

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2022

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 9th day of August 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, Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Davis. ABSENT: Milton Batiste III (*arrived late*).

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Rev. Joel Greene, Jr., Bellevue Street Baptist Church, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer. Mr. Donald Broussard, 6-year Army Veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Aldermen Milton Batiste III and Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 07/12/2022. 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 Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the following changes to the agenda:

UNDER THE PUBLIC HEARINGS SECTION

- Deleting Item No. 18 (a - d), "*A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION/DEMOLITION OF THE FOLLOWING 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)"*

This item will be re-advertised and a Public Hearing will be held at the 09/13/2022 Council Meeting.

ADDING A PERSONNEL ITEMS SECTION

- Adding Item No. 24, "*Accept the retirement of Fire Chief Charles Mason, effective 08/01/2022 and approve payment in the amount of \$72,175.05 for 1,247 vacation hours and 8 bonus hours.*"

ADDING UNDER THE NEW BUSINESS SECTION

- Presentation/Discussion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and Mr. George Davy regarding loose/dangerous dogs.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcement by Ms. Patrice Melnick regarding grants received for the Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center. Ms. Melnick informed everyone that the Museum has been awarded two grants—one from the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and one from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Rebirth grant. These two grants will help to pay for a new exhibit that will be available in February at the Museum called "Free People of Color in St. Landry Parish from the 1700^s to 1865". The exhibit will include a map of the Free People of Color communities as well as profiles and other related information. This will be a permanent exhibit. For more information about events at the Museum, sign up for the Email Newsletter she sends out or check out the *Community Chronicles* newsletter which has a monthly column about the museum. Alderman Ford thanked Ms. Melnick for all of her hard work in keeping the history of Opelousas moving forward.
- Following Ms. Melnick's announcements, Mayor Alsandor decided to handle Alderwoman Robert's item at this time. Presentation/Discussion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and Mr. George Davy regarding loose/dangerous dogs. Alderwoman Roberts began by saying that she wanted to bring up a discussion about dogs running loose in Opelousas and that she has been getting numerous calls in her district about dogs running free. She was interested in finding out if there is an intergovernmental agreement to get these dogs housed. She also wanted to know what the policy on these dogs biting people is. Mr. Davy, who resides in the 500 Block of S. Court Street in the Historic District, stated that on 04/12/2022 he was coming home from the park on Court Street when a pit bull came over a fence and mauled him. Mr. Davy provided a slide show of his injuries following the attack. He stated that the dog attacked his legs and when he bent down to push the dog away, it grabbed his chin and pulled him down. He stated that he was able to get his hands around the dog's neck and strangled it until the dog started squealing and let it go and ran back into its house. He said that the police, the ambulance, and the dog catcher came but he pointed out that the dog was only quarantined to its residence for 10 days. He pointed out that this same dog had also attacked another very prominent person in this town who beat it off with a stick. He stated that everyone would agree that this is a dangerous dog and according to Opelousas Code of Ordinances, the enclosure that holds the dog should be at least 8 feet high. This dog was enclosed in a 4 foot high chain link fence. There should have also been signs saying the dog is dangerous but there were none. The owner of the dog was renting but the ordinance also stated that owners of these types of dogs should have at least \$100,000 liability policy on these dogs. Mr. Davy stated that he doesn't sleep anymore because he is having nightmares about this dog and that that the owner of the dog was kicked out by the owner of the property following this incident but he does not know where the person went. Alderwoman Davis spoke emotionally at this time and stated that she knows how Mr. Davy feels because she was attacked earlier this year by a dog while she was pregnant and now she is afraid of dogs and she is sorry that this happened to him. He also pointed out that on the police report in the place to report injuries, it was checked off none. Mr. Davy is asking for closure on this issue and hoping that the City can help him. Mr. Davy stated that the owner of the dog was only issued a citation for a leash law. Alderman Richard stated that the owner of the dog should be held accountable for this because that could have been Mr. Davy's life. Alderwoman

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Roberts stated that they are going to see what they can do about this and that the attorney has something about what the law has to say about it but they will definitely look into this. Attorney Broussard stated that he has been the city attorney for six years and he has had occasion to deal with the question related to dangerous dogs and also currently in his private law practice. This situation is easily addressed by State law, particularly under Title 14 (Criminal Laws), addressed at Sections 102.12, 102.13, and 102.14 and 102.15 (A) which places a lot of authority and discretion within Parish Government, as follows:

§102.12. Definitions

- (1) "Animal control agency" means the parish or local animal control agency. If the municipality or parish does not have an animal control agency, it means whatever entity performs animal control functions.
- (2) "Impounded" means taken into the custody of the animal control agency or provider of animal control services to the municipality or parish where the dangerous or vicious dog is found.
- (3) "Secure enclosure" means a fence or structure suitable to prevent the entry of young children, and which is suitable to confine a dangerous dog in conjunction with other measures which may be taken by the owner of the dog. The enclosure shall be designed in order to prevent the animal from escaping.

§102.13. Hearing to determine if dog is dangerous or vicious

- A. The district attorney, the sheriff, an animal control officer, or other designated representative, in the name of and on behalf of the parish and without the payment of any costs, shall be authorized to file a petition in the district court having jurisdiction requesting a hearing for the purpose of determining whether or not a dog should be declared dangerous as defined in R.S. 14:102.14(A) or vicious as defined in R.S. 14:102.15(A).
- B. Upon the filing of the petition, the district judge shall immediately issue a rule on the owner of the dog to show cause why the dog should not be declared a dangerous or vicious dog. This rule shall, at the time of its issuance, be fixed for hearing not later than five days, including Sundays, half-holidays and holidays, from the date of its issuance, and shall be heard by preference over all other matters and cases fixed for the same day and shall be heard continuously day after day until submitted for adjudication.
- C. Upon the showing made by the parties on the trial of the rule to show cause, the court shall determine whether the dog is a dangerous dog or a vicious dog and may make other orders authorized by this Section.
- D. In every case where the dog is established to be a dangerous dog, the court shall enter an order declaring the dog to be a dangerous dog and shall direct the owner of the dog to comply with conditions established for the restraint and confinement of the dog as provided by law.
- E. In every case where the dog is established to be a vicious dog, the court shall enter an order declaring the dog to be a vicious dog and shall direct that the vicious dog be humanely euthanized.
- F. Any person who fails to restrain and confine a dangerous dog as ordered by the court shall be guilty of contempt and shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.
- G. The pleading and practice in all cases under this Section shall be in accordance with the Code of Civil Procedure and the laws and rules of court governing practice before the district courts of this state.
- H. The owner of the dog may appeal to the court of competent jurisdiction an order of the district court determining the dog to be dangerous or vicious. Such appeal shall be perfected within five calendar days from the rendition of the order and shall be made returnable to the appropriate appellate court in not more than fifteen calendar days from the rendition of the order. The applicant for the determination may appeal to the court of competent jurisdiction for an order reversing the order of the district court.
- I. No dog shall be declared dangerous or vicious if at the hearing authorized by this Section evidence presented is sufficient to establish any of the following:
 - (1) Any injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time the injury or damage was sustained, was committing a crime upon the property of the owner of the dog.
 - (2) Any injury or damage is sustained by a person who, at the time the injury or damage was sustained, was teasing, tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog.
 - (3) Any injury or damage is sustained by a domestic animal which, at the time the injury or damage was sustained, was teasing, tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog.
 - (4) If the dog was protecting or defending a person within the immediate vicinity of the dog from an unjustified attack or assault.
 - (5) If the injury or damage to a domestic animal was sustained while the dog was working as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog on the property of, or under the control of, its owner, and the damage or injury was to a species or type of domestic animal appropriate to the work of the dog.
- J. The owner of a dog determined to be a vicious dog may be prohibited by the court from owning, possessing, controlling, or having custody of any dog for a period of up to three years, when it is found, after proceedings conducted pursuant to this Section, that ownership or possession of a dog by that person would create a significant threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

§102.14. Unlawful ownership of dangerous dog

- A. For the purposes of this Section "dangerous dog" means:
 - (1) Any dog which when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior thirty-six-month period, engages in any behavior that requires a defensive action by any person to prevent bodily injury when the person and the dog are off the property of the owner of the dog; or
 - (2) Any dog which, when unprovoked, bites a person causing an injury; or
 - (3) Any dog which, when unprovoked, on two separate occasions within the prior thirty-six-month period, has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury to a domestic animal off the property of the owner of the dog.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to own a dangerous dog without properly restraining or confining the dog.
- C. A dangerous dog, while on the owner's property, shall, at all times, be kept indoors, or in a secure enclosure. A dangerous dog may be off the owner's property only if it is restrained by a leash which prevents its escape or access to other persons.
- D. The owner of a dog determined by the court to be dangerous shall post signs around the secure enclosure no more than thirty feet apart and at each normal point of ingress and egress. The signs shall bear the words "Beware of Dog", or "Dangerous Dog" in letters at least three and one-half inches high and shall be so placed as to be readily visible to any person approaching the secure enclosure.
- E. If the dog in question dies, or is sold, transferred, or permanently removed from the municipality or parish where the owner resides, the owner of a dangerous dog shall notify the animal control agency of the changed condition and new location of the dog in writing within two days.
- F. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than three hundred dollars.
- G. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:
 - (1) Any dog which is owned, or the service of which is employed, by any state or local law enforcement agency for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.
 - (2) Any dog trained in accordance with the standards of a national or regional search and rescue association to respond to instructions from its handler in the search and rescue of lost or missing individuals and which dog, together with its handler, is prepared to render search and rescue services at the request of law enforcement.

§102.15. Unlawful ownership of a vicious dog

- A. For the purposes of this Section "vicious dog" means any dog which, when unprovoked, in an aggressive manner, inflicts serious bodily injury on or kills a human being and was previously determined to be a dangerous dog.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to own a vicious dog.
- C. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.
- D. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:
 - (1) Any dog which is owned, or the service of which is employed, by any state or local law enforcement agency for the principal purpose of aiding in the detection of criminal activity, enforcement of laws, or apprehension of offenders.
 - (2) Any dog trained in accordance with the standards of a national or regional search and rescue association to respond to instructions from its handler in the search and rescue of lost or missing individuals and which dog, together with its handler, is prepared to render search and rescue services at the request of law enforcement.

Alderman Cummings asked Mr. Davy if he knew why the police report showed no injuries. Mr. Davy stated that he had no idea. He feels that the police report needs to be amended. Alderman Batiste stated that they need to talk to the Chief about updating that report. Mayor Alsandor stated that because of incidents of this type and the abundance of dogs that are running through the City, it is something that we have discussed internally here but also reached out to others in our surrounding area. Just yesterday, he and Mr. Purvis had a meeting with the Parish President of possible avenues or solutions. Mr. Wayne Ardoin, parish councilmember, was in attendance and has let them know that the Parish is overloaded as well. Years ago, we used to have a system to dispose of dogs that were within our possession for too long and he believes that it still exists. Mayor Alsandor pointed out that we are focusing on pit bulls but it applies to any dog that may be deemed dangerous. He doesn't want anyone to leave out with the misconception that all pit bulls are dangerous. The shelter and pound were not going to take the dangerous dog. The only other place to house the dog as it has bit someone is in the home it came from—and the dog was quarantined for 10 days. Mayor Alsandor assured Mr. Davy that the City is going to look into getting funding to house a small number of dogs.

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- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative. No representative was present and Mayor Alsandor gave the following COVID Update for 08/09/2022:
 - SLP is now considered High Community level risk
 - SLP total cases 24,916 and right under 1,700 reinfections
 - Vaccinations
 - Acadiana region – 57%
 - SLP – 51%
 - Completed – 47,190
 - Initiated – 42,760
 - Extra Doses – 9,800
 - Staffing
 - Currently have 12 staff members out with COVID
 - OGHS COVID
 - Currently have 1 COVID inpatient at OGHS
 - Recommended mask wearing in hospital and some areas require mandatory mask wearing
 - Some Visitor Limitations in place at hospital
 - 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 July 31, 2022. Report covers all of the revenue, expenses, and transfers up through July 31, 2022. The final numbers will not be available until November when they close out the budget cycle in the system. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, 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: Floyd Ford, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

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 – paving has started on the following.
- (b) Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – \$2.7 million dollar grant - design of improvements is approximately 95% 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.
- (c) Wastewater Pump Station Project – \$1.8 million dollar grant to replace pumps at the wastewater stations - still waiting on delivery dates from pump manufacturer.
- (d) Water Meter Replacement Project – contract documents have been submitted to FP&C for approval.
- (e) LDH & DEQ Application for Water System Improvements – submitted some pre-applications for loans to DEQ for wastewater system and to LDH for water system.
- (f) \$500,000 Capital Outlay Grant – still waiting on Railroad Permits from Union Pacific.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis, it was resolved to accept the Engineer's Monthly Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Milton Batiste III (*stepped out*).

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

BIDS

Accept Bids for Off-Site Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Two Card System (Bid #04-22). Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World* for Bids for Off-Site Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Two Card System (Bid #04-22), one (1) bid was received:

BID PROPOSAL

GASOLINE AND DIESEL OFF-SITE MOTOR FUEL TWO CARD SYSTEM FOR CITY OF OPELOUSAS
FOR FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2023
AS PER SPECIFICATIONS

1. GASOLINE:
 - REGULAR UNLEADED
 - MINIMUM OCTANE 87
 - MID-GRADE UNLEADED
 - MINIMUM OCTANE 89
 - PREMIUM UNLEADED
 - MINIMUM OCTANE 92
 - BASE PRICE: WEEKLY PRICE ESTABLISHED BY OPIS, LAKE CHARLES TERMINAL
 - LA STATE FUEL TAX – 0.2
 - FEDERAL TAX: EXEMPT
2. DIESEL FUEL:
 - #2 DIESEL
 - BASE PRICE: WEEKLY OPIS PAD 3 REPORT, LAKE CHARLES TERMINAL

BIDS WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATED ANNUAL USAGE:

GASOLINE:	
REGULAR UNLEADED	<u>114,000</u> GALLONS
MID-GRADE UNLEADED	<u>10,000</u> GALLONS
PREMIUM UNLEADED	<u>6,000</u> GALLONS
DIESEL:	
#2 DIESEL	<u>20,000</u> GALLONS

ALL BIDS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE. THE FIRM'S NAME, ITEM BEING BID UPON, AND STATE CONTRACT NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE) MUST BE CLEARLY STATED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE.

FleetRite/CFN/Shop Rite

NAME OF FIRM SUBMITTING BID

Jan G. Janice

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

STATE CONTRACT # (IF APPLICABLE)

7/21/22

DATE SUBMITTED

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On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to take the bid under advisement and award if the bid meets specifications. 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.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26 OF 2022

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 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.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

And the Resolution was declared effective this 9th day of August, 2022.

ATTEST:


City Clerk


Mayor

NEW BUSINESS

Consider approval of request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the property located at 420 E. Bellevue Street to open a Restaurant/Catering Kitchen at the above referenced location (Natalie Bias). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 08/08/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the property located at 420 E. Bellevue Street to open a Restaurant/Catering Kitchen at the above referenced location (Natalie Bias). 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.

Consider approval of request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the property located at 1729 S. Washington Street to move a building on the property and to open a Professional Office within that building at the above referenced location (Melissa Chavis). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 08/08/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the property located at 1729 S. Washington Street to move a building on the property and to open a Professional Photography

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Office within that building at the above referenced location (Melissa Chavis). 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.

Consider approval of request for VARIANCE approval in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) to install a 35' pylon sign at 688 Creswell Lane (McOpelousas – McAlister's Deli). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 08/08/2022 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the request for VARIANCE approval in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) to install a 35' pylon sign at 688 Creswell Lane (McOpelousas – McAlister's Deli). 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.

Consider approval of request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at the property located at 944 E. Jefferson Street to sell Alcoholic Beverages at a convenience store at the above referenced location (Stephanie Pearson – Shashona Charles). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on 08/08/2022 and recommended approval of this item. There was only one opposition voiced by a business owner at the Planning Commission meeting regarding loitering and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the property. Ms. Charles stated that there would be no loitering or consumption on the premises. If this does occur then the item will have to be revisited. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the request provided that there is no loitering or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises at which time the matter will be revisited. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to grant authority for the Mayor to sign Supplemental Agreement No. 6 to Master Agreement between the City of Opelousas and Morgan Goudeau & Associates, Inc., dated May 11, 2019 with funding for the project being provided by Opelousas Downtown Development District through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Opelousas and Opelousas Downtown Development for Water and Sewer Improvements for Chic-fil-a (Boagni Property), MGA Project BLDG#310. 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.

At this time, Mayor Alsandor moved Item No. 23 up to be handled after Item No. 16 because they pertain to the same matter. ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH OPELOUSAS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS – WALLIOR STREET.

RESOLUTION NO. 27 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT
WITH OPELOUSAS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS – WALLIOR STREET

WHEREAS, the Opelousas Downtown Development District ("ODDD") proposes to enter a cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of Opelousas ("CITY") for Water and Wastewater Improvements – Wallior Street and a copy of the cooperative endeavor agreement is attached to this Resolution;

WHEREAS, the CITY has determined that citizens and businesses will benefit from upgrades to the water lines and wastewater lines located under, along and to the East of Wallior Street, which improvements include new lines, pumps, manholes, and such other improvements as are necessary to serve the area, which area includes part of the Opelousas Downtown Development District;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the ODDD agrees to partner with the CITY and to contribute all or a part of the cost of such upgrades;

THEREFORE, the ODDD does hereby agree that it will pay for the cost of the structural upgrades, up to the sum of \$250,000.00.

SECTION 1: CANCELLATION

This commitment will expire on December 31, 2023, unless extended or terminated by the ODDD Board of Commissioners prior to that time.

SECTION 2: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall be effective August 1, 2022.

SECTION 3: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to further economic development opportunities within the ODDD and within the City of Opelousas, and the Agreement shall be liberally construed to further that purpose. To that end, the Board of Commissioners of the ODDD and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the CITY shall work together to promote the well-being of the citizens of Opelousas by the improvement to the water and wastewater service.

SECTION 4: PAYMENT

Payments to the CITY shall be made by the ODDD within 30 days of receipt of invoices from the CITY.

WHEREAS, in a lawful public meeting convened by the Opelousas City Council on the 9th day of August, 2022, on motion of councilmember Marvin Richard and seconded by councilmember Floyd Ford, this Resolution was offered for adoption, and the following vote was recorded:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: None.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas in legal session convened, that the City of Opelousas is authorized to enter a cooperative endeavor agreement with Opelousas Downtown Development District Court for the Water and Wastewater Improvements – Wallior Street, and the Mayor, Hon. Julius Alsandor, is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to enter the cooperative endeavor agreement.

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA this 9th day of August, 2022.

ATTEST:



LEISA ANDERSON, CITY CLERK



JULIUS ALSANDOR, MAYOR

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

- a. Edna Douglas Richard, C/O Donald Jenkins, 639 Mistrot Street (Abandoned/Vacant Wood Frame Structure)

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(ITEM DELETED) 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 Wood Frame Structure)
(b) Melvin Davis, 315 Cenla Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
(c) Walter James Stevens, 305 Cenla Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)
(d) Matthew Thomas Jackson, C/O Jerica Jackson, 314 Cenla Street (Abandoned Wood Frame Structure)

This item will be re-advertised and a Public Hearing will be held at the 09/13/2022 Council Meeting.

Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:07 p.m. for the following items:

- TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2022.
- TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2023.

Mr. Stephen Woods gave a brief summary of the two budgets as it relates to the amended and proposed budget amounts and the beginning and ending fund balances. Mr. Purvis Morrison pointed out that the fund balance was so large this year because of the dedicated funds for the capital projects that have not been completed yet. Mr. Woods also pointed out that the City has approved the budget in August for the last three years. He pointed out that the previous year's revenue increased for the proposed budget due to all the upcoming capital outlay projects that the City has been approved for. If the City is awarded any funds after the budget year begins, then the budget will have to be amended to reflect those funds. Alderman Charles Cummings commended Mr. Woods for preparing the budget and for what he has done and this was echoed by the other council members.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:18 p.m.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 06 OF 2022

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.

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.

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

*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)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas, in legal session convened, that the budget of revenues and expenditures adopted by the City Council in summer 2020 for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2021 and ending August 31, 2022, shall be and is amended as set out in the document attached to this ordinance.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT/ABSTAIN</u>
HON. MILTON BATISTE III	X		
HON. FLOYD FORD	X		
HON. CHARLES CUMMINGS	X		
HON. SHERELL ROBERTS	X		
HON. CHASITY DAVIS	X		
HON. MARVIN RICHARD	X		
TOTAL	6	0	0

Opelousas, Louisiana this 9th day of August 2022.

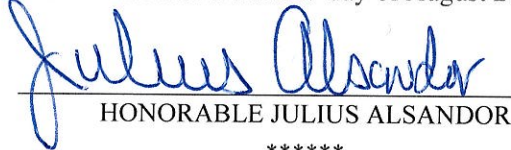
CITY OF OPELOUSAS
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CERTIFICATION

I, Leisa S. Anderson, Municipal Clerk for the City of Opelousas, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 06 of 2022 was duly introduced by the City Council of the City of Opelousas on the 12TH day of July 2022 by councilmember Charles Cummings, adopted by the City Council on August 9, 2022, in legal session convened, and forwarded to the Mayor on the 10th day of August 2022.


LEISA S. ANDERSON

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 10th day of August 2022, at Opelousas, Louisiana.


HONORABLE JULIUS ALSANDOR

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

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, the following Ordinance was offered for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 07 OF 2022
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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas, in legal session convened, that the budget of revenues and expenditures proposed by the Mayor of the Municipality, Julius Alsandor, and attached to this Budget Ordinance be and is hereby adopted by the governing authority of the City of Opelousas.

*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)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT/ABSTAIN</u>
HON. FLOYD FORD	X		
HON. CHARLES CUMMINGS	X		
HON. SHERELL ROBERTS	X		
HON. CHASITY DAVIS	X		
HON. MARVIN RICHARD	X		
HON. MILTON BATISTE III	X		
TOTAL	6	0	0

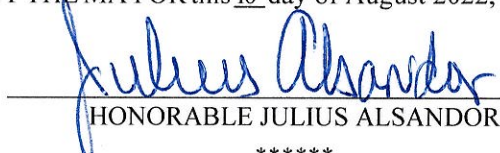
Opelousas, Louisiana this 9th day of August 2022.

CERTIFICATION

I, Leisa S. Anderson, Municipal Clerk for the City of Opelousas, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 07 of 2022 was duly introduced by the City Council of the City of Opelousas on the 12TH day of July 2022 by councilmember Charles Cummings, adopted by the City Council on August 9, 2022, in legal session convened, and forwarded to the Mayor on the 10th day of August 2022.


LEISA S. ANDERSON

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this 10th day of August 2022, at Opelousas, Louisiana.


HONORABLE JULIUS ALSANDOR

Mayor Alsandor thanked all of the department heads for the input during the budget process.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to accept the retirement of Fire Chief Charles Mason, effective 08/01/2022 and approve payment in the amount of \$72,175.05 for 1,247 vacation hours and 8 bonus hours. Chief Mason retired after 40 years of service with the Opelousas Fire Department. 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.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Alsandor announced it is tradition that the outgoing chief appoint an interim chief to serve in the place until the process starts. Retired Fire Chief Charles Mason has appointed Asst. Chief Richard Joseph as Interim Chief of the Opelousas Fire Department and he will serve in that capacity until this Council makes that final decision. Alderman Batiste congratulated Mr. Joseph and he also publicly congratulated Chief Mason on his 40 years of service and being the first black Fire Chief in Opelousas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Items submitted.

At this time, Mayor Alsandor requested that Father Laurent De Prins from the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany of Opelousas do a closing prayer.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK



MAYOR