

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2014

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8th day of July 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., Reginald Tatum and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 06/10/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: *adding under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 8-A*, "Presentation by Mr. Darrin Harris, Executive Director/CEO of Ekhaya Family Support Organization to the City of Opelousas for the St. Landry Parish Children and Youth Services"; *Item No. 8-B*, "Presentation by Mr. Cory Levier for a Youth Program"; *Item No. 8-C*, "Presentation by Mrs. Melanie Lee-Lebouef regarding the Opelousas 3rd Centennial (1920)"; *Item 8-D*, "Discuss request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the Police Department budget line item 54210-1101 (Salaries) in the amount of \$22,912.34 for a total of 706 man hours regarding extra patrol set up to address violent crimes"; *Item 8-E*, "Discuss request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the Police Department budget expense line item 54210-2204 (DARE) in the amount of \$24,552.00 based on additional money received"; *Item 8-F*, "Discuss request for approval of the plat being submitted for the REVISION of property located on Champagne Drive in Clois Du Bois Subdivision (Michael Richard)"; *adding under the RESOLUTIONS Section, Item No. 15-A*, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR POLICE CARS; DESIGNATING THE LEASE AGREEMENT AS A QUALIFIED TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATION; AND AUTHORIZING AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"; *deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 7*, "Presentation by Mrs. Phyllis Fisher regarding the State Champion Boys' Track Team"; *Item No. 8*, "Discussion by Mr. E. J. Foreman regarding State Licensing for Water Plant employees"; *deleting under the PUBLIC HEARINGS Section, Item No. 14*, "A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE FOR SOLICITATION FOR MONETARY DONATIONS BY MINORS ON BEHALF OF A SCHOOL, CLUB, OR ORGANIZATION".

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month for June 2014 is Mr. Tommy Brown. He is married and has two children. Mr. Brown has been employed with the City of Opelousas Parks & Recreation Department for six years.

Presentation by Mr. Darrin Harris, Executive Director/CEO of Ekhaya Family Support Organization to the City of Opelousas for the St. Landry Parish Children and Youth Services. Ms. LaVonya Malveaux, City Court judicial administrator, stated that a year ago the City Council accepted funds from Magellan Behavioral Health to support a parish wide event that was held at the Opelousas Civic Center. This event was called the "Youth Blast" (Youth Boldly Living As Smart Teens). She pointed out that because of the work Magellan started with them last year they were able to resurrect what was known once before as the "Back to School Summit" and they will be doing this event again this year. Ms. Malveaux stated that Mr. Harris was here to make a presentation to the City on behalf of the St. Landry Parish Children and Youth Services Planning Board. Mr. Harris thanked the City for this opportunity and pointed out that this is the first time in the nation that this has ever been done on a statewide level. He stated that they identify and hire those who have had similar life experiences as the youth have and hire them to work with those who are newly in the system and provide mental health services. His organization has been in existence for approximately 16 months and is now serving over 1,200 youth and their families across the State of Louisiana. Many of them who graduate from the program come in and they hire them. Ekhaya, alongside Magellan Health Services in Louisiana and the Office of Behavioral Health, are in the process of launching Phase 2 and Opelousas happens to be a part of that phase. The organization's primary goal is to keep youth in the home and out of institutions. His group participated in the Youth Blast last year. Mr. Harris, on behalf of Ekhaya Youth Project and their Board of Directors, presented a check for \$5,000.00 to the City of Opelousas to support this year's Youth Blast. This event will be held on Friday, September 26, 2014.

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Presentation by Mr. Cory Levier for a Youth Program. Mr. Levier is representing an organization known as P.A.R.E.N.T.S. (Promoting ALL Relationships Essential to the Needs of Teachers and Students), a local 501(c)(3) charity organization in the City of Opelousas. They will be sponsoring a school uniform drive this year with several drop-off locations. Mr. Levier wants to start a youth program next summer. The youth program will address the need for more rehabilitation of our young people in this city and he wants to do his part to make it better. He is requesting use of any available buildings to have meetings for the youth program. Mr. Levier also stated that he is a National Rifle Association certified instructor in the "Refuse to Be a Victim" Seminar. This is a nationally-recognized program designed for citizens to feel safe and to have a strategic plan for their own safety in the community. Mr. Levier stated that the P.A.R.E.N.T.S. organization will be taking care of the uniforms and school supplies for the nine children who lost their parents this weekend. For more information, contact the P.A.R.E.N.T.S. organization at 337-945-6858.

Presentation by Mrs. Melanie Lee-Lebouef regarding the Opelousas 3rd Centennial (1720). Mrs. Lee-Lebouef noted that Opelousas, which is the third oldest city in Louisiana, was founded in 1720 and the City is planning a celebration in 2020. She requested that the Council consider establishing some sort of legacy committee and also setting aside a portion of funds each year until 2020 to make the celebration more of a success. They do plan to get support from private organizations and civic clubs as well. She requested that the Budget funds be analyzed and that any funds that are left over from Tourism at the end of the fiscal year be encumbered for this project—about \$5,000.00 per year. A Resolution will be adopted at next month's meeting authorizing use of these funds.

Discuss request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the Police Department budget line item 54210-1101 (Salaries) in the amount of \$22,912.34 for a total of 706 man hours regarding extra patrol set up to address violent crimes. Chief Gallow gave an overview of the funds and manpower needed for this operation. He stated that from January – April 2014 there were 706 man hours totaling \$22,912.34—this included 32 arrests, 15 hand guns as well as cocaine and marijuana taken off the street, 4 cars and \$9,800.00 in cash seized. Chief Gallow stated that they still do not have this money in their budget and he is requesting that the Council amend his budget in regards to this. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to approve the request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the Police Department budget line item 54210-1101 (Salaries) in the amount of \$22,912.34 for a total of 706 man hours regarding extra patrol set up to address violent crimes with funds to come from the Fund Balance. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

Discuss request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the Police Department budget expense line item 54210-2204 (DARE) in the amount of \$24,552.00 based on additional money received. Chief Gallow stated that this is grant money received for the DARE program and he is requesting that line item be increased to reflect these funds. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the Police Department budget expense line item 54210-2204 (DARE) in the amount of \$24,552.00 based on grant money received.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

Discuss request for approval of the preliminary plat being submitted for the REVISION of property located on Champagne Drive in Clois Du Bois Subdivision (Michael Richard). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 07/07/2014. A preliminary plat was presented to the Commission to add three lots to Clois Du Bois Subdivision. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for approval of the preliminary plat being submitted for the REVISION of property located on Champagne Drive in Clois Du Bois Subdivision (Michael Richard).

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 628 S. Union Street to open a Professional Office (Daniel White – Antonio Birotte, LLC). A public hearing for pre-approval regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 06/09/2014 and for final approval on 07/07/2014. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a NMU

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(Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 628 S. Union Street to open a Professional Office (Daniel White – Antonio Birotte, LLC).

Alderman Julius Alsandor inquired about the blue house on Academy Street that was scheduled for demolition. Mrs. Doucet stated that the company that was supposed to come in and take down all of the shingles off the roof submitted the wrong address for the property and they had to re-submit their request to DEQ for their permit. They promised that they would be in there this past week but they still have not done anything yet and they have not returned her call. Alderman Alsandor also inquired about whether the City had an ordinance for stray dogs. Mrs. Doucet stated that this does not fall under her jurisdiction but under the jurisdiction of the Small Animal warden with Street Department. Mayor Cravins inquired about the status of the apartments on Vine Street that were discussed last month. Mrs. Doucet stated that the owners have taken care of all the mandatory requirements such as the fire extinguishers and the smoke alarms. The rest is just cosmetics that need to be done and they have 45 days to finish everything. The exterminators were there and the electrical work has been completed. Everything should be completed by the first of August.

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

Engineers Monthly Report. Mr. William Jarrell stated that there is a problem at the drainage lateral behind Andrepont Printing where there is a communications tower and there are some pretty extensive erosion problems with the sewer line that is exposed. The company that is getting ready to do the work to protect the tower has offered to do some additional work to protect the City's sewer line. They are asking the City to participate in that cost. The total cost of the work including the sewer line is approximately \$101,000.00. The work they need to do to protect just their tower site is approximately \$60,000.00. They are asking the City to participate with \$41,000.00. If the City chooses not to, then the company will do the work they need to do to protect their tower and the City will be on its own. Mayor Cravins instructed Mr. Jarrell and Ms. Karen Frank to work out the details with funds from the Sewer Department. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to conditionally approve the request to pay \$40,927.00 to protect the City's sewer line located behind Andrepont Printing. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

Mr. Jarrell stated that all of the physical work on the Municipal Plaza generator has been completed and tomorrow morning the manufacturer is coming in to do a load test on it and, depending on how that goes, they may actually do a start up on it and after that it will be functional. Next, on Burr Street, work has not been progressing very well. They have been waiting on Charter Communications and AT&T to locate some utility lines. Charter has completed theirs but AT&T is saying they will have it completed by the end of this month. Mr. Jarrell pointed out that, for the record, AT&T was notified about eight months ago.

At this time, Fire Chief Lee Cahanin announced that he would be retiring in February 2015. He pointed out that the process for replacement or appointment of a Fire Chief takes six to eight months so he is requesting that the Council submit a letter to Fire and Police Civil Service to begin the advertising and start that process.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen, of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana in general session convened that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed budget of Revenues for Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2014, has been and the same was hereby amended to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, during the same period.

SECTION II. The attached budget of Expenditures by departments for the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2014, has been and the same was hereby amended to serve as a budget of expenditures for the City during the said period.

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SECTION III. The amending of this Operating Budget of Expenditures has been and the same was hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION IV. Amounts were available for expenditures only to the extent included with the 2013-2014 budget.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to introduce the Ordinance and authorize a PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2015.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen, of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana in general session convened that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed estimate of Revenues for Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2014 and ending August 31, 2015, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, during the same period.

SECTION II. The attached estimate of Expenditures by departments for the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2014 and ending August 31, 2015, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as a budget of expenditures for the City during the said period.

SECTION III. The adoption of this Operating Budget of Expenditures be and the same is hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION IV. Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included with the 2014-2015 budget.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to introduce the Ordinance and authorize a PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE FOR SOLICITATION FOR MONETARY DONATIONS BY MINORS ON BEHALF OF A SCHOOL, CLUB, OR ORGANIZATION. This item was spearheaded by Alderman Blair Briggs who was not present today and it has been deleted from this month's agenda and will be re-advertised for a public hearing at next month's meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS' APPLICATION FOR THE 2014 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 08 OF 2014

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS' APPLICATION
FOR THE 2014 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was established in August 2005 as part of the most recent federal transportation re-authorization legislation—SAFETEA-LU; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the SRTS Program, as stated in the legislation, shall be:

1. to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
2. to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from a early age; and
3. to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools; and

WHEREAS, approved projects will be funded at a 100 % level by the FHWA through the LA DOTD and no matching funds are required;

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Aldermen	Yes	Nav	Absent	Not Voting
Martin, Jackie - District E	X			
Tatum, Reggie - District D	X			

Karen Frank, City Clerk

Donald R. Cravins, Sr., Mayor

CONSENTS

No items under this Section.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin announced that her Family Fun Day will be held on July 26, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Cherry Street.

Mayor Cravins announced that the "Louisiana Save a Horse and Youth Program 2014" will be held on July 31–August 2, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Yambilee Grounds.

Mr. Joseph Citizen addressed the Council regarding a problem with two stray dogs that have come into his neighborhood on Jackson Street, Short Street, Janis Street, Ballard Lane and the Service Road. He is requesting help with containment of these dogs. These dogs have been getting into the trash cans, stealing shoes from people's yards and the dogs have even barked at him and tried to bite him. Mayor Cravins instructed Ms. Laura Balthazar to inform the dog catcher to pick up the dogs.

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy addressed the Council regarding a house on East North Street. She is asking that the house be torn down because it had been vacant for over 25 years. The house has asbestos siding and it has now burned down almost to the ground and as a result the asbestos is in a much more dangerous form. She has contacted both the DEQ and the Office of Public Health both of which have said that this is a dangerous situation which will get worse with time. Mayor Cravins assured Dr. St. Clergy that tomorrow they would begin the process of doing what needs to be done to get it handled. Mrs. Doucet stated that she had already gotten a quote for demolition before the fire and she will see if that company can come in and reassess the situation. Dr. St. Clergy also pointed out that the house next to it was so close that it was damaged also and she is requesting that they asked the demolition company if that house can be inspected also to see if it has any asbestos damage resulting from the fire.

Ms. Washington addressed the Council regarding an incident involving her son who was arrested for a stop sign violation. She stated that she always received a call in the past notifying her anytime her sons or grandchildren have court dates. She stated that three carloads of officers showed up at her house knocking on her door early in the morning looking for her son. They then went to his house and arrested her son for the stop sign violation and no one had called her about him having to appear in court. They handcuffed her son in front of his grandchild who was screaming and crying. Ms. Washington stated that this caused her blood pressure to go up and she was sick for three weeks. She feels that this is wrong. She asked that the Council talk to Marshal Mouton because this is not the way to act. She stated that on the ticket her son received you could not even see the writing. Ms. Washington stated that things can be done a better way and feels that his was just a publicity stunt by the Marshal's office. Mr. Washington showed the Mayor and Council a copy of the ticket and also a newspaper article regarding the matter which stated two different things. He stated that the bench warrant from City Court that was listed in the newspaper was for something that did not happen. He went to the police department several times to clear up the matter and was not able to talk to the Chief about it. He feels that when it came out of the police department office wrong then someone should be responsible for it. Chief Gallow suggested that Mr. Washington get a lawyer. Mayor Cravins ended the discussion at this point.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go back into Regular Sessions at 6:30 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Aldermen Louis Butler, Jr., and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to authorize Attorney Pride Doran to settle two cases as follows:

Kevin Guillory vs. City of Opelousas – \$3,000.00; and

Alfred Francis vs. City of Opelousas – \$10,000.00.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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Aldermen	Yes	Nav	Absent	Not Voting
Martin, Jackie - District E	X			
Tatum, Reggie - District D	X			

Karen Frank, City Clerk

Donald R. Cravins, Sr., Mayor

CONSENTS

No items under this Section.

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- Kevin Guillory vs. City of Opelousas – \$3,000.00; and
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A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR