

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2013**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 14th of May 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.

Mayor Cravins asked that everyone remember the losses that they have had among some of our members and their families. Mr. Mike Landry's mother, Ms. Anna Belle Landry, passed away; Officer Peggy Sylvester (Police Department) died tragically in an accident about a month ago; Mr. Louis Butler, Sr., who previously served as a member of this Council for sixteen years and was active in business and civic affairs, was buried on last Saturday. A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Blair Briggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 04/09/2013 and a Special Meeting held 04/23/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Aldermen Louis Butler, Jr., and Reginald Tatum, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda,

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for April 2013 is Mr. Lee Jackson. Mr. Jackson has been employed with the City of Opelousas Street Department for two years as a Maintenance Repairman. He is not married and has no children.

Historic District Preservation Award for 2013.

City of Opelousas Honors 2013 Historic District Preservation Award Recipients

(Opelousas, LA) – The City of Opelousas recently honored local property owners with awards for historic preservation. The awards, which are selected by the Opelousas Historic District Commission, are given to honor beautification and restoration efforts for homes and buildings in the Historic District. The 2013 Historic District Preservation award recipients include:

Commercial Division

Old Parish Trust & Savings Building, 1927

103 W. Landry Street

This two-story brick structure is located in the heart of downtown Opelousas and in a National Historic District. The building is adorned with a bas relief eagle, two linear panels with stylized fretwork, and diamond shaped patterns above its windows. For many years it served as Old Parish Trust & Savings Bank. The building, owned by Ken and Sara Broussard, now houses Java Square Café coffee house.

Residential Division

Marguerite Chretien (Lacornbe Home), c. 1821

124 West Grolee Street

Owned by Tim and Margaret Bertrand, this French Creole bouissaaage home was originally built in 1821 for Marguerite Chretien by Etienne Fouillade. Marguerite married Honore De la Chaise, who was the last colonial commandant of Le Poste de Opelousas. Constructed of cypress over mud and moss walls, the original contract for the home is on file in the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Courts Office and is the oldest contract found to this date in existence in the office. The original contract for the home calls for two front rooms with a central fireplace and three back rooms. While the home has been renovated many times throughout the years, all original contracted rooms are intact.

Presentation by Attorney Desiree Auzenne, attorney for the City of Opelousas, in reference to settlement authority. This item will be handled at the end of the meeting in Executive Session.

Presentation by Chief Perry Gallow regarding a request to approve the opening of a new Corrections Division within the Opelousas Police Department and to authorize the transfer of two present police department employees and the hiring of two additional employees to this division. Chief Gallow stated that there was a correction to his request. He stated that he only wants to transfer one employee to this new division, Ms. Lydia Johnson, from dispatcher to corrections. He pointed out that his requests are within the Police Department's budget because he has lost twelve employees since December 2012. Chief Gallow is requesting that one (1) existing Police Dispatcher be transferred to the newly-created Corrections

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Division with an increase of \$1.20 per hour for this employee and all other Police Dispatchers and Records Clerks; and also hire three new officers for the Corrections Division and one (1) dispatcher to replace the transferred dispatcher at a rate of \$9.50 per hour. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Aldermen Louis Butler, Jr., and Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the creation of a Corrections Division in the Opelousas Police Department and hire three (3) Corrections officers and one (1) dispatcher at a rate of \$9.50 per hour and approve the transfer of one (1) existing Police Dispatcher to the Corrections Division with a \$1.20 per hour increase for all Police Dispatchers and Records Clerks. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor, Blair Briggs, and Jacqueline Martin.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Cravins voted NAY to break the tie. THE MOTION FAILED.

A substitute motion was offered. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve the creation of the Corrections Division without approving the salary increases and to approve the transferring of one employee from Dispatcher to Corrections. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor and Jacqueline Martin.

ABSENT: None.

THE MOTION PASSES.

Presentation by Mr. Kim Fontenot regarding a request for \$137,100.00 to fund the Heather Street Bridge Repair Project, \$35,000.00 to fund the Mouton Street Bridge Repair Project, and \$64,441.00 to fund the Railroad Spur Repair Project in Industrial Park. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve the request for \$137,100.00 to fund the Heather Street Bridge Repair Project, \$35,000.00 to fund the Mouton Street Bridge Repair Project, and \$64,441.00 to fund the Railroad Spur Repair Project in Industrial Park with additional funding coming from the fund balance of the General Fund. 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 Ms. Patricia Barnaba regarding a request for a salary increase for one employee at the Waste Water Plant. Ms. Barnaba stated that the Waste Water Department is in jeopardy of losing an Operator I employee to Lafayette due to pay issues. She stated that the employee has only been with them for a year and a half but he has passed his Class I and Class II Waste Water Treatment and Collections tests. Because he has been with the City for such a short period, he has been taking correspondence courses to be able to get his licenses and once he gets these licenses then he can take his Class III certification test. The employee recently applied for a job in Lafayette that offered him \$17.50 an hour. Ms. Barnaba stated that she will be retiring soon and that this employee is the only one qualified to handle this City. Ms. Barnaba stated that she would like to increase the employee's pay to \$15.00 per hour and that the money is in her budget to do so. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to approve the request for a salary increase to raise the pay to \$15.00 per hour for the employee at the Waste Water Plant.

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 regarding request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$609.60 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for April and May 2013. The amount due for April 2013 is \$223.00 and the amount due for May 2013 is \$386.60 for a total due of \$609.60. City Clerk Karen Frank requested that this amount be rounded up to \$610.00 for the budget. 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 \$610.00 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for April and May 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.

THE MOTION PASSES.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a CI (Commercial) Zone at 1109-B N. Main Street to open a Tattoo Parlor (Alcide Dominique/Joseph Lamb). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 05/13/2013. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in a CI (Commercial) Zone at 1109-B N. Main Street to open a Tattoo Parlor (Alcide Dominique/Joseph Lamb).

Discuss request for VARIANCE of property located in a R1 (Residential) Zone at 736 Larcade Street to open a Snowball Stand (J. G. LeBlanc Enterprise Inc./Jennifer Clark). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 05/13/2013. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Aldermen Louis Butler, Jr., and Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for approval for VARIANCE of property located in a R1 (Residential) Zone at 736 Larcade Street to open a Snowball Stand (J. G. LeBlanc Enterprise Inc./Jennifer Clark).

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Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Garrett Duplechain stated that it was his understanding at the Special Meeting last month that Ordinance No. 8 of 2001 (Section 25-B) allowed individuals who owned a mobile home within the Historic District to replace an older mobile home with a newer mobile home, moving the older mobile home out the newer mobile home into the Historic District—the exception there is that if the mobile home is removed because it failed to comply with the code or keep up the standards then it clearly states that the mobile home shall not be replaced with another mobile home. In the earlier part of that section, it states that in regards to mobile homes that are not failing to comply with the City's standards or not failing to comply with the ordinances as to keeping that mobile home up then no additional mobile home parks shall be permitted or licensed within the Historic District. If the mobile home is being kept up to standards then when that mobile home gets older it can be replaced with a newer mobile home as long as the older mobile home is moved out of the Historic District. He stated that one of the reasons that ordinance and section are worded like that is to avoid an unconstitutional taking of one's property. You cannot legislate the taking of one's property without due process. Alderman Julius Alsandor stated that this was the proper process that needed to be done prior to the Council making a decision and he thanked Attorney Duplechain. Mr. Kerstan Major thanked Mrs. Margaret Doucet for arranging the tearing down of the condemned mobile home near his home.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. The City Engineer was not in attendance.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 08 OF 2013

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE FOR 2013

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied for the 2013 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the City of Opelousas:

MILLAGE

7.13 mills

GENERAL ALIMONY

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2013, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT TO GRANT OWNERSHIP OF VARIOUS MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 09 OF 2013

A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE AUTHORITY TO THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT RELATIVE
TO THE DISASTER RECOVERY-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PARISH IMPLEMENTED RECOVERY PROGRAM OPELOUSAS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, OPELOUSAS MUNICIPAL
PLAZA GENERATOR AND THE OPELOUSAS BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government submitted an application dated June 17, 2011 for funding under the Disaster Recovery-Community Development Block Grant (DR-CDBG) Parish Implemented Recovery Program (PIRP) for the Opelousas Bridge Replacement project; and

WHEREAS, PIRP Project No. 49PARA2101 provided grant funds to the Parish Government in the amount of \$922,200.00 to replace two (2) bridges over Bayou Yarbor, one on Park Avenue and the other at Burr Street; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government submitted an application dated January 21, 2013 for funding under the Disaster Recovery-Community Development Block Grant (DR-CDBG) Parish Implemented Recovery Program (PIRP) for the Opelousas Municipal Plaza Generator project; and

WHEREAS, PIRP Project No. 49PARA3203 provided grant funds to the Parish Government in the amount of \$190,000.00 to fund the purchase and installation of a generator for the City's Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government submitted an application dated November 29, 2012 for funding under the Disaster Recovery-Community Development Block Grant (DR-CDBG) Parish Implemented Recovery Program (PIRP) for the Opelousas Building Improvements project; and

WHEREAS, PIRP Project No. 49PARA3206 provided grant funds to the Parish Government in the amount of \$305,500.00 to fund the roof replacement at the Opelousas Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Disaster Recovery-Community Development Block Grant program, the Parish Government desires to enter into Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreements with the City of Opelousas to transfer ownership of said Bridge Replacements, said Municipal Plaza Generator, and said Opelousas Building Improvements to the City of Opelousas.

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas that the Honorable Donald Cravins, Mayor is hereby authorized to sign Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreements in connection with the Disaster Recovery-Community Development Block Grant (DR-CDBG) Parish Implemented Recovery Program (PIRP) to accept the ownership along with the maintenance of the Opelousas Bridge Replacements, the Opelousas Municipal Plaza Generator and the Opelousas Building Improvements from the St. Landry Parish Government to the City of Opelousas.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CONSENTS

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for Permanent Police Officer First Class Yolanda D. Lewis, effective 04/09/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Permanent Police Officer First Class Yolanda D. Lewis, effective 04/09/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the extended sick leave for Permanent Police Sergeant Baxter B. Iford, effective 04/01/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Thad C. Leger from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 03/18/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Meddrick J. Pickens from Probational Police Officer First Class to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 03/18/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the status change for Robert S. Taylor from Provisional Recruit to Police Officer Recruit, effective 05/01/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to acknowledge the death of Permanent Police Officer Peggy L. Sylvester, effective 04/14/2013.

Chief Lee Cahanin announced that they can watch the production of a fire truck online at Ferrerafire.com.

Alderman Julius Alsandor announced that the school calendar year has changed and school will be ending a day earlier on Wednesday, May 22, 2013.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss the presentation by Attorney Desiree Auzenne, attorney for the City of Opelousas, in reference to settlement authority.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved to go back into Regular Session at 6:50 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Aldermen Joseph Charles and Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to authorize Attorney Desiree Auzenne to settle up to \$50,000 for the Resa Latiolais vs. City of Opelousas lawsuit. 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.

Chief Perry Gallow announced that he has completed the revised annual leave police for the Police Department and he gave a copy to the Council for review.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR