

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 9th of August 2011 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 Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 07/12/2011 and the Special Meeting held on 07/14/2011. Objection was made by Alderman Reginald Tatum who stated that he had not received his meeting packet to review the minutes. 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.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda with the following changes: ***under the PRESENTATIONS Section, adding Item No. 6-A, "Presentation by Mr. Joseph Citizen regarding neighborhood concerns"; adding the following phrase to Item No. 9, "for pre-approval"; deleting Item No. 10, "Discussion regarding the City Property Rental Policy"; under the RESOLUTIONS Section, deleting Item No. 19, "A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS MINOR REPAIR HOUSING PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURE GUIDELINES..."; adding Item No. 22-A, "A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE "KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL ORGANIZATION"..."***

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for July 2011 is Ms. Racheal St. Romain who has been employed with the City of Opelousas for five (5) years where she currently works in the Accounts Payable Department. Ms. St. Romain has three children. Ms. St. Romain was not in attendance. At this time, Mr. Wagley commended Police Officer Jeremy Bias for his service during a situation where he had to administer CPR to an unresponsive person. Officer Bias continued CPR until the person was revived; medical personnel arrived on the scene and transported the patient to Opelousas General Hospital where, unfortunately, the patient later expired from a massive heart attack.

Presentation by Mr. Joseph Citizen regarding neighborhood concerns. Mr. Citizen addressed the Council again regarding the problem of horses roaming freely on Jackson Street and on the Service Road. He stated that this is his third time addressing this issue and he almost had an accident about three weeks ago when he was getting off from work about 2:30 in the morning because there was a horse standing in the middle of the street. He thanked Alderman Alsandor for looking into the problem each time he calls. He pointed out that he has lived on Jackson Street since 1955 and has never had a problem with horses roaming loose and grazing on other people's property until now. Mr. Citizen stated that last week he had to call the police about the roaming horses. He pointed out that when the police arrived, they sat there for thirty minutes and did nothing about the horses which had by this time walked up to their cars. Mr. Citizen stated that he also called the Mayor and asked him to do something about the horses because someone could hit the horses, but nothing was done that day; on Monday morning, he called Jessie Bellard with the Parish and told him the problem. Mr. Bellard referred him to animal control and he was told by them that they could not come in the City unless they have authorization from the City. Mr. Citizen requested that Alderman Joseph Charles also look into this matter since he is the alderman-at-large. Alderman Alsandor stated that he did speak to the owner of the house where the horses were kept. The horses were moved from there temporarily but now they are back. He is asking the other Council members and the attorney what would be the approach to rectify this matter. He pointed out that about six weeks ago on Vine Street there was an incident where the horse had to be euthanized and the rider was transported to the hospital. He also pointed out that this is becoming a nuisance throughout the City. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that about a year ago they had talked about

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

the same thing and Attorney Doran had drafted a proposed ordinance to deal with this matter but no action was taken on it. Mr. Ken Vidrine, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, asked if there was an ordinance for nuisances that could apply to this situation until an ordinance could be adopted. Attorney Doran stated that there were a number of laws that could be enforced as well as State law. Ms. Margaret Doucet asked that the new ordinance include specifics regarding the amount of space needed to keep the horses on, the type of shelter needed for the horses and a fine amount for those persons in violation. Ms. Genevieve Ballard Sims, a resident on the Service Road whose property runs along the Jackson Street property, stated that the horses come onto her property. She pointed out that the horses are sometimes tied to her fence and they are pulling her fence down; they are not being fed and watered properly and are being neglected. Alderman Tatum asked if the ASPCA or the Humane Society had been notified for the cruelty to the animals. He informed Ms. Sims that he would try to get that number to her at the end of the meeting.

Presentation by Chief Perry Gallow in regards to new account. Chief Gallow requested that the Council grant authority to open a new account regarding Seized Funds. He stated that presently they have it set up where State and Federal Seized Funds are in the same account. He would like to have a separate account for each of these for accounting purposes. Chief Gallow also stated that the Police Department was awarded \$25,806.59 from the court for Seized Funds. He is requesting the following transfers: \$6,500 to Professional Services account 54210-3374; \$5,000 to Capital Outlay account 54210-7021; \$5,000 to State Seized Funds (new account); \$2,806.59 to Equipment & Maintenance account 54210-5337; \$5,000 to Telephone account 54210-3305; \$1,100 to Criminal Investigation account 54210-3342; and \$400 to Miscellaneous Expenses account 54210-3310. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the new account be opened to separate State and Federal Seized Funds.

Discuss request for VARIANCE of property in R2 Zone located at 1332 Goodloe Street to open a catering kitchen (Dianna Pickens/Wilfred Kinnerson, Jr.). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 08/08/2011. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE of property in R2 Zone located at 1332 Goodloe Street to open a catering kitchen (Dianna Pickens/Wilfred Kinnerson, Jr.).

Discussion request for pre-approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU Zone at 606 N. Main Street to open a Photography Studio (Andrepoint LLC/Susan Angelle). Ms. Angelle has already paid all of her fees and completed her applications for zoning to go before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission sends a recommendation of approval. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for pre-approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU Zone at 606 N. Main Street to open a Photography Studio (Andrepoint LLC/Susan Angelle).

Discussion regarding sick leave payments to Civil Service Employees. Alderman Julius Alsandor requested that this item be tabled until further review can be completed.

Presentation by Attorney Pride Doran. Attorney Doran discussed a potential liability issue involving Ms. Wanda Juneau. Ms. Juneau was in attendance. Attorney Doran stated that on July 4, 2010, a tree fell on Ms. Juneau's home and destroyed the house substantially. He stated that he had reviewed the documentation and he felt that there was City liability. Ms. Juneau submitted three estimates to Ms. Laura Balthazar who then forwarded this information to Attorney Doran. He stated that there is no contesting that the City was responsible for the upkeep of that tree. Attorney Doran recommends that the City pays the lowest estimate of \$26,741 for the repair to Ms. Juneau's home. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve payment of \$26,741 to Ms. Wanda Juneau for damages to her home caused by a tree on City property. 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.

At this time, Alderman Tatum inquired about a tree that has large branches falling in the street. He stated that the tree is on a City easement located by Mack Frank's office. He wanted to know if the City could check on this tree because the falling branches are very dangerous. Attorney Doran stated that he would check into the liability of this issue.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

Attorney Doran then called up Ms. Wanda Williams regarding water damage to her trailer. Ms. Williams stated that a pipe burst in her yard and it was investigated whether or not it was a City line or the trailer park's line. Ms. Doucet stated that normally it's the trailer park owner's responsibility to repair any lines that break in the park because City lines only come up to the front of the park. The City contacted Mr. Castille who stated that there was a verbal agreement that the City had with mobile home parks that the City would repair these types of problems. Attorney Doran stated that Ms. Williams has over \$10,000 worth of damage to her trailer but is willing to accept \$5,000. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to approve payment up to \$5,000 to Ms. Wanda Williams for damages to her trailer contingent upon a release being signed. 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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Introduction to Amend Ordinance No. 15 of 1983, Section 28-102 – Enforcement and Section 28-103 – Penalty for Violating Parking Restrictions. City Court and Chief Gallow have conferred on making some adjustments to the City ordinances with respect to fines for improper parking. The amended ordinance will increase the present penalty from \$5.00 to \$25.00. There have been no increases since 1983. Attorney Doran distributed the amendment and suggested that it be reviewed and a Public Hearing be held at the next meeting. Attorney Doran stated that in addition to the increase in fee, there would be an additional \$20.00 fee if the fine is not paid on time. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to introduce the ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to amend Ordinance No. 15 of 1983, Section 28-102 (Enforcement) and Section 28-103 (Penalty for Violating Parking Restrictions). 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.

At this time, Attorney Doran announced that due to demands in his private practice, he would have to vacate his position as City Attorney, effective 08/31/2011.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell announced that the North Park Pavilion plans would be completed sometime in September and ready to go out for bid in October. The plans for the McCarthy Lane Bridge should be completed by next week and will be submitted to the Office of Community Development to review. Once the environmental review is completed and, if there are no problems, then they will be getting authority to advertise for bids. The Hiram Street Bridge project will receive bids in September at the regular meeting. The Park Avenue Bridge field surveys are completed but they anticipate several months before the preliminary design is completed. These bridge projects are being funded through the Hurricane Recovery funds. The elevated storage tank project is proceeding as scheduled. The Med-South well-site project is substantially complete. The new pumps are online however the new well is operational but not online. They are waiting on some test results from a testing lab to be submitted to DHH. Alderman Tatum asked if the Northeast School Bridge is included in this. Mr. Jarrell stated that it is not a part of these projects they are handling. No action needed at this time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:01 p.m. regarding the following properties:

- a. Roy A. Mayo, 900 Blk. Patsy Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) – No one present. Recommendation is for condemnation for demolition.
- b. City of Opelousas Road Home Corporation, T/S Deeded 2008 City Taxes, 901 Herman Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) – Property was sold. Item will be brought back at a later date once new owners are notified.
- c. Glenn R. Walker & Alice Murl Clark Walker (Wife), 802 E. Grolee Street, (Burned Wood Frame Structure) – Mr. Walker is deceased. Property is in litigation for bankruptcy and proceedings should be completed by 10/31/2011.
- d. Donna M. Augustine C/O B&B Builders & Investors Inc., 428 Church Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) – Property owner is now deceased. Recommendation is for condemnation for demolition.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

- e. Paul Quinn Ducharme, 307 S. Lombard Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure) – Mr. Ducharme did not receive his certified letter. This item will be placed on next month's agenda.
- f. Jim Ducharme C/O Paula Ducharme, 920 S. Railroad Avenue (Abandoned Mobile Home) – Property is in deplorable condition. Recommendation is for condemnation for demolition.
- g. James Aymond, 833 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (Wood Frame Structure) – Mrs. Aymond was present and stated that her husband is bedridden and has cancer. She stated that she has most of the items out of the house but needs a little more time. Recommendation is for condemnation for demolition after a thirty-day extension.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:07 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to accept the recommendations regarding the aforementioned properties. 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.

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:08 p.m. for the purpose of amending the City of Opelousas Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Beginning September 1, 2010 and Ending August 31, 2011. Ms. Karen Frank gave a brief overview of the City's revenues and expenditures for the amended budget. Amended revenues totaled \$18,136,592 with absorption of the fund balance loss of last year in the amount of \$711,710. Amended expenditures totaled \$17,424,090 which leaves an ending fund balance of \$792. The ending fund balance of next fiscal year would be \$125,000. This fiscal year the City has had to put \$1.825 million in the Water Department from Sales Tax. Ms. Frank pointed out that this money from Sales Tax has been put into EL&WW each year even prior to this current administration. Alderman Alsandor stated that one solution will be presented by Mr. Fontenot and that City Court presented a remedy earlier with reference to the fines for parking. Mayor Cravins asked Ms. Frank how much additional funds the City had expended over the last year to make up the increase in the retirement system. Ms. Frank stated that of the \$500,000 shortfall in Public Safety (fire and police) last year, approximately seventy-five percent was due to the retirement system. The increase for the other employees was not as large because it was only two percent. Ms. Frank stated that the retirement percentage will probably go up again next year. Alderman Tatum stated that there is a change in the law: (R.S. 39:1305) – the budget has to be prepared in a side-by-side detailed comparison for the current year, including the fund balances at the beginning of the year. He provided Ms. Frank with a copy of the information he had received at a recent conference. He stated that this is a new law and some of the cities are not aware of it. Alderman Tatum also commented that he has a hard time voting to amended the budget because he doesn't know if they have any money. He stated that since they are responsible as a Council, if they approve a budget and it is found that that budget is a deficit budget, they will be charged with malfeasance in office. He stated that he is not going to amend the budget until he can be absolutely sure; he stated that they have to have someone look at this budget. After reviewing the information submitted by Alderman Tatum, Ms. Frank informed him that the City Budget is currently being prepared in this manner except for the percentage of change column which can be easily included. Alderman Tatum stated that representative from the conference told him that the City's budget was done incorrectly. Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy inquired as to whether the fact that the City had a deficit before and now it does not, have anything to do with the money from CLECO. Ms. Frank stated that money from the CLECO funds was interjected into the budget to cover the shortfall. Alderman Tatum also inquired about the CLECO funds for the repairs to the Northeast Bridge. Ms. Frank stated that about \$60,000 was going toward that project with the rest of the CLECO funds going into reserves. Mr. Wilbert Levier addressed the Council and stated that he wanted a clearer picture of the agreement that was made with CLECO. He stated that the City had been in Court over and over to give the citizens of Opelousas a cheaper rate—now the contract has been extended for ten years without getting a cheaper rate. He asked if the agreement the City made this time would give them a cheaper rate or is it an open door that CLECO can either charge more or can give them a cheaper rate. Mayor Cravins responded that the agreement that was made was in no way the greatest agreement in the world; but the problem with this agreement started 20 years ago when the City undertook CLECO initially and the hands of the citizens and the Council were tied. In that agreement, there was no oversight by the City. Whatever CLECO said was final. There were no checks and balances by the City and the expenses accumulated over the years to \$9 million. In the new agreement, any improvements over \$50,000 have to be approved by the City and all improvements have to be Okayed. Mayor Cravins stated that he believes the rates will go down because CLECO is using a new generator they built and they are using the cheapest fuel available to generate the electricity which should generate a lower rate to the consumers. Alderman Blair Briggs commented that he

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
 OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 AUGUST 9, 2011

knows that it is law that they amend a balanced budget, but he knows there are some things that can be done differently in the year to come in the proposed budget. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:40 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to approve the proposed amending of the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Beginning September 1, 2010 and Ending August 31, 2011. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

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

ABSENT: None.

The motion died due to a tie vote. Further discussion was had and on a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to table the discussion for the amending and adopting of the budget and advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to be held on 08/23/11 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss these items.

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of amending Ordinance No. 11 of 1998 relating to water and sewer rates. Mr. Kim Fontenot stated that a water study was started in March 2011 in which the test year was 2010-2011. The study had separate water and sewer calculations and included all expenses and revenues that come into the EL&WW fund and was concluded in June 2011. Based on this study and other comparisons, Mr. Fontenot recommends that the Council approves this increase and include a 4.5% increase each year. He also recommends that the Council authorize a study every three years with adjustments. He stated that this rate increase will eliminate the current \$615,000 that is input from Sales Taxes into EL&WW. Alderman Briggs suggested that they go with the proposed rate increase but table the incremental rate increase until next year or later. Alderman Tatum asked if the City Engineers were involved. Mr. Fontenot stated that they were not involved in the study but were very involved in the production and treatment at the plant. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs, the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 7 OF 2011

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 11 OF 1998 RELATING TO WATER RATES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, that Ordinance No. 11 of 1998 be amended to reflect changes to existing water and sewer rates as follows:

CITY OF OPELOUSAS WATER RATES
 2011

INSIDE CITY LIMITS	RATES
1st 2,000 gal. per month	\$15.25
Next 13,000 gal. per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
Next 35,000 gal. per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
Next 50,000 gal. per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
Over 100,000 gal. per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS	
1st 2,000 gal. per month	\$22.72
Next 3,000 gal per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
Over 5,000 gal. per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
SPECIAL (SCHOOLS & CHURCHES)	
1st 10,000 gal. per month	\$12.61
Over 10,000 gal. per month	\$2.15-PER 1,000 GAL
MINIMUM RATE INSIDE CITY	
3/4 & 1 inch Meter	\$15.25
1-1/4 & 1-1/2 inch Meter	\$24.24

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
 OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 AUGUST 9, 2011

2 inch Meter	\$39.04
Above 2 inch	\$13.42
Plus 11% cost of meter	
4 inch Meter	\$175.98
6 inch Meter	\$205.41
MINIMUM RATE OUTSIDE CITY	
3/4 & 1 inch Meter	\$22.72
1-1/4 & 1-1/2 inch Meter	\$26.23
2 inch Meter	\$37.51
Above 2 inch	\$17.84
Plus 11% cost of meter	
4 inch Meter	\$180.25
6 inch Meter	\$209.68
SEWER RATES	
1st 2,000 gal	\$10.50
Every 1,000 gal. per month	\$2.00
DEPOSIT	
New Connections	\$100.00
NSF FEE	
Per Check	\$25.00

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 12th day of July 2011, by Alderman Julius Alsandor, 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, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted on this 9th day of August, 2011.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Alderman Reginald Tatum stated for the record that a lot of citizens would be upset with this increase.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF 2011 (REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS TO ESTABLISH AND COLLECT A SERVICE FEE OF THREE DOLLARS (\$3.00) ON ALL MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE TRANSACTIONS TO BE USED TO DEFRAY THE COST OF OPERATIONS OF THE LOCAL (OPELOUSAS, LA) FIELD OFFICE) BY ADDING SECTION III TO THE CONTENTS OF THE RESOLUTION.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

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

RESOLUTION NO. 19 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF 2011 (REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS TO ESTABLISH AND COLLECT A SERVICE FEE OF THREE DOLLARS (\$3.00) ON ALL MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE TRANSACTIONS TO BE USED TO DEFRAY THE COST OF OPERATIONS OF THE LOCAL (OPELOUSAS, LA) FIELD OFFICE) BY ADDING *SECTION III* TO THE CONTENTS OF THE RESOLUTION

SECTION III. Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr., is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority regarding the leasing of the South side of the Civic Center Auditorium Building.

A vote having been taken with the follow results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

The Resolution was declared adopted on this 9th day of August 2011.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS' APPLICATION FOR THE FY 2011-2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 20 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS' APPLICATION FOR THE
FY 2011-2012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) is to assist units of local governments with funding for needed infrastructure and long-term capital improvements in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, LGAP's purpose is to fill the gaps where there are no federal funds available to assist a unit of local government with an identified high priority need where priority will be given to those projects which identify and resolve basic human health and safety needs; and

WHEREAS, fire protection, sewer, water, renovations to essential governmental buildings, police protection, land acquisition, demolition, equipment, roads, drainage, and reasonable engineering costs (if associated with construction) are eligible for assistance under this program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana that support is given to the application for the FY 2011-2012 Local Government Assistance Program from the Office of Community Development.

The above resolution having been submitted to a vote, was adopted as follows on the 9th day of August 2011.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A PROCESS FOR THE SALE OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES WITHIN ST. LANDRY PARISH AND THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS.

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Blair Briggs, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 21 OF 2011

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A PROCESS FOR THE SALE OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES WITHIN ST. LANDRY PARISH AND THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS

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 and the City of Opelousas share a common interest in providing a process for the sale of adjudicated properties within St. Landry Parish and the City of Opelousas;

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government and the City of Opelousas wish to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the public purpose of returning commerce to the Parish of St. Landry and the City of Opelousas;

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government and the City of Opelousas wish to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the public purpose of receiving revenue for the benefit of the citizens of St. Landry Parish and the City of Opelousas;

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government and the City of Opelousas wish to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the beautification of the Parish of St. Landry and the City of Opelousas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas do hereby authorize Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr., to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the St. Landry Parish Government for the purpose of providing a process for the sale of adjudicated properties within St. Landry Parish and the City of Opelousas.

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, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Done and signed this 9th day of August, 2011.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS' HOUSING REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION POLICY FOR THE 2011 LCDBG HOUSING GRANT.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 22 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS' HOUSING REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION POLICY FOR THE 2011 LCDBG HOUSING GRANT
(Greenwoods Revitalization Project)

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas applied for and was approved for funding of its 2011 LCDBG Housing Grant Application, and
WHEREAS, the Department of Housing & Urban Development regulations require that the City of Opelousas develop and implement a Housing Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Policy designed to adhere to the requirements of LCDBG regulations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Opelousas hereby adopts the City of Opelousas' Housing Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Policy.

The above resolution having been submitted to a roll call vote was adopted on this 9th day of August, 2011 as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Done and signed this 9th day of August, 2011.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE "KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL ORGANIZATION" IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS AND ESTABLISHING A "KEEP OPELOUSAS BEAUTIFUL" PROGRAM.

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

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

RESOLUTION NO. 23 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE "KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL ORGANIZATION" IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS
AND ESTABLISHING A "KEEP OPELOUSAS BEAUTIFUL" PROGRAM

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS desires to improve the physical quality of community life; and
WHEREAS, a clean environment contributes to the emotional, physical and economic well-being of our citizens; and
WHEREAS, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., is a national non-profit community improvement organization with the focus areas of litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction and recycling; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliate program, developed in compliance with the guidelines set by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., will assist greatly in educating our community about littering behavior, waste handling, and beautification, and thereby enhance community appearance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS that the Board of Aldermen for the City of Opelousas hereby endorses the organization and supports the participation with Keep America Beautiful, Inc., and

FURTHER, THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS hereby recognizes the Keep Opelousas Beautiful Program. Said program shall be an official affiliate of the Executive Department, and shall be accountable to the Executive Department, for all issues, and shall report to the Board of Aldermen regarding all budgeting matters. The Board of Directors of the Keep Opelousas Beautiful Program shall be appointed by the Mayor, pursuant to guidelines established by the Board of Aldermen, and a chairman shall be elected by Keep Opelousas Beautiful Program's Board of Directors. Membership shall consist of no more than nine (9) persons, and must include the head of the Public Works and Code Enforcement departments of the CITY OF OPELOUSAS. The initial Executive Director will be Raymond Duplechain, who shall serve for a term of 3 years.

The foregoing resolution was duly submitted to a vote and was adopted as follows on this 9th day of August, 2011:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CONSENTS

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve payment in the amount of \$1,846.32 to Mr. Brad Carlin for one hundred sixty-eight (168) vacation hours. Mr. Carlin resigned from the Fire Department, effective 06/29/2011.

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy informed the public that if anyone is interested in moving any one of the two structures off the property, they may do so. Mr. FaKouri offered to donate the both of the houses to anyone who wanted to move them. The structure will be given to the interested party at no charge but they will assume responsibility and expense for moving the structure and then cleaning the area of debris. If no one wishes to acquire and/or move the structures, then anyone interested in tearing the structures down to salvage the materials may do so—again assuming the responsibility of tearing down the structures and cleaning the area of debris. Mr. FaKouri agreed to allow 60 days for the completion of the above. In addition, he sent a registered letter to the Historic District Commission and the City of Opelousas stating that he would also allow an additional 30 days during that demolition process if a bond is furnished to remove the structure and clean the area of debris. If no one is found who wishes to move and/or salvage these structures at the time of the above expiration dates, Mr. FaKouri has the Historic District's approval to remove the structures at his discretion. Secondly, Dr. St. Clergy inquired about the abandoned house on Lombard Street in the Historic District. Ms. Margaret Doucet stated that her workers could not do anything until the removal of the asbestos. Finally, Dr. St. Clergy inquired about the resolution of the Jefferson Street and Market Street name changes. Mayor Cravins stated that no action had been taken on that issue and they would look into it at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Melanie Lebouef stated that Music and Market would be starting 09/16/2011 and the Zydeco Breakfast would be held on 09/03/2011 at Courthouse Square.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2011

Ms. Lena Charles welcomed everyone to the 29th Annual Original Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Reunion. The Festival will be held 09/03/2011 in Plaisance, Louisiana.

Mayor Cravins informed the public that school starts on 08/15/2011 and that they should watch the school zones.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR