

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2015

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 11th day of August 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Reginald Tatum presiding, the meeting was called to order.

Mayor Tatum requested the Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Blair Briggs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Eugene Reiszner of Our Savior's Church led the Prayer.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 07/14/2015. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, **with the following changes**: adding under the CONSENTS Section, **Item No. 16-A**, "Authority to allow the Opelousas Police Department to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture for the purchase of three new police vehicles"; **Item No. 16-B**, "Approve the termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for the following in the Police Department, effective 08/16/2015: (a). Sgt. Brandon Harris, (b). PIC Catina Guilbeau, and (c). PFC Michael Hidalgo"; and request to speak cards submitted by Peggy Paul, Peter Cormier, Paula Savoy, Roy Brown, Della Manuel, Louis Viviano, Catherine Deville, Alice Cormier, Pamela Burleigh, Julie Emerson, and Lena Charles.

Alderman Julius Alsandor voiced an objection to the agenda and requested that each item be handled separately. Alderman Briggs withdrew his motion and each item was handled individually.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard it was resolved to add under the CONSENTS Section, **Item No. 16-A**, "Authority to allow the Opelousas Police Department to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture for the purchase of three new police vehicles". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard it was resolved to add under the CONSENTS Section, **Item No. 16-B**, "Approve the termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for the following in the Police Department, effective 08/16/2015: (a). Sgt. Brandon Harris, (b). PFC Catina Guilbeau, and (c). PFC Michael Hidalgo". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PRESENTATIONS

Discuss request for VARIANCE for property located in a C1 (Commercial 1) Zone at U. S. Highway 182 South (South Union Street at Heather Drive for site signage and for building signage. (SGWM Opelousas LLC). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 08/10/2015 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE for property located in a C1 (Commercial 1) Zone at U. S. Highway 182 South (South Union Street at Heather Drive for site signage and for building signage. (SGWM Opelousas LLC). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for VARIANCE for property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 822 & 826 Lourdes Street to build two (2) multi-family apartments. (Joseph K. Dupre). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 08/10/2015 and recommended approval of this item. Several residents were in attendance in opposition of this project. Mr. Joseph Dupre, owner of the property, stated that he currently lives on the property of the proposed project and his

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mother lives next door. He is a professional engineer and will move the existing homes from the lot to build the proposed apartment buildings. He stated that since meeting with the Planning Commission he has come up with a better plan for parking. At this time, the residents who are in opposition of the project were allowed an opportunity to speak:

Ms. Peggy Paul resides at 818 Lourdes Street and she is against the proposed project due to increased traffic, no privacy, potential disturbances from music, and having all of the traffic exiting on Lourdes Street.

Ms. Lucinda Ventress resides at 416 E. Franklin Street and stated that she owns property in the area and some property on Lourdes Street as well. She stated that the traffic that this duplex will cause in the neighborhood will be unbearable and the property values will go down.

Mr. Peter Cormier stated that he has resided at 831 S. Walnut Street for the past 50 years and he is against this project.

Ms. Paula Savoy stated that she has resided in that area for 25 years and she is against the project.

Mr. Roy Brown stated that he owns two rental properties in the area and he is against the project.

Ms. Della Manuel stated that she has resided at 727 S. Walnut Street for 24 years and although she does not live within 300 feet of the proposed property, she is there to support her neighbors and she is against the project.

Mr. Louis Viviano stated that he just learned about the project yesterday from Ms. Peggy Paul. He stated that he is in support of the neighbors in that area who are opposed to this project. He suggested that Mr. Dupre find another place to put the project.

Ms. Catherine Deville stated that she resides in that area and she is against the project.

Mrs. Alice Cornier stated that she owns three lots on the back of the proposed property and she is against this project.

Mr. Dupre stated that he is trying to bring new construction to that area and promises that everything will be up to code. He stated that he has received a unanimous vote from the Historic District Commission and the Planning Commission. He guarantees that thorough background checks will be done and the applications will be open to the public.

Alderwoman Sherell Roberts thins that what Mr. Dupre wants to do is good but there is a lot of opposition. She referenced the Historic District Ordinance that the structure does not fit in with the existing structures.

Alderman Julius Alsandor questioned the fact that Mr. Dupre stated that he was moving out of the area and then changed it to say he would not be leaving the area. Mr. Dupre stated that he would not be leaving St. Landry Parish but he would be leaving from Lourdes Street.

Alderman Blair Briggs asked how much opposition was made at the Planning Commission meeting. He feels that if more people in opposition would have been at the Planning Commission meeting then the Planning Commission would not have voted in favor of the project.

Mr. Jack Tolson stated that he is a member of the Planning Commission and pointed out that all of the regulatory requirements have been met—that is why a favorable recommendation was made.

Alderwoman Roberts cited Section 16 of the Historic District Ordinance relating to New Construction: *Proposals for new construction in the City of Opelousas Historic District should seek compatibility with existing structures through the appropriate use of site planning, materials, decorative details, architectural elements, and scale. A proposal should not draw unnecessary attention to itself in any one of these characteristics. However, a proposal should not duplicate of copy historic styles and periods. The architectural context is of primary concern. (A) Scale: The relationship of the building and its elements (including doors and windows) to other structures in the District.*

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to **DENY** the request for VARIANCE for property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 822 & 826 Lourdes Street to build two (2) multi-family apartments. (Joseph K. Dupre). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: J. Tyrone Glover.

ABSENT: None.

Presentation by City Attorney: Ron Turner case. Attorney Claiborne requested that this item be deferred to the September Council meeting.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. No updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Budget Committee.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 5, 2015 @ 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Blair Briggs, Chairman; Jacqueline Martin; Sherell Roberts, and Marvin Richard.

ABSENT: None

A moment of silent meditation was observed and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin led the Pledge to the U.S. Flag.

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1. *Discussion by Mr. Wilbert Levier regarding the employee 2 ½ percent pay increase from Fiscal Year 2012-2013.* Mr. Levier stated that he was there to ask for the 2 ½% increase from 2012-2013. This pay increase was suspended but is still owed to the employees. Mr. Levier asked that Mrs. Linda Walker, Civil Service Director, highlight this matter. Mrs. Walker stated that this increase was suspended for one year. She stated what Mr. Levier is speaking of is the money that the employees did not receive by not getting the raise for that year. That amount came out to \$59,954.03 for all municipal employees. Alderman Briggs stated that at that time, the City could not legally give that money proactively or retroactively. Mrs. Walker stated that this was something that the City asked to be waived. Ms. Walker stated that this was something that was expected to be paid back when Ms. Laura Balthazar came before the Civil Service Board. The Board spoke about revisiting it within six months to see where the City would stand in order to pay that amount of money, but they didn't revisit it in six months. It went the whole year and when it came time to renew again, the Board thought they were going to pay the employees the money they had lost for that year but it was waived because the funds were not there to do it at the time. The employees were still waiting to be paid that amount of money. As of today, it still has not been paid. Alderman Briggs asked the City attorney had done any research on this issue. He stated that he had not had a chance to but he would review it and would have an opinion by next week's Council meeting. This item will be discussed further during the full council meeting next week. *Attorney Claiborne stated that the written minutes were not clear to him and he would like to listen to the tapes from the meeting and have them transcribed. This item will be forwarded to the September Council Meeting.*

2. *Discussion regarding Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Amended Budget and Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Budget.* Alderman Briggs asked that the City Clerk give a brief summary of the revenues received by the City. City Clerk Leisa Anderson stated that the revenues include funds from grants, monies received from the water and sewer department, monies received from Wal-mart Distribution Center to cover expenses for running their location at the Sewer Plant, capital outlay items that are budgeted out of each department to go into their debt service funds, etc. Alderman Briggs then went on to discuss the expenditures. The following changes were recommended:

Executive Department:

Salaries: proposed amount of \$800,800 will be lowered to \$725,000

Postage: proposed amount of \$35,000 will be lowered to \$25,000

City Planning:

City Auditors Fee: proposed amount of \$80,000 will be lowered to \$72,000

Police:

Repairs and Tires: proposed amount of \$125,000 will be lowered to \$100,000

Marshall:

Gas, Oil, Tires, Repairs: proposed amount of \$15,000 will be lowered to \$13,000

Parks:

Special Park Police: proposed amount of \$12,500 will be lowered to \$10,000

Water

Salaries: proposed amount of \$1,000,000 will be lowered to \$950,000

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and unanimously carried, it was recommended to forward to the full council for further review and approval.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The Budget Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the Budget Committee Report. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2015. Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World, A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2015 was opened at 6:02 p.m. After a lengthy discussion regarding the amendments that were made to the current budget, it was suggested that the Council table this item and have a special meeting for further review and discussion. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:56 p.m. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to table the item and hold a Public Hearing to adopt the ordinance for amending the Budget at a Special Meeting on 08/25/2015 at 5:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2016. Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World, A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2016 was opened at 7:00 p.m. It was recommended that this item be tabled also. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:01 p.m. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to table the item and hold a Public Hearing to adopt the ordinance for adopting the Budget at a Special Meeting on 08/25/2015 at 5:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY JAIL, POLICE DEPARTMENT RELATED FACILITIES FOR COURT ACCESS WHICH MAY BE A PART OF A 2015-16 COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PROGRAM. Alderman Alsandor requested that the funding come from the Police Department Budget for this agreement.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 07 OF 2015

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MODERNIZATION OF THE CITY JAIL, POLICE DEPARTMENT RELATED FACILITIES FOR COURT ACCESS WHICH MAY BE A PART OF THE 2015/16 COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the existing Police Department building including jail and administrative facilities is over 40 years old and the ail needs to be expanded and updated to current codes and/or judicial occupancy standards, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to budget, finance and plan such capital outlay facilities in the interest of safety, security and to address the general responsibilities that the Police Department must provide for the City of Opelousas now and for the future functioning by an efficient police force, the facilities must be timely modernized.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to retain experience development and design professionals, plan, cost estimate, budget, procure finance and to accomplish the modernization of the Opelousas Police Department facilities, jail and related work as needed utilizing a most practical and economical approach also considering future Police Department requirements in preparation for further approval by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen prior to advertising for bids

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to take all pre-construction activities and steps necessary to accomplish this goal, including but not limited to the following: research and secure sources of financing including grants, loans, bonds, tax increment district financing, capital budget appropriations, or other sources of finance; employ the necessary or required consultants including Ardoin Architecture, LLC (architects), Le Centre Evangeline Corporation (professional development services administrative consultants), surveyor, jail consultant, attorneys, Mahtook and Lafleur (bonding attorneys) or others as may required to secure, assemble and cooperate in the assembling of a 2015/16 Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program, financing, to establish a separate project financial account for accounting and audit purposes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that municipal employees shall cooperate to establish a final feasible and viable building modernization plan, building program and budget for final approval by the Mayor, Chief of Police and Board of Aldermen prior to the advertising for construction contract bids after receipt of approval of final plans and specifications.

The above Resolution, having been read in full and a vote taken, was adopted as follows on this 11th day of August 2015.

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CONSENTS

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On a motion by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve Authority to advertise a Public Hearing to accept solicited project proposals for the Louisiana Emergency Solutions Grants Program. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Blair Briggs (stepped out).

On a motion by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve Contract Change Order No. 4 (Final) in the *decrease* amount of \$19,750.00 for the addition of Items 18 through 21 and adjustment of final contract quantities for the Elevated Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation (South City Park) Project, MGA Project W#250. (Contractor: Blastco Texas, Inc.), and accept the Elevated Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation (South City Park) Project, MGA Project W#250. (Contractor: Blastco Texas, Inc.) as substantially complete. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to grant authority to allow the Opelousas Police Department to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture for the purchase of three new police vehicles. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the termination of Administrative Leave with Pay and approve the return to duty for the following in the Police Department, effective 08/16/2015: (a). Sgt. Brandon Harris, (b). PFC Catina Guilbeau, and (c). PFC Michael Hidalgo.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Julius Alsandor, J. Tyrone Glover, Blair Briggs, Sherell Roberts, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Pamela Burleigh, candidate for District 40 Representative, addressed the Council. She is seeking the support of the community. Mrs. Burleigh provided her contact information:

www.pamburleigh.com (website), 337-308-4976 (phone), and contact@pamelaburleigh.com (email)

Mrs. Julie Emerson, candidate for House District 39 Representative which covers the southern portion of Opelousas, addressed the Council. She is also seeking support for her campaign.

Ms. Lena Charles announced that the Elderly Awareness meeting will be held on 08/26/2015 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Opelousas Civic Center. She also announced that the 33rd annual Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival will be held on 09/05/2015 with bands starting at 12:00 p.m.

Alderman Julius Alsandor announced that the start of the new school year is 08/13/2015.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman J. Tyrone Glover, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR