

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

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 8th day of November 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 announced the death of Ms. Velma Hendricks from Melville, Louisiana. Ms. Hendricks was a former educator in St. Landry Parish and had served as a council member in Melville and was running for the office of Melville mayor in the current election. He also asked that they keep Ms. Mary Harris in prayer for a speedy recovery following a fall where she broke her arm.

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-Warren. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Father Justin Arockasamy, SVD, Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the prayer. Retired Command Sgt. Major Darrell Minix, Army Reserves was not in attendance so Interim Fire Chief Richard Joseph and Alderman Charles Cummings, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held 10/11/2022. 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-Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to ADOPT the agenda.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS).
 - The numbers are tracking favorably for the region
 - Hospital is encouraging vaccinations, especially the flu vaccine
 - Isolate/staying away from others when not feeling well
- Updates/Presentations from Mayor Julius Alsandor.
 - Upcoming Veterans Activities
 - 11/09/22 – 11/10/2022
Meet & Greet at North Park Community Center until 2:00 p.m. Vendors and Luncheon setup at 8:00 a.m.
 - 11/11/2022
Veterans Memorial 4th Annual Luncheon at Opelousas Yambilee Building at 11:30 sponsored by Ms. Patricia Mason Guillory.
 - 11/12/2022
Parade Downtown on Landry Street. Line up for decorations at 8:00 a.m. at Farmer's Market; Parade starts at 1:00 p.m., proceeds to Liberty Street and concludes at Opelousas City Hall. Pop-up tents with Veterans, Vendors, Food & Drinks, and Music until 6:00 p.m.
 - 11/13/2022
Musical featuring *The Ruth Davis Mountain Climbers of Los Angeles, CA* under the direction of Dorothy Thomas (213) 804-1773, Rose Minix (337) 692-4159, and Annie LaFountaine (337) 945-6455. Musical begins at 3:00 p.m. at Living Waters Christian Church, 946 S. Bullard Street in Opelousas.
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. *No comments or questions.*

REPORTS

Review Monthly Finances. Mr. Stephen Woods gave a financial update for the period covering August 2022 – October 2022 and stated that they are still in the process of closing the books for the previous fiscal year. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren, it was resolved to accept the Financial Report as presented for the period of August 2022 – October 2022. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Alsandor recognized Mr. Deontre Mallet, a 6 year Air Force veteran who will soon be joining the Air Reserves. Mayor Alsandor also recognized Evangeline Downs who gave a check for \$25,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Opelousas. Evangeline Downs also gave a \$25,000 check to Veterans Point for the betterment of veterans. Mayor Alsandor also noted that Mr. Mallet will lead the pledge at next month's Council meeting.

Engineer's Monthly Report. A copy of the Engineer's Monthly Status Report was provided to the Council members. Mr. William Jarrell recommended that the City Council schedule Committee Meeting(s) to discuss EPA/DEQ/LDH Compliance Orders mandates and the City's plan of action to address. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, 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-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Floyd Ford.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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City Attorney's Report. Attorney Travis Broussard had no report.

BIDS

ACCEPT BIDS FOR SEWER PUMP PARTS (BID #05-22). Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World* and on <https://lamats.eauctionservices.com> for Sewer Pump Parts (Bid #05-22), one (1) bid was received on the online portal:

BIDDER	FAIRBANKS MORSE PUMP PARTS	GORMAN-RUPP PUMP PARTS
INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT & SALES METAIRIE, LA <i>ONLINE SUBMISSION</i>	NO BID	\$6,670.00 (Offering a substitute equivalent replacement as look-alike copied pump to Gorman Rupp)
THOMPSON PUMP & EQUIPMENT (11/03/2022 – bid packet returned to City unopened and marked “return to sender – not deliverable as addressed – unable to forward”)		

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Aldermen Marvin Richard and Floyd Ford, it was resolved to take the bid under advisement and award if bidder meets specifications. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS

Appeal Hearing for Floyd Dominick from the decision of the Historic District Commission involving a request to operate a mobile food trailer in the Historic District. Mayor Alsandor stated that Mrs. Melanie Lee Lebouef would be representing the Historic District Commission. Attorney Broussard stated that this appeal hearing is required by State law and gave the parameter of the appeal process. He stated that based on this, the hearing should have been held last month but they were unable to hold that hearing and Mayor Alsandor stated that last month he was at fault for not placing the item on the agenda. Mr. Floyd Dominick was ill and was unable to attend today's meeting. His son, Sansisco Dominick, was in attendance and spoke on his behalf. He stated that they have pulled one of the trailers from the lot at 732 S. Union Street where they are leasing and are in the process of reconstructing it because the Historic District Commission did not like the way it looked. He stated that they are ninety percent complete. Mrs. Melanie Lebouef stated that Mr. Dominick had pointed out that they would be having electricity from a pole which would make it like a mobile home and this is not allowed in the Historic District. Alderman Richard asked if the trailers could be moved from the lot every day and Mr. Dominick stated that they could. Alderman Richard stated that the food trailers would have to be moved from the lot each day after sales are completed for them to be in compliance in the Historic District. Mrs. Lebouef presented the Council with some sample ordinances from two other municipalities that could be reviewed in order to compose an ordinance for Opelousas to follow regarding food trucks since the Historic District nor does the City of Opelousas have any such provision in its ordinance. Attorney Broussard stated that the City does need legislation regarding food trucks so that they can address these issues to get all food trucks on the same page throughout the City. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to **table** the matter and review the proposed food truck ordinance submitted by Mrs. Melanie Lebouef to the Council and to come back to the table and adopt a food truck ordinance that will address the whole City not just the Historic District area. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss approval of Goldman Lavine's request for **VARIANCE** approval in an **R1 ZONE** (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the property located at 611 Patsy Street to move a mobile home on the property for mother-in-law's personal residence. Mr. Lavine was not in attendance. On a motion by Alderman Floyd Ford and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to **deny** Goldman Lavine's request for **VARIANCE** approval in an **R1 ZONE** (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) at the property located at 611 Patsy Street to move a mobile home on the property for mother-in-law's personal residence. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Trahan Medical LLC's request for **VARIANCE** approval for property setbacks in a **MED ZONE** (MEDICAL ZONE) at the property located at 3935 I-49 South Service Road to make an addition to their existing medical facility. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 11/07/2022 and recommended **approval** of this item. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Floyd Ford, it was resolved to **approve** Trahan Medical LLC's request for **VARIANCE** approval for property setbacks in a **MED ZONE** (MEDICAL ZONE) at the property located at 3935 I-49 South Service Road to make an addition to their existing medical facility. 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-Warren-Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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Discuss Warren W. Frey & Patsy Frey – Ray’s LLC request for Plat Approval for the re-subdivision of property located in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) at I-49 South Service Road.

- a. Request for SITE PLAN approval.
- b. Request for CONDITIONAL USE approval to sell alcoholic beverages.
- c. Request for CONDITIONAL USE approval to operate a Drive-thru window.

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 11/07/2022 and recommended **approval** of this item. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to **approve** Warren W. Frey & Patsy Frey – Ray’s LLC request for Plat Approval for the re-subdivision of property located in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) at I-49 South Service Road and **approve**

- a. Request for SITE PLAN approval.
- b. Request for CONDITIONAL USE approval to sell alcoholic beverages.
- c. Request for CONDITIONAL USE approval to operate a Drive-thru window.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss Denise Edwards’s request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at the property located at 614 S. Main Street to operate a Child Day Care Center. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 11/07/2022 and recommended **approval** of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to **approve** Denise Edwards’s request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) at the property located at 614 S. Main Street to operate a Child Day Care Center. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

No Items Submitted for Introduction.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No Hearings for Consideration.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

No Ordinances to Adopt.

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPT DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY (DRA) RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren:

RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND APPOINTING THE MAYOR TO PERFORM ALL DUTIES ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS IN DEALING WITH THE AWARD WITH DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY (DRA) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAM CYCLE

WHEREAS, the Delta Regional Authority (hereinafter “DRA”) was created by Congress by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, as amended, as a federal/state partnership now comprised of 252 counties and parishes within the eight states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee in order to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnership that will have a positive impact on the Delta Region’s economy;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas, acting by and through its City Council proposes to apply for an award with DRA for the Fiscal Year 2022 federal award program cycle;

WHEREAS, DRA requires that a person be designated, appointed, and given the authority to perform certain duties and administration of said award for and on behalf of the Awardee;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas met in a regular session on November 8, 2022 whereby five of six members were present, constituting a quorum;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas wishes to designate and appoint Mayor Julius Alsandor to perform all duties and administration of said award;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas wishes to provide additional funds in the amount of \$2,267,430.00 to said award; and

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas wishes to insure that the event of an administration change, the new Mayor shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the City Council of City of Opelousas, as follows:

THAT, Mayor Julius Alsandor, be and is hereby designated and appointed to perform on behalf of City of Opelousas and has the authority to make those acts and assume any and all duties in dealing with the award with DRA for the Fiscal Year - 2022 federal award program cycle;

THAT, Mayor Julius Alsandor, is hereby authorized to execute and submit any and all documents including, but not limited to, applications, award closing documents, request for funds, status reports to DRA for the Fiscal Year - 2022 federal award program cycle;

THAT, the Awardee agrees to provide additional funds in the amount of \$2,267,430.00 to said award;

THAT, in the event of an administration change, the new Mayor shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

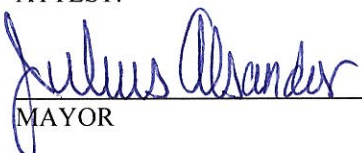
READ AND ADOPTED, unanimously, this the 8th day of November, 2022.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts (*stepped out*).

ATTEST:



MAYOR



CITY CLERK

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ADOPT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) RESOLUTION GIVING AUTHORITY TO ISSUE DEBT.

RESOLUTION NO. 32 OF 2022


A RESOLUTION GIVING AUTHORITY TO THE MAYOR TO ISSUE DEBT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000,000.00 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS WHEREAS the City of Opelousas is in need of Wastewater Treatment Facility and Collection System Improvements; and, WHEREAS loans and/or grants for this project may be available through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program operated by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality:
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Opelousas that:
Section 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to submit a pre-application, application, and issue debt in the amount of \$25,000,000.00 to the Department of Environmental Quality on behalf of the City of Opelousas for the purpose of placing this project on the Project Priority List for funding through the Clean Water State Revolving loan program; and,
Section 2. The Mayor is further authorized to furnish such additional information as may reasonably be requested in connection with the pre-application; and,
Section 3. The Mayor is hereby designated as the Official Project Representative for the City of Opelousas for any project that may result from the submission of the pre-application.
A MOTION TO ADOPT the above resolution was made by Alderman Milton Batiste III, seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, and resulted in the following vote:
YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Floyd Ford.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAINING: None.

CERTIFICATE

We the undersigned do certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 8th day of November, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.



Leisa Anderson, City Clerk



Julius Alsandor, Mayor

PERSONNEL ITEMS

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve the following personnel items:

- Accept Probational Police Officer Christopher R. Semien's resignation, effective 10/18/2022.
- Accept Assistant Fire Chief Kenneth Morel's Retirement, effective 10/30/2022.
- Approve payment to Assistant Fire Chief Morel in the amount of \$9,045.00 for three hundred (300) vacation hours pending verification by Opelousas Fire & Police Civil Service Board.
- Approve Permanent Fire Captain Joseph Bryan Chavis' Promotion to Probational Assistant Fire Chief, effective 10/30/2022 to replace Assistant Fire Chief Kenneth Morel who retired on 10/30/2022.
- Approve Permanent Fire Lieutenant Steve Miller's Promotion to Probational Fire Captain, effective 10/31/2022 to replace Fire Captain Joseph Bryan Chavis.
- Approve Permanent Fire Driver/Operator Scott Roy's Promotion to Probational Fire Lieutenant, effective 10/31/2022 to replace Fire Lieutenant Steve Miller.
- Approve Permanent Firefighter Michael Galindo's Suspension for Four Calendar Days with a loss of Four Days Seniority and 48 Hours of Pay, effective 11/10/2022, for violation of Opelousas Fire Department Policy (Reporting to Duty on Time) Section V: 1-V-A 140, Third Offense.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Katie Hoffman addressed the Council regarding problems with the voting machines today when she tried to cast her vote. She stated that she was told by the Commissioner that it was because of her address but she lives in the City limits on North Court Street. She stated that she was not able to vote because none of the candidates who were supposed to be on her ballot were on the voting machine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Items Submitted.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK



MAYOR