

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2020

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 14th day of July 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic mandates for social distancing and limited occupancy requirements, the meeting was open to limited general public and was **LIVE-STREAMED ON THE WWW.CITYOFOPELOUSAS.COM website.**

With Mayor Julius Alsandor presiding, the meeting was called to order.

Mayor Alsandor requested the Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Rev. Joel Greene, Jr., read Psalm 34 and led the prayer. Mr. Marty Roy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 06/09/2020. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:
YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to ADOPT the agenda, with the following changes:

NEW BUSINESS Section:

- CORRECTION OF DATE ON ITEM NO. 13, “Approve the Termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for Police Sergeant Tyron D. Andrepont, effective 06/18/2020” should be “... effective 06/29/2020”.
- CLARIFICATION OF WORDING ON ITEM NO. 16, “Appoint new member to the Opelousas Municipal Civil Service Commission to fill vacancy created by Dr. Glynn Granger’s resignation”. Dr. Granger did not resign from the Opelousas Municipal Civil Service Commission. His term expired in April 2020 and he chose not to serve on the Commission again.
- City Clerk announced that the property tax millage with the higher adjusted millage rate is set to be adopted at the September 8, 2020 Council meeting. She encouraged all of the Council members to be present for this meeting to adopt the millage because the increase will bring in an additional \$32,456.80 in revenue for the City.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, and Marvin Richard.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

- **Five-minute recess for submission of public comments/questions.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Updates from Mayor Julius Alsandor. Steadily climbing upward with our Census 2020 numbers. Those Census dollars will be extremely important to the City over the next 10 years.
- Presentation by Miss Candace Papillion, Branch Manager for Evangeline Bank. Evangeline Bank & Trust Company is a new bank in Opelousas located at 930 Union Street—the former Mid-South Bank location. Miss Papillion stated that she and her colleagues were there to ask for Opelousas’ business. They offer a variety of products and services to accommodate everyone’s financial needs—checking, savings, CDs, IRAs, consumer loans, business and commercial loans.
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. Mayor Alsandor checked with the City Clerk to find out if there had been any public comments submitted. The Clerk confirmed that no messages, emails or comments/questions had been received regarding the agenda.

REPORTS

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

City Attorney’s Report. Attorney Travis Broussard stated that he had no report but will make a presentation in Executive Session at the end of the meeting regarding pending litigation.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve the Mayor’s recommended appointment of Mr. Loren Carriere to the Opelousas Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board to replace Mr. Joseph LaDay. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the Mayor’s recommended appointment of Mr. Loren Carriere to the Opelousas Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board to replace Mr. Joseph LaDay for a three-year term, effective 07/15/2020. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

Presentations by Dr. Ken Cochran, OGHs CEO & Dr. Tina Stefanski, Medical Director LDH, Region 4. Dr. Stefanski could not be in attendance today because she was in a meeting with the Governor. Dr. Cochran gave a status update on the current COVID-19 status. There have been 251 deaths and a little over 10,000 cases in Region 4 (Acadiana). St. Landry has had 1,200 cases and 60 deaths. The number of hospitalizations in the State have gone up in the last 3 months by over 150 percent.

Review Monthly Finances. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to accept the financial summary report as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Floyd Ford.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Chasity Davis (*stepped out*).

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2020

NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES
AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas desires to amend the budget of revenues and expenditures adopted by the City of Opelousas in August 2019 as set out in the document attached to this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas, in legal session convened, that the budget of revenues and expenditures adopted by the City Council in summer 2019 for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2019 and ending August 31, 2020, shall be and is amended as set out in the document attached to this ordinance.

Said Ordinance was introduced by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2021.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES
AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2021

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act requires the City of Opelousas to adopt an annual budget of revenues and expenditures on or before August 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the proposed budget must be accompanied by a budget adoption instrument;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas desires to adopt the budget of revenues and expenditures proposed by the Mayor of the Municipality, Julius Alsandor, and attached to this Ordinance (the "Budget Ordinance");

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the City of Opelousas (the "City Council") held on July 14, 2020, this Budget Ordinance was introduced by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 33:406(B)(1)(2); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 33:406(B)(2), a public hearing on the Budget Ordinance was held prior to final adoption, and notice was appropriately run as required by the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act;

Approve the Termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for Police Sergeant Tyron D. Andrepont, effective *06/29/2020*. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the Termination of Administrative Leave with Pay for Police Sergeant Tyron D. Andrepont, effective *06/29/2020*. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: Sherell Roberts and Chasity Davis

ABSENT: None.

THE MOTION PASSES.

Accept the Resignation of Police Sergeant Tyron D. Andrepont, effective *06/29/2020*. A motion was made by Alderman Milton Batiste to **reject** the resignation and recommend termination of Sgt. Andrepont. Attorney Broussard explained that termination could not take place without a pre-disciplinary hearing being held. Alderman Batiste withdrew his motion and submitted a second motion. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to **REJECT** the Resignation of Police Sergeant Tyron D. Andrepont. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, and Sherell Roberts.

NAYS: Charles Cummings.

ABSENT: None.

THE MOTION TO REJECT RESIGNATION PASSES AND A SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE CALLED TO HOLD A PRE-DISCIPLINARY HEARING FOR POLICE SERGEANT TYRON D. ANDREPONT.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the Extended Sick Leave for Permanent Police Officer First Class Gary Lazard, effective *05/20/2020*. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Appoint new member to the Opelousas Municipal Civil Service Commission to fill vacancy created by the expiration of Dr. Glynn Granger's term in April 2020. Upon expiration of Dr. Granger's term, he indicated that he no longer wishes to serve on the commission. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette submitted two names for consideration for appointment. Dr. Reggie Dupre was selected and will be contacted to confirm his acceptance of the appointment for a six-year term, effective *07/15/2020* to *04/08/2026*. No further action needed.

Discuss property located at 431 W. Landry Street (Debra Bowman ETALS – Abandoned Structure) for status update of previous demolition/condemnation hearing. Property owner was originally given 90 days for substantial improvements. Since that time, they have secured the building but no other substantial improvements have been made. No one was present to represent this property. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to approve demolition of this property. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2020

Discuss request for approval of the plat being submitted for the Re-subdivision of property located in a R1 Zone (Residential 1 Zone) at 607 Perry Lane to place a single family residence (Phillip Sias). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the request for approval of the plat being submitted for the Re-subdivision of property located in a R1 Zone (Residential 1 Zone) at 607 Perry Lane to place a single family residence (Phillip Sias). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for Site Plan approval for property located in a R3 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 3 ZONE) at Vige St. to build a 3 story multifamily apartment building (Peaks of Opelousas-Landbridge Development LLC). *Mrs. Doucet pointed out that this request was submitted incorrectly and should be a pre-approval of Site Plan.* The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended pre-approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to approve the request for Site Plan pre-approval for property located in a R3 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 3 ZONE) at Vige St. to build a 3 story multifamily apartment building (Peaks of Opelousas-Landbridge Development LLC). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Floyd Ford.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 414 S. Main St. to open a professional office (Hope Presbyterian Church – Opelousas Pregnancy Center). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 414 S. Main St. to open a professional office (Hope Presbyterian Church – Opelousas Pregnancy Center). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 601 E. Laurent St. to open a church (Zion Place of Refuge Deliverance Ministry – Sarah Joseph). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. Parking will be on the street; however, visibility is limited when turning onto Laurent Street from the church. Ms. Joseph will request that the police department place a sign in the area for no parking near the corner. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 601 E. Laurent St. to open a church (Zion Place of Refuge Deliverance Ministry – Sarah Joseph). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 706 N. Union St. to open a child daycare center (Holy Ghost Catholic Church – Shelly Joubert). *Mrs. Doucet pointed out that the address for this property was submitted incorrectly and should be 706 N. Main Street.* The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 706 N. Main St. to open a child daycare center (Holy Ghost Catholic Church – Shelly Joubert). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, and Sherell Roberts.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 604 S. Union St. to open a tee shirt shop (Thomason Real Estate I LLC – Courtney Brown). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 604 S. Union St. to open a tee shirt shop (Thomason Real Estate I LLC – Courtney Brown). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for VARIANCE approval for property located in a R 1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the 600 Block of Joseph St. to move a mobile home on the property (Melissa Buckman). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. Ms. Buckman stated that she had purchased the property in a tax sale and it included two lots and she would be making improvements to the trailers in order to rent them to tenants. A motion was made by Alderman Charles Cummings to approve the request for VARIANCE approval for property located in a R 1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the 600 Block of Joseph St. to move a mobile home on the property (Melissa Buckman). Alderman Ford stated that he was trying to get trailers out of that area. Alderman Cummings withdrew his

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2020

motion. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to table the matter until further information can be gathered. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:
YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, and Marvin Richard.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

Discuss request for VARIANCE approval for property located in a R 1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the 700 Block of Pulford St. to move a mobile home on the property (Michael Clues). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 07/13/2020 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE approval for property located in a R 1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the 700 Block of Pulford St. to move a mobile home on the property (Michael Clues). Questions were raised by Alderman Batiste as to what was the difference with this property and the previous property that was denied. Alderman Richard stated that since Mr. Clues lives on the property next to this, then he will maintain his property. The other property in the previous matter on Joseph Street would be rental property. Attorney Broussard stated that this matter gives him concern because of the distinguishing differences. Alderman Batiste stated that in the spirit of consistency they should be consistent in the things they do. Alderman Cummings rescinded his second. No other second was offered and the motion died for lack of a second. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to TABLE the matter until next month. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:
YEAS: Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, and Milton Batiste III.
NAYS: Marvin Richard.
ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for bids for Off-Site Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Two Card System. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:
YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Floyd Ford.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Aldermen Milton Batiste III, Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Chasity Davis and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss the following pending litigation:

- Ron Leger v. City of Opelousas, Suit number 10-C-2100-A.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III and Alderwoman Chasity Davis and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 8:08 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to authorize Mayor Julius Alsandor to sign informed consent documents agreeing to waive any conflict related to the dual representation of the City Government and the Opelousas City Court in the same suit, Ron Leger v. City of Opelousas, Suit #10-C-2100-A. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, and Charles Cummings.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III, seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR