

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2013**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 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: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. City Clerk Karen Frank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 07/29/2013.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: **deleting under the PUBLIC HEARINGS Section, Item No. 16, "A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT ORDINANCE(S) WITH REGARD TO LEVYING AND DEDICATION OF SALES AND HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SOLELY WITHIN HOTEL PROJECT TIF AREA"; adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 19-A, "Approve the recommendation to hire Chris D. Rideau in the Corrections Division to fill vacancy created by departure of Ms. Alice Mayfield, effective 08/23/2013"; adding under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 11-A, "Discussion regarding request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$2,071.31 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for July 2013".**

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month.* The Employee of the Month chosen for July 2013 is Mr. Tyrone Kennerson. Mr. Kennerson has been employed with the City of Opelousas Parks Department for seven years. The Employee of the Month chosen for August 2013 is Mrs. Darlene Breaux. Mrs. Breaux has been employed with the City of Opelousas for almost eight years and works in the City of Opelousas Municipal Civil Service Department.

*Presentation by Ms. Eugenia McKnight regarding the Med Express VIP Program.* Mr. Marvin Richard, Supervisor of Transportation for Med Express gave a presentation regarding the VIP Program now being offered. Mr. Richard explained that it is free to join this program and after joining the program, the member will receive discounts on ambulance and other health services. He pointed out that there is no enrollment deadline and those interested in joining can call 1-800-259-9771, go online at [www.myMEDex.net](http://www.myMEDex.net), mail in the application to the address listed on the card, or drop it off at the local office located at 708 S. Union Street.

*Discuss request for VARIANCE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 614 Creswell Lane to construct a Professional Office/Retail Store (Billy Fontenot/B & M Rental Properties, LLC).* A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 07/08/2013. 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 VARIANCE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 614 Creswell Lane to construct a Professional Office/Retail Store (Billy Fontenot/B & M Rental Properties, LLC).

*Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 421 N. Main Street to open a Professional Office (Global Financial Resources, Inc./CASA of St. Landry, Inc.).* A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 08/05/2013. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 421 N. Main Street to open a Professional Office (Global Financial Resources, Inc./CASA of St. Landry, Inc.).

*Discuss request for VARIANCE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 616 N. Main Street to open a Record Storage Facility (Doucet Enterprises, Inc./St. Landry File Depot).* A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 08/05/2013. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 616 N. Main Street to open a Record Storage Facility (Doucet Enterprises, Inc./St. Landry File Depot).

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS: (Budget Committee).**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, August 7, 2013 @ 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin

ABSENT: None

1. Discussion regarding the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget. Ms. Karen Frank, City Clerk, gave an overview of the 2012-2013 amended budget. She stated that the Fire Department and the Police Department will more than likely go over their budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. She stated that the City will probably maintain a flat budget for the proposed 2013-

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2013**

2014 budget. She pointed out that the 2 ½ percent increase for Municipal employees from last fiscal year, the 2 ½ percent increase for Municipal employees for this fiscal year, and the 2 percent state mandate for the Fire Department are the only increases being presented by the Mayor in the proposed next fiscal year budget. Also included in the 2013-2014 budget is the \$50.00 more per month per employee increase for group health insurance due to significant losses the City has been incurring over the last few years. Alderman Tatum pointed out that at the last Council meeting they voted for an increase for everyone, not just for the municipal employees. He wanted to know why that was not included in the budget since the Mayor could not veto it. Ms. Frank stated that the figures she gave are what the Mayor is proposing.

**City Court** has an increase of \$10,000 for health insurance and retirement benefits.

**City Marshal** will remain the same as last year's budget

**Purchasing** has an increase of \$10,000 for health insurance, retirement benefits, and 5 percent increase.

**Municipal Civil Service** has an increase in health insurance, retirement benefits and 5 percent increase but her budget reflects a decrease because there is money left over in her attorney's fees line item.

**Fire and Police Civil Service** had an increase in their amended budget of \$2,500 due to attorney's fees.

**City Planning (Executive)** includes payments to Boys & Girls Club (\$30,000 annually), Council on Aging (\$6,000 annually), rent for DMV office, City Attorney fees and Auditing Firm fees, and repairs and maintenance for City Hall and security cameras. Proposed 2013-2014 budget will reflect \$15,000 annually for Boys & Girls Club. Auditing Firm fees were originally taken from Executive but will be taken from City Planning beginning with 2013-2014 budget. There are no employees in the City Planning department. Alderman Briggs suggested that this would be a good department to look at if they need to make some cuts to fund other departments. Ms. Frank disagreed because she stated that there will have to be a lot of repairs made to City Hall in the future due to the leaking roof.

**Police** original budget was amended last month by \$25,000. Their budget will have an increase in health insurance. Proposed budget will be \$5.53 million.

**Fire** amended budget includes cost for Chief's new vehicle. Proposed budget will have an increase in retirement benefits and 2 percent state-mandated increase. Chief Cahanin stated that he has issues with his employees not receiving the whole increase amount and with the fact that employees who have been with the City less than three years or more than 20 years will not receive anything. Alderman Reginald Tatum pointed out again that the Council voted to pay all employees the 2 ½ percent increase and that it is law and should be included in the budget. Ms. Frank pointed out that additional monies for pay increases for the Fire and Police Departments will have to come from the City's fund balances. Chief Cahanin stated that they should start laying off employees in order to fund the pay increases and he would start with his department. Alderman Julius Alsandor stated that in three years they have not laid off employees—they have cut back to the bare minimum. Assistant Fire Chief John Saucier addressed the Board and read a statement saying that in 1966 the Civil Service Board was created for the City. Every administrator before them has given a 2 ½ percent increase to all City employees. He cited the fact that a former employee sued the City in a class action suit for back pay because they did not pay the 2 ½ percent increase for 3 years. He emphasized that the employees are put last when it comes to the budget. He stated that the employees should be taken care of from the top of the budget and not from the bottom with what is left. He pointed out that it is stated that the increase is for all employees. Alderman Tatum pointed out that the 17 illegally-appointed unclassified employees salaries equate to \$400,000 per year and that money could have been used to fund the pay increases for all of the employees. Police Chief Perry Gallow stated that he is constantly losing employees to other law enforcement agencies and private agencies because of pay issues. He stated that morale is at an all-time low now. Alderman Blair Briggs stated that they should meet the Fire and Police Departments halfway by giving an additional \$15,000 to Fire and an additional \$30,000 to Police. Chief Cahanin stated that he will not replace the employees who will be retiring soon so that he can have more money in his budget. Mr. Kim Fontenot stated that he does not think this is fair because the Municipal Civil Service employees cannot do this. Alderman Alsandor stated that he is not against raises but he wants to know how they will sustain it. He agrees that the numbers for the increase that was approved should be reflected in the budget even if they are vetoed later.

**Street** proposed budget needs an additional \$303,000 for improvement costs (Derailment costs - \$27,000; Heather Street Bridge, Sandoz Street Bridge, and Mouton Street Bridge repairs - \$236,000; and Karma Schad Culvert repairs - \$40,000). Mr. Fontenot stated that in regard to the 2 ½ percent increase, he feels that the City is obligated to pay Municipal Civil Service employees and are not obligated to pay Fire and Police but it is the right thing to do. Mr. Saucier stated that the Civil Service rules stated "all" employees. Ms. Linda Walker stated that these are the rules of the "Municipal Civil Service" which governs civil service employees. She pointed out that the Fire and Police Civil Service rules state that their employees can receive 365 days of sick leave per year but the Municipal Civil Service employees only receive 96 hours per year.

**Municipal Garage** budget will have an increase in health insurance and 5 percent increase and includes three full-time employees and one part-time employee.

**Code Enforcement** proposed budget is \$343,000 and reflects increases in health insurance, retirement benefits, and 5 percent increase. Code has lost several employees and does not have overtime costs. Ms. Margaret Doucet stated that the numbers need to reflect replacement of two employees—1 assistant and 1 laborer.

**City Court** – Ms. LaVonya Malveaux was in attendance but had to leave before her department was addressed.

**Parks and Recreation** proposed budget will have increases in health insurance, and 5 percent increase and includes funds for operation of North Park swimming pool.

**Tourism** proposed budget includes \$30,000 for Spice Festival fees. Alderman Briggs feels that festivals should be run by private associations and not by the City and this would free up \$30,000 for employee raises. Alderman Tatum asked for the revenue figures for the prior year's Spice Festival. Ms. Frank will get the revenue figures from last year's Spice Festival to give to the Board.

**Museum** – Ms. Delores Guillory was in attendance but had to leave before her department was addressed. Alderman Briggs stated that this department had approximately \$30,000 left over in their amended budget last fiscal year and was looking for something to spend it on. Ms. Frank pointed out that the Museum's proposed budget has been reduced by approximately \$3,000. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that the additional funds will be used for more exhibits.

**Community and Economic Development** has one full-time employee and one contract employee and includes Keep Opelousas Beautiful program. Projects in this program are funded by a refundable grant which the City has received.

At this time, Ms. Linda Walker asked the Fire Chief what year the Fire and Police Civil Service Board was established. No one had the answer to that question. Alderman Alsandor asked Ms. Walker what was the reason behind that question. Ms. Walker stated that Fire and Police employees stated they were included in Municipal Civil Service when it was created in 1966 and if Fire and Police Civil Service was created later on, then why would the Fire and Police employees still be included under Municipal Civil Service rules.

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2013**

Alderman Blair Briggs stated that they would need to meet again to go over the budget figures. Ms. Frank stated that she would bring all of this information to the Mayor for review. Alderman Alsandor suggested meeting again on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn until **Tuesday, August 13, 2013** at 4:30 p.m. for another Budget Committee Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, August 13, 2013 @ 4:45 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin

ABSENT: None

1. Discussion regarding the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget. Alderman Julius Alsandor read the minutes of the August 7, 2013 Budget Committee meeting noting that the meeting started at 4:30 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. A correction was made to the proposed budget amount for Code Enforcement. It was incorrectly stated in the minutes as \$343,000 but should be \$555,824. Ms. Karen Frank, City Clerk, gave an overview of the adjustments to the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget based on the suggestions made at the August 7, 2013 Budget Committee meeting. She stated that the Marshal's budget would change due to the purchase of two (2) vehicles with equipment and the 2 ½ percent increase. Street Department's ending fund balance will change due to projects that were in this fiscal year's budget will not be completed until next fiscal year's budget. Ms. Frank stated that she also submitted an estimated difference on raises between the current and proposed. She pointed out that these figures may go up based on overtime because she cannot estimate the amount of overtime. Ms. Frank also provided a financial statement as of today and it shows that the Fire and Police Departments will go over this fiscal year's budget. She stated that this financial analysis does not reflect the check run for July and August nor does it reflect the two other payrolls that will be included in this fiscal year. Ms. Frank pointed out that the employee raise for the 2012-2013 fiscal year will not be paid until the next fiscal year and therefore she will not know how it affects the budget until the end of September or early October. The projections show that the City is looking at going over by \$316,000 next fiscal year which will decrease the fund balance to \$840,914. They are projecting the fund balance of \$372,564 for this fiscal year. In the event that a couple of the departments go over as predicted, then this amount will go down. Alderman Blair Briggs asked about the recommendation that was made to cut the Spice Festival. Ms. Frank stated that the revenues last year for the Spice Festival were \$21,385 and the expenses were \$24,407 showing a loss of approximately \$3,000 on this event. Ms. Frank stated that to say they want to take it out this fiscal year and it is already in the process, it would be difficult to take it out this year. Alderman Briggs stated that in past years he knew that the Spice Festival had cost the City much more money. Alderman Alsandor stated that in the past, the Festival was three days but last year it was only a day and a half. City Planning's budget will include Civic Center expenses. Alderman Alsandor wanted to make sure that it was clear that this proposed budget does have the 5 percent increase for municipal employees and the 2 ½ percent increase for all employees including Fire, Police, City Marshal, and City Court. Alderman Briggs stated that the City needs to find \$316,000 before approving this budget. He pointed out that it is not balanced. Ms. Frank stated that she had explained that they may have more expenses than revenues but it is legal to adopt a budget as it is presented as long as the ending fund balance is not negative. Alderman Briggs stated that, legal or not, he just does not think it is the right thing to do. Ms. Frank pointed out that the balance would not have been as negative if the street projects from this year would have stayed in last fiscal year, but it increased the fund balance for last fiscal year by doing this. Ms. Frank stated that they were not going to find anywhere to cut \$316,000 unless they start cutting employees. Alderman Tatum referred to the lawsuit regarding the non-civil service employees. Ms. Frank stated that some of those employees have been here a long time and those positions would still have to be filled under Civil Service. Alderman Tatum stated that some of those positions are not needed. Ms. Frank stated that the judge ruled that those employees needed to go through Civil Service to be in those positions. She stated that Ms. Balthazar is working toward filling those positions through Civil Service. Alderman Alsandor stated that the Civil Service Chairman, the City Attorney and Mrs. Linda Walker have been working with the administration to rectify this situation. He stated that none of them disagree that there are some positions that should not be employed by the City right now. He stated that this issue is behind them and now they have to address the issues at hand. Alderman Briggs stated that additional cuts need to be made. Chief Perry Gallow requested a meeting with Ms. Frank to go over the projected overages in his budget. Alderman Tatum questioned Ms. Melanie Lebouef about the Spice Festival. She estimated expenses to be about \$10,000 because most of the expenses were offset by grants. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin suggested that the Spice Festival be a one-day event. Chief Lee Cahanin asked for clarification on the 2 ½ percent and 5 percent increases. Ms. Frank stated that the Fire Department will receive ½ percent for last fiscal year because they already received the 2 percent from the State but those who did not receive the State-mandated 2 percent will receive the 2 ½ percent from the City and 5 percent for the new fiscal year. Mr. Clarence Watson addressed the Board regarding the North Park swimming pool. He stated that he needs seven employees and the equipment and supplies to maintain and service the pool. Alderman Tatum suggested that he get his information together on what he needs and present it to the Board before the next council meeting. Ms. Frank stated that, if he could not get the information together before the next meeting, he could come before the Council at any time to have his budget amended for that line item. Mrs. Margaret Doucet stated that, in years past, Code Enforcement has gone out in the community and solicited funds and she would like to have that money transferred into her budget for the new fiscal year. Mr. Wilbert Levier asked the Fire Chief what other fringe benefits they are receiving in their department. Mr. Levier stated that he had not received any answer to his question. Ms. Frank asked if he was talking about supplemental pay. Alderman Tatum asked why the Fire and Police Departments are paid supplemental pay. Chief Cahanin stated that it is based on the fact that they do hazardous work. He stated that this is money the State provides that the City does not have to pay. Alderman Alsandor pointed out that a public hearing would be held at the Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., to adopt the budget.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Ms. Frank noted that the 5 percent increase listed for the new fiscal year is incorrect and should read 2 ½ percent for the new fiscal year. This budget will be discussed in detail during the Public Hearing.

*Discussion regarding request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$2,071.31 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for July 2013. On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$2,071.31 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for July 2013.*

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**August 22, 2013**

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor.

ABSENT: None.

*Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Garrett Duplechain will present the Ordinance to be adopted regarding amending Ordinance No. 6 of 2011 as it relates to the creation of a Judicial Building fund pursuant to LSA-RS 13:1910.*

*Engineer's Monthly Status Report.* The City Engineer was not present. Mr. Kim Fontenot, Public Works Director, gave an update on the progress of the Bridge Projects: McCarthy Lane Bridge is now open with just the fencing left to complete; Heather Street Bridge has been completely dismantled and is under construction and seven of the 14 pilings have been set.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:31 p.m. TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2011 AS IT RELATES TO THE CREATION OF A JUDICIAL BUILDING FUND PURSUANT TO LSA-RS 13:1910.* Attorney Garrett Duplechain stated that this was just a wording change in paragraph three. The Public Hearing was closed at 5:34 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 02 OF 2013

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2011 AS IT RELATES TO THE CREATION OF A JUDICIAL BUILDING FUND PURSUANT TO LSA-RS 13:1910.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature enacted LSA-RS 13:1910 (the "Act") which allows a city court to impose a service charge not to exceed ten dollars per filing in each proceeding where a fine is imposed or court costs are ordered to be paid which shall be in addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed; and,

WHEREAS, the Act further provides that all monies collected in accordance with the Act shall be forwarded to the court and placed in an account dedicated exclusively to the acquisition, leasing, construction, equipping, and maintenance of new and existing city courts and for the maintenance and payment of any bond indebtedness on any such existing facilities and that the court shall have control over the fund and all disbursements made from the fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Act requires the court to obtain prior approval of the local governing authority within the territorial jurisdiction of the court, through the adoption of a resolution or ordinance, before the fund is created and the fees authorized by the Act are imposed; and,

WHEREAS, the Opelousas City Court ("City Court") has requested approval from the City of Opelousas to create the judicial fund and impose the service charge as allowed by the Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Opelousas, Louisiana, that the City of Opelousas approves the request of the City Court to create a judicial fund and impose the service fee as allowed under LSA-RS 13:1910 as follows:

1. There shall be a Judicial Building Fund (the "Fund") established as allowed under LSA-RS 13:1910.
2. There shall be a service charge of ten (\$10.00) dollars per filing (the "Building Fee") in each proceeding in Opelousas City Court ("City Court") where a fine is imposed or court costs are ordered to be paid which shall be in addition to all other fines, costs, or forfeitures lawfully imposed.
3. The Building Fee shall be forwarded to City Court and placed in the Fund. The Judge of City Court shall have control over the Fund and all disbursements made from the Fund; however, the Fund shall be dedicated exclusively to the acquisition, leasing, construction, equipping, and maintenance of new and/or existing city court buildings and for the maintenance and payment of any bond indebtedness on any such existing facilities.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013, by Alderman Julius Alsandor, notice of public hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, a record vote was taken and the following results were had:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

---

CITY CLERK

---

MAYOR

*Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:35 p.m. CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:*

- a. Jimmy W. Hildreth, Inc., (1/2 Int.) ETALS, 116 E. Vine Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure) – *This property is involved in a lawsuit between Mr. Hildreth and Mrs. Vicki Kennedy Bergstrom. Mrs. Bergstrom now owns the property and her husband has secured the property and will rehabilitate the home. They are requesting four (4) months to rehabilitate the property. Recommendation is to allow four (4) months for rehabilitation of property.*
- b. Living Solutions, LLC, 901 Herman Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) – *The property has previously come before the Council and the recommendation was for condemnation. However the owner wants to sell the property and is requesting one (1) month to finish with the sale. Recommendation is to allow one (1) month before action of condemnation is taken.*

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:39 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to allow four (4) months for rehabilitation of property located at 116 E. Vine Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure).

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2013**

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to allow one (1) month for the prospective owner to process sale of the property located at 901 Herman Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) before action of condemnation is taken.

*A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT ORDINANCE(S) WITH REGARD TO LEVYING AND DEDICATION OF SALES AND HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SOLELY WITHIN HOTEL PROJECT TIF AREA. This item has been deleted and will be re-visited at the Council meeting in September.*

*Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:42 p.m. ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2013. City Clerk Karen Frank gave an overview of the amended budget and noted that some changes had been made since the last Budget Committee Meeting. Ms. Frank stated that \$91,000 is to remain in Public Works amended budget to pay for railroad spur repairs. This item was initially going to be placed in the new fiscal year's budget but the work was completed in this fiscal year. This will leave a fund balance of \$268,513. She stated that Fire Chief Lee Caharin is requesting an additional \$133,761 be added to his salary line item to finish out this fiscal year. The Public Hearing was closed at 5:52 p.m.*

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 03 OF 2013  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE  
OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2012  
AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2013

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen, of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana in general session convened that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed budget of Revenues for Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2012 and ending August 31, 2013, has been and the same was hereby amended to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, during the same period.

SECTION II. The attached budget of Expenditures by departments for the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2012 and ending August 31, 2013, has been and the same was hereby amended to serve as a budget of expenditures for the City during the said period.

SECTION III. The amending of this Operating Budget of Expenditures has been and the same was hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION IV. Amounts were available for expenditures only to the extent included with the 2012-2013 budget. Said Ordinance having been introduced on July 29, 2013, by Alderman Blair Briggs, notice of public hearings having been published, said public hearings having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, a record vote was taken and the following results were had:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

---

CITY CLERK

---

MAYOR

*Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:53 p.m. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014. Ms. Frank informed the Council of the changes to the new fiscal year budget. She stated there was an increase of \$17,160 more for Code Enforcement for new hires and an increase of \$349,274 more for the Fire Department for salaries due to increases in retirement and insurance costs. The auditor, Mr. Slaven, stated that these are projected numbers being presented and not audited numbers. He stated that once the numbers are audited then the picture is much worse. Alderman Reginald Tatum suggested that they wait until the September budget committee meeting to make a decision on the adoption of the budget. Comments were heard from Mr. Patrick Fontenot who pointed out that the City's revenues are stagnant and they need to look at acquiring new revenue sources. Ms. Judy Stevenson also commented that the City needs to do away with the Spice Festival since it is costing the City money and that the Police Department needs to issue more tickets to generate more revenue. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:28 p.m. Alderman Reginald Tatum made a motion to table this item until it can be discussed again at the September budget committee meeting. The motion died for lack of a second. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to **REJECT** the proposed budget.*

ORDINANCE NO. 04 OF 2013  
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE  
OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen, of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana in general session convened that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed estimate of Revenues for Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2014, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, during the same period.

SECTION II. The attached estimate of Expenditures by departments for the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2014, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as a budget of expenditures for the City during the said period.

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2013**

SECTION III. The adoption of this Operating Budget of Expenditures be and the same is hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION IV. Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included with the 2013-2014 budget. Said Ordinance having been introduced on July 29, 2013, by Alderman Julius Alsandor, notice of public hearings having been published, said public hearings having been held, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to **REJECT THE PROPOSED BUDGET**. A record vote was taken and the following results were had:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

**THE ORDINANCE WAS REJECTED.**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

*This item will be re-visited at the Budget Committee Meeting in September.*

**CONSENTS**

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to accept the resignation of Police Corrections Officer Alice Mayfield, effective 08/23/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the recommendation to hire Chris D. Rideau in the Police Department Corrections Division to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Officer Alice Mayfield, effective 08/23/2013.

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

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor.

ABSENT: None.

**PRE-TERMINATION HEARINGS**

*Discuss Pre-Termination for the following employee:*

- a. Anthony Johnson, Parks Department

Mayor Cravins informed Mr. Johnson that he had the choice of having his hearing in either an open or closed session. Mr. Johnson chose to have a closed session. Ms. Frank informed Mr. Johnson that no part of the closed hearing would be recorded only the motion that is made after the Council reconvenes. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 7:40 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was recommended to terminate Mr. Anthony Johnson. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Joseph Charles.

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR