

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2013

Formatted: Left: 1", Height: 11"

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8th of January 2013 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: Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

A moment of silent meditation was observed and Alderman Blair Briggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 12/11/2012.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: *deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 8*, "Presentation by representatives from the Boys & Girls Club regarding club status"; *deleting under the INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Section, Item No. 15*, "INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE FEE"; *adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 18-A*, "Appointment of City Attorney"; and *Item No. 19-A*, "Ratify the hiring of four firemen, effective 12/31/2012..."; *adding under the ANNOUNCEMENTS Section*, "February Council Meeting rescheduled..."; moving Item No. 18, "Appointment of the Mayor Pro-Tempore" from the CONSENTS Section to Item No. 13-A under the PRESENTATIONS Section.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for December 2012 is Mr. Wilfred Malveaux. Mr. Malveaux is an Equipment Operator with the Street Department and he has two sons.

Special Presentation. Mayor Cravins made a presentation on behalf of the City to Mr. Darryl Wagley. Mr. Wagley was presented with a plaque in honor of his dedicated service as Projects Coordinator for the City of Opelousas.

Presentation by Mr. Raymond Batiste regarding the bridge and property on Mouton Street. Mr. Batiste lives at the corner of Park Avenue and Mouton Street. He has three lots by the bridge and the gully runs through his property. He was told that the City would put culverts in the gully but instead came and put weed killer for two years. After this the dirt began falling into the gully and the City obtained permission to come on his property to clean out the gully but they only dug it deeper and then sent him a letter requesting that he keep it clean. Mr. Batiste stated that now the water is sitting in the gully under the bridge and the mosquitoes are bad. He also stated that the bridge is bad now and he hopes that something can be done for safety reasons. Mayor Cravins stated that Ms. Laura Balthazar and Mr. Kim Fontenot will contact Mr. Batiste regarding this matter.

Presentation by Mrs. Melanie Lee-Lebouef regarding request for change to existing line item 54560-3370 (Advertising) to reflect grant award funding in the amount of \$18,950.00. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the amendment of line item 54560-3370 (Advertising) to reflect the \$18,950.00 grant received from Gulf Coast Tourism.

Discussion regarding request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$4,054.00 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for November 2012. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to amend the budget to increase the Municipal Civil Service attorney fees in the amount of \$4,054.00. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Julius Alsandor.

ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

THE MOTION PASSES.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2013

Discuss request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the budget in the amount of \$20,000.00 to help offset the cost of the findings of the Dept of Labor. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request to amend the budget in the amount of \$20,000.00 to help offset the cost of the findings of the Dept. of Labor for salaries (comp time).

Presentation by City Attorney. No business to discuss.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tempore. Alderman Reginald Tatum nominated Alderman Blair Briggs. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin. Alderman Julius Alsandor nominated Alderman Louis Butler, Jr. Alderman Butler stated that if he can't get the full support of the Council then he would like to withdraw his name from the nomination. Alderman Alsandor stated that there should be a process for the people who have served for years and that seniority should play a part in the selection. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to appoint Alderman Blair Briggs as Mayor Pro Tempore for 2013. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Julius Alsandor.

ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

ABSTAINED: Louis Butler, Jr.

THE MOTION PASSES

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. William Jarrell, City Engineer, stated that they have received approval for the Burr Street Bridge with recovery money from the Parish. They are waiting for the contracts to be returned from the contractors to start on the Water Tower project and the McCarthy Lane Bridge project.

BIDS

Accept Bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #01-13). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #01-13), one (1) bid was received:

<i>BIDDER NAME</i>	<i>BID AMOUNT</i>
SANDRA DAVIS	\$100.00 per month

The minimum bid was \$200.00. However, the Ms. Davis stated that she was not aware that she had to request a copy of the bid specifications. The City Clerk stated that the project should be re-advertised. Mayor Cravins stated that since Ms. Davis is the only bidder then she should be awarded the bid. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to allow Mrs. Sandra Davis to lease the North Park Concession Stand for \$100.00 per month. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Louis Butler, Jr., Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Julius Alsandor and Blair Briggs.

ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

THE MOTION PASSES.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:36 p.m. regarding the following abandoned buildings:

- a. Mercedes Arceneaux Fusilier, 1019 E. Jefferson Street – recommendation is condemnation for demolition.*
- b. Rose Schexnaider, c/o Edwina Wilson, 1022 Pandora Street – recommendation is condemnation for demolition.*
- c. Gilbert Austin Jr., 1008 S. Washington Street – recommendation is condemnation for demolition.*

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:38 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to accept the recommendations made by Mrs. Margaret Doucet in the Public Hearing. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
 OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 JANUARY 8, 2013

NAYS: None.
 ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

CONSENTS

At this time, Mayor Cravins nominated Mr. Garette Duplechain as City Attorney. Mr. Duplechain is a local attorney who has been practicing law for over 20 years. He is married and has 2 children. Mr. Duplechain is the son of Mr. Rhyn Duplechain, St. Landry Parish Tax Assessor. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to appoint Mr. Garette Duplechain as City Attorney.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.
 ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

On a motion by Aldermen Blair Briggs and Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the appointment of committees for 2013 as follows:

<u>Budget Committee</u>	<u>Personnel Committee</u>	<u>General Services</u>
<u>Committee</u>		
Julius Alsandor — Chairman	Jacqueline Martin – Chairman	Louis Butler, Jr. —
Chairman		
Jacqueline Martin — Vice-Chairman	Blair Briggs – Vice-Chairman	Julius Alsandor — Vice-
Chairman		
Reginald Tatum	Joseph Charles	Reginald Tatum
Blair Briggs	Louis Butler, Jr.	Joseph Charles
<u>Official Journal</u>	<u>Engineering Firm</u>	<u>Auditing Firm</u>
Daily World	Morgan Goudeau & Associates	Kolder, Champagne,
Slaven & Co.		

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.
 ABSENT: Joseph Charles.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to ratify the hiring of the following personnel in the Fire Department, effective 12/31/2012:

- a. Cidic Del Castillo
- b. Jeffrey Lero
- c. Darrion Williams
- d. John Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The February Council Meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, February 12, 2013 to Monday, February 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. City Hall offices will be closed on the February 12, 2013 in observance of Mardi Gras. City Hall offices will also be closed on January 21, 2013 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mr. Joseph Citizen discussed the on-going issues that he is still having with the horses. He stated that between Christmas and New Year's as he was driving on Pamella Street near East Street he encountered a group of seven or eight horse riders traveling on East Street at about 8 p.m.. He was at the stop sign about to proceed because he didn't see anything coming when one of riders yelled out. He pointed out that if they had not yelled out then he would have been run over by a horse. Mayor Cravins stated that there is an ordinance on the books now regarding this and it is an enforcement issue. Mayor Cravins stated that since no one from the Police Department was in attendance at this time to discuss the matter, he would place Mr. Citizen on next month's meeting agenda.

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy stated that Mr. Jacob Weaver was asking to serve on the Historic District Commission. She also stated that two months ago she handed out an outline for the Cherry Street Park. She asked if any councilmen have time to review the document because they don't want to lose the grant money. Alderman Alsandor suggested that they construct a multi-purpose center instead of building a park. Mayor Cravins stated

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2013

that they will not lose the money because they will use it at the other parks if they cannot use it for the sports park. Next, Dr. St. Clergy addressed concerns about the business that was started on Short Vine Street that is selling barbeque sandwiches. She stated that they have violations of several ordinances. She stated that this business has acquired a peddler's license but it seems that they have taken up residency in that spot. Mayor Cravins instructed Dr. St. Clergy and Mrs. Margaret Doucet to work together to see what the violations are in order to correct them. She also instructed Ms. Karen Frank to check into the peddler's license to see what applies.

Mr. Wilbert Levier is asking that the City grant the Street Department eight hours for the two events (Christmas parade and the Creole Festival parade) that they clean up for. Mayor Cravins stated that the City attorney will look into this matter to see if it is legal. The issue will be addressed at a future meeting.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR