

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2013

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 18th of February 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 and Alderman Reginald Tatum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 01/08/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: **adding a RESOLUTIONS Section with Item No. 18-A**, "A RESOLUTION URGING THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE AND ROBUST EDUCATION REFORM"; **deleting under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 30**, "Approve the hiring of three (3) Police Officers, pending satisfaction of prerequisites, effective 03/17/2013"; **adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 29-A**, "Approve the promotion of Ebony Martin from Police Officer First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 03/03/2013"; **Item No. 29-B**, "Approve the promotion of Crystal Leblanc from Police Officer First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 03/03/2013"; **Item No. 29-C**, "Approve the promotion of Hebert Levier from Police Officer First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 03/03/2013"; **deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 10**, "Discussion by Mr. Clarence Watson regarding budget issues for the park and for funding in the amount of \$18,675.00 to re-surface the Donald Gardiner Stadium".

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for January 2013 is Mr. Lee Roy Thomas. Mr. Thomas has been employed with the City of Opelousas for three years and is a Laborer II. He is married and has three children.

Presentation by Mr. Hubert White, J.S. Clark Alumni Association, regarding a memorial. Mr. Herbert White and Mr. Michael Daniels gave a presentation regarding a J. S. Clark Memorial Walkway. The Alumni Association is requesting a donation from the City of Opelousas in the amount of \$10,000.00 to help fund the project. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to bring the matter regarding J.S. Clark Memorial before the finance committee to be discussed in March.

Presentation by Mr. Joseph Citizen regarding horses. Mr. Citizen was not in attendance.

Presentation by Mrs. Sandra Davis regarding lease of North Park Concession Stand. Mrs. Davis was not in attendance.

Discussion by Ms. Laura Balthazar regarding funding in the amount of \$18,000.00 to pay the retainer for the Morgan Goudeau Engineering Firm. The City has signed a contract with Morgan Goudeau & Associates and will restart the \$1,500.00 monthly retainer fee. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to APPROVE the funding of \$18,000.00 annually (\$1,500 per month) to pay the retainer for Morgan Goudeau Engineering Firm with the money coming from the fund balance. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discussion by Marshal Paul Mouton and Assistant Marshal Dianne Arnaud regarding funding for another city Marshal for his office. Marshal Paul Mouton stated that he has two deputy marshals out on extended sick leave and his department is now shorthanded. He is requesting an additional deputy marshal for permanent employment. Marshal Mouton stated that he is recommending Mr. Darren Zachary, who is a former OPD officer, since he is already trained for this type of work. He is also requesting that the City fund this position since he does not have the money in his budget. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to APPROVE the request to transfer funds for the position of another deputy for the City Marshal's office in its entirety. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor and Blair Briggs.

ABSENT: None.

THE MOTION PASSES.

Discussion regarding request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$1,416.50 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for December 2012. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to APPROVE the request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$1,416.50 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for December 2012. 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.

THE MOTION PASSES.

Discuss request for approval for VARIANCE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 628 S. Railroad Avenue to open Dance & Social Club (Harold Hidalgo/Taneshia Aaron Chenier). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 02/18/2013. The Commission denied the request. On a motion by

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Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to DENY the request for approval for VARIANCE of property located in an NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone at 628 S. Railroad Avenue to open Dance & Social Club (Harold Hidalgo/Taneshia Aaron Chenier). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a C1 (Commercial I) Zone at 1228 W. Landry Street to open a Tattoo Parlor (Harold Hidalgo/Shane Chavis). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 02/18/2013. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a C1 (Commercial I) Zone at 1228 W. Landry Street to open a Tattoo Parlor (Harold Hidalgo/Shane Chavis). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Presentation by City Attorney. No presentation at this time.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell stated that they have two projects starting this week. Regarding the McCarthy Lane Bridge Project, that road will be closed for about four months until the bridge is replaced. Next, regarding the Ground Storage Tank and Pumping Facilities, that project should be completed in about six months.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 303 OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS ZONING ORDINANCE THAT DEALS WITH DESIGN STANDARDS TABLE – ZONING DISTRICT SET BACKS. Mrs. Margaret Doucet explained that setbacks determine how far back a residential building has to be from the property line to the street.

To Amend Article 303, Section 303.02 that deals with the setbacks for R1, R2, R3, and NMU Residential:

The proposed amendments include:

Minimum Front Setback as follows:

- A. R1 (Residential 1) 20 ft.
- B. R2 (Residential 2) 20 ft.
- C. R3 (Residential 3) 20 ft.
- D. NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Residential 20 ft.

Minimum Rear Setback as follows:

- A. R1 (Residential 1) 10 ft.
- B. R2 (Residential 2) 10 ft.
- C. R3 (Residential 3) 10 ft.
- D. NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Residential 10 ft.

Minimum Sides Setback as follows:

- A. R1 (Residential 1) 5 ft.
- B. R2 (Residential 2) 5 ft.
- C. R3 (Residential 3) 5 ft.
- D. NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Residential 5 ft.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the introduction of an ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to amend Article 303 of the City of Opelousas Zoning Ordinance that deals with Design Standards Table – Zoning District Setbacks. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE AND ROBUST EDUCATION REFORM. Several citizens spoke on behalf of the resolution. Mr. Charles Renaud stated that a system without proper leadership or administration is a system adrift. Mr. Anthony Standberry stated that he wants a system to educate the children of St. Landry Parish. Mrs. Marie Renaud stated that we have to stop labeling our children. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Joseph Charles and Louis Butler, Jr., the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01 OF 2013

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE AND ROBUST EDUCATION REFORM

WHEREAS, high quality public education, which provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential, is the backbone of a free democracy and global leadership; and

WHEREAS, making a high quality education a priority for all students requires high expectations; providing funds, technology and resources necessary to reach these expectations; assuring that every classroom has a well qualified teacher with administrative support and tools needed to meet the challenges of a diverse population of learners; and

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas is strongly urging the school district to implement aggressive reforms and effective strategies that will close the achievement gap and make sure all students achieve academic proficiency; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for community and education leaders at every level to act now to drive reform from within to establish a world-class public education system for all students; and

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Opelousas hereby supports immediate and robust education reform that calls on the St. Landry Parish School Board to work collaboratively with educators and all grass-roots stake holders (students, parents, teachers, administrators, professional and business leaders, and the broader community) to plan and implement a world class public education system that is based on state of the art multiple assessment evaluation techniques, standards-based reform strategies, teaching and learning best practices research, and sufficient funding, technology and resources for full implementation.

The above resolution having been submitted to a vote, was adopted as follows on the 18th day of February 2013.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

 CITY CLERK

 MAYOR

BIDS

Accept Bids for the Greenwood Housing Project (Rehabilitation and Reconstruction). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for the Greenwood Housing Project (Rehabilitation and Reconstruction), six (6) bids were received:

<i>BIDDER NAME</i>	<i>Reconstruction (3)</i>	<i>Reconstruction (2)</i>	<i>#1 Sub. Rehabilitation</i>	<i>#2 Sub. Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Spot Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Bid Bond Attached</i>
Mike Belfour Construction	\$222,000.00	\$148,000.00	\$33,500.00	\$18,000.00	\$12,500.00	YES
Bollinger Builders	\$256,800.00	\$173,000.00				NO
Bruno Construction	\$224,700.00	\$149,000.00				NO
Andrew Phillips Construction	\$255,660.00	\$169,840.00				NO
B & B Builders	\$185,981.19	\$126,987.19	\$17,373.37		\$7,337.37	NO
Triple D Construction	\$231,690.00	\$152,060.00				NO

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to take the bids under advisement and award to the lowest bidder meeting specifications.

CONSENTS

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to grant authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for Uniforms for the Police Department.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for the following in the Public Works Department:

- a. Type E Multi Grade Mix
- b. Type B Cold Mix
- c. Chlorine

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Jose Mendez from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 12/13/2012.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Barry Carrier from Probational Assistant Chief of Police to Permanent Assistant Chief of Police, effective 01/08/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the termination of extended sick leave for Police Sergeant Kenneth Edwards, effective 02/01/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to accept the retirement of Police Sergeant Kenneth Edwards, effective 02/01/2013, and approve the payment of accrued annual leave balance of one hundred seventy-nine hours, pending verification from the Fire & Police Civil Service Board.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Police Officer First Class Edward Smith, effective 01/21/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Police Officer First Class Darren Zachary, effective 02/03/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the promotion of Ebony Martin from Police Officer First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 03/03/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the promotion of Crystal Leblanc from Police Officer First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 03/03/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the promotion of Hebert Levier from Police Officer First Class to Probationary Police Sergeant, effective 03/03/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the promotion of Vernon Jones from Police Sergeant to Police Lieutenant, effective 02/17/2013.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Patrick Fontenot stated that at 716 S. Railroad there was a trailer home being brought in the middle of the night on a Sunday which goes against the current mobile home ordinance. Mayor Cravins suggested that the current ordinance be revisited because there is no enforcement provision. He instructed Mrs. Doucet to prepare an amendment to be presented to the Council.

Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., stated that he was asked by Parish Council member Mr. Jerry Red to extend an invitation to everyone to his Black History Program held on Friday evening at the Delta Grand.

Mr. Victor Lewis announced that the J. S. Clark Leadership Academy will have open house on Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Mrs. Margaret Doucet announced that the Annual Trash Bash will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013.

Alderman Reginald Tatum asked that everyone keep the family of Roscoe Chenier in their prayers. Mr. Chenier recently passed away and was buried on Friday.

Ms. Polotzola announced that there will be a Lifetime Achievement Banquet on Thursday, March 14, 2013 for the St. Landry Parish Democratic Party.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR