

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2021

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8th day of June 2021 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, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis. ABSENT: Floyd Ford (*arrived late*).

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Pastor Anthony Polotzola, First United Pentecostal Church, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer.

Mr. Ronald Milburn, Retired First Sergeant, U.S. Army, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Alsandor also recognized Mr. Milburn for his upcoming installation on June 11, 2021 as the Most Illustrious Grand Thrice, the most Worshipful Prince Hall in the Masonic Society.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 05/11/2021. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Floyd Ford.

On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford, seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and unanimously carried, it was resolved to APPROVE the following change: under the NEW BUSINESS Section, AMENDING Item No. 15, "*...and approve an additional 16 foot setback off of Railroad Avenue*". A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Floyd Ford.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to APPROVE the following change: under the PERSONNEL Section, DELETING Item No. 34, "*Approve the suspension of Permanent Police Officer First Class Romalis O. Thomas for one calendar day with loss of one day of seniority and twelve hours of pay for violation of Opelousas Police Department Policy 14.3.9 (Unauthorized Use of Time), effective 06/14/2021. Violation was committed and investigation initiated prior to employee beginning extended sick leave*"; and DELETING the EXECUTIVE SESSION Item, "*Discuss settlement proposal received in Patrick Johnson versus City of Opelousas, suit no. 15-C-0503-A, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana*". Alderman Floyd Ford arrived during this time.

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.

On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to ADOPT the agenda as documented with the approved changes. 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. No comments were submitted online or by email.

- Introduction of Dr. Marvin R. Crockett, newly appointed Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Opelousas. Dr. Marvin Crockett is a visionary business leader that makes it a reality through sound strategic development. He intuitively recognizes the threads of opportunity that moves through an organization, by bringing the employees together into a coherent united team, by helping others extend their thinking, and meeting inclusive business successes. He is an inspirational leader who tells stories that inspire action while being grounded in financial information that balances the operations. He is respected as a credible voice in decision making, and building strategic relationships. Dr. Crockett has earned a seat at the table wherever he has served. Currently, Dr. Crockett serves as the newly appointed Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Opelousas through the Board of Commissioners. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Crockett has served as an economist and senior manager in positions in the areas of academia and corporate businesses. His compassion has always been gratifying when he worked with the elderly, disabled individuals, homeless veterans and less-fortunate citizens within communities across our country. He was born in Baton Rouge, LA and raised in Breaux Bridge, LA. He is a graduate and alumni of the historical Holy Rosary Institute High School in Lafayette, LA. Dr. Crockett earned his Doctorate of Philosophy in Business and Public Administration degree from Northcentral University, a Master of Business Administration degree from Liberty University, Bachelor degrees in Counseling from the College of Biblical Studies and Electrical Engineering from Southern University A&M College. Out of his many certifications he is most proud of his recent certification in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace from the University of South Florida. Dr. Crockett is honored for being an U.S. Army Veteran, a Prince Hall Mason, as well as a Life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and many other professional organizations.
- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative. Mr. Tim Marks gave a brief update: Across the state 543 people currently hospitalized with COVID, 75 of those who are on ventilators, 31.7% vaccination rate in the state with 27.73 % in our Acadiana region and 24.74% in St. Landry parish; 3.9% positivity rate in St. Landry Parish well below the 5% threshold for any type of remediation. The hospital is trending 3-5 COVID patients and is currently discharging 1-2 COVID patients

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per day but still maintaining the 3-5 patient status so the infection rate is still happening. The hospital is still doing the outpatient infusion treatment for COVID. There is a COVID vaccination call line at 337-447-2262 to receive current information on what's offered at the hospital and the across the state. Mr. Marks thanked the Mayor and the City of Opelousas, Chief McLendon and the Opelousas Police Department, and the local EMS services who helped them to set up outpatient clinics throughout the City and several other areas in the Parish.

- Introduction of Mr. Frank "Buddy" Helton, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Central St. Landry Economic Development District (CSLEDD). Mr. Helton gave an update on projects in our district from 2019 to the present:

"My apologies for not coming sooner but with the COVID pandemic and all aspects of life and business became very challenging. In spite of shutdowns and the loss of a major retailer in our district namely the Stage locations our collections only dropped 2.3% in 2020 and are off to a strong start in 21 as we are projecting our income to remain level or quite possibly rise throughout the year. We continue to add many new businesses growing the tax base in the district also adding retail options and job opportunities for our citizens. We are currently aggressively recruiting possible tenants to backfill the vacant Stage building, other available buildings and parcel options for new development throughout the district. There has been a growing interest in the South end of the district from medical, mixed use, retail, commercial and residential housing developments. We all know that infrastructure is the foundation of all development new and continued. Along those lines from 2019 to date, CSLEDD, with the collaboration of the parish and the city of Opelousas, have and continue to fund the following improvements:

1. We funded the effort to relocate city utilities at Judson Walsh for the bridge relocation project.
2. We funded broadband capacity enhancement at the civic center on Creswell Lane Extension for the city.
3. We fund the enhanced grass cutting and litter abatement contract along I-49 from Flagstation Road to US 190 keeping our corridor looking respectable and inviting.
4. We repaired to original build specs the lighting systems at US 190, Creswell Lane, and Harry Guilbeau Road interchanges. We also upgraded all to modern, efficient LED fixtures; we are in the process of installing approximately 35 to 40 LED fixtures along Harry Guilbeau Road from I-49 to LA 182; we have also initiated the dialog at the State level with DOTD and are in the initial stages of having a project number assigned to the project to install lighting along I-49 from Creswell Lane through Judson Walsh to Harry Guilbeau Road utilizing district, state and federal funds.
5. We have secured approximately 1.6 million from capital outlay on a 50/50 match which we at CSLEDD will match for a 150,000 gallon per day sewer treatment facility on the Southern end of the district; we secured and purchased a site location right away as well as an initial forced-main relocation site; we currently have a request for additional capital outlay funds in the amount of 1.39 million on a 75/25 match for four forced-main stations to feed the site; the site is under construction as we speak by a local contractor and scheduled for completion by the end of this year.
6. We have been and continue to be involved with local DOTD officials to be proactive in mitigating traffic issues related to development in our district.
7. We commissioned a comprehensive master plan for the development of the Boyd property surrounding Evangeline Downs which was completed and presented in late 2019, however, the COVID pandemic shut down the dialog to move the plan forward. With things getting back to some sense of normalcy, we have begun to restart the dialog to try move the plan forward with an initial phase of the plan. The plan consists of a retail commercial restaurant development component, a cultural center component, an equine multi-use center component, and an RV Park component.

I bring this information to you as a progress report on our district and truly hope that it is to your pleasure. I thank you for your support and the efforts to move the city and parish forward and look forward to our continued progress. Thank you for your time and I'll be happy to entertain any questions that you may have."

Alderman Cummings inquired about the site location of the sewer plant. Mr. Helton informed him that the sewer plant is on the Southern end of the Clos de Bois development all the way along in the back of Bayou Callahan at back corner of the development where Callahan and Mike Richard's development of property end-- right there back along the old railroad track and the Bayou Callahan. When you get to the Bayou at the bottom before you come back up the hill segue way between Justin Walsh and Harry Guilbeau--the Bayou that you cross, it's the access right there--when you see the construction, you follow the body and then actually just traverse and basically west to northwest from there.

- Updates/Presentations by Mayor Julius Alsandor:
 - Delta Broadband Mapping System: Mayor Alsandor gave a video slide presentation of the Broadband Mapping System. He stated that the Delta Regional Authority has a survey/test on their website for the public to provide input regarding connectivity for the internet in various areas to help expand broadband coverage. The survey can be found at www.dra.gov.
 - Ms. Lena Charles: The ODDD is in its final stages of the Master Plan review. They will be appearing before the Opelousas Planning Commission to give a presentation of the Plan and then on to the City Council to introduce the ordinance for consideration of adoption.
 - Local High Schools highlighting their accomplishments: Mayor Alsandor and the Council recognized several students from three different schools who have excelled in sports. Those schools represented included Northwest Lady Raiders Basketball, Beau Chene Lady Gators Softball, and Opelousas Catholic Vikings Boys Baseball.

REPORTS

Committee Reports: Budget Committee. Alderman Milton Batiste III read the minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting as follows:

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, June 3, 2021 @ 4:30 P.M.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. City Clerk Leisa Anderson led the Prayer and Alderman Charles Cummings led the Pledge to the U. S. Flag.

PRESENT: Milton Batiste III, Chairman; Charles Cummings, Vice-Chairman; and Sherell Roberts.

ABSENT: Floyd Ford (*arrived late*).

Alderman Batiste asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Fire Chief Charles Mason requested that Chief Martin McLendon give the Police Department's presentation first. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the Budget Committee Agenda and allow Police Chief McLendon to give his presentation first.

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1. Discuss salary increase for Police Officers, Records Clerks and Communications Officers. *Chief McLendon presented the Committee with charts and graphs showing the entry level pay rates for various Regional Police Departments and how Opelousas compared to them. Out of the eleven agencies listed, Opelousas ranked at second-to-last on the chart. Opelousas ranked last for Regional Communications Officers pay rates in a list of seven agencies. Chief McLendon pointed out that the City is continuing to lose officers to other agencies because of the low starting pay and due to the fact that new recruits are failing the psychological exam. He also noted the increase in gun violence in Opelousas and the shortage of staff available to police these issues. Alderman Floyd Ford arrived during the discussion. Lieutenant Dwight Brown stated that they have a limited number of officers working the night shifts. Sgt. Brody Ortego stated that they have to police the clubs at closing and they have a shift of five officers to police 250-300 people while trying to clear the crowds after the clubs close at 2 a.m. in the morning. He invited the Council members to ride with them to see what they have to deal with. Chief McLendon played an audio of gunshots being fired in a neighborhood. Major Mark Guidry stated that they have been having kids jumping out of cars spraying areas with bullets. He stated that they have been picking up guns. He stated that the officers have been picking up 2-3 guns per shift. Chief McLendon would like for the Council to start looking at the budget so that these increases can be in effect when the new budget for FY2021-2022 goes into effect.*

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to take the matter under advisement and forward to the full council for further review. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Floyd Ford.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

2. Discuss hourly rate increase for Opelousas Firefighters from \$9.50 to \$11.50 per hour. *Chief Mason requested an increase for the entry level Firefighters. He stated that these men love their jobs but the pay is not enough and he will soon be losing a lot of higher ranking officers due to retirements. He also noted that the Firefighters are at a higher risk of getting cancer due to the toxins in the fires they fight. He pointed out that they now have to immediately strip down out of their uniforms and wipe their faces and necks off with baby wipes to remove some of the toxins and soot that are entering their bodies. He asked that the City consider his request for the pay increase.*

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to take the matter under advisement and forward to the full council for further discussion.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The Budget Committee Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Mayor Alsandor stated that they will have to look at the upcoming budget and diligently look at the requests made by the Police and Fire Chiefs. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the Budget Committee Report and the statements of the Police and Fire Chiefs. 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.

Review Monthly Finances. Mr. Stephen Woods was not in attendance. Mayor Julius Alsandor informed the Council that they had been provided with the Financial Report for period ending 05/31/2021 for their review. He reminded the Council members that the budget was scheduled to be adopted at the August 2021 meeting and that they should begin now with reviewing the finances. Alderman Batiste asked if there was funding available to do some professional spraying and patching. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the Monthly Finance Report as presented by Mayor Alsandor and forward the questions from Alderman Batiste to the Finance Committee. 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.

Engineer's Monthly Report. A copy of the Engineer's Monthly Report was provided to the Council members. Mr. William Jarrell gave the following updates:

- Street Improvement Project – Plans and specifications are complete and have been submitted to FP&C for approval.
- Water Meter Replacement Project – Waiting on approval from FP&C. E-Source has been meeting with the City water and billing employees to review the system.
- Water Line Repairs Project – Plans are 95% complete. Waiting on approval from FP&C.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to accept the Engineer's Monthly Report 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.

City Attorney's Report. Attorney Travis Broussard stated that he had no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on status of request by Mr. Floyd Dominick for purchasing City-owned property located on Caddo Street. Attorney Broussard stated that it has determined that the City does own the property which it purchased in a Sheriff's tax sale in May 2001 for \$5,334.00. Should the City deem it not useful for a public purpose then in the upcoming months, the city will entertain introduction of an ordinance to offer the property for sale to anyone interested including Mr. Dominick.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve request by Opelousas Tourism to amend budget by adding \$3,895 to line item 54560-3420 due to a Certified Local Government (Historic Preservation Grant) secured by Opelousas Tourism. The amount originally submitted by Tourism was listed as \$5,094; however, Ms. Melanie Lebouef, Tourism Director, stated that the correct amount of the grant is \$3,895. This grant is being used to enhance the City's websites. On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the request by Opelousas Tourism to amend budget by adding \$3,895

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to line item 54560-3420 due to a Certified Local Government (Historic Preservation Grant) secured by Opelousas Tourism. 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 ZONING CHANGE approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE located at 2221 S. Union Street to be changed to a C1 (COMMERCIAL 1) ZONE to build and operate a Medical Facility and also to request a site plan approval (Edmond Estilette Pavy, Jr.). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 06/07/2021 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for ZONING CHANGE approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE located at 2221 S. Union Street to be changed to a C1 (COMMERCIAL 1) ZONE to build and operate a Medical Facility and also to APPROVE the request for site plan approval (Edmond Estilette Pavy, Jr.). 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 VARIANCE approval for property located in a C1 (COMMERCIAL 1) ZONE located at 504 W. Landry Street for a setback of 7 feet from the curbing on Bellevue Street with an additional setback of 16 feet off of Railroad Avenue to build storage buildings at the location referenced above and also to request a site plan approval (St. Landry Lumber Company, LTD). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 06/07/2021 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for VARIANCE approval for property located in a C1 (COMMERCIAL 1) ZONE located at 504 W. Landry Street for a setback of 7 feet from the curbing on Bellevue Street with an additional setback of 16 feet off of Railroad Avenue to build storage buildings at the location referenced above and also to request a site plan approval (St. Landry Lumber Company, LTD). 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.

Mayor Alsandor announced that he had to leave the meeting at this time due to another engagement. Mayor Pro-Tem Chasity Davis took over for him as meeting president.

Discuss request for ZONING CHANGE approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE located at 529 S. Union Street to be changed to a C1 (COMMERCIAL 1) ZONE to construct, operate and maintenance of a Telecommunications - Class III facility (John Clifford Mills – AT&T). The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 06/07/2021 and recommended approval of this item. The Historic District Commission has also given its approval. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for ZONING CHANGE approval for property located in a NMU (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE) ZONE located at 529 S. Union Street to be changed to a C1 (COMMERCIAL 1) ZONE to construct, operate and maintenance of a Telecommunications - Class III facility (John Clifford Mills – AT&T). 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.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to grant Authority to advertise for a Public Hearing for consideration of condemnation/demolition of the following properties:

- (a) Corina Reed, C/O Curley Kelly, 739 Melancon Street (Abandoned House)
- (b) Peggy Sue Vories & Verna Elizabeth Anderson, C/O Carrie Williams, 1302 E. Truman Street (Abandoned Mobile Home)
- (c) Opelousas City of, Sustain Hall ETALS, 1619 Caddo Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- (d) Frances E. Dunbar, C/O Lena Dunbar, 426 Arkansas (Abandoned Mobile Home)
- (e) St. Landry Parish Police Jury, Alton Ramer T/S, 1513 W. Blanchard Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- (f) St. Landry Parish Police Jury, George Kipling Manuel ETALS T/S, 1517 W. Blanchard Street (Abandoned Asbestos Siding)
- (g) Hinder Cooper & Robert Albert, C/O Carolyn Joseph, 814 Sunset Drive (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- (h) Emily & Her Children Trust & EH Hart Property Class Trust ETALS, 1731 W. Blanchard Street (Abandoned Mobile Home)
- (i) Andrew Semien, 400 Block of Colorado Avenue (2 Abandoned Mobile Homes)

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.

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM JUNE 25, 2021 AS CLIFTON CHENIER DAY.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 07 OF 2021

RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM JUNE 25, 2021 CLIFTON CHENIER DAY FOR HIS CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND EACH JUNE 25TH THEREAFTER UNTIL 2025, THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF CLIFTON CHENIER'S BIRTHDATE

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier, was born June 25, 1925 near Opelousas, Louisiana and helped to pioneer the development of Zydeco music—a southern Louisiana blend of blues rhythms, French, African American, Native American, and Afro-Caribbean traditions; and

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WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier, billed the King of Zydeco, was a significant force popularizing Zydeco, infusing R&B and swing into his music with his chromatic piano accordion; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Clifton Chenier began his recording career under the Elko Records label and from his first recording session at Lake Charles radio station, KAOK, the regional hit singles "Clifton's Blues" and "Louisiana Stomp" were born; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Clifton Chenier signed with Specialty Records and garnered his first national hit with his label debut "Ay-Tete Fi" (Hey, Little Girl), a cover of Professor Longhair's song; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Clifton Chenier formed the Red Hot Louisiana Band, featuring his brother and rubboard player Cleveland Chenier, saxophonist John Hart, guitarist Paul 'Lil' Buck' Sinegal, guitarist Joe Brouchet, drummer Robert St. Julien and Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, who later started the Grammy- and Emmy-winning Buckwheat Zydeco band; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier traveled throughout Europe introducing Zydeco to the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Clifton Chenier received a Grammy award for his album, *I'm Here*; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Clifton Chenier won a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier and his band were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2011 for the 1975 album, *Bogalusa Boogie* and also in 2011, Clifton was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Clifton Chenier received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, a distinct honor that recognizes the creative contributions of music's elite artists; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier died December 12, 1987 in Lafayette, Louisiana, and was buried in All Souls Cemetery in Loreauville, Iberia Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier, one such musician, has made a significant mark on Creole and Zydeco music creating a distinct musical style for the state of Louisiana and beyond.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS BOARD OF ALDERMEN that we honor and recognize Clifton Chenier, the King of Zydeco, by proclaiming June 25, 2021 through the centennial year of 2025, **Clifton Chenier Day** in Opelousas, Louisiana.

The above Resolution having been submitted to a roll call vote was adopted on the 8th day of June 2021 as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PART III. SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION SUBPART A. METHODS OF SOURCE SELECTION FOR THE PURCHASE OF USED EQUIPMENT. The City Clerk read the proposed resolution; however, there were questions regarding the wording of the ordinance because it referenced vehicles as well as equipment. The resolution was in draft form as submitted by the Municipal Association. The final corrected resolution is listed below.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 08 OF 2021

Resolution to Adopt PART III. SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION
SUBPART A. METHODS OF SOURCE SELECTION
for the Purchase of Used Equipment

Whereas, the City of Opelousas follows the Public Bid Law for the purchase of moveable equipment—La. R.S. 38:2212.1; and

Whereas, La. R.S. 38:2212.1 makes no provision for the purchase of used equipment exceeding the cost of \$10,000 without following the quote and/or bid processes provided in the Public Bid Law which can result in the loss of opportunity to purchase high-quality used equipment; and

Whereas, Title 39, Part III. Source Selection and Contract Formation, Subpart A. Methods of Source Selections, particularly La. R.S. 39:1600(C), provides an alternative method to purchase used equipment without the necessity of bids if the purchase of the used equipment is cost effective; and

Whereas, R.S. 39:1554(E)(1) authorizes political subdivisions to adopt any part of Title 39 and accompanying regulations regarding purchases; and

Whereas, the City of Opelousas has immediate need for an available used, high-quality dump truck, but placing the purchase for bids is impracticable and would likely result in the loss of opportunity to purchase same.

Now, Therefore, let it be resolved by the Council that:

The City of Opelousas will specifically adopt and utilize Louisiana Revised Statute Title 39, Section 1600(C), for the purchase of a high-quality, used dump truck as it has been determined that the purchase of a high-quality used dump truck is more cost effective than the purchase of a new dump truck.

1. The city staff responsible for purchasing a dump truck has certified the following:
 - a. the price for which a used dump truck may be obtained is in the range of \$60,000.00;
 - b. the plan for maintenance and repair of the vehicle and the cost thereof has been explained;
 - c. the savings that will accrue to the city because of the purchase of the used dump truck has been explained; and
 - d. the fact that following the formal procedures set out in the Public Bid Law will result in the loss of the opportunity to purchase the vehicle.

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2. Because such a certification has been presented and accepted, the purchase of a suitable, high-quality dump truck for an amount not to exceed \$ 60,000.00 is hereby approved.
3. This Resolution shall remain in effect until the described dump truck is purchased and delivered to the city, at which time the adoption of the forgoing Part, Subpart and Statute shall sunset.

A roll call vote was had with the following results:

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

NAYS: Sherell Roberts.

ABSENT: None.

Done and signed this 8th day of June 2021.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

PERSONNEL ITEMS

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the **Termination** of Police Officer Recruit Francisco O. Anderson for failure to report for duty, effective 05/04/2021. 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.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to approve the **Extended Sick Leave and Interruption of Working Test Period** for Probational Police Sergeant Tyrone J. Davis, effective 03/22/2021. 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.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard it was resolved to approve the following **Promotions**:

- Christopher K. Dekerlegand, Jr., from Permanent Police Officer to Probational Police Officer First Class, effective 06/13/2021.
- Corey L. Dekerlegand from Permanent Police Officer to Probational Police Officer First Class, effective 06/13/2021.
- KaLeah K. Dorsey from Permanent Police Officer to Probational Police Officer First Class, effective 06/13/2021.
- DeAndra J. Thomas from Permanent Police Officer to Probational Police Officer First Class, effective 06/13/2021.

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.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the following **Terminations**:

- Police Officer Recruit Kem L. Dwyer for failure to report for duty, effective 05/03/2021.
- Police Officer Recruit Jennah Alyse Martin for failure to report for duty, effective 04/19/2021.

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.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste, it was resolved to approve the Police Chief's recommendation of **hire** for Sabre Nichole Gabriel as a Police Officer Recruit, effective 06/14/2021 with working test period to begin immediately upon completion of the six month formal training or completion of P.O.S.T. certification, whichever occurs first. 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 Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the following **Resignations**:

- Police Officer Recruit April R. Leger, effective 05/07/2021.
- Police Officer Recruit Deondre T. Thomas, effective 05/25/2021.

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.

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On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the following **Sick Leave** requests:

- Extended Sick Leave and Interruption of Working Test Period for Probational Police Sergeant Thad C. Leger, effective 05/17/2021.
- Extended Sick Leave for Permanent Police Officer First Class Romalis O. Thomas, effective 04/19/2021.

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.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the **Status Change** for Police Officer Recruit Khaedayajha S. Sylvester to Probational Police Officer, effective 04/15/2021. Employee has received formal training and is now P.O.S.T. Certified. 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.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve **payment** to former Police Officer Evan Sumrall in the amount of \$3,329.26 for 200 hours of unused annual leave and 4.5 hours of unused compensatory leave. Mr. Sumrall resigned, effective 03/05/2021. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- *At Attorney Travis Broussard's request and unanimous vote of Council, Executive Session item was deleted from agenda.*

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK



MAYOR