

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 2011

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 11th of October 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 Alderman Blair Briggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 09/13/2011.

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 PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 6-A, "Presentation by Mayor Joseph Pitre"; adding under the CONSENTS Section, Item No. 19, "Approve the forty (40) hour suspension for Police Officer Chasity Carriere"; Item No. 19-A, "Approve the fifty-two (52) hour suspension for Police Officer First Class Bobby Fontenot".**

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. Prior to the announcement of the employee of the month, Mr. Darryl Wagley announced that there would be a small business seminar held at the Opelousas Civic Center on October 25th and 26th. This event is sponsored by the City of Opelousas along with LSU-Baton Rouge. Information may be obtained from Mr. Wagley at dwagley@cityofopelousas.com or through the Mayor's office. The Employee of the Month chosen for September 2011 is Ms. Katrena Tankersley. Ms. Tankersley has been employed in the Executive Department for sixteen (16) years. She is married to Mr. Paul Tankersley and they have two children and one grandson.

Presentation by Mayor Joseph Pitre. Mayor Pitre addressed the Council in regards to his concerns about the district. He gave statistics that he feels he needs to address as a candidate of District 40. He feels that they need to be on the same page as a district and would like to offer an organizational structure. He would like to put people to work through social entrepreneurship with emphasis on the education process of training people and then begin to start venturing out with a trained workforce in St. Landry Parish. Mayor Pitre stated that there are 15,100 in St. Landry Parish and they are \$1,200 per student underfunded. He would like to know how we can be that lowly funded and still expect to achieve at the same levels as everyone else. Mayor Pitre closed by stating that they need to do something about education issues and the low pay offered to certified teachers. He asked that they consider his candidacy for State Representative.

Presentation by Mr. Joseph Citizen regarding the ongoing problem with horses in the neighborhood. Mr. Citizen has been a resident on Jackson Street since 1955. He stated that this is the fifth time he has come before the Council regarding the horses. Mr. Citizen wants to know if an ordinance can be enforced to address this problem of loose horses on the highway because he is looking to protect the horses and the human lives that can be taken from hitting a horse at 70 mph. Mayor Cravins stated that they do either need to amend the ordinance or enforce the current ordinance. Chief Gallow stated that when they get a call about loose horses they contact Animal Control and that horse is picked up and then the owner has to pay a fine to retrieve the horse from the Animal Shelter if the horse is found healthy enough to return it to the owner. Chief Gallow stated that there is nothing in the ordinance to suggest that private property is included. Ms. Margaret Doucet stated that Code Enforcement only handles the nuisance side of this which includes odors, etc. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that she has contacted the Louisiana Municipal Association which sent her copies of ordinances for a City of our size which she turned over to the City's legal advisor to draft an amendment to the existing ordinance. This item will be review and addressed at a later date.

Presentation by Mr. Link Savoie regarding the Veterans Administration. Mr. Savoie is the president of the Veterans Association. He explained that he represents Blue Star and Gold Star military families. Blue Star Families are those whose child is in a combat area and still alive. Gold Star Families are those whose child has died in a combat area. Mr. Savoie is asking for support for erect a permanent sign in Opelousas to recognize the Gold Star Families. On a motion by

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Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request of Mr. Link Savoie to erect a sign to recognize the St. Landry Parish Gold Star Families. At this time, Rev. Walton Dunbar stated that he would donate whatever it costs to erect the sign.

Discuss request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone located at 421 N. Main Street to open a Florist Shop (Cynthia Bourgeois/Alicia Bowman). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 10/11/2011. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone located at 421 N. Main Street to open a Florist Shop (Cynthia Bourgeois/Alicia Bowman).

Discuss request for approval for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone located at 511 S. Union Street to open a Professional Office (Lynn Webre/Wellness Management Chiropractic). A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 10/11/2011. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone located at 511 S. Union Street to open a Professional Office (Lynn Webre/Wellness Management Chiropractic).

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell was not in attendance.

BIDS

Accept Bids for Sewer Pump Parts. (Bid #08-11). Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for Bids for Sewer Pump Parts (Bid #08-11), six (6) bids were received:

BIDDER NAME	GORMAN-RUPP	FAIRBANKS-MORSE
THOMAS PUMP & MACHINERY	NO BID	NO BID
DELTA PROCESS EQUIPMENT	\$6,259.45	NO BID
FLUID PROCESS & PUMPS LLC	\$5,709.00	\$34,675.00
PREMIER EQUIPMENT CORP INC	NO BID	\$20,390.00
D & L PUMPS INC	\$3,985.63	\$20,186.10
GRINER DRILLING SERVICE INC	\$6,342.00	\$29,380.00

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, it was resolved to take the bids under advisement and award to the lowest bidder meeting specifications. 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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 5:32 p.m. for the purpose of amending the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Jack Tolson is requesting on behalf of his client to build downtown apartments to bring in population. He stated that if the City considers this ordinance it would be a small step to economic initiative. Mr. Tolson presented 2 maps—the future land use plan and the Opelousas existing land use plan. Ms. Sabrina Salling stated that she does not agree with the amending of the ordinance. She read a statement on behalf of the Opelousas-St. Landry Chamber of Commerce which stated that they do not support the introductory ordinance to amend the existing ordinance as submitted by Mr. Tolson. Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy stated she does not support the proposed changes to the ordinance. Mr. Tommy Dejean stated that as a member of the former committee he is in opposition of this amendment.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:53 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to DENY the request to amend the Opelousas Zoning Ordinance. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

The Ordinance was NOT ADOPTED.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR DONALD R. CRAVINS, SR., TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN AN APPLICATION FOR THE 2011 – 2013 GRANT (CFMS# 701854) FOR THE NEW LIFE CENTER WHICH IS A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THE LIGHTHOUSE MISSION WHICH IS A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the following resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 27 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR DONALD R. CRAVINS, SR., TO ACT
ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN AN APPLICATION
FOR THE 2011 – 2013 GRANT (CFMS# 701854) FOR THE NEW LIFE CENTER
WHICH IS A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND
THE LIGHTHOUSE MISSION WHICH IS A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that there is a need for the New Life Center and the Lighthouse Mission, and
WHEREAS, the Opelousas Housing Corporation, sponsored by the Diocese of Lafayette, is interested in operating the New Life Center as a shelter for homeless women and children, and the Lighthouse Mission is interested in operating a shelter for homeless men.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen, that Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr., is authorized to act on behalf of the governing authority to assist the Opelousas Housing Corporation and the Lighthouse Mission in an application for a grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no city funds are authorized to be encumbered in regards to this project.

The above resolution, having been submitted to a vote, was adopted as on this 11th day of October 2011 as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

The resolution was declared to be adopted this 11th day of October 2011.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

CONSENTS

Date and time for Trick or Treating is 10/31/2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve payment in the corrected amount of \$1,686.72 to Mr. Brad Carlin for one hundred sixty-eight (168) vacation hours. Employee's payment was originally calculated at incorrect rate of pay. Mr. Carlin resigned from the Fire Department, effective 06/29/2011.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the reinstatement of seven (7) days of suspension and departmental seniority for Permanent Police Lieutenant Mark E. Semien, effective 10/03/2011, based on Governing Authority's action being overruled by the 27th Judicial District Court at a hearing held on 05/17/2011.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise a Public Hearing regarding the following properties:

- a. John Edward Brooks, 423 E. Grolee Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure)
- b. Mary Egby Parker, 1727 Caddo Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure)
- c. Bryant Ledet, 227 W. B Alley, Deeded 2008 Parish Taxes (Burned Wood Frame Structure)
- d. Elrita Rideaux Savoy, 508 S. Academy Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)

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On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the suspension without pay for a period of forty (40) hours for Police Officer Chasity Carriere for violation of the Opelousas Police Department Policy and Procedures, General Order 40.1.5 (Reporting Vehicle Discrepancies) and General Order 14.2.4 (Truthfulness).

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the suspension without pay for a period of fifty-two (52) hours for Police Officer First Class Bobby Fontenot for violation of the Opelousas Police Department Policy and Procedures, General Order 14.2.4 (Truthfulness) and General Order 14.3.9 (Unauthorized Use of Time).

At this time, Police Chief Perry Gallow addressed the Council regarding several departmental requests. He stated that he would like to transfer \$6,000.00 from the LACE Salary Credit to the OPD Seized Funds Account. Next, Chief Gallow stated that due to lack of funding to pay officers overtime, the Opelousas Police Department will be unable to police the routes for the upcoming festivals and parades. He requested reimbursement of funding in order to pay officers overtime to patrol for these events. The matter will be taken under advisement and Chief Gallow was referred to the Budget Committee. On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$6,000.00 from the LACE Salary Credit to the OPD Seized Funds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sabrina Salling stated that November 4th is what they call French Friday in which they celebrate Cajun and cultural history. There will be bands, food, face painting—a family event. Everyone is invited to attend. This event will take place at the Historic Courthouse Square from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Mr. Charles Renaud announced that the J. S. Clark Alumni Association Inc. will host its annual homecoming on October 20th through the 22nd. Mr. Renaud stated that they will be able to give a sizeable donation to the Boys and Girls Club this year.

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy spoke regarding food vendors licensing. She suggested that the police be called to investigate whether or not these vendors have a license. Next, she spoke regarding temporary signs. Mayor Cravins suggested that Code Enforcement and the Street Department pick up these signs. Lastly, Dr. St. Clergy stated that she had copies of the Zoning Ordinance available for review.

Rev. Walton Dunbar stated that he sent a personal letter to Ms. Lemon regarding the issue of the street name change for Jefferson Street for her son Devery Henderson, Jr. Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that he spoke to Ms. Melanie Lee regarding Devery Henderson signs being placed on Jefferson Street. She stated that she will be putting some around Courthouse Square.

Mr. Wilbert Levier inquired about the Senate bill that was passed in 2001 regarding Civil Service Board members' appointments. Mr. Levier stated that the decision that the Council made to elect the unclassified people to the Civil Service Board was illegal. After a lengthy discussion about the legality of the appointments to the Civil Service Board, Mr. Levier pointed out that the classified employees have been left out and if they are not on that Board, then it is an illegal Board. He stated that the Council was supposed to select one out of the three but they selected all five.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR