

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 13th of September 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 Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 08/09/2011 and the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 08/23/2011, with the following correction: on page 4, last paragraph, changing "...on a motion by Alderman Harvey Darbonne, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned." to "...it was unanimously moved, seconded, and carried that the meeting be adjourned ."

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda with the following changes: **adding a RESOLUTIONS Section, with Item No. 20-A, "A Resolution Appointing the Designated Section 504 Coordinator and Adopting a Section 504 Grievance Procedure"; and deleting under the PRESENTATIONS Section, Item No. 10, "Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone located at 606 N. Main Street to open a Photography Studio (Phillip Andrepont/Susan Angelle)".**

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation for recognition of the Employee of the Month. The Employee of the Month chosen for August 2011 is Mr. Thomas Jones. Mr. Jones has been employed in the Street Department for thirty (30) years.

Presentation by Mayor Joseph Pitre. Mayor Pitre was not in attendance.

Appointment of new members to the Municipal Civil Service Commission. Mayor Cravins stated that three names were submitted by certain universities for each appointment to the Board. The names that get the most votes will be appointed to the vacant seats on the Commission. The votes were as follows:

Southern University

Mrs. Delores Hampton (Charles, Tatum)

Mrs. Mary Doucet (Alsandor, Butler, Briggs, Martin)

Mrs. Elsie Semien

Grambling State University

Mr. Robert Morrison (Charles, Alsandor, Butler, Briggs, Tatum, Martin)

Mr. Charles Calvin

Ms. Sheryl Moran

McNeese State University

Mr. Richard Hollier (Charles, Alsandor, Butler, Briggs, Tatum, Martin)

Mr. Joseph Davis

Mr. John Olivier

On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to appoint Mrs. Mary Doucet, Mr. Robert Morrison, and Mr. Richard Hollier to the Municipal Civil Service Commission. 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.

Discuss request for a setback VARIANCE of property in C1 (Commercial) Zone located at 624 Creswell Lane (Erns J. Snyder/Allstate). Mr. Snyder is requesting an 11 foot setback instead of the 40 foot setback so that he can add on to the

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building. A public hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 09/12/2011. The Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for setback VARIANCE of property in C1 (Commercial) Zone located at 624 Creswell Lane (Erns Synder/Allstate).

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) Zone located at 606 N. Main Street to open a Photography Studio (Phillip Andrepont/Susan Angelle). This item was deleted because it was approved at last month's meeting.

Discuss request for VARIANCE of property in DMU (Downtown Mixed Use) Zone located at 126 E. Vine Street to open a Gas Station/Mini Mart (Allen Mitchell). A Public Hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 09/12/2011. Mr. Mitchell currently operates a wheel and tire business at this location and would like to add gas services as well as a mini mart. This location was previously a gas station. The Planning Commission approved the request. On a motion by Aldermen Reginald Tatum and Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE of property in DMU (Downtown Mixed Use) Zone located at 126 E. Vine Street to open a Gas Station/Mini Mart (Allen Mitchell).

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in DMU (Downtown Mixed Use) Zone located at 233 S. Liberty Street to operate a Detail/Automotive Repair Shop (Leisa Fuselier). A Public Hearing regarding this matter was held by the Planning Commission on 09/12/2011. Ms. Fuselier currently operates a detail shop at this location and would like to be able to prep cars for painting. No painting will be done at this site but they will prep the cars and move them to another site. The Planning Commission approved the request. On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in DMU (Downtown Mixed Use) Zone located at 233 S. Liberty Street to operate a Detail/Automotive Repair Shop (Leisa Fuselier).

Discuss request for pre-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). Ms. Bowman currently has a flower shop on Leonard Street and she would like to move her business downtown. She has already paid all of her fees and completed her applications for zoning to go before the Planning Commission. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for pre-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).

*Discuss request for approval of **amended property description** for ANNEXATION AND ZONING OF C1 AND VARIANCE of building set back on the South and West property lines for Belmont Properties-CVS.* Ms. Doucet stated that Belmont Properties would like to acquire more property in that area in order to make some changes to some existing designs. The amended property description is as follows:

THAT PORTION OF GROUND, SITUATED IN PORTION OF PARCEL D, SECTION 73, T6S-R4E, SOUTHWESTERN LAND DISTRICT, CITY OF OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HWY 190 AND THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF WALLIOR ST. AT A 1/2 INCH IRON ROD SET, ALSO KNOWN AS THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE ANNEXED AREA; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HWY 190 SOUTH 81 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 200.00 FEET TO A POINT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE ANNEXED AREA; THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY NORTH 09 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 302.30 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF THE USPS PARCEL; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF THE USPS PARCEL SOUTH 80 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 127.33 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON ROD SET; THENCE SOUTH 08 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 302.18 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH IRON ROD SET ON THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HWY 190; THENCE NORTH 81 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF US HWY 190 A DISTANCE OF 129.35 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;

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CONTAINING AN AREA OF 0.89 ACRES (38,788.61 S.F.); ALL AS SHOWN ON A SURVEY BY LINFIELD,
HUNTER & JUNIUS, INC. DATED APRIL 29, 2011.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for approval of **amended property description** for ANNEXATION AND ZONING OF C1 AND VARIANCE of building set back on the South and West property lines for Belmont Properties-CVS.

Presentation by City Attorney. Mayor Cravins stated that the City does not have an official City Attorney. He stated that next month they will put forth a recommendation before the Council to fill that post. Mr. Frank Trosclair is the acting City Attorney today.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell gave a brief overview of the Bayou Yarbtor Bridges Project. He stated that they are receiving bids tonight on the Hiram Street Bridge. The plans and specifications for the McCarthy Lane Bridge have been submitted to the Office of Community Development for review and approval. Once they receive approval, then they will be able to advertise for bids. The Park Avenue Bridge is in the design phase. They are trying to complete the plans for the elevated storage tank before the September 30, 2011 deadline for the Block Grant.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Introduction of an Ordinance to amend the Opelousas Zoning Ordinance. Alderman Blair Briggs stated that the amendment to the ordinance will allow for apartments to be built in "Downtown Mixed Use" (DMU) and "Neighborhood Mixed Use" (NMU) Zones. The idea behind it is to allow for and promote more people to move to the downtown area to promote business and jobs. Mr. Jack Tolson stated that this would allow reinvestment in these zones to bring people back downtown because commercial and business development always follow redevelopment of the population in concentrated areas.

AN INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OPELOUSAS ZONING ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to cause reinvestment and redevelopment in the Opelousas Central Business District and other renewal and infill areas which are zoned "Downtown Mixed Use" (DMU) and "Neighborhood Mixed Use" (NMU) and, WHEREAS, it will be of vital city interest to have people move back into residential facilities and apartments within the central business district and other infill areas where people are able to live and work, subsequently creating a need and a demand for retail and service business reinvestment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Opelousas Zoning Ordinance shall be amended by adding to the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU) classification that of multi family apartment, of one to three stories in height and up to a density of 24 units per acre (or prorated) to be included into the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU) classification, with a minimum of one off-street parking space to be provided for each apartment unit.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor and the City Attorney are requested and authorized to proceed in proper order and procedure pursuant to rules of law and the zoning ordinance to implement this zoning ordinance modification and change.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to introduce the ordinance and grant authority to advertise a PUBLIC HEARING to amend the Opelousas Zoning Ordinance.

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 5:27 p.m. regarding the following property:

- a. Paul Quinn Ducharme, 307 S. Lombard Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure)

Ms. Margaret Doucet stated that the property is located at Lombard and Vine Street and has been burned since 2006. The property has been boarded up but no improvement has been made at this time. Mr. Gerald Ducharme spoke on behalf of Mr. Paul Ducharme regarding this property. He stated that Paul Ducharme owns multiple properties and they are in the process of trying to get something done with this property and the property next door to rebuild them and make them livable again. Mr. Ducharme stated that he would not be able to get to the property until next year. Alderman Tatum stated pointed out that this property is right across from a school and there has been a problem with kids going over there. Mr. Ducharme stated that he has boarded the house up a few times but he thinks it is homeless people who are vandalizing it.

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Ms. Doucet recommended Mr. Ducharme be given another forty-five days' extension to see some improvements being done. Alderman Alsandor stated that it is a hazard to the community especially to the kids.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:31 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., it was resolved to approve a forty-five (45) day extension and if no improvements are made in that time, then recommendation is for condemnation for 307 S. Lombard Street (Paul Quinn Ducharme). 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 5:32 p.m. for the purpose of amending Ordinance No. 15 of 1983, Section 28-102 (Enforcement) and Section 28-103 (Penalty for Violating Parking Restrictions). Ms. Lavonya Malveaux, City Court Administrator, and Police Chief Perry Gallow gave an update on this amendment. The current ordinance has not been changed since 1983 and the present penalty for illegal parking is \$5.00. City Court and the Police Department are requesting that the penalty be increased to \$25.00 per violation. Ms. Malveaux stated that other cities comparable in size to Opelousas range from \$35.00 to \$225.00 for parking violations.

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

On a motion by Alderman Julius Alsandor and seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 9 OF 2011

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 15 OF 1983, SECTION 28-102 (ENFORCEMENT) AND SECTION 28-103 (PENALTY FOR VIOLATING PARKING RESTRICTIONS)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana:

SECTION 28. Section 28-102 and Section 28-103 of the Opelousas Code of Ordinances are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 28-102. Enforcement.

It shall be the duty of the police officers of the city acting in accordance with instructions issued by the chief of police, to report:

- a) The information necessary to determine ownership of the offending vehicle;
- b) The state license number and city identification tag number, if any, of such vehicle;
- c) The time during which such vehicle is parked in violation of any of the provisions of this article; and
- d) Any other facts, a knowledge of which is necessary to a thorough understanding of the circumstances attending such violations. Each police officer shall also attached to such vehicle a notice to the owner or operator thereof that such vehicle has been parked in violation of a provision of this chapter and instructing such owner or operator to report at the police headquarters in regard to such violation. Each such owner or operator may within twenty-four (24) hours of the time when the notice was attached to such vehicle, pay the *City Court of Opelousas* as a penalty for and in full satisfaction of such violation the sum of *twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)*.

Sec. 28-103. Penalty for violating parking restrictions.

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this article and who shall fail to report within twenty-four (24) hours and pay the penalty prescribed in Section 28-102 hereof, shall upon conviction thereof, be subject to pay a penalty of twenty dollars (\$20.00) as well as court costs and attorney's fees. This twenty dollar (\$20.00) penalty, and all other costs necessary to enforce the collection of the twenty dollar (\$20.00) penalty, may be collected by civil suit to enforce same.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on August 9, 2011, by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, 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

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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BIDS

Accept bids for Hiram Street Bridge Improvements Project, MGA Project B#130. Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for bids for Hiram Street Bridge Improvements Project, MGA Project B#103, three (3) bids were received:

<i>BIDDER NAME</i>	<i>LICENSE NO.</i>	<i>BASE BID</i>
F MILLER CONSTRUCTION, LLC	60	\$637,782.93
CECIL D. GASSIOTT, LLC	1012	\$346,500.00
GUINN BROTHERS	09090	\$394,516.00

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, it was resolved to accept the bids and take under advisement pending review by engineer. 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 APPOINTING THE DESIGNATED SECTION 504 COORDINATOR AND ADOPTING A SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE. Ms. Laura Balthazar stated that there is a requirement by the Office of Community Development that any time the City receives federal funding that they should have procedures in place in case a person with any kind of disability believes they have been discriminated against.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE DESIGNATED SECTION 504 COORDINATOR AND ADOPTING
A SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

WHEREAS, The City of Opelousas does hereby assure the Office of Community Development, Division of Administration, that, as a recipient of Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Funds, all activities of this grant will be operated in compliance with requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and

WHEREAS, as a local government with 15 or more employees, the City of Opelousas further assures the Office of Community Development, Division of Administration, that it has appointed Laura Balthazar, Chief Administrative Officer as the designated Section 504 Coordinator (24CFR 8.53), and adopted a Section 504 Grievance Procedure on September 13, 2011 (24CFR 8.53), as a means of providing for continuing notification of participants, beneficiaries, applicants, and employees that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in its federally assisted programs (24CFR 8.54);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Opelousas Governing Authority does hereby submit this resolution to appoint the designated Section 504 Coordinator and adopt a Section 504 Grievance Procedure.

The above resolution, having been submitted to a vote, was adopted on this 13th day of September 2011 as follows:

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 Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for Sewer Pump Parts.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the confirmation of Segus Jolivette from Probational Police Officer to Permanent Police Officer, effective 07/15/2011.

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On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the correction of previous Personnel Action form for Christopher J. Kimble as Probationary Police Officer, effective 01/24/2011, as per the Office of State Examiner. Original form incorrectly stated effective date as 01/11/2011.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the correction of previous Personnel Action form for Kerry Sam, Jr., as Police Officer Recruit, effective 09/10/2008, as per the Office of State Examiner. Original form incorrectly stated effective date as 09/08/2008.

On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve Contract Change Order No. 1 in the increase amount of \$4,948.80 for additional work during construction for the building foundation, unsuitable soils that were encountered and had to be excavated and removed from the site. Suitable material for the building foundation had to be hauled in to replace the unsuitable excavated material and compacted for the Med South Well Site Improvements Project, MGA Project W#173.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cravins announced that Music and Market starts this Friday night at the Farmers Market beginning at 5:30 p.m. He also stated that there will be a big fundraiser this Friday night for the Boys & Girls Club with music by Sammy Kershaw. This event will be held at the Evangeline Downs Event Center and starts at 8:30 p.m.

Alderman Julius Alsandor congratulated Mr. Jerry Douglas on his recent retirement after 20+ years with the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Wilbert Levier commented that he feels the employees of the City of Opelousas were not given an opportunity to select a commission for the Civil Service Board. He stated that the employees are part of the beauty that is seen in the City yet they don't have the authority or the opportunity to select anyone to be on the Civil Service Board.

Rev. Walton Dunbar urged the Council to work together for the improvement of Opelousas that they were elected for. He suggested that before they head to attorneys and the courts that they should head to the mediator. He offered to donate his services as a counselor or find someone for them who will sit down with them and help them work it through. He pointed out that the Council is a model for a lot of young kids.

Mr. Lawrence Richard addressed the Council regarding traffic light problems. He asked each of the Council members, the attorney, the Chief and the Mayor if they could tell him exactly when the light would turn to caution (yellow). He stated that it is causing a problem because the yellow light turns to red too quickly. He suggested that at least a minute be given before it turns from yellow to red. Mayor Cravins informed Mr. Richard that the State maintains those lights and maybe the State could calibrate them or look at them to see if they are operating properly. Chief Perry Gallow stated that if the police department gets a complaint then they contact DOTD which comes out to check the light.

Mr. Jerry Douglas stated that he is having a problem collecting his sick leave time. He was told that he would get at least 180 hours of sick leave time but he had 204 hours. He stated that he only received a third of this and he heard by word of mouth that the City would pay at least 180 hours on sick leave. Mayor Cravins stated that the discussion was not the actual hours—it was the percentage. Ms. Karen Frank stated that the City has been paying one third on everybody that has been retiring—they have not been paying one half. She stated that it was discussed last week to pay one half but the Council never made a motion. Mr. Douglas also stated that sick leave time was earned as an employee and he wanted to know why employees are told that they are only going to be paid for a third of that when they retire. Mr. Douglas wanted this rule explained to him. Ms. Frank explained that the City has been paying one third for the past four years and the problem they had was when Civil Service changed it in their books and they could never find an actual motion that was done by the Board of Aldermen to change it to one half. She stated that it was her understanding that it was discussed in a budget hearing and was put in the budget, but the budget ordinance is changed every year and if it is not in the budget every year then it will only reflect for that one year. The City has been paying one third and the City is in pending litigation with any individual who is no longer with the City. Mr. Douglas told Ms. Frank that she still did not answer his question. He wanted to know how can somebody earn sick leave time and the City can tell them they are just going to pay them a third of your sick leave. Ms. Frank pointed out that most places of employment do not give any sick leave when the employee leaves. She stated that they are just following the rules. Mayor Cravins suggested that Mr. Douglas get with Ms. Balthazar and Ms. Frank regarding this matter. Alderman Reginald Tatum commented that at the last meeting, the Council said they were going to pay a half. Ms. Frank stated that there was never any vote taken on that and there is

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pending litigation on that. She suggested that they might want to get with the City Attorney before they make that decision. Alderman Blair Briggs and Mayor Cravins stated that this matter needs to be resolved.

Mr. Joseph Citizen asked about the progress of an ordinance regarding the horses. Mayor Cravins stated that he will check into this matter.

Ms. Andrea Dean stated that the Opelousas Housing Authority has kept their commitment to repair the air conditioning for the Boys & Girls Club by the end of September.

Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy inquired about the Council members' pledges to the Boys & Girls Club. She urged them to honor what they said they would do. She also complimented the water department regarding the repair of a water leak on E. North Street.

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 6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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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:

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

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)

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

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