

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 2012

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a special session on this 24th day of July 2012, at 4:00 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 Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION BY MR. JOHN LAMKE REGARDING A PROPOSED SUBDIVISION PROJECT WITH THE OLYMPIA INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP. Mr. Lamke stated that this project is for a proposed residential development on Cherry Street for thirty single family homes with most of the homes being three bedrooms. This project will be where the old cable building was located and is in Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin's district. The park area that the City is proposing on Cherry Street is also in her district. The City purchased that property for \$100,000 back in 2003. The money generated from this residential project would help to get the park project underway. Mr. Phil Ellen, who represents Olympia Construction and Paladin, Inc., which are developers of multi-family and single-family homes for elderly families in eight states, presented the specifics of the project to the Council for review. Mr. Ellen stated that Cherry Meadows LP wants to purchase approximately ten (10) acres. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that he wished they had counsel present but he thought the property was purchased at a reduced rate contingent upon the fact that it would not be used for any other purpose other than the park. Mr. Lamke stated that this property was not part of that purchase but was donated to the City by the cable company. Mr. Lamke stated that they have already consulted with Attorney Frank Trosclair who informed them that there were no prohibitions on the sale of the property. Alderman Blair Briggs wanted to know if they would have to put the project up for bids since it is public property. Mr. Lamke stated that he checked with Attorney Trosclair who assured him that they would not have to put it up for bids. Mr. Lamke stated that Attorney Trosclair said the Council could vote to sell the property if it was for a specific project and for the good of the community.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2012

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN OPTION TO PURCHASE
PROPERTY AS SUBMITTED BY CHERRY MEADOWS, LP

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas, (hereinafter referred to as "Seller(s)") and Cherry Meadows, Limited Partnership (LP), (sometimes hereinafter referred to as "Purchaser"), or its assigns, wish to enter into an agreement for an option to purchase property; and

WHEREAS, for and in consideration of the sum of \$2,000.00 and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned Sellers do hereby grant unto the Purchaser the right of an option to purchase under the terms and conditions herein contained in the following real property located in St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, Louisiana and being more particularly described as follows: A tract lying on the south side of Cherry Street, approximately the 700 block (See Exhibit "A" for details); and

WHEREAS, the property contains approximately 9.11 acres, 32 lots (Lots 1-31 plus detention area); and

WHEREAS, total purchase price is \$200,000.00 (Exact acreage to be determined by final survey); and

WHEREAS, Seller(s) grant unto Purchaser the right and option to purchase under the following terms and conditions: Upon execution of this option contract, \$2,000.00 is to be paid by Purchaser to Seller(s) at the signing of option. Seller(s) then grant Purchaser and option to purchase this property beginning at the date of signing and remaining in effect through December 30, 2012. All monies paid to Seller(s) as option monies under this contract will apply to the total purchase price. In the event Purchaser fails to exercise his option to purchase within the times specified in this option, then Purchaser agrees that any and all sums paid by way of option money shall be and remain the property of the Seller(s), and Seller(s) shall be relieved of any further obligations to Purchaser under this agreement or otherwise.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN THAT, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas do hereby authorize the Mayor to sign an option to purchase but also require a Public Hearing to be held as well as acquiring further legal and zoning clarifications.

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, Reginald Tatum, Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Done and signed this 24th day of July 2012.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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, 2011 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2012.

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2012

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, 2011 and ending August 31, 2012, 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, 2011 and ending August 31, 2012, 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 2011-2012 budget.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to introduce the ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2012.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING 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 ADOPTING 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 estimate of Revenues for Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2012 and ending August 31, 2013, 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, 2012 and ending August 31, 2013, 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 2012-2013 budget.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to introduce the ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT 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, Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PRE-TERMINATION HEARINGS

PRE-TERMINATION HEARING FOR MR. LEONARD HAMMOND (STREET DEPARTMENT). Mr. Hammond requested an open hearing and stated that his attorney advised him not to participate in the hearing. Mr. Kim Fontenot, Interim Public Works Director, stated that based on the allegation of misappropriation of public funds stemming from charges of a year ago, Mr. Hammond is being brought before the Council for termination. Mr. Fontenot stated that he held a pre-disciplinary hearing with Mr. Hammond who decided not to speak during that hearing unless his attorney was present and now they are there to have a pre-disciplinary hearing with him and have a vote on termination or his employment based on that. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that the City's legal advisor is out of town but advised her that they would have to start the process all over again which they have and now it is brought to the Board of Aldermen to make the decision. Alderman Reginald Tatum asked if they would be in order to make a decision without their legal counsel being present. Ms. Balthazar said that they were. Alderman Tatum also asked if Mr. Hammond was afforded the opportunity to have legal counsel present. Ms. Balthazar stated that he was advised to bring counsel or any evidence that would be pertinent to this hearing. Alderman Blair Briggs asked Mr. Fontenot what his recommendation was regarding this matter. Mr. Fontenot stated that his recommendation is for termination.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to follow the recommendation of the department head for termination of Mr. Leonard Hammond. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Joseph Charles and Reginald Tatum

THE MOTION FOR TERMINATION PASSES.

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PRE-TERMINATION HEARING FOR MR. TERRELL GRIFFIN (STREET DEPARTMENT). Mr. Griffin was not present. Mayor Cravins asked if Mr. Griffin was notified. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that he was notified and that there was proof of notification in the Council's packets. She stated that on 07/23/2012 Mr. Griffin was served by Lt. Dwain Grimmert and was advised to be at the meeting. Mr. Kim Fontenot, Interim Public Works Director, stated that Mr. Griffin is accused of felony theft of a generator from the City Barn. Mr. Griffin was charged and arrested for this. Mr. Fontenot stated that there was a witness who saw the generator in Mr. Griffin's truck and advised him to put it back which he did. However, it was discovered that the hinges were off of the door of the storeroom; but Mr. Griffin denied putting it in his truck and that it was on the floor. A foreman with the Street Department stated that it was in the back of Mr. Griffin's truck and Mr. Griffin was planning on driving off with it. Based on the information that was gathered at Mr. Griffin's pre-disciplinary hearing, Mr. Fontenot recommends termination.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to follow the recommendation of the department head for termination of Mr. Terrell Griffin. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

THE MOTION FOR TERMINATION PASSES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Karen Frank announced that the City auction would be held on Saturday, July 28, 2012, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the City Barn located on Park Avenue.

Alderman Julius Alsandor announced that school starts two weeks from Friday.

Mr. John Lamke announced that there would be a town hall meeting at City Hall today at 6:00 p.m. open to all citizens relative to the "Ready City Program".

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR