

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2013**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8th day of October 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, and Reginald Tatum. ABSENT: None. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin arrived late.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Mayor Donald Cravins, Sr., led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 09/10/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: **adding under the RESOLUTIONS Section, Item No. 24-A, "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"; adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 30-A, "Approve payment to Yolanda Lewis for 236 hours of unused annual leave following resignation from the Opelousas Police Department, effective 04/09/2013 and pending verification from Fire & Police Civil Service Board".**

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for October 2013 is Ms. Jacquelynn Fontenot. Ms. Fontenot is employed with the City of Opelousas Executive Department in the Accounts Payable Department. She is married and has two sons.

At this time, Alderman Julius Alsandor acknowledged that the acting supervisor of the Street Department, Mr. Fred Henderson recently lost his father. He stated that Mr. Henderson sent a text that he was appreciative of the prayers and condolences from the City.

Presentation by Ms. Anna Nix regarding a request for cleanup and damages caused by a fallen tree that was located on an alley/easement in the Lawler and Caldwell Subdivision. Ms. Nix stated that she owns the property located at 318 Westwego Street which is also known as Lot 12 of Block 10 in the Lawler and Caldwell Subdivision. She stated that adjacent to the property is a twenty-foot alley/easement and in that alley was a tree that fell on the property and demolished the property. Prior to this happening, her son and daughter-in-law were living there and noticed that the tree was rotting out and branches were falling out of it. She stated that they spoke to the Mayor about it and they sent out Donald Francis to look at it three times about two years ago. Mr. Francis informed them that it would be a problem to get a cherry picker up there. Ms. Nix's daughter-in-law stated that it was at a rally two years ago when she brought this to the Mayor's attention and at that time he stated that he would have someone come by and a few days later Donald Francis came by. Ms. Nix pointed out that on August 1st the tree fell and demolished the house. Mayor Cravins asked who owned the house and Ms. Nix stated that she does. Alderman Blair Briggs asked who owns the property where the tree was. Ms. Nix stated that it was on the easement in the alley. She pointed out that it is not private property, therefore it is public property and the City is responsible for the alleys/easements. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that Mr. Charles Cummings is researching this matter and it is the recommendation of the City's attorney to put this aside for thirty days until all of the research is done.

Discuss lawsuit settlement for Paula Dubuc vs. City of Opelousas. Mr. Steven Oates represented Ms. Dubuc in this matter. He explained that under Ms. Dubuc's house on Guedry Lane there was an old sewer line that had not been properly abandoned by the City and was causing foundation problems for Ms. Dubuc for the past ten years. He stated that he received proposals to correct this matter. The proposal for \$41,748.00 with an additional \$2,000.00 to pull up and then replace the flooring and concrete in Ms. Dubuc's house was the one he recommended. He stated that Ms. Dubuc was willing to drop the lawsuit if the City agrees to pay for the repairs. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to authorize city engineer William Jarrell to proceed with the proposed project to repair the abandoned sewer line with funds to come from the Sewer Department. 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. Israel Roberts, Water Plant Supervisor, regarding Water Tower repairs. Mr. Roberts stated that on March 20, 2013, there was a sanitary survey done by the Department of Health and Hospitals and it was found that repairs needed to be done to the Water Tower. The cost of the repairs will be \$732,000.00. The City will have to go through the bid process for this project. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Aldermen Joseph Charles and Blair Briggs, it was resolved to authorize the Water Department to advertise for bids for mandatory Water Tower Repairs with funding coming from excess funds in the Ground Storage Tank Fund and from the EL&WW fund. 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.

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Discuss budget amendments for Code Enforcement Department. Mrs. Margaret Doucet requested to have the money that was donated to the Trash Bash moved into this budget year. She also requested that the money that was set aside in last fiscal year to repair a tractor be moved to this fiscal year to pay that invoice. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the budget amendments for Code Enforcement – Trash Bash - \$2,382.00 and Progressive Tractor Invoice - \$3,382.44. 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.

Discuss the appointment of a permanent Public Works Director. Mayor Cravins stated that the City appointed Mr. Kim Fontenot as Interim Public Works Director about eighteen months ago. Once he was appointed as Interim Director, Mr. Fontenot appointed an Interim Public Works Supervisor. Alderman Joseph Charles asked about the status of the employees in the Water Department who were supposed to get their licenses/certifications. Mr. Fontenot stated that the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) wants operators to be certified at a Level 3 certification. The Water Plant only has one Level 3 certified employee. Mr. Israel Roberts, Water Plant Supervisor, stated that everyone that wants to go to class gets to go to class; but only a few have gone in the past. This year everyone went so the City is basically in compliance. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the appointment of Mr. Kim Fontenot as permanent Public Works Director. 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.

At this time, Mayor Cravins asked what they were going to do about the Interim Supervisor's position held by Mr. Fred Henderson. Ms. Karen Frank stated that his department head would have to go before Civil Service to have the position of General Foreman opened and they would not need Council approval for that.

Discuss the adjustment of salary for Code Enforcement Director based on Municipal Civil Service lawsuit judgment. Mayor Cravins stated that the court ruling was that the Code Enforcement Director was not a department head. He pointed out that her salary is higher than the average supervisor's salary which was not set by him but by the Council over the last few years. At that time, acting Public Works Director was part her duties also. He thinks that it needs to be discussed by the Council is that either they discuss the salary or do nothing. If they chose to do nothing then they should look at the other supervisors' salaries so that one supervisor is not making so much more than the others. Alderman Joseph Charles made a motion that they table this item. Alderman Blair Briggs asked if there was a comparison of salaries in other cities of like size. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin said she would be willing to review the comparison and then create a committee to see what the differences are. Mayor Cravins said that it might something that the Budget Committee could look at. Alderman Julius Alsandor stated that, based on the certifications that Mrs. Doucet holds, her title—which falls under Civil Service—shouldn't be one of supervisor but of a Department Head. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that whenever they get calls as Councilmen for anything in the City, they call Mrs. Doucet. Mrs. Doucet gave an overview of how she was hired with the City. She stated that she tested for the position and was certified by the Civil Service Board as the best person for the job on two occasions. She also pointed out that she has Class 4 certification in all areas in both Water and Sewer and certification in Mosquito control. Alderman Charles motion to table the item was withdrawn. This matter will be brought before the Budget Committee for discussion next month.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 702 N. Market Street to open a Restaurant/Sports Bar (Wilfred Kinnerson, Jr.). Mr. Kinnerson stated that, in lieu of the decision that the Planning Commission and the residents made against the Sports Bar, he will be satisfied with just opening a Restaurant. Mrs. Doucet stated that he does not have to appear before the Planning Commission again because he is properly zoned for a Restaurant in that area. Ms. Helen Wimbush, a resident of Estorage Street, stated that she didn't want another bar in that area because they are having problems with other bars in the area because of fights, littering, and noise. She stated that they are okay with a Restaurant there as long as there is no liquor being sold or served. Ms. Judy Stevens inquired about the music that would be played outside as was stated in the newspaper. Mr. Kinnerson stated that it was stated incorrectly in the newspaper about having music outside and it would be a restaurant only. No action necessary since area is already properly zoned for a restaurant.

Discuss request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 537 S. Main Street to open a 3D & 4D Ultrasound Imaging Business (Ashley Johnson Wyble). This item came before the Planning Commission on 09/09/2013 for pre-approval. The Commission sends a recommendation for approval. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 537 S. Main Street to open a 3D & 4D Ultrasound Imaging Business (Ashley Johnson Wyble).

Discuss request by Attorney Paul F. Bell for payment of the remainder of the unpaid annual leave due to retired police officer Mr. Terry Miller. Attorney Bell informed the Council that Mr. Miller had accrued 1156 hours of annual leave while working for the Opelousas Police Department. After he retired, the City paid him for 467 hours but he was still owed for the remainder which amounts to \$19,575.00 including supplemental pay. However, Attorney Bell noted that he spoke to another retired police employee who has a similar situation but is willing to accept payment of the City's portion without the supplemental pay being included. Attorney Garett Duplechain stated that he and Attorney Bell had discussed this matter before and Attorney Bell stated that he had calculated an amount of \$16,246.00 due to Mr. Miller if they did not take the supplemental pay. Attorney Duplechain stated that if the City would approve the payment then Mr. Miller would accept this in two structured payments. Ms. Karen Frank informed the Council that Chief Gallow had previously

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come before them in regards to the "Use It or Lose It" leave policy. She pointed out that if the Council decides to pay these officers then they would have a lot more officers to pay which would amount to over \$800,000.00. Ms. Frank pointed out that Ms. Yolanda Lewis is also on the agenda for the same thing. Attorney Reginald Tatum pointed out that the State Statute said that the City could not have a "Use It or Lose It" policy; therefore, the City is obligated to pay the leave. Alderman Joseph Charles made a motion that the adjusted leave amounts be paid through structured settlements to the employees who made requests today. Alderman Alsandor asked Chief Gallow if the money would come from his budget. Chief Gallow stated that they do not have this money in their budget. Alderman Tatum if they had the money to day these settlements. Ms. Frank pointed out that the question still stood as to whether they would take it from the Police Department budget or from the City's fund balance. The matter involving Terry Miller, Kenneth Edwards, and Yolanda Lewis will be addressed during the Budget Committee Meeting next month. Alderman Charles withdrew his motion.

Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Garett Duplechain stated that the City is now in the process of complying with the judgment by Judge Doherty on the Civil Service workers. The hearing on that matter scheduled for this Friday has been continued to a later date. Attorney Duplechain stated that David Manuel vs. the City of Opelousas was supposed to be on the agenda today. Attorney LaDonte Murphy, counsel for Mr. David Manuel, stated that he thought it was supposed to be handled under the City attorney presentations. He stated that he has come before the Council several times and it has never been an independent item on the agenda and has always been handled under the City attorney's presentation. Attorney Duplechain stated that he had told Mr. Murphy that his agenda would be on the agenda and had tried to have it put on the agenda but Ms. Frank stated that she never received any request from Attorney Duplechain regarding this matter. This item will be addressed during the Budget Committee Meeting next month.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. William Jarrell, City Engineer, stated that the generator project for the Municipal Plaza building has received approval. They are advertising and will receive bids in November. Mayor Cravins inquired about the status on the roof for the Municipal Plaza building. Mr. Jarrell stated that they are waiting on the contracts but everything is in motion.

BIDS

Accept Bids for Sewer Pump Parts (Bid #05-13). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Sewer Pump Parts (Bid #05-13), three (3) bids were received:

BIDDER NAME	FAIRBANKS-MORSE	GORMAN-RUPP
WHOLESALE PUMP & SUPPLY	NO BID	\$4,042.06
GRINER DRILLING SERVICE INC	\$34,717.10	\$7,377.70
FLUID PROCESS & PUMPS LLC	\$39,449.00	\$7,913.00

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin 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 ORDINANCE(S) WITH REGARD TO LEVYING AND DEDICATION OF SALES AND HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SOLELY WITHIN HOTEL PROJECT TIF AREA.

Attorney Dannie P. Garrett stated that this project was previously talked about and they are trying to provide more information on this matter. They are again attempting to gain Council approval. Attorney Garrett requested that one of the three aldermen who voted against the ordinance before be willing to introduce the ordinance this time. Attorney Duplechain gave an overview of the TIF structure for the tax that would be charged on each room. Mayor Cravins stated that there was an objection raised by someone last time stating that, if a TIF was used, the hotel would have to charge \$250 a night for it to be profitable. Attorney Garrett stated that there was a misunderstanding of the revenue. He pointed out that there would be an additional 2 percent sales tax and 2 percent occupancy tax on each room in addition to the existing 2.2 percent already being collected by the City's hotel/motel occupancy tax. The following people spoke regarding introduction of the ordinance:

Mr. Jim Adams stated that he had prepared an email that he had Mr. Briggs to disperse to the other council members. In his email, he tried to address a number of the issues he heard in the other meeting. He touched on the fact that a comment was made that the TIF was for blighted areas only. He pointed out that the State legislature enacted this for economic development and aren't they are going to develop this area to make it a more viable destination for people and for events. He pointed out that Mr. Desai is simply taking advantage of a financing arrangement that did not exist when a number of businesses were built in this City and there is no reason to penalize him because he using a process approved by the State legislature and used by a number of other cities because it is a win-win for the city. There is no money out of pocket for the City.

Mr. Lance Chambers stated that the leaders need to stop playing games and we start making money here in Opelousas. He stated that the people want new businesses in Opelousas and they are excited about the hotel and the opportunities that it is going to bring. He stated that people are looking at the leaders and we need to start making decisions that will bring businesses here.

At this time Mayor Cravins read a letter from the Mayor of the City of Winona, Mississippi, that supports Mr. Desai and his project. Mr. Desai built a Holiday Inn in that city. He also pointed out that there is a letter of support from the City of Natchez, Mississippi for the Holiday Inn Express that Mr. Desai built in that city.

Rev. Walton Dunbar stated that he feels like history is starting to repeat itself. He stated that he remembers a story from when he was young that at one time they wanted to keep Opelousas back and down. He stated that at one time they wanted to put LSU in Eunice and the Oil Center here; but certain people didn't want it because they felt like it would cut down on their business and now we have a ghost town down our main street here which is a sad commentary for a city that is the third oldest city in the State. He stated that if we have more hotels here and more activities then we will have more people too. He stated that his final thing is that we not repeat that kind of sad history.

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Mr. Robert Bordelon stated that nothing has changed as far as what is being asked. This is still the idea of taking public funds—public money—and being put to a private project. The TIF uses taxpayer dollars and it is given to a private individual. Pumping stations, the building, and the parking lot that the City owns and maintains — taxpayer money has been put into something the Desai Group owns. The question is should public funds be used to fund a particular business over the others. Mr. Bordelon stated that he has a concern about someone saying they have given a Councilman information as a public figure but saying that they cannot disclose that information to the public. Mayor Cravins stated that this is only a feasibility study and not some big conspiracy.

Attorney Dannie Garrett stated that TIF funds were not available when the other hotels came to this City. He also stated that not a dime is coming out this City's budget—they are creating a bond fund and an institutional investor like a bank or insurance company is going to buy those bonds for a million dollars. The repayment does come from additional tax revenue that is coming out of the pockets of people who stay in that hotel.

Mr. Michael Thibodeaux stated that he had been involved with City government since 1982 and the best relationship is a public and private relationship for business for economic development. He stated that he totally disagrees with Mr. Bordelon because you have to have public and private relationships to be successful.

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance providing for the establishment of a Sales Tax Area for the purposes of engaging in tax increment financing and incurring of debt and issuance of not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) aggregate principal amount of City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2013 (the "Bonds"), prescribing the form, terms and conditions of the Bonds and the security therefor; designating the date, denomination and place of payment of such Bonds; providing for the levy of sales and hotel occupancy taxes; providing for the dedication of sales and hotel occupancy taxes; providing for the payment of such Bonds in principal and interest; approving and confirming the sale of such Bonds; and providing for other matters with respect to the Bonds.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the introduction of an ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to adopt AN ORDINANCE(S) WITH REGARD TO LEVYING AND DEDICATION OF SALES AND HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SOLELY WITHIN HOTEL PROJECT TIF AREA. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., and Jacqueline Martin

NAYS: Joseph Charles, Blair Briggs, and Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

THE MOTION FAILS.

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.

Mayor Cravins stated that they did an informal survey of other towns of similar size and found in those areas the pay was quite different. His suggestion, based on some of the surveys that they had seen, was to recommend that Council members be paid \$1,000.00 a month and that the Mayor's salary be reduced from \$72,000.00 a year to \$52,000.00 a year. Those changes would go into effect in the next election cycle because you cannot raise or lower the salaries during the cycle that you are in. As far as the car allowance, he feels that if the Council members go to a meeting then they should be compensated based on the federal guidelines for mileage if they use their own vehicle. Alderman Blair Briggs agreed that they do need to reduce their pay.

ORDINANCE

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 and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the introduction of an ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to adopt AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCILMEN. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Joseph Charles and Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

THE MOTION PASSES.

After his vote, Alderman Tatum stated that his research has shown that other cities of our size that are receiving the same pay are also receiving raises. He stated that one lady pointed out that at the rate it is going a person will have to be retired or wealthy to subsidize your income if you run for office. He disagrees with the Mayor and he thinks that the Mayor needs to make a certain amount if he is a full-time Mayor and same thing with the Council. He stated that people call them all times of the day and night and people call them asking for help paying their water and electric bills. He stated that if an elderly person calls him, he helps them, just like others on the Council do. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin stated that when she decided to run, she didn't even know the Aldermen got paid. Next, she pointed out that they have a job to do. She pointed out that two years ago when they asked the employees to take a cut in pay, she and Mr. Alsandor offered to give up their car allowances, but they were told that they could do that because it was a State statute. She stated that she is willing to give up her car allowance even though she can't afford it but she cannot afford to give up her health insurance.

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She stated that she will say yes to the introduction of the ordinance but she will still argue for her health insurance. Alderman Tatum pointed out that, in a gesture of good faith, they gave up their 2 1/2 % increase in the past.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 10 OF 2012 RELATING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES.

ORDINANCE
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**

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

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve the introduction of an ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 10 OF 2012 RELATING TO WATER AND SEWER RATES. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Joseph Charles and Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

THE MOTION PASSES.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:55 p.m. regarding the following properties:

a. Mary Ann Thierry Anderson, 529 Sapphire Street (2 Burned Mobile Homes & Mobile Home Frame)

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the recommendation for condemnation of the property owned by Mary Ann Thierry Anderson located at 529 Sapphire Street (2 Burned Mobile Homes & Mobile Home Frame).

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR DONALD R. CRAVINS, SR., TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN AN APPLICATION FOR THE 2012-2014 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (CFMS #716246) FOR THE NEW LIFE CENTER AND FAITH HOUSE WHICH ARE SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THE LIGHTHOUSE MISSION WHICH IS A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF 2013

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR DONALD R. CRAVINS, SR., TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN AN APPLICATION FOR THE 2012-2014 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (CFMS #716246) FOR THE NEW LIFE CENTER AND FAITH HOUSE OF ACADIANA WHICH ARE SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THE LIGHTHOUSE MISSION WHICH IS A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that there is a need for the New Life Center, Faith House, and the Lighthouse Mission, and WHEREAS, the Opelousas Housing Corporation, sponsored by the Diocese of Lafayette, is interested in operating the New Life Center as a shelter for homeless women and children, and the private, non-profit organizations are interested in operating the Faith House of Acadiana which is designed to assist homeless women and children, and the Lighthouse Mission is interested in operating a shelter for homeless men.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen, that Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr., is authorized to act on behalf of the governing authority to assist the Opelousas Housing Corporation, Faith House of Acadiana, the Lighthouse Mission in an application for a grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no city funds are authorized to be encumbered in regards to this project.

The above Resolution, having been submitted to a vote, was adopted as follows on this 8th day of October 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

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. (ITEM DELETED)

CONSENTS

Set date and time for Trick or Treating. *On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to set Trick or Treating for Thursday, October 31, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. within the city limits of Opelousas.*

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to accept the retirement of Mr. John C. Saucier in the Fire Department, effective 10/01/2013, and approve payment in the amount of \$8,377.12 for 328 hours of unused vacation leave.

Approve the extended sick leave for Permanent Police Lieutenant Donald R. Young, effective 07/29/2013. The employee is back on regular sick leave. This item has been deleted.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the promotion of Brandon Harris from Police Officer First Class to Sergeant, effective 10/13/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to hire Nelson Simmons as a Police Officer to fill a vacancy in the Opelousas Police Department, effective 10/28/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to hire Michael Hidalgo as a Police Officer to fill a vacancy in the Opelousas Police Department, effective 10/28/2013.

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.

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2013**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy inquired about the \$500,000 grant that was due to run out at the end of September. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that they have filed for and appeal and an extension but due to the federal shutdown they have not been able get an answer to that request. She pointed out that they have already expended almost \$121,000 for the tennis courts at South Park which was approved through the environmental review. They are still waiting on the approval of the North Park environmental review. Dr. St. Clergy requested that whatever findings come from this appeal be discussed at an upcoming meeting in addition to making public what funds, if any, are used.

Newly-appointed Police Sergeant Brandon Harris thanked the Mayor and Council for giving him the opportunity with the Opelousas Police Department.

Ms. Laura Balthazar announced that the "Take Back the Night" program will be held on October 29, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., starting at Opelousas Junior High School.

Mayor Cravins congratulated Chief Perry Gallow and his officers who made it to the National Police World Series in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Kim Fontenot stated that the Heather Street Bridge will open tomorrow morning.

Chief Gallow introduced Mr. Nelson Simmons, one of the newly-appointed police officers.

Mr. Wilbert Levier inquired as to whether a decision had been made to pay overtime to the Street workers to clean up after the parades. Mayor Cravins instructed Mr. Kim Fontenot to look into this matter.

Alderman Jacqueline Martin announced that she is having her 7th annual Halloween Parade on October 31, 2013, starting at Frilot Street at 5:00 p.m.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR