cannot supersede State law and the employees will have to be paid. Mr. Edwards stated that he has previously appeared before the Council five times in regard to this matter and they are just now bringing it up that the numbers have to be verified. Ms. Frank stated that this is the first time she or the Board has received anything regarding this matter. Ms. Frank stated that to her knowledge, since she has been with the City, Fire & Police Civil Service has always verified leave before paying any employee who has resigned or retired. The Fire & Police Civil Service does not have those records at this time to verify this information. She is going to get the information and share it with them so that they can get those employees paid off. Records for Mr. Edwards and Mr. Miller will have to be gathered and verified. Ms. Lewis' records only encompass one year and can be verified in-house. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Miller have agreed to forego the State supplemental portion of the pay and accept the settlement amount. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was recommended that Terry Miller, Kenneth Edwards, and

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Yolanda Lewis be paid all unused annual leave that was carried over, pending verification, with payment coming from the City's fund balance—forgoing the State supplemental pay. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

**On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to pay Terry Miller, Kenneth Edwards, Yolanda Lewis, and Bill Ortego all unused annual leave from the "Use It or Lose It" rule and forgoing the State Supplemental pay, pending verification with payment coming from the City's 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.**

3. *Discuss request by Mr. Bill Ortego for payment of unused annual leave following resignation from the Opelousas Police Department and pending verification from Fire & Police Civil Service Board.* Mr. Ortego was not in attendance. This item has been tabled. **This item was handled during Item No. 2.**

4. *Discuss settlement for David Manuel vs. City of Opelousas lawsuit.* Representative for Mr. Manuel was not in attendance. This item has been tabled. **On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve settlement of \$73,786.81 with \$21,786.81 of that amount being paid to Mr. Manuel's outstanding ORECD loan and the remaining \$52,000 to be paid to Mr. Manuel within two (2) fiscal periods—1<sup>st</sup> installment being paid in the next 30 days and the next installment comes 30 days after the second fiscal year begins with payments coming from the fund balance. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:**

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

**NAYS: Julius Alsandor and Blair Briggs.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

*Engineers Monthly Report.* Mr. William Jarrell stated that they have received approval to advertise for the Burr Street Bridge. They have also received approval to award the contract for the Generator Project and a Notice to Proceed has been issued for the Roof Project. They are waiting on the contractors for the Mouton Street Project but that project is going forward. There was a leak under the railroad tracks on Waillor Street but that has been repaired and they are applying for a permit from the railroad company to bore underneath their tracks to put in a steel casing to tie in the line as it was before. This process will take three to six months. If the City has to bore the track, then that road will be closed to traffic.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:15 p.m. TO AMEND 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. Mayor Cravins stated that in previous meetings there have been discussions of the salary and benefits of the Mayor and the Aldermen. He is suggesting that they cut the Mayor's salary by \$20,000 and the Aldermen would receive approximately \$1,000 per month. Alderman Blair Briggs stated that he has a few issues with that because he thinks that it's a pretty drastic cut.

Rev. Wilton Dunbar stated that maybe they could cut the salary but not the health insurance.

Mr. Patrick Fontenot stated that the Aldermen's full-time job should provide health insurance and not the citizens. He point out that in comparable cities like Hammond, LA, they only get paid \$9,000 - \$12,000 a year. He asked if it is illegal to provide health insurance to the Aldermen. Attorney Garrett Duplechain stated that he cannot find anything that says it is illegal.

Ms. Gena Rideau Aaron stated that she has seven kids and makes less than that and makes it with no medical—it makes no sense if you have a full-time job. She stated that this is not a career—they were elected because they believe in it.

Alderman Tatum made a motion that they table this issue until the Budget Committee can discuss it.

A recommendation was made by Alderman Julius Alsandor that the Aldermen take a \$3,000 cut across the board.

Mr. Wilbert Levier stated that they should come up with the decision that \$1,000 is the salary.

Mr. Cyrus Auzenne stated that the City lost 6,000 people in the census so they should take 40% off the salary and finish that tonight.

Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin stated that they don't have insurance at her job and when she took office she did not know there was a pay.

Ms. Rideau pointed out that she has not seen Mr. Tatum in her neighborhood.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:46 p.m.

On a motion was made by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was recommended that the Aldermen take a \$3,000 (15 percent) cut across the board.

Alderman Alsandor withdrew his motion.

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCILMEN**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Opelousas, Louisiana, that the Compensation for the Mayor and the City Council shall be as follows:

1. The Mayor shall be paid an annual salary of \$51,739.20. The Mayor shall also be paid \$665.00 per month in mileage compensation.
2. The Alderman-at-Large shall be paid an annual salary of \$13,200.00; the Mayor-Pro Tem shall be paid an annual salary of \$13,200.00; and all other Aldermen shall be paid an annual salary of \$12,000.00.
3. The City of Opelousas shall pay no compensation for mileage to the Aldermen on the City Council.
4. The Board of Aldermen shall be exempt from Health Insurance.

This Ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to send the ordinance to the next Budget Committee Meeting for further discussion.

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Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:50 p.m. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 10 OF 2012 RELATING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES.

Mr. Kim Fontenot stated that last month they introduced the ordinance to raise rates on water and sewer. He pointed out that the City is still trying to break even in Water and Sewer and that the numbers are just to keep Water and Sewer at a break-even point. He stated that expenses have increased and mandates put on the City have forced the need for the increase. Mr. Israel Roberts, Water Plant Supervisor, gave an overview of operations at the Water Plant and the necessity of repairs and mandatory inspections. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that some people are on a fixed income and cannot afford an increase.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:04 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 07 OF 2013

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 10 OF 2012 RELATING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES  
BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, that Ordinance No. 10 of 2012 relating to water rates be amended to reflect changes to existing water and sewer rates as follows:

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS WATER RATES  
2013**

<b>INSIDE CITY LIMITS</b>	<b>NEW RATES</b>
1st 2,000 gal. per month	<b>\$15.92</b>
Next 13,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
Next 35,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
Next 50,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
Over 100,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
<b>OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS</b>	
1st 2,000 gal. per month	<b>\$25.27</b>
Next 3,000 gal per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
Over 5,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
<b>SPECIAL (SCHOOLS &amp; CHURCHES)</b>	
1st 10,000 gal. per month	<b>\$14.03</b>
Over 10,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.67 – per 1,000 GAL</b>
<b>MINIMUM RATE INSIDE CITY</b>	
3/4 & 1 inch Meter	<b>\$15.92</b>
1-1/4 & 1-1/2 inch Meter	<b>\$26.97</b>
2 inch Meter	<b>\$43.43</b>
Above 2 inch	<b>\$14.93</b>
Plus 11% cost of meter	
4 inch Meter	<b>\$195.76</b>
6 inch Meter	<b>\$228.50</b>
<b>MINIMUM RATE OUTSIDE CITY</b>	
3/4 & 1 inch Meter	<b>\$25.27</b>
1-1/4 & 1-1/2 inch Meter	<b>\$43.46</b>
2 inch Meter	<b>\$62.18</b>
Above 2 inch	<b>\$19.84</b>
Plus 11% cost of meter	
4 inch Meter	<b>\$200.52</b>
6 inch Meter	<b>\$233.25</b>
<b>SEWER RATES</b>	
1st 2,000 gal.	<b>\$12.71</b>
every 1,000 gal. per month	<b>\$2.18</b>

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013, by Alderman Julius Alsandor, notice of public hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, a record vote was taken and the following results were had:

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

NAYS: Reginald Tatum.

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ABSENT: None.

WHEREUPON, The Ordinance was declared duly adopted on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

**RESOLUTIONS**

*A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR AN ACT OF DONATION OF A POLICE MOTORCYCLE.*

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, the following resolution was offered for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 14 OF 2013**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR AN ACT OF DONATION OF A POLICE MOTORCYCLE

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas Police Department wishes to enter into an agreement with the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Department to donate the following described equipment to be repaired and utilized by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Department for Law Enforcement duties:

One (1) 2003 HONDA ST 1100 MOTORCYCLE, VIN#25C6083M0070

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen on behalf of the City of Opelousas hereby duly authorizes Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr., and Police Chief Perry Gallow to execute any and all paperwork necessary to process this Act of Donation.

The foregoing resolution was submitted to a vote on November 12, 2013 and was adopted 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

*A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2013-0020, REQUESTING A TRAFFIC STUDY FOR TWO (2) TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON HIGHWAY 182.*

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, the following resolution was offered for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2013**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2013-020, REQUESTING A TRAFFIC STUDY FOR TWO (2) TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON HIGHWAY 182

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, acting as the Governing Authority of said municipality, that they are in support of the St. Landry Parish Council Resolution 2013-020, requesting a traffic study for two (2) traffic lights on Highway 182.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Opelousas supports the St. Landry Parish Council Resolution 2013-020, which requests the assistance of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and State Representative Ledricka Thierry in performing a traffic study for traffic lights for the intersections of Judson Walsh Drive and Highway 182 and Harry Guilbeau Road and Highway 182.

The above resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted as follows on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2013:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Joseph Charles (stepped out).

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

**CONSENTS**

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for the following in the Public Works Department: (a) Bulk Lime, (b) Concrete.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the termination of Solomon Batiste, Jr., in the Opelousas Fire Department, effective 10/30/2013, and approve payment in the amount of \$2,441.12 for one hundred seventy-six (176) unused vacation hours.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the termination of extended sick leave for Permanent Police Lieutenant Donald Young, effective 09/30/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the recommendation for promotion from Police Patrolman to Police Patrolman First Class, effective 11/10/2013:

- a. Romalis Curtis
- b. Jeremy Bias
- c. Bowman Bob
- d. Gary Lazard
- e. Christopher Kimble

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING for the following properties:

- a. Jimmy W. Hildreth & Jimmy W. Hildreth, c/o Adair Assessment, 218 S. Liberty Street (Abandoned Oaks Motel – Brick Veneer)
- b. Jennifer Lachelle Jackson, 713 Halphen Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- c. Roderick Landry, 716 Laurent Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)

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- d. Josephine Daniel, c/o Lionel Daniel, 804 Pulford Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- e. St. Landry Parish Police Jury (Deeded Parish 2009), Lucius Weatherall, Jr., 1229 Daniel Alley (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- f. St. Landry Parish Police Jury (Deeded Parish 2012), James B. Henry T/S, 910 Sandoz Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- g. St. Landry Parish Police Jury (Deeded Parish 2009), Albert L. Shelvin T/S, 1021 N. Market Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alderman Reginald Tatum announced that Ms. Lucille Guillory passed away on November 11, 2013, at the age of 104. She was the mother of Senator Elbert Lee Guillory.

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 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR