

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 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 July 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was also **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. Rev. Christina Winbush Hardy, St. Mark United Methodist Church and Louisiana Memorial United Methodist Church, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer. Mr. Travis VanWright, 10-year Sgt. First Class Army Veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 06/14/2022. 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 Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to approve the following changes to the agenda:

UNDER THE CONSENTS (PERSONNEL ITEMS) SECTION

- **CORRECTING ITEM NO. 25, “Ratify the Recommendation of Provisional Appointment for Ashley K. King as a Police Communications Officer at a starting rate of pay of \$10/hour, effective 07/01/2022”—changing the \$10/hour rate to \$9/hour for Ashley K. King.**

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 Charles Cummings, 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

- **Presentations by Mayor Julius Alsandor:** Mayor Alsandor relinquished his time to Ms. Lena Charles, chairperson of the Opelousas Downtown Development District (ODDD) who gave an update on the status of projects. She pointed out that ODDD and the City of Opelousas have partnered and are working on several things, along with the City Engineer, William Jarrell, specifically infrastructure and things behind the scene that make the things that you’re going to see pretty soon happen. Ms. Charles stated that ODDD adopted a lot of items on their goals for 2022 and these are a few of them that are coming to fruition very soon: * Clean City Policy – they are working on a plan to get everyone involved from neighborhood to neighborhood and taking initiative about getting this city cleaned up first and maintaining that initiative. ODDD applied for a small grant through the Keep Louisiana Beautiful and Louisiana Clean the Boot projects and they received it and although it was a very small grant, it was a catalyst for them to start the Clean Cities program. Ms. Charles also recognized Mrs. Melanie Lebouef with the City Tourism department who collaborates with them on getting an understanding of where they can go after grants especially in state grants. * Tab Grant – this grant was issued in 2014 and 2018 as an initiative and they thought they could actually get it done within a year but they are still working on it because they are still having challenges. * Streetscape – they have an area around Courthouse Square—a block from Landry Street from Court to Market and Market to court which is going to be their Showcase of Streetscape. * Wayfinding – when you go to a municipality, you need to know what street to turn on for the courthouse, city hall, etc., with signage. * Downtown Buildings not in use – the city needs help addressing this situation so the ODDD decided to engage a separate firm to review property to see what we have on the books to see if there’s a violation and those reviews will result in recommendations which will be brought before the administration and council to see how we can change some of these laws to put some teeth to move where we want to go. This firm is at no cost to the City. * Billy’s is clearing a lot of property and a portion of that is going to be for Billy’s and a portion is going to be for sale to someone else. * Utility services – ODDD is bringing water and sewerage and wastewater services on the west side of Wallior to the east side of Wallior so the developing properties would have access to water as it is being developed. * Zydeco Festival – the 40th Annual Zydeco Festive will be live this year beginning with the September 3rd kickoff dance and parade at the Courthouse Square. Information will be available on the website in a few days and they will have their unveiling on August 24th at the Opelousas City Museum.
- **COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative.** No representative was present and Mayor Alsandor gave the following COVID Update for 07/12/2022:
 - Acadian region started seeing increase in cases and inpatients mid-May and that increasing trend continues through this month
 - SLP is now considered Medium Community level risk
 - Current 22.6% positivity, up from 8.4% from June 14th update to council
 - SLP total cases 23,728 and 1,435 reinfections
 - OGHS COVID
 - March significant decline and averaged 0-1 inpatients for end of March, through April and May
 - Inpatients starting increase mid-June
 - Currently have 5 COVID inpatients at OGHS
 - No COVID patients in ICU
 - ~31% of ER visits over past 24hrs were COVID-related
 - Staffing
 - Increase in COVID-impacted staff follows community and inpatient increase – mid-June
 - Considerable rise over past week
 - Currently have 24 staff members out with COVID
 - Supplemental staffing through the state ended 6/30
 - Currently at our staffed capacity for ICU and Med-Surge
 - Inpatient borders in the ER at Main Campus

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- Vaccination
 - Acadiana region – 48.21%
 - SLP – 51.04%
 - Completed – 42,590
 - Initiated – 47,000
 - Extra Doses – 9,498
 - Continue to encourage vaccinations
 - Isolate/staying away from others when not feeling well
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. *No comments or questions.*

REPORTS

Review Monthly Finances. Mr. Stephen Woods gave a brief summary of the month end financial report for June 30, 2022. He pointed out that later on the agenda they are going to introduce the amended budget and the proposed budget. He stated that they are looking like they are on track to end the budget cycle year in the black. Mayor Alsandor informed the Council that they would be notified tomorrow either by Ms. Charlette or Ms. Stephanie of a scheduled time to come in next week to go over the budget. Alderwoman Sherell Roberts asked for a copy of the budget that will be introduced because she does not have a copy of it. Mayor Alsandor stated that they have a copy for them. On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, 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) Street Project – ongoing project – most of the work can be completed in the next couple of months.
- (b) Wastewater Pump Station Project – \$1.8 million dollar grant to replace pumps at the wastewater stations - still waiting on delivery dates from pump manufacturer so project is on hold until they can get the materials to replace the pumps.
- (c) Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – \$2.7 million dollar grant - design of improvements is approximately 90% complete - should be completed within the next month and plans will be submitted to OCD and LDH for review, approval, and authorization to advertise for bids.
- (d) LDH & DEQ Application for Water System Improvements – submitted some pre-applications for loans to DEQ for wastewater system and to LDH for water system - both of the pre-applications have been received and approved and they are requesting that the city submit full applications. No real timeline on those projects as of now.
- (e) Water Meter Replacement Project – did receive bids and recommended award to Vanguard Utility Services – those documents have been submitted to FP&C for approval which will take approximately 2 – 3 weeks.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III 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 gave a status update on the Elton Sam vs. City of Opelousas, Suit #11-4858. The case will be going to trial on Monday, October 31, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to accept the City Attorney's Report. 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Ratify payment to former Permanent Police Officer First Class Robert S. Taylor in the amount of \$9,463.42 for 428 hours of unused annual leave and 7.5 hours of unused compensatory time. Mr. Taylor resigned as of 05/26/2022. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Aldermen Milton Batiste III and Marvin Richard, it was resolved to ratify payment to former Permanent Police Officer First Class Robert S. Taylor in the amount of \$9,463.42 for 428 hours of unused annual leave and 7.5 hours of unused compensatory time. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Authority to advertise for Bids for Off-Site Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Two Card System. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Aldermen Floyd Ford and Marvin Richard, it was resolved to Grant Authority to advertise for Bids for Off-Site Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Two Card System. 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 Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to grant authority to advertise for a Public Hearing for consideration of condemnation/demolition of the following abandoned properties:

- (a) Walter Synegal & Marcia Synegal, C/O Sarah Castaneda, 1306 Montreal Street (Abandoned/Vacant Wood Frame Structure)
- (b) Melvin Davis, 315 Cenla Street (Abandoned/Vacant Wood Frame Structure)
- (c) Walter James Stevens, 305 Cenla Street (Abandoned/Vacant Wood Frame Structure)
- (d) Matthew Thomas Jackson, C/O Jerica Jackson, 314 Cenla Street (Abandoned/Vacant Wood Frame Structure)

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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 (*left*).

Consider approval of request for Plat Approval for the re-subdivision of property located at 5504 I-49 Frontage Road as per Plat of Survey by Morgan Goudeau & Associates dated 05/18/2022 (Sterling Resources Corporation-Arthur LeBlanc Jr.). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 07/11/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the request for Plat Approval for the re-subdivision of property located at 5504 I-49 Frontage Road as per Plat of Survey by Morgan Goudeau & Associates dated 05/18/2022 (Sterling Resources Corporation-Arthur LeBlanc Jr.). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

Consider approval of request for the following (Charles Wayne Doucet-Toby's Downtown):

- VARIANCE approval for wall sign area allotted in a DMU ZONE (DOWNTOWN MIXED USE ZONE) to approve a 48 square foot area for signage at the property located at 125 N. Court Street.
- CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a DMU ZONE (DOWNTOWN MIXED USE ZONE) to operate a Restaurant/Lounge/Bar at the property located at 125 N. Court Street.
- CONDITIONAL USE approval for property located in a DMU ZONE (DOWNTOWN MIXED USE ZONE) to sell/serve alcoholic beverages at the property located at 125 N. Court Street.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 07/11/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve all items requested at 125 N. Court Street (Charles Wayne Doucet-Toby's Downtown). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

Consider approval of request for VARIANCE approval in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) to place a mobile home on the property located at 214 W. Chaney Street (Sharon Webb). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 07/11/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE approval in a NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) to place a mobile home on the property located at 214 W. Chaney Street (Sharon Webb). 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.

Consider approval of request for the following (Antonio Thomas-Scholar Jenkins):

- VARIANCE approval for property located in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to open a Professional Office for Behavioral Health Counseling at the property located at 530 S. Court Street.
- VARIANCE approval for property located in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to place a Post and Panel sign at the property located at 530 S. Court Street.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 07/11/2022 and recommended approval of this item with the stipulation of State Fire Marshal approval as well as a recommendation of approval from the Historic District Commission. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve all items provided the all of the requested stipulations are met. 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 Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve Contract Change Order No. 2 in the increase amount of \$75,447.03 for addition of Item No. 33 - Repair leaks/Relocate water service lines and Item No. 34 - Contractor downtime to utility conflicts on Market Street. This change order is for Citywide Street Improvements Project, FP&C Project No. 50-MM6-20-02, MGA Project S#539. (Contractor: Prairie Contractors, LLC). 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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas desires to amend the budget of revenues and expenditures adopted by the City of Opelousas in August 2021 as set out in the document attached to this ordinance;

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen, of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana in general session convened that:

SECTION I. The attached detailed budget of Revenues for Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2021 and ending August 31, 2022, has been and the same was hereby amended to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues for the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, during the same period.

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SECTION II. The attached budget of Expenditures by departments for the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2021 and ending August 31, 2022, has been and the same was hereby amended to serve as a budget of expenditures for the City during the said period.

SECTION III. The amending of this Operating Budget of Expenditures has been and the same was hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

SECTION IV. Amounts were available for expenditures only to the extent included with the 2021-2022 budget.

*The referenced Budget is available for public inspection at City of Opelousas Municipal office,
105 N. Main Street, Opelousas, Louisiana,*

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (except holidays)

Said Ordinance was introduced by councilmember Charles Cummings on the 12th day of July 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2023.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES

AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2023

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act requires the City of Opelousas to adopt an annual budget of revenues and expenditures on or before August 31, 2022;

WHEREAS, the proposed budget must be accompanied by a budget adoption instrument;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas desires to adopt the budget of revenues and expenditures proposed by the Mayor of the Municipality, Julius Alsandor, and attached to this Ordinance (the "Budget Ordinance");

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the City of Opelousas (the "City Council") held on July 12, 2022, this Budget Ordinance was introduced by councilmember Charles Cummings pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 33:406(B)(1)(2); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 33:406(B)(2), a public hearing on the Budget Ordinance was held prior to final adoption, and notice was appropriately run as required by the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act;

*The referenced Budget is available for public inspection at City of Opelousas Municipal office,
105 N. Main Street, Opelousas, Louisiana,*

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (except holidays)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 6:08 p.m. FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION/DEMOLITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

- (a) Opelousas City of, Janice Marks Johnson T/S, 918 Truman Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (b) Sebie Walter Leon Dayon, 709 Hiram Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation to allow 60-day extension with evidence of improvement, and if none is made, then condemnation)*
- (c) Deux Freres Properties LLC, 1110 Garland Avenue (2 Abandoned Mobile Homes) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (d) Fakouri Realty, Inc., 1750 Bossier Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (e) James W. Bellard, 926 W. Landry Street (Abandoned House on Trailer) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (f) O Town Rentals, Inc., 1123 S. Court Street (Burned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (g) Shantelle Guillory Savoie, 212 E. Dunbar Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation to allow 60-day extension with evidence of improvement, and if none is made, then condemnation)*
- (h) Dallas Janice, c/o Sheila Mitchell, 1724 Redmond Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (i) Nathalie Haas Hirsch Trust, For the Hart Children & The Emily Hirsch Hart Property Trust, 500 Block W. Cherry Street (Several Abandoned Mobile Homes) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*
- (j) Gaiennie Realty Company LLC, 706 W. Bellevue Street (Abandoned Warehouse) *(Recommendation to allow 60-day extension with evidence of improvement, and if none is made, then condemnation)*
- (k) Felix Ned, 819 E. Madison Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure) *(Recommendation of condemnation for demolition)*

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:14 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to accept the recommendations for the properties listed above. 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.

At this time, Alderwoman Roberts asked Mrs. Doucet for an update on the two properties she had inquired about on Sherwood Street and Peggy Street. Mrs. Doucet stated that she had gotten a quote from Mr. Thomas on the properties as follows:

(a) 614 Sherwood Street - \$19,642 (\$11,442 for asbestos removal and \$8,200 for demolition).

(b) 832 Peggy Street - \$14,400 (\$7,500 for asbestos removal and \$6,900 for demolition).

Mrs. Doucet stated that she informed the Mayor that once the asbestos is removed then the City could do the demolitions themselves. Alderwoman Roberts asked if there as money in the budget for this and Mrs. Doucet replied no.

Alderman Batiste inquired about the status of the house on Mistrot Lane and Mrs. Doucet stated that there is a family issue regarding that property that has not been resolved and that the City would have to make a decision as to what they are going to do regarding condemnation because there is drug activity going on at that property.

Mrs. Delita Rubin Broussard inquired about an abandoned house on the corner of Lincoln and Montreal Streets to find out if it is on the list. Mrs. Doucet stated that it is on the list to be addressed. Alderman Ford stated that he has addressed that issue numerous times.

Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:26 p.m. TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES (ORDINANCE NO. 5 OF 1967) AND ADOPTING A NAME CHANGE TO THE OPELOUSAS-EUNICE LIBRARY. This item was introduced last month by the city Attorney. He stated that the City of Opelousas and the City of Eunice will no longer be operating the library together and the paperwork needs to be completed. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:29 p.m.

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ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES (ORDINANCE NO. 5 OF 1967) AND ADOPTING A NAME CHANGE TO THE OPELOUSAS-EUNICE LIBRARY.

ORDINANCE NO. 05 OF 2022

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES (ORDINANCE NO. 5 OF 1967) AND ADOPTING A NAME CHANGE TO THE OPELOUSAS-EUNICE LIBRARY

WHEREAS, Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances was enacted in 1967 by Ordinance No. 5, Section 1 of 1967, which established a joint agreement with the Town of Eunice to promote, maintain, support, and operate a public library known as the Opelousas-Eunice Public Library;

WHEREAS, the Town of Eunice and City of Opelousas had operated the Opelousas-Eunice Public Library for a period in excess of fifty (50) years;

WHEREAS, sometime in or around July 2019, however, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Eunice approved a separation of the Opelousas-Eunice Library that resulted in each municipality operating an independent library;

WHEREAS, since that time the City of Opelousas has solely operated the library at 212 E. Grolee Street;

WHEREAS, because of the separation from the joint commission by Eunice, the city attorney believes it is appropriate to repeal all the provisions of Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances, and particularly Ordinance No. 5 of 1967;

WHEREAS, the director of the library at 212 E. Grolee Street believes it is in the best interest of the library to adopt a name change of the library from the "Opelousas-Eunice Library" to the "Opelousas Library";

WHEREAS, this Ordinance repealing Chapter 15 and changing the name of the library was introduced by council member Charles Cummings at a public meeting on June 14, 2022, and notice of a public hearing on the proposed Ordinance was published in the Opelousas Daily World;

WHEREAS, after a public hearing was held on the Ordinance, and acting on the recommendations from counsel and the library director, on motion of councilmember Marvin Richard and seconded by councilmember Milton Batiste III, the recommendations were offered for adoption, and the following vote was recorded:

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

Nay: None.

Absent: Chasity Davis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas in legal session convened, that:

1. Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances, and particularly Ordinance No. 5 of 1967 are hereby repealed;
 2. The name of the library at 212 E. Grolee Street shall be changed from the "Opelousas-Eunice Library" to the "Opelousas Library";
 3. The Mayor of Opelousas shall be authorized to effect the name change on any and all signs or buildings at the library;
 4. The Mayor of Opelousas shall be authorized to effect the name change on any and all financial accounts, including but not limited to credit or bank cards, dedicated to the library; and
 5. The Mayor of Opelousas shall be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to effect the name change.
- Opelousas, Louisiana this 12th day of July, 2022.

Attest:


LEISA ANDERSON, CITY CLERK


JULIUS ALSANDOR, MAYOR

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FY 2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT DOLLARS (\$41,188.00) ON BEHALF OF THE OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants are used to assist with the updated equipment; and

WHEREAS, Council desires to authorize the Mayor to apply for said Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY AND STATE OF LOUISIANA:

Section 1. That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to apply for the FY 2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) to help defray the cost for equipment for the Opelousas Police Department.

Section 2. That the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office will not apply for the allocated amount of \$11,884.00 and therefore the City of Opelousas will apply for the total amount.

Section 3. That the City of Opelousas agrees to use the \$41,188.00 from the JAG Program allocation until July 31, 2023 for the sole purpose of purchasing new technology upgrades.

Section 4. That nothing in the performance of said Agreement shall impose any liability for claims against the City of Opelousas other than for claims which liability may be imposed by the Tort Claims Act and that each party to said Agreement will be responsible for its own sections while providing services or procuring equipment under said Agreement and shall not be responsible for any civil liability that may arise from the furnishing of services of procurement by the other party.

For the purpose of said Agreement, the parties nominate the following:

CITY OF OPELOUSAS

Julius Alsandor

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

ABSTAINING: None.

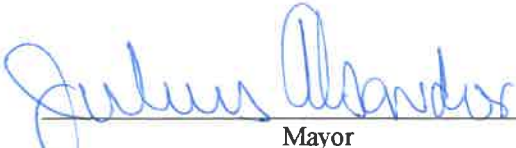
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THEREUPON, the above Resolution was declared adopted on this 12th day of July 2022.

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACADIANA CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY DISTRICT CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP A NEW ACADIANA CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY; COMMITTING TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT WITHIN THE CITY'S BUDGET SHOULD SAID CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUEST BE FUNDED BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS BE REQUIRED; PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana operating the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory for the purpose of crime detection, prevention, investigation and other related criminal investigative services; and

WHEREAS, the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District boundaries include the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion; and

WHEREAS, the current Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory facility is in need of repairs, expansion and upgrading to meet the increased demand for its services by the law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial community; and

WHEREAS, the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District has submitted a Capital Outlay Request to the State of Louisiana for funding to plan, construct and equip a much-needed new Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory, including office, evidence storage and laboratory space; and

WHEREAS, the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory Project is extremely important to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Acadiana Region; and

WHEREAS, most Capital Outlay Requests require some level of local matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF OPELOUSAS the wishes to express its full and complete support of the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District Capital Outlay Request and its commitment to provide its pro-rata share of any required matching funds should the Request be funded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CITY OF OPELOUSAS hereby expresses its full and complete support of the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District Capital Outlay Request to the State of Louisiana for funding to plan, construct and equip a new Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CITY OF OPELOUSAS also commits to provided matching funds in an amount within the City's budget should the Capital Outlay Request made by the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory District be funded by the State of Louisiana and local matching funds required.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the City Council and approved by the Mayor.

The city Attorney stated that the District Attorney's office is looking for an appropriate match based on a 4.5% ratio of cases submitted on a yearly basis by the Opelousas Police Department. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to table the adoption of the Resolution for further review. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Floyd Ford, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: Milton Batiste III and Sherell Roberts.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION WAS TABLED.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to Ratify the Recommendation of Provisional Appointment for Ashley K. King as a Police Communications Officer at a starting rate of pay of \$9/hour, effective 07/01/2022. 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 Aldermen Marvin Richard and Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to Ratify the Recommendation of Hire for Frank Thibodeaux as a maintenance worker/custodian for the Opelousas Police Department at a rate of \$10/hour, effective 06/30/2022, with benefits of a municipal employee of the City of Opelousas as he is replacing a former employee. 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.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to Approve the Recommendation of Hire for Johnathon Smith as a Police Officer Recruit, effective 07/25/2022, pending satisfaction of prerequisites. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Chasity Davis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alderman Richard announced his 9th annual back to school giveaway at the Boys & Girls Club on 08/06/2022 (Saturday) from 9 am to 1 pm.

Alderwoman Davis will have her annual parade on 08/07/2022 (Sunday) from Park Avenue to 1032 S. Railroad Avenue from 1 pm to 3 pm.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 12, 2022

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss the following matters:

- *Delanna Washington v. The Old Evangeline Downs, LLC and City of Opelousas, suit no. 11-C-0477-A, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (Case Update).*
- *Lucille Stelly v. City of Opelousas, suit no. 17-C-4764-B, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (Case Update).*

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to Regular Session at 8:22 p.m.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to authorize the administration to hire the medical professionals it needs to represent the City of Opelousas in the *Delanna Washington v. The Old Evangeline Downs, LLC and City of Opelousas, suit no. 11-C-0477-A, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana* matter. 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 Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to authorize the City to offer a maximum of \$20,000 in full settlement for the *Lucille Stelly v. City of Opelousas, suit no. 17-C-4764-B, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana* matter. 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.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Aldermen Marvin Richard and Milton Batiste III and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK



MAYOR