

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 10, 2012

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 10th of July 2012 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 Louis Butler, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Aldermen Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 06/12/2012 and a Special Meeting held on 06/20/2012.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to adopt the agenda, with the following changes: **adding under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 6-A**, "Presentation by Parks and Recreation Department of medals for two lifeguards who saved a child from drowning"; **correction under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 19**, "Ratify the termination of Mr. Leonard Hammond (Street Department), effective 06/14/2011"—delete effective date; **adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 19-A**, "Accept the resignation of Jonathan Dunbar in the Fire Department, effective 07/06/2012 and approve payment in the amount of \$1,685.04 for one hundred sixty-eight (168) vacation hours". 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.

ABSTAINED: None.

THE MOTION PASSES.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for June 2012 is Ms. Mary Harris. Ms. Harris has been employed with the City of Opelousas Executive Department for the past fifteen years and is currently working as the Payroll Clerk. She is married and has one son.

Presentation by Parks and Recreation Department of medals for two lifeguards who saved a child from drowning. Mr. Clarence Watson stated that on 06/30/12, an eight-year old child was swimming in the pool and being monitored by a family member who walked away from the pool area. At this time, the child jumped into the deep end of the swimming pool and was unable to return to the top. The child was found at the bottom of the deep end near the drain. Mr. Watson stated that one of the two young men, Mr. Hilton Miller, who helped to save the child, is a customer of the pool. The other young man is Mr. Ocean Grice. Mr. Watson commended the two men and presented each of them with a medal for their actions.

Presentation by Mr. John A. Lamke, Community and Economic Development Director, regarding introduction of Opelousas' Louisiana Development Ready Community (LDRC) Steering/Sustainability Committee and a Status Update on LDRC Program. Mr. Lamke stated that in February 2012 the Council passed a resolution of support for the City's application to become a part of the Ready City Program. The City filed its application on time and Opelousas was chosen. One of the beginning steps in the program was to have a Steering and Sustainability Committee. The Steering Committee is as follows: John Lamke, Trey Thibodeaux, Darryl Wagley, Laura Balthazar, Pamela Jackson, Flora Hollier, Jack Ortego and Mayor Donald Cravins, Sr. Along with this Steering Committee, a Resource Team was provided by the Office of Economic Development and consists of the following members: Steven Broussard, Skip Smart, Pat Wittie, Roxanne Barnes, and Jennifer Tanner. The kick-off meeting was held on 05/29/2012 and the committee received training and guidance to get that project underway. Since that time, the committee has met at City Hall every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. As a result of these meetings, they have developed a work plan, a communications plan, surveys have been put together online, and a mission statement was developed. The committee has also planned to hold two town hall meetings on 07/24/2012 with the meeting for businesses to be held at 12:00 noon at the Opelousas Civic Center and the community meeting which is open to the public will be held at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mr. Lamke stated that all of the committee members are all volunteers. Unfortunately, this past week, Mr. Trey Thibodeaux and Ms. Pamela Jackson have had to resign due to their work load and the amount of work that is involved in this process, but they have both committed to help what ways they can as they can. Mr. Lamke stated that site selector came into Opelousas this morning and met with the Resource Team and the Steering Committee and he was taken on a windshield tour of Opelousas and answered questions he had about our community. Following the windshield tour, the site selector met with several of our local business owners in a private meeting so that they could have a frank discussion about how it is to do business in Opelousas. The Steering Committee will get the site selector's final report in about three weeks.

Discuss request for approval for VARIANCE of property in C1 (Commercial) Zone located at 5597 I-49 S. Service Road to erect a pylon sign at Brown's Furniture business location (Brown's Furniture/Truelite Signs, LLC). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 07/09/2012. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for VARIANCE of property in C1 (Commercial) Zone located at 5597 I-49 S. Service Road to erect a pylon sign at Brown's Furniture business location (Brown's Furniture/Truelite Signs, LLC).

Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Frank Trosclair stated that he had no business to discuss.

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Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell stated that they would be having a Pre-Construction conference tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. at Morgan Goudeau & Associates for the McCarthy Lane Bridge and they will also discuss the status of the Hiram Street Bridge because it is the same contractor. They will also be having a Pre-Construction conference soon for the Park Avenue Bridge.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:28 p.m. *TO AMEND CHAPTER 17 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS THAT DEALS WITH MOBILE HOMES.*

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy asked about fencing around mobile home parks. An amendment for fencing was mentioned but was not advertised and will have to be adopted after it is advertised. Mr. Kerstan Major asked about provisions for vacant trailers. He stated that there is a vacant trailer in his neighborhood that has been there for about eight years. Mayor Cravins stated that this could be handled under Code Enforcement rules for abandoned properties.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:37 p.m.

On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 05 OF 2012
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 17 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE
CITY OF OPELOUSAS THAT DEALS WITH MOBILE HOMES

Chapter 17 Mobile Homes

1. Method of approval for Movable Housing to be within the City of Opelousas.
2. For purposes of this Ordinance and/or Administrative Policy, the term "Movable Housing" shall include Mobile Homes, Trailers, Modular Houses and Pre-built Homes. The term "Unit" may be used throughout this policy to identify the above types of housing.

Subject:

- 1.1 Any Unit that is not located within the City limits of Opelousas by the effective date of this policy (shown above) may not be moved into the City limits until a physical (visual) inspection is made by the City's Code Enforcement Officer or a designated representative and determined to meet the requirements as set forth in the Ordinance and/or Administrative Policy.
- 1.2 The physical inspection will be done and reported to the Director of Code Enforcement on report form (OPL-04 and OPL-04-B). The owner will be provided a copy of the written report.
- 1.3 The Unit must be ready for occupancy, and no repairs, replacement of fixtures, etc. may be made after the Unit is within the City, except, where appropriate and necessary, tie-downs, skirting and steps may be put in place after the unit is placed at the approved location.
- 1.4 Units that have gone through the review/approval process, may from time to time need maintenance, upgrading, refurbishing, etc. This Ordinance and/or Policy is not intended to deny these processes, after an appropriate permit has been granted to the owner.
- 2.1 There shall be a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee, paid to the City of Opelousas prior to the inspection being done. Inspectors are not allowed to accept cash payments. All payments are made payable to the City of Opelousas. The inspection shall include, but not be limited to: Condition and appearance of exterior finish, outside doors and windows, interior doors and hardware, flooring, interior electrical services and condition and appearance of walls. If any of the areas listed above, appear unsatisfactory (deficient) to the Inspector, moving the Unit within the City limits will be denied until such items are corrected and a re-inspection made.
- 2.2 If the re-inspection proves that the Unit meets the requirements as established by the City, a report to this effect will be provided to the owner. However, if the Unit still does not meet the requirements, the owner may request a certain amount of time to make the required repairs and/or replacements. After this a re-inspection may be requested by the owner.
- 2.3 A third inspection will require the homeowner pay an additional \$25.00 inspection fee.
- 3.1 A Unit located outside of St. Landry Parish requiring a second inspection for acceptance into the City requires that the owner pay a \$25.00 inspection fee prior to the inspection being performed. The fee must be by check or money order made payable to the City of Opelousas and presented to the Inspector prior to the inspection being performed. Regardless of the results of the inspection, no refunds of paid fees will be made due to the cost and time associated with an inspection.
- 4.1 If a Unit is moved into the City of Opelousas without prior inspection and acceptance, the owner will be allowed 10 days to remove the Unit, at the owner's expense.
- 4.2 No Unit will be allowed to be moved into the City after 5:00 p.m. on any given day without the written consent of the Director of Code Enforcement.

Section 17-45. Mobile Home Skirting

All owners of mobile units shall place on all sides at the base of the unit a skirting or rigid type of material to restrict unauthorized access to beneath the unit. Readily openable doors or access panels shall be installed as a part of the skirting to permit convenient access to the water, sewer, and gas connections.

Skirting on mobile units already in the City will be required and the City will give the owner six (6) months to comply. At the end of six (6) months, non-compliance would generate another notice giving forty-five (45) days to comply after which time the owner would be fined \$25.00 per day for non-compliance.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on June 12, 2012, by Alderman Reginald Tatum, 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.

ABSTAINED: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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BIDS

Accept proposals for Fiscal Agent Contract (2012-2014). Pursuant to requests for proposals for the Fiscal Agent Contract for 2012-2014, three (3) proposals were received:

Whitney Bank
American Bank
Liberty Bank

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to take the proposals under advisement. Ms. Frank informed the Mayor and Council that the current contract would be expiring at the end of this month and suggested that they vote on the selection today. Ms. Frank explained the proposals to the Council.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to award the Fiscal Agent Contract for 2012-2014 to American Bank. 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.

Accept bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #07-12).

Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #07-12), no bids were received.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT AND J.S. CLARK LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TO REPAIR STATESMAN ROAD.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 14 OF 2012

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT AND J. S. CLARK LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TO REPAIR STATESMAN ROAD

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 14(c) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana provides as follows: "For a public purpose, the state and its political subdivisions or political corporations may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other. . . ."; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government, J. S. Clark Leadership Academy, and the City of Opelousas share a common interest in providing the citizens of St. Landry Parish and the State of Louisiana with safe roadways; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government, J. S. Clark Leadership Academy, and the City of Opelousas wish to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the public purpose of providing safe roadways; and

WHEREAS, the J. S. Clark Leadership Academy will provide all materials and the St. Landry Parish Government in conjunction with the City of Opelousas will provide manpower and equipment.

NOW THEREFORE, the St. Landry Parish Government, J. S. Clark Leadership Academy, and the City of Opelousas hereby enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the purpose of overlaying Statesman Road.

The above resolution having been submitted to a roll call vote was adopted as follows:

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

NAYS: Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

Done and signed this 10th day of July, 2012,

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CONSENTS

On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Jeremy Bias from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 03/24/2012.

On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to acknowledge the death of Permanent Assistant Police Chief Willie Smith, effective 06/10/2012, and approve payment of the balance of five hundred fifty-five (555) hours of accrued annual leave in the amount of \$22,816.05 payable to his estate.

On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve the promotion of Barry Carrier from Police Major to Assistant Police Chief, effective 07/08/2012.

On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve payment in the amount of \$726.48 to Warren Paul Fontenot in the Fire Department for seventy-two (72) vacation hours. Mr. Fontenot's employment was terminated on 06/12/2012.

On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Jonathan Dunbar in the Fire Department, effective 07/06/2012 and approve payment in the amount of \$1,685.04 for one hundred sixty-eight (168) vacation hours.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the above-mentioned items of 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.

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Ratify the termination of Mr. Leonard Hammond (Street Department). This item was addressed in the Consents Section however; there was an objection to approval of this item voiced by Alderman Reginald Tatum. On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, it was resolved to ratify the termination of Mr. Leonard Hammond (Street Department). Alderman Reginald Tatum again objected due to the fact that the initial termination of Mr. Hammond was made in Executive Session and was not voted on in open session. Attorney Desiree Auzenne, who is representing the City of Opelousas in the civil suit, stated that this is a violation of the Open Meetings Law. Alderman Julius Alsandor withdrew his motion. Alderman Alsandor made a second motion to terminate Mr. Hammond which was seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs. Attorney Auzenne stated that a new Pre-Termination Hearing should be held. Mayor Cravins requested that the City Clerk reference the minutes of the meeting regarding this matter. City Clerk Karen Frank read the minutes which stated that Mr. Hammond requested to hold his Pre-Termination Hearing in Executive Session. She pointed out that no recording is done in Executive Session and that after that meeting, Mr. Hammond informed her that he had been fired. Ms. Frank pointed out that the motion that Alderman Alsandor is making today is based upon the Pre-Termination Hearing held on 06/14/2011. Mayor Cravins stated that they would have a Special Meeting on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. to hold Mr. Hammond's Pre-Termination Hearing. Ms. Frank informed Mr. Hammond that this was his official notification for the meeting. At this time, Alderman Alsandor withdrew his second motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cravins announced that there was a picture of Mr. Joseph Citizen in the local newspaper playing Zydeco music with the legendary Mr. Goldman Thibodeaux at the Liberty Theater in Eunice.

Chief Perry Gallow informed the Council and the citizens of Opelousas that, with the untimely death of Assistant Chief Smith, Major Barry Carrier has been promoted to Assistant Chief. Chief Gallow introduced the new Assistant Police Chief, Barry Carrier.

Mr. Darryl Wagley announced that the Gold Star plaque would be unveiled at 12:00 noon on tomorrow in front of City Hall.

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy stated that she has someone else interested in serving on the Historic District Commission.

Alderman Julius Alsandor announced that Public schools would be starting on 08/10/2012 and the J. S. Leadership Academy would be starting on 08/01/2012. He requested that everyone be mindful of this and prepare the students for the upcoming school year.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR