

A SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY  
JULY 20, 2020  
3:00 P.M.

## NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by La. R.S. 33:405(C), a special meeting of the Opelousas City Council is hereby ordered to convene on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., at the council chambers, 105 North Main Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, 70570, for the purpose of holding a pre-disciplinary hearing for Sgt. Tyron Andrepont, and upon conclusion of the hearing, considering whether discipline shall be entered against him;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 42:17(A)(I), the city council may, upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the city council, adjourn to executive session to discuss Sgt. Andrepont's character and professional competence;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following agenda shall control the order of the meeting:

### AGENDA

1. Pre-disciplinary hearing for Sgt. Tyron Andrepont.
2. Adjournment to executive session if affirmative vote.
3. Consideration of discipline, if any, imposed against Sgt. Tyron Andrepont.
4. Adjournment.

Opelousas, Louisiana, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

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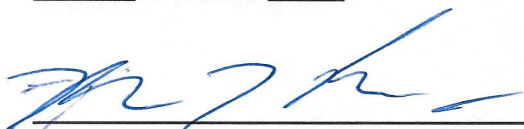
HONORABLE JULIUS ALSANDOR, MAYOR


With Mayor Julius Alsandor presiding, the meeting was called to order. The following Council members were PRESENT: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis. ABSENT: None.

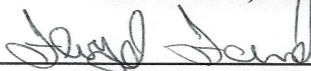
The Clerk read the Acknowledgement of Electronic Service:

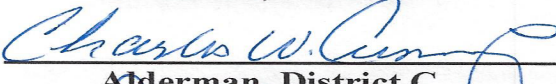
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

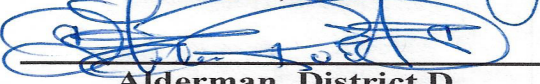
I do hereby ACKNOWLEDGE that I did electronically receive the 24-hour notice of service for the Special Meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020, to be held at Three (3:00) o'clock P.M.

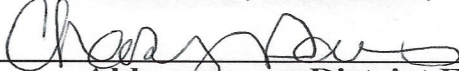
  
Alderman-at-Large

  
Alderman, District A

  
Alderman, District B

  
Alderman, District C

  
Alderman, District D

  
Alderman, District E

After a moment of silent meditation, the Prayer was led by Police Chief Martin McLendon. The Pledge to the U.S. Flag was led by Police Captain Craig Thomas.

**A SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY  
JULY 20, 2020  
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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic mandates for social distancing, the meeting was not open to the general public but was **LIVE-STREAMED ON THE [WWW.CITYOFOPELOUSAS.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFOPELOUSAS.COM)** website. Mayor Alsandor asked the Clerk if there were any changes to the agenda that were submitted to her. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any changes.

**On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to adopt the agenda as presented. 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.

**Pre-disciplinary hearing for Sgt. Tyron Andrepont. Mayor Alsandor asked if there was any representation there for Mr. Andrepont. Sgt. Andrepont was not present and no one else came forward. Mayor Alsandor stated that the City Attorney would give a brief overview of the law.**

**Attorney Broussard:** A pre-disciplinary hearing for any employee who is a member of the permanent class of Municipal and/or Fire and Police Civil Service requires that they receive due process of law—which means that they are entitled to notice of an investigation and they are also entitled to a pre-disciplinary hearing that gives them an opportunity to bring forward any evidence they have and to tell their side of the story. The pre-disciplinary hearing is for the employee—it's not for the employer. So, to the extent that we are here today for the hearing and Sgt. Andrepont is not present then I believe that acts as a waiver of his rights to the pre-disciplinary hearing and the City can move forward and enter any discipline it may decide to enter upon the recommendation of the Police Chief.

At this time, the Mayor stated that they would have the presentation may by our Chief of Police Martin McLendon.

**Chief McLendon:** On October the 30<sup>th</sup>, it was called to my attention that Sgt. Andrepont had reported to Opelousas General South Campus and responded to a call for service. To not go too far up because I want to call up my Internal Affairs person, but I immediately, once I was notified of it, I immediately called for a...after viewing the video...I called for a criminal investigation by the Louisiana State Police. After the criminal investigation was completed, it was turned over to the St. Landry Parish District Attorney's office. As you very well know, Sgt. Andrepont filed a...the District Attorney's office filed a bill of information arresting him on five counts of malfeasance in office. I launched, on June the 2<sup>nd</sup>, an Internal Affairs Investigation where he was served to let him know that he would be under an investigation internally. It was turned over to Capt. Craig Thomas and, after viewing the investigation again with the videotape, this is where we are. He was served to come in on June 28<sup>th</sup> for a pre-disciplinary hearing and on that afternoon of June 28<sup>th</sup>, I received an email indicating that he was resigning from the Opelousas Police Department. That meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on June 29<sup>th</sup>. He was served by Major Mark Gui...no, Sgt...Lt. Frank Boudreaux, I'm sorry. He was served by Lt. Frank Boudreaux. But in the packet, Internal Affairs Capt. Thomas can—I'd like for him to come up and tell you his findings in the Internal Affairs investigation and we have the presentation of any other information you may need.

Capt. Craig Thomas came up and the Mayor requested that he state his title and name for the record.

**Capt. Craig Thomas:** My name is Cap. Craig Thomas, Internal Affairs, Opelousas Police Department. Like the Chief said, I conducted an internal investigation involving all the witnesses and alleged suspect in reference to Jonah Coleman, Jr. During my investigation, it was a level of questions that was asked to Sgt. Andrepont and during that time, it was discovered that he used an extreme amount of force...that he...and also that he was untruthful during the investigation during the series of questions that was asked to him. During that time, which we had video to support the allegations that were made against him. Through my findings...it was a classification under Internal Affairs...it will either classify it as a Class 1 or a Class 2. And during that time he was classified as a Class 1 offense—meaning 'serious or criminal misconduct complaints that allege needless or excessive force, brutality, or violations of the criminal law'. Which it goes on to cover a few other different things as far as corruption, breach of civil service—none of that applies—but basically the excessive force, meaning that something that is punishable by...be brought upon you either criminally, and as it relates to your job—uh, lead to termination. And I think that's where we're at with it. I don't know if you have any other questions or...

**Alderman Milton Batiste:** I have one, Mayor.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Mr. Batiste, you've been recognized.

**Alderman Batiste:** So with the classes, a Class 1 is more severe than a Class 2?

**Capt. Thomas:** Right. A Class I is a felony and a Class II would be considered a misdemeanor.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Capt. Thomas, if I, Mr.—I'm sorry. Mr. Batiste, are you...you...? Just for clarification, could you elaborate on number 2 on the offense—the difference? You did elaborate and define number 1. Can you just...you said one's the misdemeanor and the other one's the...

**Capt. Thomas:** Right...any time that you do...

**Mayor Alsandor:** The wording itself...

**Capt. Thomas:** Right. Anytime you do anything that's gonna cross the criminal statutes, basically. You know, anything with malfeasance, anything like that, um, versus—I'll just give you an example of a complaint—of an officer mishandled a call or maybe didn't wear a bodycam or something like that would be considered a Class 2, it would be a Class 2. If you want to look

**A SPECIAL MEETING  
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at it, you know, in more laymen's terms—one is a felony, basically. One you can get fired for or arrested and the other is just something just for disciplinary action.

**Mayor Alsandor:** I think it was only...I think it's only right that clarification be stated for the record that everyone's (*indistinct-loud thump*) right now. Counsel, any other questions or any other council members at the present that have a question for Capt. Craig Thomas or Chief Martin McLendon?

**No Responses.**

**Mayor Alsandor:** No questions on your part?

**Various voices:** No.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Anything more on your part, Capt. Thomas?

**Capt. Thomas:** No, sir.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Ok. (*Long pause*). Chief?

**Chief McLendon:** Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to make it perfectly clear that the Chief of Police is required by law to make a recommendation for Sgt. Tyron Andrepont; but before I make my recommendation, I've said earlier that I think it's only fair if you...in order to make an intelligent and informed decision...that you need the opportunity to view the evidence that is in front of you. And if you so choose to, then we can offer that in this particular case.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Chief...and that evidence that you are speaking of is a viewing of the incident itself. Is that correct?

**Chief McLendon:** That's correct.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Ok.

**Chief McLendon:** And I think...the City Attorney can...don't mind speaking on that. Once we have...while we are here, then I have the right to present any facts or any past Internal Affairs or cases against Sgt. Andrepont that was handled by this department and we are prepared to do that also.

**Mayor Alsandor:** So this is to reference his character and his (*indistinct*)...competency as an officer with the City—department with the City of Opelousas. Correct, Chief?

**Chief McLendon:** That's correct.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Counsel, do you want to elaborate on this or you... (*indistinct*)?

**Attorney Broussard:** Chief, is this something you're requesting a motion to adjourn to Executive Session?

**Chief McLendon:** That is absolutely correct.

**Adjournment to executive session.**

**On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 3:21 p.m. 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.

**On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Aldermen Milton Batiste III and Charles Cummings, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 3:54 p.m. 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.

**(Audience returns)**

**Mayor Alsandor:** Ladies and Gentleman, thank you for your patience. We went into Executive Session—a discussion, presentation by Chief McLendon and Capt. Thomas and Major Guidry. We had a motion to go back in Regular Session. That's why you all have returned. And at this time now we will have the Chief come to the mic and make his recommendation to the Council

**Consideration of discipline, if any, imposed against Sgt. Tyron Andrepont.**

**Chief McLendon:** Mr. Mayor and Council, my recommendation as it relates to Sgt. Tyron Andrepont is termination.

**Mayor Alsandor:** Chief McLendon has just made a recommendation as the Chief of Police for City of Opelousas and his Police Department—a recommendation for Sgt. Tyron Andrepont for termination before you, Council, any other questions for the Chief. Council, you've heard the recommendation. What's your pleasure at this time?

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**On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the recommendation by Chief of Police Martin McLendon as it relates to Sgt. Tyron Andrepont for termination. 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.

**There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. 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.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Leisa S. Anderson, City Clerk**

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**Julius Alsandor, Mayor**