

BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, April 4, 2012 @ 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, Jacqueline Martin, Blair Briggs, Joseph Charles  
ABSENT: None

- 1. Discussion of the sick leave and bonus days.* Ms. Laura Balthazar informed the committee that she needs authorization to go before the Municipal Civil Service Board on April 26, 2012 to discuss sick leave and bonus days. Ms. Balthazar stated that the intent is to have the civil service rule changed back to the original rule prior to September 1, 2006. The original rule, Section 2.12, states that an employee shall be paid at retirement, or his beneficiary shall be paid upon his death, for sick leave credited to his account at the rate of one-fourth day for each accumulated sick leave pay, provided that maximum payment shall be based on employee's regular rate of pay at retirement and not to exceed 30 days. The current rule states that an employee shall be paid the rate of one-half day for each accumulated sick leave pay, provided that maximum payment shall be based on employee's regular rate of pay at retirement and not to exceed 180 days. Ms. Balthazar also presented an addendum that was filed in evidence on May 15, 2009 in reference to Mrs. Barbara Thomas. ***On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was recommended to bring this item before the full council meeting for approval on April 10, 2012. All in favor.***

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the committee adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

PRESENT: Louis Butler, Chairman, Julius Alsandor, Reginald Tatum, Joseph Charles  
ABSENT: None

1. *Presentation by Mr. Richard Hollier, Municipal Civil Service Chairman.* Mr. Hollier spoke to the committee about the Municipal Civil Service Board. He stated that it is a brand new board and he has been here a long time and knows the history of civil service. Mr. Hollier stated that we need to work as a team. Mr. Hollier informed the committee that the Civil Service Board does not hire employees, they just make recommendations. Mr. Hollier wants to keep the current board intact and would like the committee to recommend that Ms. Jackson be reappointed for another six year term ***On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was recommended to reappoint Ms. Jackson to the Municipal Civil Service Commission for another term. All in favor.***
2. *Discussion regarding a revised horse ordinance.* Ms. Laura Balthazar informed the committee that the ordinance that governs horses in the city needs to be amended. Several serious incidents have occurred within the city regarding horses. Ms. Balthazar stated that the city needs to really get serious about the issues regarding horses. ***On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was recommended to introduce an amendment to Ordinance # 10 Section 4.3; Roaming at large prohibited, at the full council meeting. All in favor.***
3. *Discussion regarding mobile homes as it relates to the Zoning Ordinance.* Ms. Laura Balthazar informed the committee that recently two mobile homes were moved into the city that did not meet up to code. Code Enforcement currently only requires pictures of the mobile homes prior to them coming into the city. Ms. Balthazar would like to amend the mobile home ordinance that would require that Code Enforcement physically inspect the mobile homes prior to them being moved to the city. The inspection would cost the customer a fee of \$25.00. This fee will cover the cost of expenses for the department to do the inspection. Mr. Smith inquired what the city would do with the twenty-five dollar fee. Mrs. Margaret Doucet stated that the fee will cover the cost of expenses for the inspection. Mrs. Doucet stated that before they were only required to bring pictures and they were only bringing pictures that they wanted them to see. Alderman Louis Butler,

Jr., stated that this amendment may actually save the constituents money because now they are allowed to bring the mobile home into the city with only pictures but upon inspection, they can be required to incur more costs if repairs have to be made to bring the mobile home up to code; therefore they will not lose any money. Mr. Paul Gennuso stated that the committee should also consider imposing a fee on the mobile home haulers because they sometimes bring them in on weekends. ***On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was recommended to introduce an amendment to the mobile home ordinance. All in favor.***

4. *Discussion by Attorney Tommy Dejean in regards to Mr. Ken Vidrine.* Mr. Dejean informed the committee that his client only wants what is due to him. Mr. Dejean presented calculations of what Mr. Vidrine should have received and what he feels is still owed to Mr. Vidrine. Mr. Dejean stated that the city settled a case with Mrs. Barbara Thomas and he just wants them to pay Mr. Vidrine the same way they paid Mrs. Thomas. This issue will be discussed at the full council meeting. ***No action taken.***

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the general services committee was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012  
*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING*

PRESENT: Jacqueline Martin, Chairman, Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, Louis Butler, Jr. ABSENT: None

1. *Discuss DISCIPLINARY ACTION for the following employees:*
  - a. *Yolanda Lewis.* Mrs. Yolanda Lewis stated that she wanted to discuss this issue in an open meeting. Chief Gallow forwarded a recommendation to the council in regards to Mrs. Lewis. The recommendation was for termination due to recent events and several past issues. Chief Gallow stated that his recommendation was not made due to the arrest but for other violations of the policies and procedures. Chief Gallow also stated that this decision was disturbing and disheartening but had to be made. Chief Gallow asked the committee to support his recommendation. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that in the past, the council has never terminated any employee prior to a conviction and was worried about making a blind decision. Chief Gallow spoke regarding other violations that have occurred in regards to Officer Yolanda Lewis and how she was ordered to show up to a pre-disciplinary hearing and refused to attend which is also a violation. Mr. Jarvis Claiborne is representing Mrs. Lewis and stated that his client has a right not to testify. Mr. Claiborne stated that the Chief acted too quickly because his client has been falsely accused and falsely judged. Mr. Claiborne stated that the guaranty hearing is a joke and sham. Mr. Claiborne informed the committee that he knows of a high ranking officer that went to Ville Platte police department and asked them to charge Mrs. Lewis and her husband. Mr. Claiborne is asking that the committee not bring this issue to the full council but to shut it down in committees. Chief Gallow stated that the disciplinary hearing is not a joke; it is what governs the police department. Every officer is given a copy when hired. Chief Gallow allowed Lt. Grimmett to address the committee in regards to the process when an internal investigation has to be performed. Mr. Germon Morgan spoke as a character witness for Mrs.

Lewis. Several other members from the audience spoke in favor of Mrs. Lewis. ***On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was recommended that this issue be tabled until Mrs. Lewis is convicted in a court of law. Yeas: Alderman Reginald Tatum, Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin. Nays: Alderman Blair Briggs.***

b. ***Donald Tyler.*** Mr. Kim Fontenot, Public Works Director, stated that the small animal warden is on call twenty-four hours. Mr. Fontenot stated that on February 12, 2012, Mr. Tyler was called out and was involved in an accident. Mr. Tyler was tested by the officer at that accident and was intoxicated. Mr. Tyler was charged with a DWI. Mr. Donald Tyler stated that he accepts his responsibility and knows what he did was wrong. Mr. Tyler stated that this was his first offense and asked the committee to give him a second chance. Mr. Tyler stated that he has been to a substance abuse meeting and has four classes left to attend. ***On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was recommended to suspend Mr. Tyler for thirty days which he has already served, adding a restriction that Mr. Tyler cannot drive any city vehicles and he continues his substance abuse classes. Yeas: Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, Alderman Reginald Tatum, Alderman Louis Butler, Jr. Nays: Alderman Blair Briggs.***

c. ***Clarence Howard.*** Mr. Clarence Howard was not in attendance. Mr. Howard was served. ***On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was recommended to approve the termination of Mr. Clarence Howard. All in favor.***

d. ***Quinn Lewis.*** Mr. Kim Fontenot stated that Mr. Lewis violated two Municipal civil service rules and recommended termination. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that Mr. Lewis has not been found guilty in a court of law. ***On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was recommended that Mr. Quinn Lewis return to work until he is proven guilty in a court of law. Yeas: Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, Alderman Reginald Tatum, Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., Nays: Alderman Blair Briggs.***

2. ***Approve the recommendation for suspension for Police Communications Officer Pamela Thompson for eight (8) hours without pay for "leaving while on duty***

*without proper authorization” and suspension for twelve (12) hours without pay for “failing to answer incoming telephone calls”. Chief Gallow stated that Ms. Thompson left her post without permission from a supervisor. **On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was recommended to approve the recommendation for suspension for Police Communications Officer Pamela Thompson for eight hours without pay for “leaving while on duty without proper authorization” and suspension for twelve hours without pay for “failing to answer incoming telephone calls”. All in Favor.***

3. *Approve the recommendation for suspension of Police Officer Segus Jolivette for forty (40) hours without pay for violation of Opelousas Police Department policies regarding his conduct in the apprehension of a suspect. Chief Gallow stated that Officer Segus Jolivette was shoved by a prisoner and responded by punching the prisoner in the stomach twice. **On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was recommended to approve the suspension of Police Officer Segus Jolivette for forty (40) hours without pay for violation of Opelousas Police Department policies regarding his conduct in the apprehension of a suspect. All in favor.***

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Briggs, the personnel committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.