

CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 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, and Sherell Roberts. ABSENT: Chasity Davis (*arrived late*).

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Bishop Easton Shelvin, pastor of The Truth Is Ministries in Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer. Ms. Jeanette Harris, 23-year U.S. Army Veteran-retired as Warrant Officer 2 and also a 25-year former Educator, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 01/11/2022. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to APPROVE the following changes to the agenda:

UNDER THE NEW BUSINESS SECTION:

- ADDING Item No. 13-A, "Grant Authority to advertise for bids for the following: \*Uniforms for the Police Department-Bid #01-22; \*Type E Multi Grade Mix and Type B Cold Mix-Bid #02-22; and \*Chlorine-Bid #03-22".

UNDER THE PUBLIC HEARINGS SECTION:

- CORRECTING Item No. 14(d), Changing "Elton Early Charles" to "Early Charles".

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, 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, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Presentation by Bishop Easton Shelvin, Ms. Madelyn Rosette-CASA Executive Director, and Ms. Yvonne Normand, members of the Love Fest Committee. *Alderswoman Chasity Davis arrived during this presentation.* Ms. Madelyn Rosette announced that they will be hosting their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Opelousas Love Fest at the North Park on 03/27/2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The project objective is to "Foster a committee spirit that embraces love over violence which will result in a safer place to live, work and do business". Vendors are welcomed to register before the 03/17/2022 deadline. For more information, please contact Ms. Madelyn Rosette at 337-945-2998.
- Announcements from Ms. Patrice Melnick regarding upcoming exhibit at Museum for Black History Month. Ms. Melnick announced that the Opelousas Museum and Interpretive Center will have its Grand Re-Opening/Ribbon-cutting on 02/10/2022 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Melnick also had Ms. Marie Marcel, a noted genealogist, in attendance to provide more information on the upcoming "Negro Farmers of St. Landry Parish" exhibit and Open House on 02/17/2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Marcel invited anyone who knows of any Negro Farmers to share that information and provide any photos they may have for the upcoming event. It was also announced that KATC TV-3 would be doing a live tour of the Museum to be broadcast on 02/09/2022 at 5:00 a.m.
- Recognition of Opelousas High School and Northwest High School Scholarship players. Members were not present due to a conflict in game schedule.
- 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: 22 currently in the hospital; 8 staff members out; 49% vaccine rate.
- 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 January 31, 2022. The audits are finalizing the audit and should have a report by the March 2022 Council meeting. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderswoman Chasity Davis, 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) Pump Station Upgrades – Received bids at the end of January 2022.
- (b) Street Project – Contractor has gotten a subcontractor who started yesterday on the concrete work.

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- (c) WWTP Repairs – On the list for grant funds approval of \$2,048,000 in grant funds to repair clarifier, digester, etc., at Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- (d) Water System Repairs – 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.
- (e) Meter Replacement Project – Experienced a setback – FP&C did not approve the bid documents.
- (f) 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 Milton Batiste and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, 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.

Mr. Eric Williams, president of "Guns Down, Power Up" was allowed to make an announcement at this time. Mr. Williams stated that his organization will host a Youth Trash Pick-up every other Saturday beginning this Saturday 02/12/2022. They will be starting in the Oil Mill project area and will choose a different area each time. For more information, please contact Mr. Williams at 337-401-2545 or on his Guns Down, Power Up Facebook page.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to Award Contract for the Wastewater Pump Station Upgrades Project, LCDBG Contract No. 2000620819, MGA Project SC#261, to Tullier Services, LLC, in the amount of \$1,290,500.00. 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.

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Approve Resolution supporting removal of 12 mile radius requirement for employment by City of Opelousas.

RESOLUTION NO. 02 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REMOVAL OF THE 12-MILE RADIUS REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT BY  
CITY OF OPELOUSAS

WHEREAS, the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service for the City of Opelousas require that prospective employees of the City of Opelousas live within a 12-mile radius of the city limits of Opelousas unless a residency requirement is specifically waived on the job announcement;

WHEREAS, while provisions like this one may have been helpful to Opelousas when originally enacted, the 12-mile radius requirement has since burdened efforts of the City of Opelousas to hire qualified employees for important positions in the classified service; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to promote efficient hiring of qualified candidates for the City of Opelousas, on motion of councilmember Marvin Richard and a second by councilmember Floyd Ford, this resolution of support for the removal of such requirements was offered for adoption by the governing authority, and the following vote was recorded:

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

Nay: Charles Cummings.

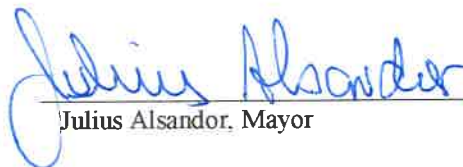
NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the governing authority of the City of Opelousas, that:

- (1) The governing authority of the City of Opelousas is in support of removal of the 12-mile radius requirement imposed by the Rule and Regulations of the Civil Service of the City of Opelousas;
  - (2) To the extent there is a comparable requirement in the Rules and Regulations of the Fire and Police Civil Service for the City of Opelousas, the governing authority of the City of Opelousas supports removal of such provisions; and
  - (3) The governing authority of the City of Opelousas believes removal of these provisions will promote efficient hiring of qualified candidate for important positions within the classified service of the City of Opelousas.
- Opelousas, Louisiana this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

Attest:



Leisa Anderson, City Clerk



Julius Alsandor, Mayor

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Approve Resolution amending Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement to provide for the transfer of EDD taxes directly to the Joint Commission rather than to the Harry Guilbeau Economic Development Commission, and use of virtual meetings and electronic signatures when conducting business of the Joint Commission.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
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The following resolution was offered by councilmember Charles Cummings and seconded by councilmember Milton Batiste III:

RESOLUTION NO. 03 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT COMMISSION AGREEMENT, RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE CENTRAL ST. LANDRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT JOINT COMMISSION; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

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WHEREAS, Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, *et seq.*) (the "EDD Act") authorizes municipalities, parishes and certain other local governmental subdivisions to create economic development districts to carry out the purposes of the EDD Act, which economic development districts are political subdivisions of the State of Louisiana and possess such power and authority and have such duties as provided by the EDD Act and other law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EDD Act the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), acting through the Parish Council as its governing authority, adopted Ordinance No. 2014-013 on October 30, 2014, creating the "Harry Guilbeau Area Economic Development District, State of Louisiana," now known as the Central St. Landry Economic Development District, State of Louisiana (the "District"), in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.32, and further authorized the levy in and by the District of a 2% sales and use tax and a 2% hotel occupancy tax pursuant to Ordinance No. 2014-017 and Ordinance No. 2017-018 both adopted on December 10, 2014, in accordance with La. R.S. 33:9038.39 (collectively, the "District Taxes"); and

WHEREAS, the Parish, by Resolution No. 2014-024, adopted on October 30, 2014, further approved the creation of the Central St. Landry Economic Development District Joint Commission, formerly known as the Crowne Parc Joint Commission (the "Joint Commission") pursuant to the Local Services Law (R.S. 33:1321 *et seq.*) and other constitutional and statutory authority; and

WHEREAS, the EDD Act, particularly La. R.S. 33:9038.32(C)(3) provides that if the governing authority of a parish proposes to establish, by ordinance, an economic development district whose boundaries include any territory located within the corporate limits of a municipality, then the governing authority of the parish shall not adopt the ordinance to create any such district without the prior written consent of the governing authority of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana (the "City") consented to the inclusion in the District of certain territory located within the corporate limits of the City pursuant to Resolution No. 13 of 2014, and further approved the creation of the Joint Commission pursuant to Resolution No. 14 of 2014, both adopted by this Mayor and City Council, acting as the governing authority of the City, on October 14, 2014, and the City subsequently executed the Joint Commission Agreement dated as of July 1, 2015, by and among the Parish, the District and the City of Opelousas, on July 6, 2015, creating the Joint Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City consented to the execution of an Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement pursuant to Resolution No. 5 of 2017, adopted by this Mayor and City Council, acting as the governing authority of the City on August 8, 2017, and the City subsequently executed an Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement dated as of March 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Commission has requested the Parish, the District and the City to enter into an amendment to the Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement to provide for the transfer of EDD Taxes (as defined therein) directly to the Joint Commission rather than to the District, and to make other changes relating to the use of virtual meetings and electronic signatures when allowable by law; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to consent to the aforesaid actions and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the aforesaid First Amendment to Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. Amendment of the Joint Commission Agreement. Pursuant to the Local Services Law, and particularly La. R.S. 33:1332, and other constitutional and statutory authorities, the City does hereby consent to amendments to the Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement creating the Joint Commission in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. Authorization of City Officers. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute for and on behalf of the City, the First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Joint Commission Agreement substantially in the form and to contain substantially the terms and provisions as set forth in Exhibit A hereto, and said officers are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do any and all other things necessary and incidental to carry out the intent and provisions of this resolution.

SECTION 3. Notification of Parish Council. A certified copy of this resolution be furnished to the Clerk of the St. Landry Parish Council to evidence the prior written consent of the City to the aforesaid matters.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

And the resolution was declared adopted, on this, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to Grant Authority to advertise for bids for the following in the Public Works Department: Type E Multi Grade Mix; Type B Cold Mix; and Chlorine. 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.

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### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:27 p.m. for consideration of condemnation/demolition of the following properties:

- (a) Andrew Semien & Laura Henry, 722 Planters Street, Lots 2, 3, & 4 (Abandoned Mobile Homes)  
*Recommendation of condemnation for demolition.*
- (b) Earl Stagg Sr., 1029 Emmett Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)  
*Recommendation of condemnation for demolition.*
- (c) Mary Davis, C/O Linda Carriere, 810 Breck Alley (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)  
*Recommendation of condemnation for demolition.*
- (d) Early Charles C/O Joseph Redding, 908 Williams Street (Abandoned Mobile Home)  
*Recommendation of condemnation for demolition.*
- (e) Olivia & Laura Comeaux, C/O Vernis Thibodeaux, 735 Merrill Street (Abandoned Mobile Home)  
*Recommendation of condemnation for demolition.*

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:31 p.m.

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On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to accept the recommendations of condemnation for demolition on the aforementioned properties (a – e). 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.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Accept the Retirement of Fire Captain Chris Andrus, effective 02/17/2022 and approve payment in the amount of \$15,136.00 for 696 hours of unused Annual Leave and 8 hours of unused Bonus Time.
- Approve the Promotion of Brody Venable from Permanent Fire Lieutenant to Probational Fire Captain, effective 02/15/2022, to replace Fire Captain Chris Andrus who is retiring on 02/17/2022.
- Approve the Promotion of Seth Richard from Permanent Fire Operator to Probational Fire Lieutenant, effective 02/15/2022, to replace Fire Lieutenant Brody Venable.
- Accept the Resignation of Police Officer Recruit Lumus J. Lastrapes, effective 02/03/2022.
- Accept the Resignation of Probational Police Officer First Class DeAndra J. Thomas, effective 01/22/2022 and approve payment in the amount of \$4,987.48 for 268 hours of unused Annual Leave.
- Approve the Recommendation of Hire for DeAndra J. Thomas as a **part-time** P.O.S.T. Certified Police Officer not to exceed twenty-nine (29) hours per week at a rate of \$15.73, effective 01/23/2022 (No Benefits).
- Approve the Extended Sick Leave of Permanent Police Records Clerk Dana L. Castille, effective 12/22/2021.
- Approve the Termination of Sick Leave of Permanent Police Records Clerk Carolyn Thomas-Sibley, effective 01/10/2022.
- Approve the confirmation of Meddrick J. Pickens from Probational Police Sergeant to Permanent Police Sergeant, effective 02/01/2022.

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.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. to discuss the following matters:

- (1) Discuss status of *Lucille Stelly v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 17-C-4764-B, 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.
- (2) Discuss status of *Elton Sam v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 11-C-4858-A, 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.
- (3) Discuss status of *Darrell Wheeler v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 20-01814, Office of Worker's Compensation, District 4, State of Louisiana.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 7:37 p.m.

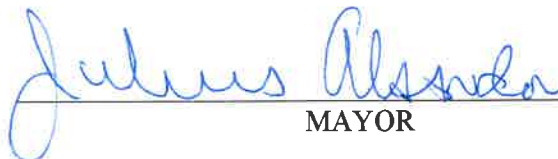
The following actions were taken regarding these items:

- (1) *Elton Sam v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 11-C-4858-A, 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to authorize City Attorney Travis Broussard to make an offer of \$35,000.00 in settlement for *Elton Sam v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 11-C-4858-A, 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. 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.
- (2) *Lucille Stelly v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 17-C-4764-B, 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to authorize City Attorney Travis Broussard to make an offer of \$12,000.00 for replacement of claimant's vehicle in settlement for *Lucille Stelly v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 17-C-4764-B, 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. 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.
- (3) *Darrell Wheeler v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 20-01814, Office of Worker's Compensation, District 4, State of Louisiana. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to authorize Worker's Comp Handling Attorney Michael Beckers to make an offer of \$140,000.00 to Darrell Wheeler to resolve his Worker's Compensation claim, *Darrell Wheeler v. City of Opelousas*, suit no. 20-01814, Office of Worker's Compensation, District 4, State of Louisiana. 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.

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 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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CITY CLERK

  
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MAYOR