

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2014

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 12th day of November 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr. presiding, the meeting was called to order.

The Mayor requested the City Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Julius Alsandor 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 10/14/2014.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: *adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 17-A*, "Approve the confirmation of Shone C. Richard from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 11/07/2014"; *Item No. 17-B*, "Approve the confirmation of Robert S. Taylor from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 11/07/2014"; *Item No. 17-C*, "Approve the confirmation of Jeremy J. Bias from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014"; *Item No. 17-D*, "Approve the confirmation of Bowman B. Bob from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014"; *Item No. 17-E*, "Approve the confirmation of Christopher J. Kimble from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014"; *Item No. 17-F*, "Approve the confirmation of Gary R. Lazard from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014"; *Item No. 17-G*, "Approve the confirmation of Romalis O. Thomas from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014"; *Item No. 17-H*, "Award contract for the Relocation of 6" waterline (Walnut Street) Project, MGA Project W#258, to Bihm Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$87,566.60"; *Item No. 17-I*, "Authority to go into Executive Session for Discussion by Attorney Pride Doran regarding Final Bill for Services from Doran & Cawthorne Law Firm".

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation from citizens' group regarding Lakeview Subdivision. Dr. Savon Ewell and Mr. Johnathan Williams, residents of Lakeview Subdivision addressed the Council regarding various concerns in their subdivision. Mr. Williams gave out a letter that was addressed to the Mayor and Council regarding these concerns. He started off by talking about the lift station which has a sewerage blockage in it. He pointed out that he has observed that in the last nine or ten days a large truck has been making several runs per day to dispose of the sewerage backup. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that the City is working on an 8" force main line and they think the blockage is behind the Super 8 Motel and they are addressing this issue. Mrs. Patricia Barnaba, Sewer Department, clarified that they are having problems at the Olinde's Lift Station by the Civic Center and they were trucking the sewerage from that location to the Lakeview station which is working fine. She stated that the other day they found a blockage behind the Super 8 Motel and they were able to dislodge some of it. Mr. Williams then went on to address the absence of lighting on or around the TEMCO property enclosed by Linwood Loop, Ernestine Drive, Terry Street and Lakeview Drive. This span of property is almost centrally located in the subdivision and is very low. Mayor Cravins asked if Mr. Williams had requested lighting for this area. Ms. Balthazar stated that Mr. Williams had come in today and made the request. Mr. Williams pointed out that there have been some recent break-ins in the subdivision. He stated that the police chief was there last night and he has come once or twice before along with another officer. He also pointed out that there is a rehabilitation facility in that area and in the past the facility has had some people to escape and they have used that dark canal to escape through the subdivision to the road. The next item discussed was the cleaning of the canal in the subdivision. Mr. Williams stated that TEMCO, which is the property owner, should be responsible for this cleaning. Mayor Cravins stated that if it is not taken care of by the property owner then the City Code Enforcement Department will clean it and bill the property owner. Ms. Balthazar stated that some of the other concerns will also have to be addressed by the Code Enforcement Department. Finally, Mr. Williams talked about the commercialization that has occurred in the subdivision. He pointed out that there were one or two residents who decided to go into business and were repairing vehicles in the neighborhood. He stated that this issue has been addressed and the resident has agreed to move his business elsewhere. Mayor Cravins instructed Ms. Balthazar to handle any issues that still needed to be addressed in the subdivision.

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Discuss request from Mrs. Melanie Lee Lebouef to amend Tourism budget line item 54560-3420 (Historic Preservation Grant) in the amount of \$5,800.00 due to recent grant funding. This Certified Local Government Grant is to develop a panel exhibit dedicated to the interpretation of Creole and Zydeco in this area. Mrs. Melanie Lebouef stated that the Lighting of the Le Vieux Village would be held on Friday, December 5, 2014 and that the Opelousas Children's Christmas Parade would be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014. Mayor Cravins asked Ms. Balthazar about the street lighting on Main Street. Mrs. Balthazar stated that every time the lights get overheated they cut off and then they come back on. Mayor Cravins stated that they have long stretches with no lights. Mayor Cravins pointed out that they need to set up a meeting with CLECO to address this issue before the parade.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to approve the request from Mrs. Melanie Lee Lebouef to amend Tourism budget line item 54560-3420 (Historic Preservation Grant) in the amount of \$5,800.00 due to recent grant funding. 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 request for pre-approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 628 Creswell Lane to open a Beauty Salon (B & M Rental / A LA Belle Salon). A Public Hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 11/10/2014. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for **pre-approval** for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 628 Creswell Lane to open a Beauty Salon (B & M Rental / A LA Belle Salon).

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

Engineers Monthly Report. Mr. William Jarrell was not in attendance.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

At this time, Mayor Cravins announced that he had a Proclamation of Sympathy to present to the family of the late Mrs. Viola Duplechain LaDay. Mrs. LaDay was the mother of Mr. Joseph LaDay, a member of the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

PROCLAMATION OF SYMPATHY

A PROCLAMATION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF MRS. VIOLA DUPLECHAIN LADAY "MAMMA SISTER"

WHEREAS, on Tuesday October 21, 2014, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called from the earthly abode, Mrs. Viola Duplechain LaDay, and;

WHEREAS, her death has resulted in the loss of a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend, and;

WHEREAS, Mrs. LaDay was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. award in 2003 by the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette. In 2001, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for sixty-four Years of service with the Knights of Peter Claver. She was a faithful member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic. She spent part of her lifetime visiting and praying with the residents of the Acadia-St. Landry Nursing home in Church Point, LA, and;

WHEREAS, Mrs. LaDay leaves to carry her legacy, her daughters, Marjorie Lee Meche of Church Point and Marjorie Nell Broussard and husband, Preston of Fairfield, CA; sons, Joseph Lee LaDay of Opelousas, Aaron LaDay and wife, Joy of Sacramento, CA, Martin Lee LaDay and wife, Margaret of Church Point, and Bert James LaDay of Church Point; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren

WHEREAS, Mrs. LaDay was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, Leon LaDay; Sisters, Lelia Brown, Josephine Johnson, Ruth Anderson, and Sill Frank; and brothers, Willie Duplechain, Willie Duplechain, Ruth Anderson, Warren Duplechain, Buster Pitre, and Remi' Duplechain.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, that they hereby express their profound regret on the death of Mrs. Viola Duplechain LaDay, "Mama Sister", and that they do extend their sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends in this time of their bereavement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proclamation is presented to the family of the deceased.

Done and signed on this 23rd day of October, 2014

Donald Cravins, Sr., Mayor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DECEASED

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At this time, Alderman Julius Alsandor asked that they take a moment of remembrance in honor the late Mr. Woodrow Thompson who passed away recently. Mr. Thompson was instrumental in providing activities for our young on the North end of the park with tennis and his accolades that he achieved during his time and what he gave back to this City. Alderman Alsandor stated that he would like the City to make a presentation either next month or at the beginning of the new year in honor of Mr. Woodrow Thompson.

PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ms. Eva Iford is being honored by People's Health Company at the New Orleans Saints game on Sunday, November 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Iford is being honored for having demonstrated excellence through exceptional achievement and has been deemed a "People's Health Champion"; and

WHEREAS, this program is about honoring people who, after reaching the age of 65, have demonstrated excellence through experience; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Iford began the First Harvest Community Garden, in the 1300 block of Mouton Street, in Opelousas in 1991; and

WHEREAS, this free community garden allows partners to grow their own food and teaches young people about gardening and responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald R. Cravins, Sr., Mayor of the great City of Opelousas, hereby proclaim Sunday, November 16, 2014, as

"EVA IFORD DAY"

In the Historic City of Opelousas, Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Opelousas to be affixed this 12th day of November 2014.

Donald R. Cravins, Sr., Mayor

BIDS

Accept Bids for Off-site Fuel (Bid #09-14).

Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Off-site Fuel (Bid #09-14), NO BIDS were received. This item will be passed over. No action taken at this time.

CONSENTS

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin 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 Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Brandon R. Harris from Probational Police Sergeant to Permanent Police Sergeant, effective 10/13/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Michael L. Hidalgo from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 10/28/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Nelson B. Simmons from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 10/28/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the extended sick leave of Permanent Police Lieutenant Donald R. Young, effective 05/14/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the extended sick leave of Permanent Police Sergeant Baxter B. Iford, effective 09/09/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Shone C. Richard from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 11/07/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Robert S. Taylor from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 11/07/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Jeremy J. Bias from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Bowman B. Bob from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014.

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On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Christopher J. Kimble from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Gary R. Lazard from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Romalis O. Thomas from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 11/10/2014.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to award contract for the Relocation of 6" waterline (Walnut Street) Project, MGA Project W#258, to Bihm Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$87,566.60.

A roll call vote of the Consents Section was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cravins recognized Ms. Sherrell Roberts who was recently elected to be the new Councilwoman for District "D" and Mrs. Hazel Sias who just won a seat back on the School Board.

Alderman Julius Alsandor announced that November 24-28, 2014 is the Holiday for Thanksgiving and school will be closed. He also pointed out that this earlier this year Supreme Court made a ruling on a monumental act that took place 50 years ago—the Voting Rights Act in 1965. He stated that it is so vitally important that we get out and exercise our right; if you fail to do that, you are not only doing injustice to yourself and those that are coming after those of us who sit up here but especially those who fought for that right.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go in to Executive Session at 5:48 p.m. to discuss the Final Bill for Services from Doran & Cawthorne Law Firm with Attorney Christopher Lear representing the law firm.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 5:53 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve request for payment of invoices submitted by the Doran & Cawthorne Law Firm for payment in the amount of \$17,500.00 for Legal Services from 2nd Quarter 2013 to 4th Quarter 2014, pending review of invoices by City Council and City Finance 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.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR