

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2022**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 12th day of April 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. Bishop Easton Shelvin, The Truth Is Ministries, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer. Sergeant Kendall Sylvester, 6-year U. S. Army veteran, 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 03/08/2022. 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 Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Special Meeting held 03/21/2022. 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.

On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to ADD the following item to the agenda:

UNDER THE ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- *“Discuss Oliver Thierry’s Snowball Stand on the South Park”.*

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 Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to DELETE the following item from the agenda:

UNDER THE ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- *“Presentation by Darin Lastrapes regarding questions about permit approvals for new construction in Lakeview Subdivision”.*

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to ADD the following item to the agenda:

UNDER THE CONSENTS SECTION:

- *ITEM NO. 21-A, “Approve the request from Bing Bishop Construction Co., Inc. to hard surface Vige Street (existing city gravel street) with an asphaltic concrete overlay over existing gravel base and waive the requirement for curb and gutter, subject to approval by the City Engineer.”*

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.

UNDER THE CONSENTS SECTION:

- *CORRECTING ITEMS 24 - 28, EFFECTIVE DATES OF MARCH 2022 FOR THESE FIVE ITEMS SHOULD BE LISTED AS APRIL 2022.* No separate motion needed for corrections.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to ADOPT the agenda with the corrections and approved changes. 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Presentation by Bishop Easton Shelvin, Ms. Madelyn Rosette-CASA Executive Director, Ms. Yvonne Normand, Judge Shaunn Caillier-Harden, and Mr. Tom Meer, members of the Love Fest Committee. Mr. Meer thanked the City officials and City workers for their support for the overwhelming success of the Love Fest that was held last Saturday. Bishop Shelvin thanked everyone for the love and support they shared. He stated that they are planning a citywide revival on each Monday in the month of June to curb the appetite of violence in the City. Ms. Rosette thanked everyone for their time, efforts, and donations and encouraged everyone to continue to support our City as we move forward. Ms. Normand stated that we have lots of parks to celebrate Opelousas in and to continue the Love Project throughout this community through fellowship and engage the children throughout the summer. Judge Caillier-Harden encouraged vision, diversity, equity, and inclusivity. She stated that she is proud of everyone in the community that supported the efforts of the Opelousas Love Project and the Love Fest. Her goal is to help our young people by giving them an avenue of hope where there is despair.

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- Presentation by Laina Brickley, President/CEO of the St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, regarding their first annual Business Summit. *Ms. Brickley, newly-appointed Chamber president, informed everyone that the Chamber will be offering a lot of new content:
04/27/2022 – 1st Annual Business Summit @ Opelousas Civic Center – 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members, lunch will be provided along with a swag bag.*
- Presentation by Darin Lastrapes regarding questions about permit approvals for new construction in Lakeview Subdivision. (*ITEM DELETED*).
- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative. *Mayor Alsandor gave the following update: for the first time in two years, there are no inpatients and no staff members out at Opelousas General Hospital. The Mayor asked that everyone continue to practice the protocols that are put in place by the CDC and he encouraged everyone to get their vaccines and take care of their elderly.*
- Presentation by Cedric Floyd regarding Data Center LLC's Redistricting Proposal for Opelousas City Council Districts based on the 2020 US Census. *Mr. Floyd, president of Data Center LLC, stated that redistricting is every 10 years, after the Census. It is federal and state law that you must examine your election districts and redistrict if there is a ten percent deviation. The 2020 Census has been released and the City of Opelousas has a population of 15,786, down from 16,634 with the 2010 Census reflecting a loss of 848. He pointed out that each member of the board must be represented from the same number of people and after each Census it must be an examination and you must be elected from equal districts at the next election or State and federal law won't let them qualify for office. Mr. Floyd stated that his company would charge \$4,500 for the preliminary review of the districts and if redistricting is necessary then the complete process would cost a max of \$12,000.*
- Discuss Oliver Thierry's Snowball Stand on the South Park. (*ITEM ADDED*). *Alderman Chasity Davis spoke regarding this matter and stated that it was recently brought to her attention as to the reason why Mr. Oliver Thierry's snowball stand is no longer at the South Park so he is here tonight to discuss his snowball stand. Mr. Thierry stated that he was unaware of why his stand was taken off the park. He pulled his stand off the park because of the contract that was recently given to him. He stated that he was told that he was not paying rent but he was paying rent, water, and the only thing he was not paying was lights because the City of Opelousas said they were going to put him up a light pole and this was back under the Cravins' administration. Mr. Thierry stated that he spoke to Mayor Alsandor about it on numerous occasions and he was told that he would get the contract drawn up. The contract expired. Mr. Thierry stated that the new contract wanted him to come up with \$350 a month. He was paying \$200 a month for 12 months out of the year and he was only open 5 months out of the year. He moved his stand off of the park to try and open up another stand and it has been over 10 months and he still has not gotten his water for the new location so he cannot open without water. Alderman Davis wanted to know if Mr. Thierry wanted to move back on the park what he would have to do if he chose that option. Mayor Alsandor stated that he was unaware that this was going to be added to the agenda this evening so he is not going to make a commitment without all of the information and he offered to sit down with Mr. Thierry and his wife and Mr. Rideau, Parks Superintendent to discuss this matter further. Alderman Richard stated that they should let Mr. Thierry put his stand back on the park until the new upgrades at the park are done. Alderman Davis stated that she thinks they owe it to Mr. Thierry to allow him to go back on the park since he has been without water for 10 months. Mayor Alsandor stated that they should sit down and discuss the contract. Mayor Alsandor will schedule a meeting with Mr. Thierry to discuss the contract further.*
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. *No comments or questions.*

REPORTS

Committee Reports: Budget Committee.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 5:30 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Milton Batiste III led the Pledge to the U. S. Flag and Alderman Floyd Ford led the Prayer. Alderman Cummings asked if there were any changes to the agenda. He stated that he wanted to add "Discuss proposed plan submitted by Mayor Julius Alsandor regarding the American Rescue Plan program" as an addendum to the agenda. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III, seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the added item and accept the Budget Committee Agenda with the addendum as read.

Discuss a proposed plan for use of ARPA funds to fund independent contractors to repair water and sewer lines in Opelousas and addendum-Discuss proposed plan submitted by Mayor Julius Alsandor regarding the American Rescue Plan program.

Alderman Cummings stated that he called this meeting because right now they have probably 4 – 5 guys repairing water and sewer lines in the City and the problem is that they can't keep up—even when they had a full crew, they couldn't keep up. It is hard to hire people right now. The purpose of this meeting is to set aside a certain amount of money to be dedicated to hiring independent contractors to help these guys catch up with the broken water and sewer lines.

Mayor Alsandor spoke regarding the request for independent contractors. He feels that this would cause problems because they would not have anyone to repair the streets after they are broken up to repair the water and sewer lines. He stated that we do not have a GIS System in place to locate the lines and it would cost the City a quarter of a million dollars to acquire this system. Mayor Alsandor also stated that the City has not budgeted for the expense of outside contractors. Alderman Batiste suggested that they should set a budget amount limit for outside contractors and once it is gone then that's it so in the event that something happens that the City workers cannot get to it then the outside contractor could be dispatched. Mayor Alsandor stated that Mr. William Jarrell, City Engineer, would be providing information on the engineering side of this matter. Mr. Jarrell pointed out that plumbers are not licensed to work on public or municipal lines. They must have a specialized municipal/public works license for this type of work. Alderman Cummings inquired as to whether there are any local plumbers with this type of license. Mr. Jarrell stated he does not know any in the City of Opelousas. Mr. Cummings then asked if there were any contractors in the local area and Mr. Jarrell stated that there was a company in Port Barre that is licensed to do that type of work. Alderman Ford asked what will be the time limit for getting this work done. Mayor Alsandor stated that this is still a question that is not answerable because they would still have to find contractors which is not an easy task. Mr. Jarrell pointed out that this conversation the Council is having with the Mayor now has been discussed numerous times in the past. He asked if anyone knows how many leaks the City has right now. He pointed out that there is no list/inventory of every leak and this brings it to the point of having structural problems in the way that the water system is being managed—it is a management issue. To get a contractor in to fix a leak, someone has to put together a list of the leaks that need to be repaired, the location of the leaks, what type of leak is it, is it a service line, is it a main line, what type of material is the line, what size line is it on, determine what type of materials they may need to repair that leave—all of this goes into that planning of doing that. The City has no one who is doing any of that right now—whether it is the City repairing the line or a private contractor repairing the line. If you call a contractor and you don't have a plan put together and he needs some materials, some of those materials may not be available for pickup right away. Next, the City needs to know what employees will be able to go with the contractors to show them where these lines and utilities are located. The contractor may have a lot of down time that they would be charging the City while not getting some production. Mr. Senic Batiste asked is there anybody in the City that can do just what the Engineer said about having an inventory like a simple spreadsheet. Mr. Jarrell stated that there are paper drawings of what the City has but GIS is a different thing. He knows of one person who can do that who is employed with the City but if he does that he won't be able to direct crews fixing other leaks. Alderman Cummings and Mr. Jarrell pointed out that the City does not have a Public Works Director and Mr. Jarrell also pointed out that management of the utility system is a problem. Alderman Batiste suggested that they create a system to tier leaks by priority and Mr. Jarrell stated that there needs to be proper management of the employees who will be handling this. Employee pay has often been an issue for not being able

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to get or keep qualified workers. Local business owner Patrick Fontenot and State Representative Dustin Miller also gave comments during the meeting regarding the need for the City to move forward. Mr. Fontenot pointed out that it is time for Opelousas and the Council to stand up and fix the problems and let the community know that we have issues that have been neglected for many years. The community needs to know the truth—the City only receives 7 mills in taxes to take care of the entire city. Mr. Fontenot said that the City should not be ashamed to say that they need some help—to get new ideas to bring Opelousas back. He stated that you can only do so much with a little and we have to work together; look at it from a holistic point and a financial point and bring it to the public. Mayor Alsandor and Mr. Morrison presented the following proposal for use of the ARPA funds:

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN Est. Total Revenue/Funding--Tenative/Proposal Disbursement	2021-2022 \$2,933,400.50
Water Metering Improvements/Distribution/Water Plant (Category 4 allowable) (Matching Funds for Capital Outlay Projects)	\$500,000.00
Operational Improvements at Sewer Plant (Category 4 allowable) Matching Funding/Sewer Sector Grant monies	\$525,000.00
Building Improvement at City Barn (New overhang [protection] for equipment and needed roof repairs)	\$150,000.00
City of Opelousas Daily Revenue shortfall (Category 3 allowable) (Reimbursement for Projects/matching fund)	\$775,000.00
City Hall Building Improvement (Category 3 allowable) (refurbishing/improvements of needed repairs)	\$150,000.00
City of Opelousas South Park Improvements (Redevelopment of field & upgrade of facilities and park)	\$500,000.00
City of Opelousas Minor Street Repairs (Category 4 allowable) (drainage, ditches, culverts, water lines, etc)	\$333,400.50
Total Est. proposal disbursement	\$2,933,400.50

Category 1 - to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts

Category 2 - to respond to worker's performing essential work during COVID-19 public health emergency

Category 3 - for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency

Category 4 - to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

Mr. Miller stated that the Council should feel free to offer input on projects that are being done.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to take Mayor Julius Alsandor's recommendation for the ARPA money under advisement and forward to the full council for review and further discussion for ratification. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to authorize Mayor Alsandor to do a feasibility study on the possibility of raising millage rates. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, seconded by Aldermen Charles Cummings and Milton Batiste III and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The Budget Committee Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Budget Committee Minutes Reviewed by: Alderman Charles Cummings, Budget Committee Chairman.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to accept the Budget Committee Report as summarized by Chairman Charles Cummings. 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.

Review Monthly Finances. Mr. Stephen Woods gave a brief summary of the month end financial report for March 31, 2022. 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 Mr. Stephen Woods. 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.

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) Street Project – Under construction – contractor is working on patching.
- (b) Water Meter Replacement Project – Will be receiving bids later this month.
- (c) Wastewater Pump Station Upgrades – Project is progressing.
- (d) EPA Administrative Order – City has submitted a pre-application for loan funds of \$25,000,000 and DEQ is currently reviewing.
- (e) Water System Improvements – City has received authorization for design of Water System Improvements project.

Alderman Marvin Richard asked Mr. Jarrell to explain why the road work was just being done now. He also asked Mr. Jarrell if he had ever seen this size of road work done in the City since he has been an engineer. Mr. Jarrell stated that these projects had been in the works for years and the funding was just now coming through and that the last time a road project of this size was done was probably during Mayor Anna Simmons' administration. Alderwoman Chasity Davis asked about the three bridges that are out in her district. Mr. Jarrell stated that there are no funds available or budgeted for those projects. Mayor Alsandor stated that the City has submitted plans for these repairs. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to accept the Engineer's Monthly Report as presented. 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.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2022. The City Clerk explained the annual millage process and stated that the current millage rate is 7.13 mills. Mayor Alsandor asked how long the millage had been at the current rate and the Clerk explained that it had only been a year since the last roll forward which occurs every four years. She also explained that the City was already at its maximum millage amount. Alderman Milton Batiste III asked what are the options to get a higher rate and the Clerk explained that in order to get a higher rate, the item would have to be put on the election ballot to let the voters decide whether or not the millage should be increased. No other questions or comments.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GENERAL ALIMONY MILLAGE RATE FOR ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS IN THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY FOR TAX YEAR 2022.

RESOLUTION 2022-08

MOTION-Sherell Roberts

SECOND-Chasity Davis

SECTION 1: BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, in a regular and legal session convened, that the City of Opelousas of the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on April 12, 2022, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article XII, Section 3 of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 42:11 – 28 [R.S. 42:11, et seq.] that the following millage rate(s) be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of each assessed valuation of all property which is subject to ad valorem taxation within said Town for the year 2022 for the purpose of raising revenue:

<u>Tax Description:</u>	<u>Millage Rate:</u>
General Alimony (5134 001):	7.130 mills

SECTION 2: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2022, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full; the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

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

NAYS: Milton Batiste III.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

Leisa S. Anderson, City Clerk
City of Opelousas

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the City Council Meeting held on April 12, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting. City of Opelousas, Louisiana, this 12th day of April 2022.

Julius Alsandor, Mayor
City of Opelousas

Discuss approval of request by John Ellis Ortego – International Director Industries Corp., for the following:

- RE-ZONING of property from R1 (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to R3 (RESIDENTIAL 3 ZONE) at the 300 Block of East Grolee Street.
- VARIANCE approval for 15 foot set back on front property line at Grolee Street.
- VARIANCE approval for 10 foot set back from back property line.
- VARIANCE approval for the lot size to be reduced from 16,000 square feet to 10,492 square feet.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 04/11/2022 and recommended denial of this item. Mrs. Margaret Doucet stated that the Planning Commission members had requested additional information at the meeting that could not be provided by the representative who was present. Mr. Jack Tolson, who was not at the Planning Commission meeting, stated that the Commission asked for a lot more information at the meeting than what was required to be submitted and he was there to appeal their decision. He stated that this application was filed as a result of some action that was taken by the Downtown Development District many years ago. Public Hearings were held to establish what the Downtown Development District needs to do which resulted in the Master Plan and what is proposed in this development is a fulfillment of that Master Plan. Mr. Tolson stated that there are two issues here that the City really needs to address—the Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Central Business District and the corridors that come with it do not comply with what the Zoning Ordinance is because it is a status quo zoning ordinance. Mr. Tolson stated that he is asking that the City Council override the decision of the Planning Commission and allow this project to go forward as part of repopulating the perimeter of the Central Business District. From a planning standpoint, the Zoning Map needs to be amended to match the goals of redeveloping the Central Business District. Mrs. Mary Gassert Jackson, a resident on East Grolee Street stated that she objects to this changing of the zoning because it will probably devalue all of the property on East Grolee Street and Walnut Street. She stated that on behalf of her neighbors, she hopes that they will not change the zoning. Mrs. Jackson’s daughter stated that she also has a text from Mr. Johnny Sebastien. Mr. Tolson responded to Mrs. Jackson’s comments regarding the devaluation of property—he stated that they have found that the opposite is true and stated that appraisals are done on recent sales and costs. Mayor Alsandor read the statement from the acting chairman of the Historic District Commission—Mr. Johnny Sebastien: “While the Historic District Commission approved the architectural design concept for proposed fourplex on Grolee Street per Historic District guidelines, standards and practices, the commission strongly supports the best interests and the sentiments of the immediate residents and neighbors most affected by the project, therefore the decision should be made and should be in the hands of the residents most affected and concerned for their right to quiet enjoyment, especially those residents speaking out today.” Mr. Don Leger, a local real estate appraiser, stated that he wanted to challenge Mr. Tolson’s assentation that subsidized housing is a boom for the City. He stated that they need to develop homeowners and not subsidized housing. He stated that he thinks the property values will decrease with subsidized housing. A motion was offered by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings to adopt the recommendation made by the Planning

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Commission. Alderwoman Davis asked if this was just to wait to get more information. Alderwoman Roberts amended her motion to adopt the recommendation of Planning Commission so that Mr. Tolson can go back before the Planning Commission and give them the information. Attorney Broussard informed Alderwoman Roberts that if they adopted the recommendation of the Planning Commission then they would be approving the denial. On a motion by Alderwoman Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to withdraw the original motion and offer a substitute motion. 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 Marvin Richard, it was resolved to table the item until more information is gathered. 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.

Presentation by Mr. Charles Williams regarding purchasing City-owned property located on Bertheaud Avenue. (IF PROPERTY IS DECLARED AS SURPLUS, AN ORDINANCE WILL BE INTRODUCED TODAY TO BE ADOPTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING NEXT MONTH). Mr. Williams was not in attendance but his son, Marcus Williams, spoke on his behalf. He stated that this City-owned property is located behind his father's house on West Bertheaud Avenue and is overgrown with trees, debris and appliances. He pointed out that it has been a safety hazard for their tenants that live on their property so his father is asking to purchase the property. He also stated that there are kids that go through that property to get to the park and it is a safety hazard. Attorney Broussard explained the process of declaring immovable property as surplus and that the clerk had an ordinance ready to be introduced. If the ordinance is introduced then the public hearing to adopt the ordinance will be held at next month's meeting. Mr. Paul Scott asked about the City's access road to the pump station to get in to service that pump station. He pointed out that the access road is along the canal which is deteriorating. Alderman Cummings stated that Mr. Williams is not buying the access—he's buying the property behind his house—and the Engineer pointed out that it will be one contiguous property from the rear of Mr. Williams' property. No action needed until Introduction of Ordinance.

Discuss approval of request for ANNEXATION of property as described below (Crowne Business Parc, LLC). (IF ANNEXATION REQUEST IS APPROVED, AN ORDINANCE WILL BE INTRODUCED TODAY TO BE ADOPTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING NEXT MONTH):

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 19.509 ACRES OWNED BY CROWNE BUSINESS PARC, LLC (ROBERT GILES) SITUATED IN SECTIONS 135 AND 136, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST AND SECTION 155, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, BEING BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY LIVE OAK GARDENS LTD, ON THE SOUTH BY LAHAYSER LLC, ON THE EAST BY INTERSTATE 49 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD, JPJF INVESTORS LLC AND REGARL PROPERTIES LLC, AND ON THE WEST BY RIVERBEND DEVELOPMENT CO. INC. AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID TRACT OF LAND, HAVING A LOUISIANA STATE PLANE COORDINATE (SOUTH ZONE) OF NORTH:722087.681 AND EAST:3046913.005; THENCE S11°26'39"W, A DISTANCE OF 460.00'; THENCE S11°26'39"W, A DISTANCE OF 18.56'; THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH AN ARC DISTANCE OF 285.80', A RADIUS OF 1801.11' AND A CHORD BEARING OF S15°42'04"W, A DISTANCE OF 285.50'; THENCE N81°15'41"W, A DISTANCE OF 753.86'; THENCE S33°47'30"W, A DISTANCE OF 38.36'; THENCE S33°05'28"W, A DISTANCE OF 100.74'; THENCE S36°24'10"W, A DISTANCE OF 25.42'; THENCE S32°43'27"W, A DISTANCE OF 110.50'; THENCE S30°37'43"W, A DISTANCE OF 38.63'; THENCE S33°43'35"W, A DISTANCE OF 71.95'; THENCE S28°32'22"W, A DISTANCE OF 86.87'; THENCE S26°06'47"W, A DISTANCE OF 109.67'; THENCE S26°56'29"W, A DISTANCE OF 161.33'; THENCE S40°34'21"W, A DISTANCE OF 87.06'; THENCE N09°58'15"E, A DISTANCE OF 1364.74'; THENCE S89°37'36"E, A DISTANCE OF 1111.33'; TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 04/11/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to adopt the recommendation by the Planning Commission for approval of request for ANNEXATION (Crowne Business Parc, LLC) and introduce an ordinance to hold a Public Hearing next month to annex the above-referenced property. 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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF SUCH PROPERTY (Bertheaud Avenue).

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 49:125 authorizes any political subdivision of the state to sell surplus movable property at public auction or by other methods provided by law for such sales;

WHEREAS, the governing authority believes the property described below is surplus property, that is not useful for a public purpose;

WHEREAS, said property is more particularly described as follows:

0.049 ACRE TRACT OF LAND (35x59.57x35x61.61)
LOCATED BEHIND 417 W. BERTHEAUD AVENUE
SITUATED IN SECTION 88, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST
ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, an appraisal of the property was conducted by Don Leger, LA certification #R0597, on February 16, 2022, and the appraisal returned a fair market value of \$500.00 for the property;

WHEREAS, a local resident, Mr. Charles Williams, has approached the city about purchasing the property via private sale at the appraised value;

WHEREAS, for purpose of advancing the request, this ordinance was introduced by councilmember Sherell Roberts in lawful session of the governing authority on April 12, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 4 OF 1998 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS CERTAIN PROPERTY AND CHANGING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY (CROWNE BUSINESS PARC, LLC).

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Crowne Business Parc, LLC owns certain property as further described below, and said property is currently situated outside the corporate limits of the City of Opelousas (the "City");

WHEREAS, Crowne Business Parc, LLC has petitioned the governing authority of the City to annex this property into the corporate limits of the City;

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WHEREAS, the City is willing to incorporate the property owned by Crowne Business Parc, LLC and has contemplated and prepared this Ordinance for the purpose of incorporating the property;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was introduced by councilmember Charles Cummings on the 12th day of April 2022, in legal session convened;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas, in legal session convened, that the boundaries of the corporate limits of the City of Opelousas shall be amended to incorporate within the limits of the City the following described property to wit:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 19.509 ACRES OWNED BY CROWNE BUSINESS PARC, LLC (ROBERT GILES) SITUATED IN SECTIONS 135 AND 136, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST AND SECTION 155, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, BEING BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY LIVE OAK GARDENS LTD, ON THE SOUTH BY LAHAYSER LLC, ON THE EAST BY INTERSTATE 49 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD, JPF INVESTORS LLC AND REGARL PROPERTIES LLC, AND ON THE WEST BY RIVERBEND DEVELOPMENT CO. INC. AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID TRACT OF LAND, HAVING A LOUISIANA STATE PLANE COORDINATE (SOUTH ZONE) OF NORTH:722087.681 AND EAST:3046913.005; THENCE S11°26'39"W, A DISTANCE OF 460.00'; THENCE S11°26'39"W, A DISTANCE OF 18.56'; THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH AN ARC DISTANCE OF 285.80', A RADIUS OF 1801.11' AND A CHORD BEARING OF S15°42'04"W, A DISTANCE OF 285.50'; THENCE N81°15'41"W, A DISTANCE OF 753.86'; THENCE S33°47'30"W, A DISTANCE OF 38.36'; THENCE S33°05'28"W, A DISTANCE OF 100.74'; THENCE S36°24'10"W, A DISTANCE OF 25.42'; THENCE S32°43'27"W, A DISTANCE OF 110.50'; THENCE S30°37'43"W, A DISTANCE OF 38.63'; THENCE S33°43'35"W, A DISTANCE OF 71.95'; THENCE S28°32'22"W, A DISTANCE OF 86.87'; THENCE S26°06'47"W, A DISTANCE OF 109.67'; THENCE S26°56'29"W, A DISTANCE OF 161.33'; THENCE S40°34'21"W, A DISTANCE OF 87.06'; THENCE N09°58'15"E, A DISTANCE OF 1364.74'; THENCE S89°37'36"E, A DISTANCE OF 1111.33'; TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World, A PUBLIC HEARING was opened at 7:18 p.m. for consideration of condemnation/demolition of the following abandoned properties:

- Alfred Leonce Benoit & Margaret Anna Ortego, 910 W. Cherry Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
Recommendation is for condemnation for demolition.
- Olive Thibodeaux, C/O Mary S. Washington, 824 Park Avenue (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
Recommendation is for condemnation for demolition.
- James Barry Branton & Sarah Louise Wagley (Wife), 629 N. Market Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
The Brantons have purchased a permit for demolition.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to accept the recommendation of condemnation for demolition on the above-listed properties. 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.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

ADOPT A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND PROGRAM.

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and duly resolved:

RESOLUTION NO. 09 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AND COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) and Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Assistance Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for a wide range of projects to improve public health, public safety, living conditions and for economic development purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for rehabilitation, improvements and new construction projects for community potable water systems; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and proper to submit applications to the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and also the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas that Mayor Julius Alsandor is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Community Water Enrichment Fund Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

JULIUS ALSANDOR, MAYOR

CERTIFICATE

I, Leisa Anderson, City Clerk of the City of Opelousas, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Aldermen, on April 12, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present.

LEISA ANDERSON
CITY CLERK
CITY OF OPELOUSAS

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CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the request from Bing Bishop Construction Co., Inc. to hard surface Vige Street (existing city gravel street) with an asphaltic concrete overlay over existing gravel base and waive the requirement for curb and gutter at no cost to the City with upkeep by the City, subject to approval by the City Engineer.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Aldermen Milton Batiste III and Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the following personnel items:

- Approve the Extended Sick Leave for Permanent Police Records Clerk Carolyn Thomas-Sibley, effective 02/08/2022.
- Approve the Termination of Extended Sick Leave for Probational Police Sergeant Tyrone Davis, effective 03/07/2022 and Resume Working Test Period, effective 03/07/2022.
- Approve the Promotion of Permanent Police Sergeant Catina Guilbeau to Probational Police Lieutenant, effective 04/17/2022.
- Approve the Promotion of Permanent Police Sergeant Ebony Martin to Probational Police Lieutenant, effective 04/17/2022.
- Approve the Recommendation of Hire for Jordan Randal as a Police Officer Recruit, effective 04/18/2022.
- Approve the Recommendation of Hire for Christopher Simien as a Police Officer Recruit, effective 04/18/2022.
- Approve the Recommendation of Hire for Niles McGinty as a Police Officer Recruit, effective 04/18/2022.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and Alderman Milton Batiste III and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR