

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Julius Alsandor presiding, the meeting was called to order.

Mayor Alsandor requested the Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed for the family of the late Mr. Wilfred Malveaux, Public Works Department employee. Alderman Milton Batiste III led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Fontenot led the Prayer.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 01/08/2019 with any necessary changes. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved accept the following changes to the agenda: deleting under the Introduction of Ordinances Section, Item No. 11, "INTRODUCTION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO OBTAIN A BUSINESS VISA CARD TO CONDUCT BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS"; and Item No. 12, "INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1, SECTION 12 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, INCORPORATING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY CERTAIN PROPERTY AND CHANGING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY ACCORDINGLY (STATESMAN STREET)". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford and unanimously carried, it was resolved accept the agenda, with the approved changes.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Alsandor allowed announcements to be made at the beginning of the meeting so that the large majority that were in attendance could hear them before the Council goes into Executive Session.

Mayor Alsandor announced that the City-wide Trash Bash will be held on March 16, 2019. He stated that the City will be putting up the trash cans as were used in the past around the City and asked that everyone be participatory and interact in that and keep the City of Opelousas clean.

There will be a circus coming to town and will be held at the South City Park beginning next Monday at 4:00 p.m. and two shows on Tuesday.

On Sunday, March 3, 2019, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mardi Gras and Chicken Run Parade starting from the Yambilee Parade. For more information, please contact Ms. Eva Noel at 337-412-5664.

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019 (Fat Tuesday), Frank's Mardi Gras Parade will start at the corner of Waillor and Landry near Tiger Trax.

Mr. Wilbert Levier stated that Holy Ghost Church will be having a Fish Fry Dinner Sale on Ash Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from Mr. Levier.

Ms. Verline Davis addressed the Council about 746 W. Merrill Street, which is a mud street and has a busted water pipe that has been that way for over four weeks. She stated that she can hardly get in and out of her driveway. The Mayor assured her that his office will write up a work order and have someone to go out to that location for repairs.

Mr. Eric Williams with the "Guns Down, Power Up" program stated that he teaches kids how to play chess as an alternative to killing each other in the streets. He pointed out that at the end of the day, they will have to work together because the kids do not see politics. He stated that he will be doing fundraisers in order to get his 501C3 so that he can do more for the kids. His next fundraiser will be on February 23, 2019.

Ms. Joella Leblanc addressed the Council regarding several issues. First, she spoke about a problem with her water bill. She stated that she has been receiving a \$70.00 water bill so she turned off the water at the building using her private cut-off valve. However, she still received a \$70.00 bill after that. She hired a plumber and it was found that she did not have any leaks. She then contacted the billing department again and her meter was changed and she was able to receive a \$329 credit. She commented that this policy should be revisited because she did not pay her bill in credits and if she were to die, who gets her credit? Her next issue involved Cleco and its operating hours. The office is closed from 11:00-12:00 for lunch and closes again at 3:30 p.m. for the day. She also stated that many elderly do not have access to computers to pay their bills online and when they call the office, no one answers the phone. Her third issue involved drainage problems throughout the City. She has neighbors that have been complaining about drainage issues for over three years. There is stagnant water on the corner of Railroad and Vine Streets. She stated that all of the Council members should be able to answer any and all questions from their constituents and there should be no shame in not knowing the answer but shame in not getting the answer and getting back with that person. She stated that she is always open for constructive discussion.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Discuss approval of request for VARIANCE of property located in a C1 (Commercial 1) Zone located at 5524 I-49 N. Service Road to install a 105" monument sign (AAA Signs – Sterling Ford Pre-Owned). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 02/11/2019 regarding this matter and recommended approval of this request. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the request for

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VARIANCE of property located in a C1 (Commercial 1) Zone located at 5524 I-49 N. Service Road to install a 105" monument sign (AAA Signs – Sterling Ford Pre-Owned). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:  
YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

Discuss approval of request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a C1 (Commercial 1) Zone located at 621 W. Landry Street to open an automotive repair shop (Shane Marks). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 02/11/2019 regarding this matter and recommended approval of this request. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a C1 (Commercial 1) Zone located at 621 W. Landry Street to open an automotive repair shop (Shane Marks). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:  
YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

Presentation by City Attorney: Discuss Pothole Claims for the following Claimants:

- a. James Green – Mr. Green hit an open manhole cover on Madison and Cane Streets on 01/03/2019 following heavy rains. His vehicle was towed from the scene and was in impound for five days. Mr. Brent Aymond, Public Works Director, stated that there are about a half dozen manhole covers that are prone to come off during heavy rains. Attorney Broussard recommends denial of Mr. Green’s claim for payment of towing and storage charges. Alderman Batiste asked Mr. Green if he made a police report after the incident and Mr. Green confirmed that he did make a report. Alderman Ford pointed out that the report stated that there was no damage to his vehicle. Alderman Batiste asked how many days the vehicle was in storage and Attorney Broussard stated that the truck was brought in on 01/03/2019 and released on 01/12/2019. Alderman Batiste made a recommendation that they pay Mr. Green for one day of charges. The motion died for lack of a second.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to accept the Attorney’s recommendation to deny the full claim. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings and Sherell Roberts.  
NAYS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford and Chasity Davis.  
ABSENT: None.

**THE MOTION FAILS. CLAIM IS DENIED.**

- b. Latricia Lewis - item passed over because claimant was not present
- c. Lytonia Mickens - item passed over because claimant was not present
- d. Monique Prince - item passed over because claimant was not present
- e. Wanda Jordan - item passed over because claimant was not present

Engineer’s Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell stated that final plans for the Judson Walsh Bridge Project were delivered to DOTD today and the project is scheduled to be let for bids in June. He also stated that City utilities will need to be relocated at the City’s expense prior to starting on this project. Alderman Ford requested an update on the Plaisance Street Bridge. Mr. Jarrell stated that he prepared a letter with an estimate but has been given no direction on this matter. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to accept the Engineer’s Monthly Status Report. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

**BIDS**

Accept Bids for Roof Replacement at the Central Fire Station located at 1334 S. Union Street. (Architects Project No. A-18-08). Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World* for Bids for Roof Replacement at the Central Fire Station located at 1334 S. Union Street. (Architects Project No. A-18-08), three (3) bids were received:

**ROOF REPLACEMENT  
CENTRAL FIRE STATION FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS**

*Bids Received February 12, 2019 until 2:00 p.m.  
Bids Opened February 12, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.*

Bidder/Company License #	Base Bid (\$)	ADN #1	Corp. Resol. Or other Doc'tn	Bid Bond	COMMENTS
Marcore Roofing, LLC Roanoke, LA Lic # 56879	\$202,000.00	✓	✓	✓	
Industrial Roofing & Construction Sterlington, LA Lic # 50505	\$379,940.00	✓	✓	✓	
Rycars Construction, LLC Kenner, LA Lic #39349	\$356,520.00	✓	✓	✓	

Certified Copy of Bids Received

BIDS UNDER ADVISEMENT

By: Leisa S. Anderson  
Leisa S. Anderson, CMC City Clerk

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On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to take the bids under advisement and award to the lowest bidder meeting specifications. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

**CONSENTS**

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Aldermen Milton Batiste and Charles Cummings and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the following items under the Consents Section:

Award contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (Disinfection Facilities) Project, MGA Project STP#81, to Tullier Services, LLC in the amount of \$1,560,000.00.

Accept the Street Improvements (Wartell Street, Mary Ann Street, and College Avenue) Project, MGA Project S#523, as substantially complete. (Contractor: Coastal Bridge Company, LLC)

Authority to advertise for Bids for Uniforms in the Police Department.

Authority to advertise for Bids for the following in the Public Works Department: (a) Type E Multi-Grade Mix; (b) Type B Cold Mix, and (c) Chlorine.

Approve the working test period for Roman D. West from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/08/2018. Employee has received P.O.S.T. certification.

Accept the resignation of Permanent Police Communications Officer Mildred D. Yowl, effective 01/04/2019.

Accept the resignation of Permanent Police Sergeant Crystal R. Leblanc, effective 01/05/2019.

Approve the confirmation of Joseph S. Aymond from Probational Assistant Police Chief to Permanent Assistant Police Chief, effective 02/12/2019.

Approve the confirmation of Mark A. Guidry from Probational Police Major to Permanent Police Major, effective 02/12/2019.

Approve the recommendation of Police Chief Martin McLendon to hire Ryan S. Shaw in the position of Police Recruit, effective 02/24/2019, pending positive outcome of physical assessment.

Approve the recommendation of Police Chief Martin McLendon to hire Trahnieceia J. Gallien in the position of Police Recruit, effective 02/24/2019, pending positive outcome of physical assessment.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (Executive Session)**

Recommendation by Police Chief Martin McLendon of suspension without pay for one (1) day (8 hours) for Police Officer First Class Yolanda Lewis for "Unbecoming Conduct".

Recommendation by Police Chief Martin McLendon of suspension without pay for one (1) day (8 hours) for Police Sergeant Catina Guilbeau for "Unbecoming Conduct".

Both officers stated that they had no problem with having the hearings publicly. Attorney Broussard explained Executive Session to both officers and after this both officers requested Executive Session.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. to discuss the Disciplinary Actions for Police Officer First Class Yolanda Lewis and Police Sergeant Catina Guilbeau. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Marvin Richard (*stepped out*).

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 7:15 p.m.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept Police Chief Martin McLendon's recommendation of suspension without pay for one (1) day (8 hours) for Police Officer First Class Yolanda Lewis and Police Sergeant Catina Guilbeau for "Unbecoming Conduct". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK

  
MAYOR