

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2022

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 11th day of January 2022 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. Mayor Alsandor announced that Mr. Wilbert Levier, a long-time employee of the City of Opelousas, had passed away. Father Lambert Lein, pastor of Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer. Mayor Alsandor also asked that they recognize anyone else who may have lost someone: the Richard family who recently lost two children in a house fire in Opelousas; Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush; Mr. Jody Broussard; Alderman Charles Cummings' sister-in-law; and Ms. Maude Esther Hardy. Sgt. Charles Bernard, 8-year U. S. Marine Corps Veteran; 30-year retired Master Sergeant with the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola State Penitentiary and currently employed as a Park Ranger for the City of Opelousas, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 12/14/2021. 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 APPROVE the following changes to the agenda:

- Under the NEW BUSINESS Section, correcting Item No. 18(c) as follows: change "Marie Davis" to "Mary Davis" and change "C/O Wilfred Davis" to "C/O Linda Carriere".

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 Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to ADOPT the agenda with the approved changes. 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Monday, January 17, 2022:
 - The 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration and parade will be held at 1:00 p.m. The parade route will travel from South City Park, north up Market Street and turn east on Bloch Street, turn North on Union Street and end at Holy Ghost Catholic Church. Following the parade, there will be a program at 2:00 p.m. at the church's life center. Ms. Rebecca Henry is the founder and organizer of this event. CDC guidelines are to be followed.
- Saturday, January 29, 2022:
 - Annual Gumbo Foundation Cook-off will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the side of Frank's Po-Boys on Landry Street.
 - Downtown Market will be held on Courthouse Square beginning at 10:00 a.m. This event is hosted by Java Square. Food, vendors and handcrafts will be available.
 - Opelousas Catholic School will host its dinner and auction at 7:00 p.m. at the Opelousas Civic Center. Tickets are \$50 per person. Contact hebertk@ocsvikings.com for more information.
 - The "Guns Down, Power Up" organization will sponsor a non-violent march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Park. The march will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will have a panel of speakers. This event is sponsored by Mr. Eric Williams.
- Saturday, February 5, 2022:
 - The Krewe de Chiens dog parade will be held at 12:00 noon at the South City Park around the boulevard and is sponsored by the Opelousas Kiwanis Club.
- Thursday, February 17, 2022:
 - The Negro Farmers of St. Landry Parish will host story-telling from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center.
- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative. No representative was available from OGHS so Mayor Alsandor gave a brief update from information provided by the hospital: Currently, statewide, COVID cases are 10 times since last report; 98 are on ventilators; and there is a 270% increase since last report; statewide, vaccination rate is over 50% and positivity rate is 27.10%; in Region 4, the vaccination rate is right at 46% and the positivity rate is 21.4%. At OGHS, there are 14 in-patient COVID patients with one of those on a ventilator; 64% of all COVID cases are unvaccinated; OGHS has 52 employees out due to COVID; no Monoclonal Antibody COVID-19 Infusion therapy available at this time due to lack of supplies; practice good hygiene; social distance, wear a mask; stay away from others if you feel ill; and best advice is to get vaccinated. For more information contact OGHS at 337-447-2262.

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- Presentation by I-49 Riders and Mayor Julius Alsandor. Alderman Marvin Richard, who is the president of the I-49 Riders organization, recognized the students that his organization recently awarded scholarships. The winners were as follows:
Amaya Iford – Opelousas High School
Ivory Amos (not in attendance) – Opelousas High School
Seth Lewis – Northwest High School
Alaya Reed (not in attendance) – J. S. Clark Leadership Academy
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. No comments or questions were submitted online or by email.

REPORTS

Review Monthly Finances. Mr. Stephen Woods gave a brief summary of the month end financial report for December 31, 2021. Four months into budget cycle. Presently under audit of last budget cycle. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to accept the Monthly Finance Report as presented by Mr. Stephen Woods. 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.

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

- (a) Water Meter Replacement and AMI Upgrades – The meters have been ordered and delivered to the City. Waiting on approval from FP&C to advertise for proposals for a meter install contractor. Once that approval is received, they will advertise and they will go through a process to select a vendor to install these meters. Along with that, there will be some training and additional business development assistance that will be provided to the City for the operations of their water, billing, collections and customer service operations.
- (b) Sanitary Sewer Pump Stations Upgrade – Funded through CDBG. Project being advertised for bids. Bids will be received on 01/25/2022 at City Hall at 2:00 p.m. The bid opening is open to the public.
- (c) Water System Improvements – Funded through capital outlay for waterline repairs at various locations. Still have not gotten approval to proceed because they are waiting on a railroad permit from Union Pacific. Project cannot move forward until railroad permits have been issued.
- (d) Street Project – Still do not have a firm start date. Waiting on the contractor who has been having a lot of personnel issues directly due to the virus.
- (e) Grant Funds – In November, they submitted two applications for a grant funds through a new program called Water Sector Program. One grant was for some wastewater improvements repairs at the sewer treatment plant and one was for some water treatment plant improvements. Still don't know where we rank on the applications. Sometime between now and February 2022 we'll get an idea of where we rank. Each application was roughly around \$3 million.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to accept the Engineer's Monthly Report as presented. 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.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominate and Appoint Mayor Pro-Tempore for calendar year 2022. Alderwoman Sherell Roberts nominated Alderman Marvin Richard as Mayor Pro-Tempore. No other nominations were made. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolve to appoint Alderman Marvin Richard as Mayor Pro-Tempore for calendar year 2022. 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.

Appointment of Committees for calendar year 2022. Mayor Alsandor stated that the committees would remain the same as 2021; however, Alderman Milton Batiste III voiced and objection and made a request to step down as chairman of the Budget Committee. He nominated Alderman Charles Cummings to replace him as chair and Alderman Cummings nominated Alderwoman Roberts to take his position as vice-chair. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste and seconded by Aldermen Marvin Richard and Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the appointment of Committees for the calendar year 2022 as follows:

BUDGET COMMITTEE	PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Charles Cummings, Chairman	Charles Cummings, Chairman	Chasity Davis, Chairwoman
Sherell Roberts, Vice Chairwoman	Sherell Roberts, Vice Chairwoman	Charles Cummings, Vice Chairman
Milton Batiste, III	Milton Batiste, III	Floyd Ford
Floyd Ford	Chasity Davis	Marvin Richard

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.

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Designate Official Journal (Newspaper) for calendar year 2022. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to designate the *Daily World* as the Official Journal (Newspaper) for calendar year 2022. 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.

GRANT AUTHORITY FOR THE MAYOR, CITY CLERK, AND TREASURER TO SIGN THE LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR AUDIT ENGAGEMENT FOR GOVERNMENTS FOR FY 2020-2021. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to grant authority for the Mayor, City Clerk, and Treasurer to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagement for governments for FY 2020-2021. 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.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 1102 S. Union Street, Ste. #4 to open a professional office at the above listed location (Fakouri Realty, Inc. / Farris Transport, Inc.-Everybody's Tax and Insurance Services). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 01/10/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property located in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at 1102 S. Union Street, Ste. #4 to open a professional office at the above listed location (Fakouri Realty, Inc. / Farris Transport, Inc. dba Everybody's Tax and Insurance Services). 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 PLAT APPROVAL for the re-subdivision of property located at 413 & 417 W. Bertheaud Avenue (Charles Williams). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 01/10/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the request for PLAT APPROVAL for the re-subdivision of property located at 413 & 417 W. Bertheaud Avenue (Charles Williams). 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.

ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE, EXCHANGE OR DISPOSAL OF ANY SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED OR USED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, FIXING THE MINIMUM PRICES AND TERMS OF THE SALE OR EXCHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION. A motion was made by Alderman Milton Batiste to table this matter until an appraisal of the equipment is gotten. The motion was withdrawn. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Floyd Ford, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 01 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE, EXCHANGE OR DISPOSAL OF ANY SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED OR USED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, FIXING THE MINIMUM PRICES AND TERMS OF THE SALE OR EXCHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, the Governing Authority of the City of Opelousas, that the Mayor is hereby authorized for and on behalf of said political subdivision to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of the property, subject to the minimum price and terms set by the City of Opelousas. Said property is not needed for any public purposes.

	<u>Unit#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>VIN#</u>
1	PUMPER 15	1993	FERRARA SPARTAN	SFD	4S7DT9J04PC009738
2	PUMPER 25	1993	FERRARA SPARTAN	SFD	4S7DT9J06PC009739
3	ENGINE 35	1989	GMC PUMPER	C7DO42	1GDL7D1G6KV508860
4	ENGINE 45	1990	SPARTAN PUMPER	CA26	1D9AT6L02KC185235
5	LADDER 1	1992	FERRARA AERIAL	GLADIATOR	4S7BT9FOXNC006078

The property is owned by the City of Opelousas and minimum bid for the listed property shall be as follows:

Appraised value for each piece of equipment, on the contingency that the appraised value does not reach \$5,000.00, at which time a public hearing to adopt an ordinance to dispose of the property will be held.

The sales shall be made for cash. In any exchange the City shall receive not less than the minimum price listed. The designated Auction Company will deduct handling fees from the total proceeds collected following auction.

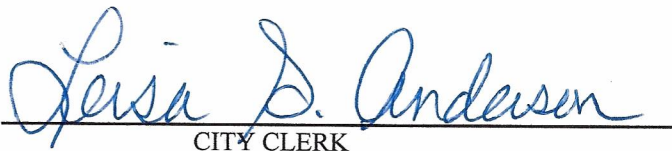
The Resolution having been submitted to a vote, was adopted as follows on this 11th day of January, 2022.

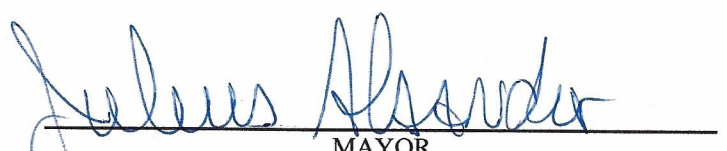
YEAS: Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, and Sherell Roberts.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

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On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for a PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION/DEMOLITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

- (a) Andrew Semien & Laura Henry, 722 Planters Street, Lots 2, 3, & 4 (Abandoned Mobile Home(s))
- (b) Earl Stagg Sr., 1029 Emmett Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- (c) Marie Davis, C/O Wilfred Davis, 810 Breck Alley (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
- (d) Elton Early Charles C/O Joseph Redding, 908 Williams Street (Abandoned Mobile Home)
- (e) Olivia & Laura Comeaux, C/O Vernis Thibodeaux, 735 Merrill Street (Abandoned Mobile Home)

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard it was resolved to approve the following items:

- Approve the working test period for Sabre Nichole Gabriel from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/16/2021.
- Approve the working test period for Keith A. Ollison from Police Officer Recruit to Probational Police Officer, effective 12/16/2021.
- Approve the Extended Sick Leave (Duty Injury) for Police Officer Recruit Lumus J. Lastrapes, effective 12/17/2021.
- Approve the Extended Sick Leave for Permanent Police Sergeant Loretta Etienne, effective 12/20/2021.
- Approve the Termination of Sick Leave and Resume Working Test Period (from sick leave) for Probational Police Officer First Class Corey L. Dekerlegand, effective 01/04/2022.
- Accept the Retirement of Permanent Police Lieutenant Rodney May, effective 01/08/2022 and approve payment in the amount of \$20,462.39 for 545 hours of unused Annual Leave and 66 hours of Compensatory Time.

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.

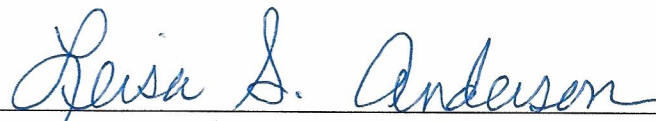
ABSENT: None.

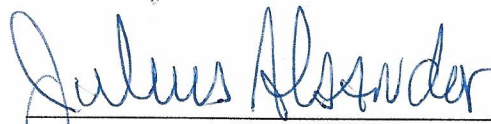
EXECUTIVE SESSION

- *No Items Submitted.*

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and Alderman Floyd Ford and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR