

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 29<sup>th</sup> of July 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. Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 06/11/2013, with the following corrections: *correcting page 1, paragraph 5, line 6 "On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve the creation of the Corrections Division with the hiring of three (3) Corrections officers at a rate of \$11.25 per hour and one (1) dispatcher at a rate of \$9.50 per hour without approving the salary increases and to approve the transferring of one employee from Dispatcher to Corrections." should read "On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to approve the creation of the Corrections Division with the hiring of three (3) Corrections officers at a rate of \$11.25 per hour and one (1) dispatcher at a rate of \$7.50 per hour without approving the salary increases and to approve the transferring of one employee from Dispatcher to Corrections." and correcting page 3, paragraph 2, "On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to ratify the provisional hiring of Gloria Davis as dispatcher in the Police Department at a rate of \$9.50 per hour, effective 06/10/2013." should read "On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to ratify the provisional hiring of Gloria Davis as dispatcher in the Police Department at a rate of \$7.50 per hour, effective 06/10/2013."*

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: **adding under the PRESENTATION Section, Item No. 10-A**, "*Presentation by Ms. Dorothy Thomas regarding a memorial for the old St. Landry Training School*"; **deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 11**, "*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)*"; **adding under INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES Section, Item No. 18A**, "*Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 11 of 2011 as it relates to the creation of a Judicial building fund pursuant to LSA-RS 13:1910*"; **adding a RESOLUTIONS Section, Item No. 18-B**, "*A Resolution of Support for Affordable Housing*"; **Item No. 18-C**, "*A Resolution of Support for the creation of a sales tax area for the purpose of utilizing sales tax increment financing for certain economic development projects within such areas*"; **Item No. 18-C**, "*A Resolution of Support for the Citizens' Participation Plan*"; **adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 21-A**, "*Accept the medical retirement of Police Officer Terry Miller and approve payment of 467 hours of annual leave, effective 08/16/2013*".

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month.* The Employee of the Month chosen for June 2013 is Mr. Frank Angelle. Mr. Angelle is employed with the City of Opelousas Marshal's Office.

*Presentation by representatives of Olympia Investment Partnership regarding a proposed residential development consisting of thirty (30) single family homes, most of which are three (3) bedroom homes.* Representatives from Olympia Investment Partnership could not be in attendance today so Mr. John Lamke, Community Development Director, gave the presentation on their behalf. Mr. Lamke provided the Council with a breakdown of the program and stated that the ten acres of the Cherry Street property would be used for this project for which Olympia is requesting a resolution of support with the option to purchase the property for \$250,000. He also stated that the company would invest in developing soccer fields for the City's adjacent proposed sports park. A copy of the proposal offered by Olympia Investment Partnership is as follows:

**AGREEMENT/PROPOSAL**

FROM: CHERRY MEADOWS, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP  
TO: CITY OF OPELOUSAS, MAYOR, AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN

There is an opportunity for the City to participate in the Cherry Meadows proposal that would bring some additional point's advantage to the project. In my opinion, this can be accomplished without any out of pocket expense to the City. This could make the difference in the project being funded or failing to be competitive. While participation on the part of the City was not requested last year, with this in place, the project would have been funded last year, as it only missed by ½ point.

Here are some agreements on the part of Cherry Meadows, LP:

Following a discussion with Mr. Lamke, I have discussed with our construction team the desire for the City to move forward on plans to bring recreational facilities to the City property on Cherry Street; in particular at this time, soccer fields.

1. We would be able to assist the City in some of the work necessary to get that project started if we are approved to build Cherry Meadows and it can be accomplished while our crews are on the ground there working.
2. We could assist by allowing our surveyor to perform an expanded topographic survey to include some of the area adjacent to us where your project would be located.
3. Our surveyor could also stake the proposed soccer fields/facility area while our property is being staked for excavation/earthwork.
4. We could clear and grade the soccer field(s) site and prepare the area while we are doing the same work for Cherry Meadows.

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

5. It is not possible to know at this point what is needed or available on site as far as landscaping/top soil is concerned. It is possible that the soil needed for the final preparation for the soccer field(s) could also be provided while we are providing this for Cherry Meadows. If a lot of soil must be brought from a source that is some distance, this might not be feasible, as good dirt can come at a premium in a lot of locations of the state. (All materials will be obtained locally where possible. However, if this is not possible, someone local might donate dirt to the City if there is a need to bring it in from an outside source – an idea you might want to pursue if it becomes necessary).
6. With careful planning, it might be possible to place infrastructure for the City to utilize and also be beneficial to Cherry Meadows. My idea would be a possible Easement or ROW between the properties where sewer and water lines could be placed to benefit both projects. For example, a sewer line might be shared that could be utilized in the future by the City for restrooms or a concession facility at the recreational area. An additional water line could be laid at the same time we put our lines in place that could serve the City facility in the future.  
\*For any of these things to be feasible, the City would have to have plans and specs in place that would give our folks what they need to work with and allow the work to proceed without delay while we are there building the Cherry Meadows Development.

Here are some suggested ways that the City could assist the development in gaining a slight competitive edge:

1. Demonstrate on paper, the City's financial participation in the Cherry Meadows development in the manner that is laid out in the LHC plan. This can be accomplished in a number of ways, which include COBG, waiver of tap fees, building permit fees, taxes during construction, etc.
2. For advantage, I estimate that the City would need to demonstrate on paper an amount that is around \$140,000. We need to show an amount that is at or above 2% of the Total Development costs (\$7,000,000).
3. The land cost, based on an appraisal and our past agreement, was set at \$200,000. Cherry Meadows could increase the land proceeds amount to the City to \$250,000, bringing an additional \$50,000 for future use by the City. We will have to be very careful with this as land costs can kill our developments financial feasibility quicker than anything else as it drives up the mortgage. The deal is very tight at \$250,000 but our model shows us it will still work at that point.

Sincerely,  
Butch Richardson  
Manager of Development  
Olympia Construction, Inc. - Olympia Investment Partnership



Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that he was aware of the Master Plan Committee being against this development using land that has been designated to build the Sports Park. Mr. Lamke stated that the Committee was in opposition at the beginning but has since reconsidered. Ms. Yvonne Normand spoke on behalf of the Master Plan Committee and stated that their views have not changed. She pointed out that there are several other vacant private properties throughout the City where this housing development could be built and not have to use government property. She pointed out that the City is in jeopardy of losing the \$495,000 grant to build the Sports Park. She stated that approximately \$60,000 has been spent so far on research and development but no ground has been broken as of yet. Mr. Lamke requested that the City adopt a resolution of support to allow Olympia to proceed with the development on the Cherry Street property with the option to purchase the property for \$250,000.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2013**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS OUTLINING SUPPORT FOR HOUSING THAT IS AFFORDABLE TO THE FAMILIES OF OPELOUSAS THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.

WHEREAS, Cherry Meadows, Limited Partnership proposes to construct a single-family housing development for individuals and families on Cherry Street in the City of Opelousas, which will consist of 30, three and four bedroom, brick homes, plus a community space, with said units being funded partially through the Louisiana Housing Corporation with private funding through the sale of tax credits; and

WHEREAS, Cherry Meadows, Limited Partnership will apply for loans and tax credits, and will invest in excess of \$6,000,000.00 in private funds; and

WHEREAS, there are limited funds available and the support of the elected body of local government is important to a successful application process; and

WHEREAS, the owner of Cherry Meadows has requested a resolution of support from the City of Opelousas, Mayor, and Council; and

WHEREAS, the owner of Cherry Meadows has requested that the City of Opelousas assist the project financially in an amount equal to at least 2% of the Total Development costs (Approximately \$140,000, but not to exceed \$150,000) to be achieved through the waiver of tap fees, building permit fees, other fees as applicable, and taxes that might apply during construction; and

WHEREAS, the owner of Cherry Meadows has requested the City of Opelousas to agree to enter into an Option to Purchase an approximately 9.11 acre portion of the City owned property on Cherry Street for the sole purpose of this project and for an amount of \$250,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana supports the application and request as hereby stated by Cherry Meadows, Limited Partnership and it's endeavor to build the

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

proposed single family complex.

The above Resolution having been submitted to a vote was NOT adopted on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013.

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

NAYS: Joseph Charles and Blair Briggs.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Reginald Tatum.

**THE MOTION FAILS.**

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

*Presentation by Mr. Sunny Desai and Mr. Dannie P. Garrett III with the Desai Hotel Group for consideration of a Resolution to establish TIF area for hotel project.* Attorney Dannie P. Garrett III gave an overview of the proposed TIF Project. He pointed out that the City would levy a special sales tax just on that

**RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2013**

A resolution authorizing the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana to proceed with the creation of a sales tax area for the purpose of utilizing sales tax increment financing for certain economic development projects with such area; authorizing the levy, collection and dedication of taxes in such area; authorizing the issuance of Revenue Bonds, in one or more series; providing certain terms of said bonds; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Bonds; appointing Bond Counsel; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, as amended, (the "TIF Act") authorizes the City Council of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana acting as governing authority (the "Governing Authority"), for the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, (the "City or Issuer") to designate certain areas from which sales tax increments may be pledged and dedicated to the payment of revenue bonds; and

WHEREAS, the TIF Act further authorizes the Issuer to levy and collect up to two percent of sales taxes, or up to two percent of hotel occupancy taxes, or any combination of such taxes, above and in addition to any other sales taxes, or hotel occupancy taxes, or combination of such taxes, then in existence or permitted to be in existence within the sales tax area to be used in furtherance of the purposes of the TIF Act; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer now wishes to avail itself of the provisions of the TIF Act to designate a Sales tax Area, for the purposes of levying a combination of additional sales tax in combination with an additional hotel occupancy tax within such area, and to finance certain economic development projects with such area; and

WHEREAS, subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, the Issuer, desires to exercise its authority pursuant to the TIF Act to incur debt and issue not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of its Revenue Bonds, in one or more series (collectively, the "Bonds") for the purpose of: (i) assisting in the development of a hotel and related construction (the "Project"); (ii) funding a debt service reserve fund, if necessary; (iii) paying the costs of issuing the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds shall be secured by and payable from revenues generated by the dedication the incremental increase in existing sales taxes levied by the City within the Sales Tax Area, and the dedication of the combination of the new sales and hotel occupancy taxes levied and collected within the Sales Tax Area; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer desires to authorize the filing of an application with the Louisiana State Bond Commission (the "Commission") requesting that the Commission grant approval to the issuance of the Bonds in accordance with the TIF Act; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer recognizes, finds and determines that a real necessity exists for the employment of Bond Counsel and for the designation of an Underwriter/Placement Agent for the purchase of the Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the City/Issuer, that:

SECTION 1. Designation of Sales Tax Area. The following described property, owned by Opelousas Hotel Group, LLC, shall be designated as the "Sales Tax Area" from which the Pledged Revenues as herein defined shall be generated:

**ONE (1) CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, together with all rights, ways, easements, servitudes, prescriptions, advantages and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise, appertaining, situated in Sections 77 and 85, Township 6 South, Range 4 East, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, being more fully shown as LOT 4, 2.000 AC., OF ADAMS DEVELOPMENT, on that certain "Plat of Survey" made by Morgan Goudeau & Associates dated September 19, 2005 and recorded under Entry No. 950380, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, said LOT 4 having such size, shape and dimensions as shown on said survey.**

**Being a portion of the same property acquired by James Benjamin Adams and Mary Beth Dupre Adams by Act of Cash Sale from Humphrey T. Olinde, Jr., Joseph Beauregard Olinde, Jr., Elsie Marie Olinde Bleich, Andrew Johnson Olinde, Thomas Humphrey Olinde, John Francis Olinde, Elizabeth Martin Olinde Coleman and Margery Katherine Olinde Belcher by Act of Cash Sale dated March 14, 2005 and recorded March 16, 2005 at COB B-41, page 196 under entry no. 940820, records of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.**

The Registrar of Voters for the Parish of St. Landry has certified that there are no qualified electors residing in the Sales Tax Area, see Exhibit A

SECTION 2. Levy of Taxes. The Issuer intends to levy an additional sales tax in the amount of two percent and an additional hotel occupancy tax in the amount of two percent, such levy to be solely within the Sales Tax Area described

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

herein, such additional taxes to remain in full force and effect until such time as any and all bonded indebtedness to which those taxes are dedicated is paid in full. In accordance with the TIF Act the Issuer hereby gives notice of its intent to levy the taxes described herein and authorizes the publication of such notice in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, in accordance with the TIF Act. The Governing Authority will meet in open and public session to hear any objections to this levy on **Thursday, August 22, 2013.**

**SECTION 3. Notice of Intent to Issue bonds.** Pursuant to the provisions of the TIF Act, the Issuer does hereby authorize and give notice of its intent to issue of not exceeding \$1,000,000 of its Revenue Bonds, in one or more series (the "Bonds"). The Issue authorizes the publication of the Notice in the form set forth in Exhibit B in the official journal as provided in the TIF Act. The proceeds of the Bonds shall be used for the purposes of (i) assisting in the development of a hotel and related construction by Opelousas Hotel Group, LLC (the "Project"); (ii) funding a debt service reserve fund, if necessary; and (iii) paying the costs of issuing the Bonds. The form and details of the Bonds, the exact principal amounts and interest rates thereof shall be established pursuant to a subsequent ordinance of the Issuer, provided that the interest rate on the Bonds will not exceed five and one-half percent (5.50%) per annum. The Bonds shall mature no later than thirty (30) years from the date of their issuance. The Bonds will be issued only as fully registered bonds, in minimum denominations of no less than \$5,000. The Bonds will be secured by and payable from (i) the proceeds of the newly levied sales an hotel occupancy taxes within the Sales Tax Area; (ii) the incremental increase in the existing sales taxes levied by the City generated within the Sales Tax Area (collectively the "Pledged Revenues") and will be sold at private sale, or otherwise, in accordance with the provisions of the TIF Act.

**SECTION 4. Employment of Bond Counsel.** A real necessity is hereby found for the employment of special counsel in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, and accordingly Mahtook & LaFleur, LLC, Bond Counsel, is hereby employed and requested to do and perform comprehensive legal and coordinate professional work with respect to the issuance of the aforesaid bonds of the Issuer for the purposes stated hereinabove. Said Bond Counsel shall prepare and submit to this Governing Authority for adoption all of the proceedings incidental to the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds, shall counsel and advise this Governing Authority as to the issuance and sale of the Bonds, and shall furnish their opinion covering the legality of the issuance thereof. The fee of special bond counsel in connection with the issuance of the Bonds is hereby fixed at a sum not to exceed the maximum fee allowed by the Attorney General's fee guidelines for comprehensive legal and coordinate professional services in the issuance of bonds, based on the amount of Bonds actually issued, sold, delivered and paid for, plus "out-of-pocket" expenses. Bond Counsel fees may be paid from the proceeds of the Bonds and shall be contingent upon the issuance, sale and delivery of said bonds. No compensation will be due unless and until the Bonds are delivered.

**SECTION 5. Designation of Underwriter/Placement Agent.** ERIC LAFLEUR is hereby designated as Underwriter/Placement Agent in connection with the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds.

**SECTION 6. State Bond Commission.** Application is hereby made to the State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (the "Commission"), for approval of the issuance and sale of the Bonds and for consent and authority to proceed with the issuance and sale of the Bonds as provided above, and Bond Counsel is directed to make application to the Commission in accordance with the foregoing on behalf of the Issuer. By virtue of the Issuer's application for, acceptance and utilization of the benefits of the Commission's approval resolved and set forth herein, it resolves that it understands and agrees that such approval is expressly conditioned upon, and it further resolves that it understands, agrees and binds itself, its successors and assigns to, full and continuing compliance with the "State Bond Commission Policy on Approval of Proposed Use of Swaps, or other forms of Derivative Products Hedges, Etc.", adopted by the Commission on July 20, 2006 (the "Policy"), as to the borrowing and other matters subject to the approval, including subsequent application and approval under said Policy of the implementation or use of any swap or other products or enhancements covered thereby.

**SECTION 7. Prescriptive Period.** A copy of this Resolution shall be published at the earliest date available after its adoption in the official journal of the City/Issuer, once a week for two consecutive weeks. For thirty (30) days after the date of the first publication, any person in interest may contest the legality of this Resolution, any provision of the Bonds, the provisions herein made for the security and payment of the Bonds and the validity of all other provisions and proceedings relating to the authorization and issuance of the Bonds. After the said thirty (30) days, no person shall have any cause of action to test the regularity, formality, legality, or effectiveness of this Resolution, and the provisions hereof, for any cause whatever. Thereafter, it shall be conclusively presumed that every legal requirement for the issuance of the Bonds has been complied with. No court shall have the authority to inquire into any of these matters after the said thirty (30) days.

**SECTION 8. Authorized Officers.** The Mayor of Opelousas, with attestation by the City Clerk, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute such documents, certificates and instruments as they may deem necessary to effect the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

**SECTION 9. Public Hearing.** There shall be held and conducted a public hearing on the matter of the intent of the City of Opelousas to take the actions set forth and proposed to be authorized herein on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. or thereafter, to be held in the Chambers of the City Council of the City of Opelousas, 105 North Main Street, Opelousas, Louisiana.

**SECTION 10. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

On motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., the foregoing Resolution was hereby declared adopted on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013 by the following roll-call vote:

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

NAYS: Blair Briggs

ABSENT: None.

NOT VOTING: None.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Frank, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Cravins, Sr., Mayor

***INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S) WITH REGARD TO LEVYING AND DEDICATION OF SALES AND HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SOLELY WITHIN HOTEL PROJECT TIF AREA.***

An Ordinance providing for the establishment of a Sales Tax Area for the purposes of engaging in tax increment financing and incurring of debt and issuance of not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) aggregate principal amount of City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2013 (the "Bonds"), prescribing the form, terms and conditions of the Bonds and the security therefor;

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

designating the date, denomination and place of payment of such Bonds; providing for the levy of sales and hotel occupancy taxes; providing for the dedication of sales and hotel occupancy taxes; providing for the payment of such Bonds in principal and interest; approving and confirming the sale of such Bonds; and providing for other matters with respect to the Bonds.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor 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 ADOPT AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SALES TAX AREA FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENGAGING IN TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AND INCURRING OF DEBT AND ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000) AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2013 (THE "BONDS"), PRESCRIBING THE FORM, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE BONDS AND THE SECURITY THEREFOR; DESIGNATING THE DATE, DENOMINATION AND PLACE OF PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF SALES AND HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES; PROVIDING FOR THE DEDICATION OF SALES AND HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS IN PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST; APPROVING AND CONFIRMING THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE BONDS. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin  
NAYS: Blair Briggs  
ABSENT: None.  
NOT VOTING: None.

*Discuss request by Chief Perry Gallow to amend the OPD Seized Funds budget and request to amend the DARE line item (#2204) in the amount of \$12,610.00 with funds received from the DARE Funding account (#4006).* On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the request to amend the OPD Seized Funds budget as per the City Clerk's calculations and to amend the DARE line item in the amount of \$12,610.00. 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 Mrs. Dorothy Thomas regarding a memorial for the old St. Landry Training School.* Mrs. Thomas and Mr. C. D. Ballard gave a presentation regarding constructing a building to be used as a museum in honor of the old St. Landry Training School which was in operation from 1919 to 1953 for colored students. The two-room building would be placed on the property located behind Williams Funeral Home across from Le Vieux Village. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to authorize the St. Landry Training School committee and the J. S. Clark Memorial Committee to proceed with the construction of a museum in honor of the old St. Landry Training School. 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 \$817.24 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for July 2013 invoice.* On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request by Mrs. Linda Walker for payment in the amount of \$817.24 to pay Civil Service Board attorney fees for July 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.

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS:**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 @ 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin  
ABSENT: None

1. Presentation by Mr. Clarence Watson, Parks Director, regarding fee increases for the Parks summer programs. Mr. Watson presented a fee increase schedule. He provided fee schedules from various organizations and pointed out that these organizations do not even provide the equipment for the players. Mr. Watson stated that the City supplies all of the equipment for the summer programs. He is proposing an increase of \$10.00 on Basketball, Baseball and Flag Football fees per child and an increase of \$5.00 per week for tennis lessons. The fee for Contact Football would remain at \$75.00 but the \$25.00 refundable fee would no longer be given back to the player at the end of the program. The new registration fees would be as follows:

Basketball and Baseball fees - \$25.00  
Flag Football - \$25.00  
Tennis Lessons - \$8.00 per week  
Contact Football - \$75.00 with no refundable deposit

Mr. Kerstan Major stated that he is on the Parks and Recreation Commission and he has a concern about the fees. He stated that everybody else offer more than we do. He is concerned that it will create a hardship on some families with more than one child participating. He feels that they should go up \$5.00 every few years and not all at once.

*On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was recommended to approve the proposed fee increases for the Parks summer programs and forward to the full council for approval. All in favor.*

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the proposed fee increases for the Parks summer programs as follows:

Basketball and Baseball fees - \$25.00

Flag Football - \$25.00

Tennis Lessons - \$8.00 per week

Contact Football – \$75.00 with no refundable deposit

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.

2. Discussion regarding the request for suspension of the 2 ½ percent cost of living increase for the fiscal year 2013-2014 and request to go before the Municipal Civil Service Commission for approval. Ms. Laura Balthazar, Chief Administrative Officer, read the following memo from Mayor Cravins:

To: All Department Heads

From: Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr. 

Reference: Civil Service Rule XII, Section 5.2

Please convey to your employees that I am recommending to the Board of Aldermen and Alderwoman that we approve the 2.5 percent raise, effective September 1, 2013 for all municipal civil service employees.

Ms. Karen Frank, City Clerk, stated that it would cost the City (for the municipal civil service employees only) approximately \$66,000 to implement the 2 ½ percent increase, not including any overtime. When you add in the Marshal, City Court, Fire and Police Departments, it would be an additional \$177,000, not including any overtime. When Water and Sewer departments are added in to the general fund, it will be an additional \$24,377, not including any overtime. The City pays approximately \$850,000 to \$1,000,000 in overtime annually. Alderman Tatum requested a breakdown of overtime paid by individual employees. Mr. Slaven, with the auditing firm, stated that the City would break out even with no surplus. The projected 2 ½ percent increase for all employees, without any additional source of revenue to absorb that additional cost would cause the existing surplus to be eliminated over the next two years and the City would be in violation of State statutes. Alderman Tatum wanted to know if the City also had to pay the previously suspended 2 ½ percent increase. Mrs. Linda Walker stated that the City was supposed to pay this money when the funds became available. Alderman Julius Alsandor asked if the Civil Service Commission was going to hold the City to paying back monies that they did not have. Mr. Slaven suggested that the City get an Attorney General's opinion regarding the previously suspended increase.

*A motion was made by Alderman Blair Briggs to recommend that the 2 ½ percent increase for the fiscal year 2013-2014 be applied to Municipal Civil Service employees only.*

Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that he does not feel it is fair to leave out the Fire and Police Departments. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin stated that since the agenda only referenced the Municipal Civil Service employees then she would second the motion and discuss the Fire and Police Departments at the Regular Meeting.

Mr. Lee Cahanin, Fire Chief, stated he would hate to see a recommendation go to the Council that segregates employees and, if it is not all inclusive then it's probably not fair. He stated that when the department heads are asked to prepare their budgets, the very first thing they do is go to Personnel Services (salaries, retirement, benefits) before they go to any other item. He stated that the employees need that recognition that the increase provides. Alderwoman Martin suggested that they rescind the original motion and make a substitute motion. Ms. Frank stated that she needs someone to tell her where they are going to get the funds to pay the increases. She pointed out that if there is an emergency situation next year then there will not be any money in the fund balance.

*Alderman Briggs rescinded his motion.*

Mr. Germon Morgan, Street Department employee, stated that the street department needs this raise because they have been withheld money. He pointed out that their department is losing personnel daily. He thinks that they don't get as much because they don't make money for the City so a lot of people feel that they can do without the services the Street Department provides; but the minute their services aren't provided or go undone, then it's a hailstorm.

Mr. Wilbert Levier stated that no one lobbied for the City in the Legislature therefore the City got nothing.

Alderman Alsandor stated that it is unfortunate that we are in the situation that we are in now. Every other day you read where some municipality has had to cut back because of the economic times we are confronted with right now. He pointed out that if we give raises and need to cut in six months and lay off employees what happens to the services we have to provide.

*On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was recommended to grant the 2 ½ percent increase for fiscal year 2013-2014 to all Municipal Civil Service employees, Marshal's Office employees, City Court employees, and Fire and Police employees and forward to the full council for approval. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:*

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

*NAYS: Julius Alsandor*

*ABSENT: None.*

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the 2 ½ percent increase for fiscal year 2012-2013 for all employees. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Julius Alsandor and Louis Butler, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to authorize Ms. Laura Balthazar to act on behalf of the Governing Authority to ask the Municipal Civil Service Board to suspend the 2 ½ percent increase for the fiscal year 2013-2014. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: Joseph Charles and Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

*Presentation by City Attorney.* Attorney Garett Duplechain stated that he would like to introduce technical rewording of an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 6 of 2011 as it relates to the creation of a judicial building fund.

**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.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor 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 ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2011 AS IT RELATES TO THE CREATION OF A JUDICIAL BUILDING FUND PURSUANT TO LSA-RS 13:1910. 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 (stepped out).

**THE MOTION PASSES.**

*Engineer's Monthly Status Report.* The City Engineer was not present.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

*INTRODUCTION OF 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.*

**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.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the introduction of an ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2013. 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.



**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

*INTRODUCTION OF 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.*

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.

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.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor 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 ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014. 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 in Support of the Citizens Participation Plan.*

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2013

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AS REQUIRED OF SECTION 508  
OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas has adopted the Citizen Participation Plan to meet the citizen participation requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas is committed through adoption of this plan to full and total involvement of all residents of the community in composition, implementation and assessment of its Louisiana Community Block Grant (LCDBG) Program; and

WHEREAS, as part of the citizen participation requirements and to maximize interaction, the City of Opelousas shall:

- 1) Provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information and records relating to the state's proposed method of distribution, as required by the Secretary, and relating to the actual use of funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;
- 2) Provide for public hearings to obtain views and respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program. These hearings will consist of the development of needs and proposed activities and review of program performance. These hearings will be held after adequate notice, a minimum of five calendar days, at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries with accommodations for persons with disabilities;
- 3) Provide for and encourage citizen participation with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income who are residents of slum and blighted areas and of areas in which funds are proposed to be used;
- 4) Provide for technical assistance to groups representative persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals;
- 5) Where applicable, identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings; and
- 6) Provide for a formal written procedure which will accommodate a timely written response, within fifteen days where practicable, to written complaints and grievances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana do hereby adopt the Citizen Participation Plan as required of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

The above resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted as follows on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR

**CONSENTS**

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and seconded by Joseph Charles, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise a Public Hearing concerning the following properties:

- a. Jimmy W. Hildreth, Inc., (1/2 Int.) ETALS, 116 E. Vine Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure)
- b. Living Solutions, LLC, 901 Herman Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)



**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 29, 2013**

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and seconded by Joseph Charles, it was resolved to accept the corrected working test period date of Permanent Police Officer First Class Jose Mendez, effective 12/06/2012. Error was made in the calculation of working test period by seven (7) days and was previously submitted as 12/13/2012.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and seconded by Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the name change of Probational Police Communications Officer Gloria M. Davis to Gloria M. Newman, effective 06/10/2013.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and seconded by Joseph Charles, it was resolved to accept the medical retirement of Police Officer Terry Miller, effective 08/16/2013, and approve payment for 467 hours of accrued annual leave.

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

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

NAYS: None.

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 Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 8:45 p.m. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to table this issue until next month and have Ms. Mary Harris, Mrs. Linda Walker, and the Workers' Compensation Attorney in attendance.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR