

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2020**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 14th day of January 2020 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. Rev. Gregory Laday of First Apostolic Church led the prayer. Mr. Fred Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 12/10/2019. 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 Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to APPROVE the following changes to the agenda:

Under the PRESENTATIONS Section:

Correcting Item No. 11, “*(Polar Group Development – McCarthy Enterprise should be Point Group Development – McCarthy Enterprise)*” and “***SITE PLAN approval***”.

Adding Item No. 7A, “*Presentation by Ms. Lavonya Malveaux*”.

Deleting Item No. 10(b), “*Mayor’s Appointments: Chief Financial Officer*”.

Under the CONSENTS Section:

Adding Item No. 25A, “*Accept the resignation of Probational Police Officer Aaronisha J. Washington, effective 01/10/2020, and, pending verification by Fire and Police Civil Service, approve payment for forty-eight (48) hours of unused annual leave*”.

Adding Item No. 25B, “*Grant authority for Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagement for Governments*”.

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 Charles Cummings, it was resolved to ACCEPT the agenda as a whole with the approved changes. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Billing Cycle for City water bills will be 30-day cycles instead of 60-day cycles. Mayor Alsandor announced that beginning on 03/01/2020, the City of Opelousas water bill cycles will be on a 30-day cycle with a 10-day grace period, thereby eliminating the 60-day period prior to cutoff.
- Mrs. Delores Guillory announced that the City received a donation check from Cleco for sponsorship of the Opelousas Museum’s Black History Program which will be held on 02/06/2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Mayor Julius Alsandor. Mayor Alsandor stated that last year was their first year working together as an administrative team and they were able to make steps toward progress. They have tried to keep communicative lines open and make sure they address some of the issues in the City of Opelousas. He recognized the Supervisors and Department Heads. Mayor Alsandor also presented Mr. Fred Henderson with a plaque recognizing him for the outstanding job he does with the City as its Street Supervisor in the Public Works Department. At this time, Mayor Alsandor presented a recap of the highlights of his administration in 2019 which included receiving 2nd place in the State Cleanest City Contest; accomplished 35 demolitions last year which will enhance the beautification of the City; as of 07/01/19, extended the work hours to accommodate the citizens who could not get here early in the day; started online water bill payments; provided a more secure work environment for the employees; repaired the 2 street sweepers which are being used now on a regular basis; implemented cost-saving measures for health insurance which will hopefully lower the premium cost for employees and several other similar measures. Mayor Alsandor also gave a brief video presentation which highlighted the various improvements and accomplishments made in 2019 for the City of Opelousas.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2020. Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, current Mayor Pro-Tem nominated Alderman Milton Batiste III for Mayor Pro-Tem for 2020. No other nominations or objections were made. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to appoint Alderman Milton Batiste III as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2020. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Appointment of Committees for 2020.

Budget Committee:

Milton Batiste III, Chairman

Charles Cummings, Vice Chairman

Sherell Roberts

Floyd Ford

Personnel Committee:

Charles Cummings, Chairman

Sherell Roberts, Vice Chairwoman

Milton Batiste III

Chasity Davis

General Services Committee:

Chasity Davis, Chairwoman

Charles Cummings, Vice Chairman

Floyd Ford

Marvin Richard

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Mayor's Appointments:

a. Chief Administrative Officer – Mr. Purvis Morrison

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to ratify the Mayor's appointment of Mr. Purvis Morrison as Chief Administrative Officer. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

b. Chief Financial Officer (Item Deleted)

c. Official Journal (Newspaper) – The Daily World will remain the Official Journal for 2020.

Mayor Alsandor also noted that Kolder, Slaven and Company will remain the City Auditors; Mr. Travis Broussard will remain the City Attorney; and Ms. Leisa Anderson will continue to serve as the City Clerk for 2020.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval and SITE PLAN approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE at 1600 Block of S. Union Street to build and operate a Fitness Center/Barber Shop &/Smoothie Shop on the property referenced above (**Point** Group Development – McCarthy Enterprise). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 01/13/2020 and recommended approval of this request. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE approval and SITE PLAN approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE at 1600 Block of S. Union Street to build and operate a Fitness Center/Barber Shop &/Smoothie Shop on the property referenced above (**Point** Group Development – McCarthy Enterprise). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

Discuss request for SITE PLAN approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE at 1122 S. Union Street to build and open a car wash at the location referenced above (UST Opelousas LLC – Wayne Champagne). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 01/13/2020 and recommended approval of this request. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the request for SITE PLAN approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE at 1122 S. Union Street to build and open a car wash at the location referenced above (UST Opelousas LLC – Wayne Champagne). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE at 604 N. Main Street to move an existing Tax Preparation Office to the property referenced above (Andre Pont LLC – Ella's Compro Tax). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 01/13/2020 and recommended approval of this request. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE at 604 N. Main Street to move an existing Tax Preparation Office to the property referenced above (Andre Pont LLC – Ella's Compro Tax). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

Presentation by City Attorney. No Report.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell gave a brief report on the following projects:

- (a) Waste Water Treatment Plant Disinfection, Project STP#81 – under construction and on schedule with projected completion date for end of February 2020.
- (b) Street Improvements (Veazie Street), Project S#535 – bids received on project 11/21/2019; recommendation of award made and submitted to Facility Planning & Control (FP&C) for concurrence; projected start date at end of February 2020 or beginning of March 2020.
- (c) Utility and Street Repairs (Oak Street). Project SC#248 – bids accepted at Morgan Goudeau on 12/19/2019; recommended award of contract for City to approve; bid awarded through State funds.
- (d) Judson Walsh Bridge, Project B#219 – under construction; projected completion date for late spring.

Presentation by Ms. Lavonya Malveaux. Ms. Malveaux, City Court Administrator, gave a brief presentation regarding Ms. Eman Boyd, a broadcast journalism student who recently graduated from University of Louisiana and who was recognized for her documentary about Sickle Cell Disease, entitled "Sickle Cell Warrior". Her documentary shares the life and struggles of those with sickle cell anemia. One case in particular was that of well-known Opelousas resident Mr. Don Anthony Vallien who passed away in May 2019. Don was the son of former mayor John Vallien. A screening of Ms. Boyd's documentary was held at the Opelousas Civic Center in April 2019 and it was a recipient of two Indy Fan Film nominations.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 3, "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS CODE OF ORDINANCES AND PROVIDING FOR NEW PROVISIONS REGULATING SALES AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. The City Attorney stated that this item could not be adopted tonight because it was worded incorrectly on the agenda. It should have read "Consideration for final adoption of an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 3 "Alcoholic Beverages" of the Code of Ordinances and Providing for New Provisions Regulating Sales and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages (vote required)." The Public Hearing was still held to discuss the matter and entertain any questions or comments from the public and/or the Council. Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:10 p.m. to discuss the particulars of the proposed ordinance to repeal Chapter 3, "Alcoholic Beverages" of the City of Opelousas Code of Ordinances and providing for new provisions regulating sales

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and consumption of Alcoholic Beverages. Mrs. Ms. Lena Charles, Taneshia Chenier, and Mr. James Bellard were among the public who had questions regarding the proposed ordinance changes, including changes to the Special events permits. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m. This matter will be revisited at next month's meeting. No action taken at this time.

CONSENTS

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to grant authority for a PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION/DEMOLITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

- a. James Jolivet & Mary Margaret Victorian (Wife), 725 & 727 Joseph Street, (2 Abandoned Mobile Homes)
- b. James Alvin Jolivet, Sr. & Mary Margaret Victorian (Wife), 723 Joseph Street, (Abandoned Mobile Home)
- c. Debra Bowman Etals c/o Cheryl Bowman, 431 W. Landry Street, (Abandoned Brick Veneer Structure)
- d. Angel Gail Thomas, 1614 Evans Street, (Abandoned Mobile Home)

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the following CONSENTS items:

- Award contract for the Street Improvements Project – Veazie Street (Landry to Vine), MGA Project S#535, to Le Talley Ho Construction Company, in the amount of \$178,725.00.
- Award contract for the Oak Street Sewer Repairs Project, MGA Project SC#248, to E.B. Feucht & Sons, LLC, in the amount of \$37,368.00.
- Accept the resignation of Permanent Fire Operator Logan Guillory and approve payment for two hundred forty (240) vacation hours and eight (8) bonus hours, effective 12/24/2019.
- Approve the working test period for Christopher K. Deckerlegand, Jr., from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/19/2019.
- Approve the working test period for KaLeah K. Dorsey from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/19/2019.
- Approve the working test period for Evan M. Sumrall from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/19/2019.
- Approve the working test period for DeAndra J. Thomas from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/19/2019.
- Approve the working test period for Aaronisha J. Washington from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/19/2019.
- Accept the resignation of Probational Police Officer Aaronisha J. Washington, effective 01/10/2020, and, pending verification by Fire and Police Civil Service, approve payment for forty-eight (48) hours of unused annual leave.
- Grant authority for Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagement for Governments.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:


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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderwoman Sherrell Roberts, seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR