

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 11th day of April 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis-Warren. ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Pastor Paul Gatlin, Emmanuel Church of God of Christ, Opelousas, Louisiana led the Prayer and Mr. Senic Batiste, a U.S. Navy veteran, 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 a Regular Meeting held 03/14/2023. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis-Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren, it was resolved to approve the following changes to the agenda:

Under the RESOLUTIONS Section:

- Adding Item No. 36-B, "Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Fair Housing Month Proclamation".

Under the CONSENTS Section:

- Adding Item No. 40-B, "Accept Probational Police Officer Jonathon Author Smith's resignation, effective 04/09/2023".

Under the OLD BUSINESS Section:

- Adding Item No. 15-B, "Discussion Regarding Water Leaks".
- Adding Item No. 15-C, "Discussion Regarding Oliver Thierry's Sewer Concerns".

Under the NEW BUSINESS Section:

- Adding Item No. 23-B, "Discussion Regarding Ordinance for Ambulances and Non-Emergency Medical Vehicles".
- Adding Item No. 23-C, "Discussion Regarding the ARPA Monies".

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to adopt the agenda with the approved changes. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative. Mayor Alsandor read the following update from OGHS: No negative news—continue to encourage immunizations and hand hygiene. If feeling sick, stay home and isolate.
- Presentation by Jason Duet with DOTD, Vijay Kunada and Lee Shafer regarding a "Long-Range Transportation Plan to Serve all Citizens" of Opelousas.

Opelousas Long-Range Transportation Plan to Serve Everyone

The City of Opelousas is developing a long-range transportation plan to address current and future transportation needs as part of a pilot project sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). The planning process is expected to take 9-12 months and the plan will be complete in about a year. The process will follow three steps:

Step 1: Listening & Learning

During the first phase of the long-range transportation planning process, the planning team will present an analysis of existing transportation plans, data and conditions and will gather feedback from the public to confirm the current infrastructure needs. The planning team, with input from stakeholders and the public, will also develop a vision, goals and objectives for the plan.

Step 2: Engagement Opportunities

In the second phase of the planning process, we will provide opportunities for citizens to review potential transportation improvement projects. Opportunities include a public open house, meetings with community stakeholders, and an online survey. Citizens can provide input that will help to develop and prioritize transportation projects and identify the best strategies for Opelousas in moving forward.

Step 3: Finalizing the Plan

During the final phase of the planning process, the planning team will present final recommendations in the form of a draft plan. Another public open house will be held where recommendations for improvement projects are presented, and community stakeholders are invited to make final comments and recommendations before the plan is finalized. Once the public input has been incorporated into the plan, the final plan will be presented to the City Council for approval and adoption.

Why Plan Together as a Community?

- Create a plan that is sustainable, prioritized and can be implemented.
 - Demonstrate the need for state and federal funding and local support for improvements.
 - Consider the needs for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and any other users as well as how potential solutions impact land use.
 - Work together to develop a plan that manages growth, builds a city with greater mobility and serves all aspects of our community.
- Updates/Presentation by Mayor Julius Alsandor. Mayor Alsandor announced that the City of Opelousas has been awarded a Downtown Sidewalk Grant and that work is to begin soon.
 - Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. None.

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REPORTS

Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/2022. Mr. Casey Ardoin with Kolder, Slaven & Company gave a brief summary of the City's recent audit report which included a review of the Auditor's Unmodified Opinion, the City's financials including the Net Position, Notes, and Expenditures of Federal Awards. He finished with the findings and pointed out that the City only had two findings for that Fiscal Year Audit. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren, it was resolved to accept the Audit Report for Fiscal Year ending 08/31/2022 as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:
YEAS: Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discussion Regarding ARPA monies. Alderman Marvin Richard stated that he heard the auditor say in his presentation that the ARPA money was already committed and he wanted to know what this second half of money had been committed to without the Council knowing anything. He stated that there are firemen requesting raises and fire stations closing and he feels that some of that ARPA money can be spent on these things. Mayor Alsandor assured him that the second half of the money was in the bank and that none of it had been spent yet. He stated that the Council would have the opportunity to approve a plan for the second half of the money.

Committee Reports: Budget Committee.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES on Monday, March 20, 2023 @ 5:00 P.M.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Mr. Stephen Woods, led the Prayer and Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard led the Pledge to the U. S. Flag. Alderman Cummings asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The following changes were requested:

Correction to Item No. 3, increase base pay by \$1.50 per hour.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to accept the agenda with the requested changes. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

1. *Discuss Ms. Patrice Melnick's request to budget for a new HVAC system for the Museum.* Ms. Melnick stated that she had received two quotes for a new HVAC system for the museum—(a) Stacey's - \$23,600.00 and (b) JB Aire - \$22,600.00. Alderman Cummings stated that the budget numbers were already set and they had not budget for this expense. He suggested that Ms. Melnick come back in June once the numbers were being reviewed for the new budget. On a recommendation by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to take the request under advisement and review the budget. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

2. *Discuss Police Chief Graig LeBlanc's requests as follows:*

a. *Recommendation to hire Jacoby Briscoe as a Probationary Police Officer.* Officer is P.O.S.T. Certified. Recommendation is to hire Jacoby Briscoe as a Probationary Police Officer.

b. *Recommendation to hire Tyrone Abrams as a part-time Police Officer for training at \$15.00 per hour.* No benefits. Officer is P.O.S.T. Certified. Recommendation is to hire Tyrone Abrams as a part-time Police Training Officer at \$15.00 per hour with no benefits.

c. *Recommendation of \$2.00 per hour increase in pay for Custodian Xavier Boxie.* Recommendation is to approve \$2.00 per hour increase in pay for Police Custodian Xavier Boxie.

On a recommendation by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to forward Police Chief Graig LeBlanc's requests to the full council for approval. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

3. *Discuss Interim Fire Chief Richard Joseph's request for possible base pay increases for his employees from \$9.50 to \$11.00.* After review of the financial figures at \$1.50 base pay increase, it was determined that the Fire Department's budget could not sustain this increase. Additional calculations were done and it was determined that they could handle a \$0.90 increase. The fire fighters were not satisfied with this and asked if any of the ARPA money could be used. They were informed that none of that money could be used for salaries but that the Council and Mayor could look into other avenues to allocate funds for the full increase. On a recommendation by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to forward the proposed pay raise to the full council with the amount to be determined by the Council. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the Budget Committee Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. A copy of the Engineer's Monthly Status Report was provided to the Council members. The complaint line for Vanguard, the contractors installing the new water meters was provided. Someone can be reached at 337-345-4146 if there are any new water meter issues. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren, it was resolved to accept the Engineers Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Presentation by City Attorney. Attorney Travis Broussard stated that he had no report this month.

Review Monthly Finances. Mr. Stephen Woods gave a financial update for the period covering March 2023. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to accept the Financial Report for the period of February 2023. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis-Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve the recommendation to hire Jacoby Briscoe as a Probationary Police Officer. Officer is P.O.S.T. Certified. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to hire Jacoby Briscoe as a P.O.S.T. Certified Probationary Police Officer. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

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Approve the recommendation to hire Tyrone Abrams as a part-time Police Training Officer at \$15.00 per hour with no benefits. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwomen Chasity Davis-Warren and Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to approve the recommendation to hire Tyrone Abrams as a part-time Police Training Officer at \$15.00 per hour with no benefits. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Approve the recommendation of a \$2.00 per hour increase in pay for Police Custodian Xavier Boxie. On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard and seconded by Aldermen Milton Batiste III and Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the recommendation of a \$2.00 per hour increase in pay for Police Custodian Xavier Boxie. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discuss and consider the Fire Department's request for a proposed pay raise. The initial request from the Fire Department was for a \$1.50 proposed pay raise and it was decided in the Budget Committee meeting on 03/20/2023 that the City could afford a ninety cent (\$0.90) increase. After some discussion Alderman Batiste recommended a \$1.00 increase and asked Mr. Stephen Woods, Treasurer, to confirm that the City could sustain this amount. Mr. Woods confirmed that \$1.00 was acceptable. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to approve a pay raise of \$1.00 per hour on the base pay for the fire department personnel. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discussion Regarding Water Leaks. Several members of the community voiced their concerns regarding water leaks that have not been repaired and are causing damage to their property and are a hazard to citizen's safety. Among those who spoke included Mr. David Smith, Burton Street (water leak in street affecting his property); Mr. Donald Oakley, Narrow Street (potholes); Ms. Kendra, Willard Drive (water leak); Mr. Gerald Emon, Vine Street (steel plates on Vine Street); Alderwoman Delita Broussard (work orders being deleted out of system); Alderwoman Chasity Warren (leaks that have been in her district before she was elected); and Gloria Romar, Halphen Street (holes in her yard and her fence sinking because of water leaks in the street). Mr. Travis VanWright, Public Works Director (addressed many of the concerns).

Discussion Regarding Oliver Thierry's Sewer Concerns. Mr. Thierry stated that he has been trying to acquire a Sewer Tap for his business from the City for almost 2 years and the issue still has not been resolved. Mayor Alsandor stated that Mr. VanWright will address this issue with Mr. Thierry.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2023.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GENERAL ALIMONY MILLAGE RATE FOR ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS IN THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY FOR TAX YEAR 2023.

RESOLUTION 2023-08

MOTION-Milton Batiste III

SECOND-Marvin Richard

SECTION 1: BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana, in a regular and legal session convened, that the City of Opelousas of the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on April 11, 2023, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article XII, Section 3 of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 42:11 – 28 [R.S. 42:11, et seq.] that the following millage rate(s) be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of each assessed valuation of all property which is subject to ad valorem taxation within said Town for the year 2023 for the purpose of raising revenue:

Tax Description:

Millage Rate:

General Alimony (5134 001):

7.130 mills

SECTION 2: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

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

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis-Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.


ATTEST:

Leisa L. Anderson

Leisa S. Anderson, City Clerk
City of Opelousas

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the City Council Meeting held on April 11, 2023, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting. City of Opelousas, Louisiana, this 11th day of April 2023.

2023. 
Julius Alsandor, Mayor
City of Opelousas

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
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Discuss and Approve the Appointment of Fire Chief. Mayor Alsandor stated that Mr. Varsha Rideau is his recommendation for appointment for Fire Chief. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to accept the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Mr. Varsha Rideau as Fire Chief. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: YEAS: Milton Batiste III and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: Delita Rubin-Broussard, Chasity Davis-Warren and Marvin Richard.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

MOTION FAILED. Recommendation to appoint Mr. Varsha Rideau as Fire Chief is DENIED. City Attorney advised he will take a brief recess to investigate the statute pertaining to this process and return to this item later in the agenda. Alderman Cummings asked that the Mayor disclose the names of all of the applicants who were interviewed for the Fire Chief's position. Those individuals include: Varsha Rideau, August Pitre, Bryan Chavis, Richard Joseph, and John Helmer.

Discuss the Museum Director's request to add \$2,500 to budget line item 54610-3346 and to corresponding revenue line item (New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Grant). On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, it was resolved to approve the Museum Director's request to add \$2,500 to budget line item 54610-3346 and to corresponding revenue line item (New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Grant). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discuss the Museum Director's request to add \$1,500 to budget line item 54610-3350 and to corresponding revenue line item (Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Grant). On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwomen Chasity Davis-Warren and Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to approve the Museum Director's request to add \$1,500 to budget line item 54610-3350 and to corresponding revenue line item (Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Grant). A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discuss Vanessa Harris – The Parlor at Main's request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in a DMU ZONE (DOWNTOWN MIXED USE ZONE) to sell/serve alcoholic beverages at the event center at 117 S. Main Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/10/2023 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren, it was resolved to approve Vanessa Harris – The Parlor at Main's request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in a DMU ZONE (DOWNTOWN MIXED USE ZONE) to sell/serve alcoholic beverages at the event center at 117 S. Main Street. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discuss Scholar Jenkins' request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to sell alcoholic beverages at the convenience store at 831 Wallior Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/10/2023 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to approve Scholar Jenkins' request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to sell alcoholic beverages at the convenience store at 831 Wallior Street. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis-Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discuss Jacob and Mary Ann Abdalla Family Properties – El Paisa Mexican Market's request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) to sell alcoholic beverages at the convenience store located at 921 Creswell Lane. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/10/2023 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve Jacob and Mary Ann Abdalla Family Properties – El Paisa Mexican Market's request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) to sell alcoholic beverages at the convenience store located at 921 Creswell Lane. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discuss Dollar Tree's request for SITE PLAN approval in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) to construct a new retail store at 2221 S. Union Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/10/2023 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 Dollar Tree's request for SITE PLAN approval in a C1 ZONE (COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE) to construct a new retail store at 2221 S. Union Street. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

Discussion Regarding Ordinance for Ambulances and Non-Emergency Medical Vehicles. Mr. Paul Fusilier with Acadian Ambulance, Mr. Steve Quebedeaux with St. Landry EMS, and Alderman Marvin Richard with Med Express spoke on behalf of presenting a new ordinance to bring some uniformity between the ambulance services to better serve the citizens of Opelousas. They would like to be pro-active to sustain what they are already doing.

Re-Visit Appointment of Fire Chief. Attorney Broussard reference the Lawrason Act, R.S. 33:404, relevant to the Mayor's authority to make the appointment and the Council votes to ratify that appointment. At this time, Mayor Alsandor offered the name of Mr. Bryan Chavis as another recommendation for Fire Chief. On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to accept the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Mr. Bryan Chavis as Fire Chief. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE RATES AND CHARGES, ON WATER AND SEWER SERVICE ACCOUNTS SERVED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, STATE OF LOUISIANA; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO. **Ordinance introduced by Alderman Charles Cummings:**

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE RATES AND CHARGES, ON WATER AND SEWER SERVICE ACCOUNTS SERVED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, STATE OF LOUISIANA; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "City") now owns and operates a combined sewer system and waterworks plant ("System"), and seeks to maintain it in a stable, sustainable, and financially healthy condition; and

WHEREAS, the City must collect sufficient service revenue to pay for major upgrades and replacement of the System and offset the costs of operation and maintenance of the System in order to make the system self-sufficient and to allow the continued support of other City services; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 04 of 2020 presently governs the rates the City charges for water and sewer service; and

WHEREAS, LaFleur & Laborde and Sisung Securities Corporation have reviewed the City's capital improvement plans for the System and provided a comprehensive plan for financing such improvements and the revenue requirements necessary to pay for such improvements and maintain the financial health of the System; and

WHEREAS, the City has reviewed such plans and desires to establish and periodically adjust the charges for utility services provided by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City, acting through its governing authority, the Opelousas City Council that:

SECTION 1. Definitions.

"Commercial Service" means water or sewer service provided for any use which does not constitute Residential Service.

"CPI" means the "Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Water and Sewer and Trash Collection Services in U.S. City Average", or if such index is no longer published then the "Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average", or if such index is no longer published then a similar index of inflation designated by the Council.

"Rates" means the rates, fees, charges and deposits in effect for Commercial Service and Residential Service from time to time.

"Residential Service" means water or sewer services provided for individual use by single family residential properties including single family homes, townhouses, condominiums, travel trailers, mobile homes, and approved home occupations.

SECTION 2. Rates Charged Pursuant to this Ordinance Only. Rates for water and sewer service shall be established and periodically updated by the City pursuant to this Ordinance and shall not be changed from those prescribed herein without the prior approval of the City Council.

SECTION 3. Water and Sewer Rates.

(i) Rates for Commercial Service shall be revised to reflect a one time cumulative increase of 165% above the Rates presently in effect as of the date of this Ordinance, which shall be implemented in two equal installments beginning with the July 1, 2023 billing cycle and the July 1, 2024 billing cycle.

(ii) Rates for Residential Service shall be revised to reflect a one time cumulative increase of 50% above the Rates presently in effect as of the date of this Ordinance, which shall be implemented in two equal installments beginning with the July 1, 2023 billing cycle and the July 1, 2024 billing cycle.

(iii) Beginning with the July 1, 2023 billing cycle and each July 1st thereafter, Rates for Commercial Service and Residential Service shall be increased by the percentage increase in CPI over the 12 month period ending on the prior December 31st.

(iv) On or before July 1 of each year, the Mayor shall publish a schedule of Rates for Residential Service and Commercial Service, which shall be entered into the official records of the Council.

SECTION 4. Miscellaneous. Any ordinance or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 2020, SECTION 3-14 TO PROVIDE FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. **No Council Member introduced this Ordinance so introduction FAILED and it does not move forward to Public Hearing at next month's meeting.**

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BY AUTOMATED MEANS AND FOR CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THOSE CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS. **Ordinance introduced by Alderman Charles Cummings:**

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BY AUTOMATED MEANS AND CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THOSE CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS ENFORCED BY AUTOMATED MEANS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, data collected on behalf of the Opelousas Police Department indicates a high incidence of drivers disregarding speeding laws on the streets and in the school zones of the City of Opelousas (City); and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds controlling speed on the streets of the city of Opelousas through a program utilizing photographic evidence and enforcement

through the imposition of civil penalties will help promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the children and all citizens of Opelousas; and

WHEREAS, at council meeting on April 11, 2023, this Ordinance was duly introduced by council member _____. Thereafter, the ordinance was advertised in the Opelousas Daily World, and a public hearing was held on May 9, 2023. Upon closing the public meeting, on Motion of council member _____ and second by council member _____, a vote was held and the following results were recorded:

Yay:

Nay:

Absent:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained that the electronic traffic enforcement procedure is adopted as follows:

Section 1: The Opelousas City Council (Council) now finds it necessary and expedient to amend the City of Opelousas Code of Ordinances (Code), Chapter 90 – Traffic and Vehicles, by adding Article XIII. Electronic Traffic Enforcement.

Section 2: In consideration of Section 1 above, the Council hereby amends Chapter 90 – Traffic and Vehicles, by adding to said Chapter Article XIII, Electronic Traffic Enforcement, which said Article shall follow immediately after Article XII, Traffic Regulations on Private Streets, and shall hereafter read as follows:

ARTICLE XIII. ELECTRONIC TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 90-601 - Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply:

Administrative Adjudication Hearing shall mean an administrative hearing of violations conducted by the Opelousas City Court.

City Court Judge shall mean the City Court Judge of the City of Opelousas.

Department shall mean the Opelousas Police Department, or an authorized representative as determined by the Chief.

Mayor shall mean the City of Opelousas Mayor.

Owner shall mean the owner of a vehicle as shown on the vehicle registration records of the Louisiana Office of Public Safety, Office of Motor Vehicles, or the analogous office or agency of another state or county.

Photographic vehicle speed enforcement system or system shall mean a system consisting of an electronic process which is capable of producing one or more recorded images depicting the license plate attached to the rear of a vehicle being operated at a speed in excess of the speed limit. The speed measurement component of the system shall be properly calibrated on a regular basis as determined by the Chief and the records of such calibration shall be maintained with the Opelousas Police Department.

Recorded image means an image recorded by the system depicting the rear of a vehicle which is automatically recorded on a photograph or digital image, which also depicts the recorded speed, date, location, and time of the recorded image.

System location means the highway location toward which a photographic vehicle speed enforcement system is directed and in operation or a segment of roadway on which a vehicle speed enforcement system is in operation.

Speed limit shall mean the established regulatory speed limit on the subject roadway.

Violation shall mean the notice of civil violation for speeding for this Chapter.

Sec. 90-602 – Imposition of civil violation penalty for violations enforced by a photographic speed enforcement system.

a. The Council finds and determines a vehicle traveling over the speed limit for the vehicle's direction of travel damages the public by endangering vehicle operators, passengers and pedestrians alike, by increasing the number of serious traffic crashes, and causing public safety agencies to respond at the expense of the taxpayers thereby decreasing the efficiency of traffic control and traffic flow efforts.

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b. Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) below, the owner of a vehicle is responsible for a civil violation penalty as shown in the following tables if the vehicle is traveling at a speed in miles per hour (mph) greater than the speed limit as shown when captured by the system in accordance with the vehicle's recorded speed and the corresponding speed limit of the roadway where the notice of civil violation was issued.

MPH OVER SPEED LIMIT	FINE
6 MPH to 10 MPH	\$ 140.00
11 MPH to 20 MPH	\$ 150.00
21 MPH to 30 MPH	\$ 160.00
31 MPH to 100+ MPH	\$ 170.00
MPH OVER SPEED LIMIT IN SCHOOL ZONE	FINE
6 MPH to 10 MPH	\$ 170.00
11 MPH to 15 MPH	\$ 170.00
15 MPH to 20 MPH	\$ 170.00
Over 21 MPH	\$ 170.00

Following the guidelines as established by DOTD, the following thresholds shall be established:

Posted Speed Limit (Miles Per Hour)	Minimum Speed for Violation to be Issued in a School Zone (Miles Per Hour)	Minimum Speed for Violation to be Issued (Miles Per Hour)
15	≥21	≥21
20	≥26	≥26
25	≥31	≥30
30	≥36	≥36
35	≥41	≥43
40	≥46	≥48
45	≥51	≥55
50	≥58	≥60
55	≥63	≥65
60		≥70
65		≥75
70		≥80
75		≥85

c. Any photographic vehicle speed enforcement system which is hand-held, mounted in or on a trailer or in a fixed position shall be deployed at the discretion of the Chief of Police, who shall deploy such systems in his discretion within the City of Opelousas.

Sec. 90-603 - Late Payments.

An owner who fails to pay a civil violation penalty beyond 30 calendar days from the date of mailing the civil notice of violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, shall be subject to a late payment penalty of \$30.00 (e.g., original civil violation + 30 = total civil violation amount including late payment penalty). A notice of civil violation under this article is presumed to have been received on the tenth calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the notice of civil violation is mailed.

Sec. 90-604 – Enforcement; procedures.

a. The Department is responsible for the enforcement and administration of this ordinance, or the Department may enforce and administer this ordinance in part or in whole, through one or more contractors selected in accordance with applicable law. The actions which can be used to enforce the payment of this civil penalty and related fees include, but are not limited to: referring the debt to collection agencies; and/or initiating actions through a court of competent jurisdiction, or any other lawful means, all in accordance with applicable authority, laws, and procedure.

b. In order to impose a civil violation penalty under this article, the Department shall mail a notice of civil violation to the owner of the vehicle responsible for the civil violation penalty not later than the 30th calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the Department reviews and inspects the recorded images, and an alleged civil violation is determined by the Department to have occurred.

c. A notice of civil violation issued under this article shall contain the following:

- (1) A description of the violation alleged;
- (2) The date, time, and location of the violation;
- (3) A copy of a recorded image of the vehicle involved in the violation;
- (4) The amount of the civil violation penalty to be imposed for the violation;
- (5) The date by which the civil violation penalty must be paid;
- (6) A statement indicating the person named in the notice of civil violation may pay the civil violation penalty in lieu of appearing at an administrative adjudication hearing;
- (7) Information informing the person named in the notice of civil violation:
 - (a) Of the right to contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty in an administrative adjudication hearing;
 - (b) Of the manner and time in which to contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty; and
 - (c) Failure to pay the civil violation penalty or to contest liability within 40 calendar days from the date of receipt of the civil notice of violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, is a waiver of the right to appeal.
- (8) A statement that a recorded image is evidence in a proceeding for the imposition of a civil violation penalty; and
- (9) A statement indicating failure to pay the civil violation penalty within the time allowed shall result in the imposition of an additional late penalty for each such violation.

d. A notice of civil violation under this article is presumed to have been received on the tenth calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the notice of civil violation is mailed.

Sec. 90-605 – Administrative Adjudication hearing.

a. A person who receives a notice of civil violation may contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty by a request in writing for an administrative adjudication of the notice of civil violation penalty within 30 calendar days, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after date of mailing of the notice of civil violation and posting a hearing request and cash bond of \$50.00. Upon receipt of a request and cash bond within the prescribed time period within this paragraph, the office shall notify the person requesting such hearing of the date and time of the administrative adjudication hearing. If, after the adjudication hearing, the person is found not liable by the adjudication officer, the cash bond of \$50.00 will be refunded to that person. If that person is found liable, he or she may ask that the cash bond of \$50.00 be used towards the payment of the civil violation.

b. A person who is found liable after an administrative adjudication hearing or who requests an administrative adjudication hearing and thereafter fails to appear at the time and place of the hearing shall forfeit their cash bond amount.

c. Administrative adjudications of violations shall be conducted by the City Judge. In conducting administrative adjudications of violations, the Judge shall have the following functions, powers, and duties:

- (1) To administer oaths, to accept admissions to, and to hear and determine contests of, violations herein.
- (2) To require the attendance of persons to give testimony at hearings, and to require the production of data and information, to the extent permitted by law.
- (3) To adjudicate violations for which a notice of civil violation has been issued herein.
- (4) To compile and maintain accurate records relating to notice of civil violations, violations and/or dispositions of violations and notice of civil violations.
- (5) Upon request of the Department or a person charged with a violation, or his attorney, to prepare or provide transcripts or audio records of hearings conducted by the City Court Judge and to furnish such transcripts or audio records to the requesting person at a reasonable cost.
- (6) To designate an individual or individuals with the responsibility to answer, within a reasonable period of time, relevant and reasonable inquiries made by a person charged with a violation, or his attorney, concerning the violation.
- (7) The functions and duties in (4), (5), and (6) identified herein may be performed by representatives of the Department, as directed by the Judge.
- (8) To prescribe regulations for the presentation and the conduct of hearings which need not necessarily be in strict conformity with the usual rules of evidence and technical rules of procedure, however, the fundamental principles governing a fair and impartial hearing or trial and due process of law must be reasonably and substantially adhered to.

d. Except as provided in subsection (h), failure to pay a civil violation penalty or to contest liability beyond 30 calendar days from the date of mailing of the notice of civil violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, constitutes a waiver of the right to contest under subsection (a).

e. The civil violation penalty shall not be assessed if after a hearing, the Judge enters a finding of no liability.

f. In an administrative adjudication hearing, the issues must be proved at the hearing by a preponderance of the evidence. The reliability of the system used to produce the recorded image of the violation may be attested to in an administrative adjudication hearing by affidavit of a law enforcement officer or a representative of the Department, or by actual testimony by either of them. An affidavit of a sworn law enforcement officer or representative of the Department, or actual testimony by either of them, that alleges a civil violation occurred based on an inspection of the pertinent recorded image is admissible in a proceeding under this article and is prima facie evidence of those facts contained in the affidavit or testified to. Testimony by any person shall be taken under oath or by affirmation, except to the extent such testimony is allowed by affidavit as provided above. The person charged with the ordinance violation may present any relevant evidence and testimony at such hearing.

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- g. It shall be an affirmative defense to the imposition of civil liability under this article, to be proven by a preponderance of the evidence, that:
- (1) The operator of the vehicle was acting in compliance with the lawful order direction of a law enforcement or public safety officer;
 - (2) The operator of the vehicle violated the speed limit so as to move out of the way or an immediately approaching authorized emergency vehicle;
 - (3) The vehicle was being operated as an authorized emergency vehicle under La. R.S. 32:24, and the operator was acting in compliance with La. R.S. 32:24;
 - (4) The vehicle was being operated in accordance with La. R.S. 32:300.3 – Funeral Processions; however, the operators are not exempt if they fail to comply with division 2, vehicle speed;
 - (5) The vehicle was being operated by a commissioned law enforcement officer performing authorized/assigned tasks;
 - (6) The vehicle was being operated during a bona fide medical emergency which is documented with adequate and sufficient evidence from a medical care facility, as determined by the Department;
 - (7) At the time of the violation, the vehicle was in the care, custody, or control of another person:
 - (a) As set forth in the owner's written statement identifying the name and correct mailing address of the person or entity who had the care, custody, and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation.
 - (b) As set forth in a document, or "Transfer of Liability," signed and dated by the person, or a representative of the entity, who had the care, custody, and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation, indicating his/her responsibility for the violation and listing his/her name and mailing address. Responsibility for the violation shall in such a case be transferred to the person identified in the "Transfer of Liability."
 - (c) The tender of a statement of "Transfer of Liability" shall be for the sole purpose of identifying the person who is assuming responsibility for the violation identified in the notice of civil violation, but all defenses that may be asserted by the person alleged to be responsible are reserved and are not waived by the tender of such document.
 - (d) As set forth in a lease, rental contract or other agreement listing the name and mailing address of the person or entity who had the care, custody, or control of the leased or rented vehicle at the time of the violation. Responsibility for the violation shall in such case be transferred to the lessee.
- h. Notwithstanding anything in this article to the contrary, a person who fails to pay the amount of a civil violation penalty or to contest liability is entitled to an administrative adjudication hearing on the violation if:
- (1) The person files an affidavit with the office stating the date on which the person received the notice of civil violation mailed to the person; and
 - (2) The person files a request for an administrative hearing within 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice of civil violation, as stated in the affidavit.
- The decision of the Judge shall be the final decision in the hearing.
- Sec. 90-606 – Orders of the Judge
- (1) The Judge at administrative adjudication hearings under this article shall issue an order stating:
- (a) Whether the person charged with the violation is responsible for the violation; and
 - (b) The amount of any civil violation penalty, late penalty, and administrative adjudication costs assessed against the person.
- (2) The orders issued under subsection (1) may be filed with the Department. The Department shall maintain the City Court Judge orders/determination.
- Sec. 90-607- Effect of liability; exclusion of civil remedy.
- a. The imposition of a civil violation penalty under this article shall not be considered a criminal conviction.
- b. A civil violation penalty may not be imposed under this article upon the owner of a vehicle if the operator of the vehicle was arrested or was issued a speeding citation and notice to appear by a law enforcement or public safety officer as a violation of any of the provisions of Subpart A, Part IV, Chapter I of Title 32 of the Louisiana Revised States if such violation was captured by the system.
- c. Upon receipt of all documents supplied to the contractor, the City Court Judge may enforce collection of all unpaid fines, fees, penalties, late payment penalties and administrative adjudication fees in a court of competent jurisdiction for vehicles registered through a filing with the Louisiana Office of Revenue and the Federal Offset Program.
- d. The Chief or contractor, as applicable, shall supply to the City Court Judge, or outside counsel bringing suit, all materials and/or testimony necessary to support enforcement.
- e. Defendants in enforcement suits authorized by this section have, until rendition of final judgment, the option of settlement by payment of all outstanding fines, fees, penalties, late payment penalties and administrative adjudication fees, as well as court costs and filing fees incurred (whether prepaid or otherwise) in enforcement. No defendant in such suit shall be required to pay attorney's fees in connection with such settlement.
- f. Any money judgment obtained in a suit to enforce fines levied for violation of this division shall be recorded in the mortgage records of Franklin Parish, and/or any other parish, as a judicial mortgage against the property of the defendant.
- Sec. 90-608 – Collections Fees and Costs.
- In the event a fine or penalty is assessed pursuant to any provision of this Code, a default in the payment of a fine, penalty or any installment of a fine or penalty may be collected by any means authorized for the collection of monetary judgments. The Department may retain attorneys and private collection agents for the purpose of collecting any default in payment of any fine or penalty imposed by the Code, or any installment of a fine or penalty. The Department shall add a 35% cost of collections to any outstanding balance that requires the Department to retain the services of a collection agency. This 35% cost includes any default in a fine, penalty or any installment of a fine or penalty that was previously referred to an attorney or private agency and the payment of which remains outstanding.
- Section 3: EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE:
- This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon return of the ordinance to the City Clerk (after execution by the Mayor), on the tenth (10th) day after receipt of the ordinance by the Mayor without signature or veto, or upon an override of a veto, whichever occurs first.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or application of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or application and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES

AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT TO REPURPOSE THE NEW LIFE CENTER PROPERTY, IF ANY. *No Amendments Presented.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 5-163 AND 5-171 OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGULATING NON-RESIDENTIAL VACANT STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS.

Section 5-163 "Definitions" is hereby amended as follows:

To add the following:

"Hearing officer" shall mean a lawyer licensed to practice law in Louisiana for a period of at least two years.

And further to renumber the remaining definitions whose numbers will be affected by the insertion of this definition.

Section 5-171 "Jurisdiction, enforcement, and penalties subpart (b) "Administrative Hearing and Appeal" is hereby amended and restated as follows:

(b) Administrative Hearing and Appeal.

(1) When the Director determines that any property is in violation of this Article, the Director shall accord the registered property owner an opportunity to be heard at an Administrative Hearing conducted by the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate any Violation(s) alleged by the Director. All decisions of the Hearing Officer shall be reduced to writing and mailed to the property owner via certified mail.

(2) Prior to holding an administrative hearing pursuant to this Section, the alleged violator(s) shall be notified at least 15 days (inclusive of legal holidays) in advance of the date that such a hearing is scheduled. The date of the postmark shall be deemed to be the date of delivery. Any notification so sent and returned by U.S. Post Office shall be considered as having fulfilled the notification requirement. Any person charged with Violation(s) may present any relevant evidence and testimony at such hearing and may be represented.

(3) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Hearing Officer shall have a right to appeal such decision to the district court within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the Hearing Officer mailed written notice of the decision.

Attorney Broussard stated that these amendments were required by State law. Mr. Cody Lanclos, a local businessman, had several questions regarding some items in the proposed ordinance which he directed to Attorney Broussard, specifically about whether or not he recommended a lawyer as the Hearing Officer needed for the hearings (Attorney stated that he would recommend it) and whether or not any members of the ODDD personnel would have an opportunity to be a hearing officer (Attorney stated that if they met the qualifications they could). He also asked whether or not the court costs would be covered in the registration fees (Attorney stated no) and who would be the appeals person (Attorney stated the St. Landry Parish District Court) and how would they determine the amounts for the fines (Attorney stated that the Ordinance lists).

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On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to accept the proposed Amendment to Sections 5-163 and 5-171 of the proposed Ordinance regulating Non-Residential Vacant Structures in the City of Opelousas. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, a Public Hearing was opened at 7:44 p.m. for the following items:

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT TO REPURPOSE THE NEW LIFE CENTER PROPERTY. Ms. Lena Charles gave a brief review of the Ordinance. Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren asked if they had something in mind of what they were going to do with the New Life Center property. Ms. Lena Charles, ODDD Chairperson, stated that they came before the Council with proposals they receive and made their recommendation of SunCHDO as their selection to have a business area for shops and restaurants on the bottom floor and housing on the upper floors. The City Clerk pointed out that the SunCHDO had previously been referenced in the Ordinance as the entity for the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) but after review by the City Attorney and the ODDD Chairperson that had since been corrected to reflect Maison des Chambers as the entity for the CEA. No other questions or comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NON-RESIDENTIAL VACANT STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS. No questions or comments.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:49 p.m.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES (VOTE REQUIRED)

ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT TO REPURPOSE THE NEW LIFE CENTER PROPERTY.

This Ordinance was introduced at a public meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, by council member Milton Batiste III. Notice of a public hearing was properly advertised, and a public hearing was held on April 11, 2023. Thereafter, on motion of council member Delita Rubin-Broussard and second by council member Milton Batiste III, this Ordinance was offered for final adoption, and following vote was recorded:

Yay: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis-Warren.

Nay: None.

Absent: Sherell Roberts.

ORDINANCE NO. 02 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A 'COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT' TO REPURPOSE THE NEW LIFE CENTER PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas has taken legal title of the property formerly known as the Chateau Motor Inn or New Life Center situated at 401 through 411 East Landry Street in Opelousas, Louisiana all in accordance with subject legal descriptions; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for affordable workforce residential rental apartments to serve downtown workforce residents in need of a decent place to live while preparing to integrate into the community workforce, as well as, to repopulate the Downtown Development District in accordance with the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for qualified local residential developers and consultants who have adequate resources available and experience to implement a repurposed residential program which will directly address the community need with a feasible and viable timely plan of action by the Downtown Development District's plan to address the workforce standard housing problems of the city and parish; and

WHEREAS, the city believes the value to be derived in behalf of its citizens equals or exceeds the value of the property to be repurposed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Mayor is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into a contract for a long-term lease and cooperative endeavor agreement with the Maison Des Chambers, a qualified community resource development entity, for the repurposing of the former Chateau Motor Inn/New Life Center property situated at 401 through 411 East Landry Street in Opelousas, Louisiana; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City Attorney is authorized to review all proposed documents including, but not limited to, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, the long-term lease which subordinates title as required for loans, mortgages, and all grants and/or various sources of financial arrangements as may be required to provide improvements and providing time prior for review by the Mayor and the City Attorney's concurrence.

THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS AND THE MAISON DES CHAMBERS CORPORATION TO REPURPOSE THE FORMER NEW LIFE CENTER/CHATEAU MOTOR INN

Predicated upon the mutual community benefits to be derived, the City of Opelousas will provide its existing land, building and all existing equipment, being in as is condition, to Maison Des Chambers Corporation for a term of forty (40) years with four (4) ten (10)-year options to extend the lease. The lease shall contain all the terms and conditions between the City of Opelousas and Maison Des Chambers Corporation which will permit said property to be the collateral and mortgage security for loans to accomplish leasehold improvements and purchase movables.

Maison Des Chambers Corporation or its assigns will be the prime development implement that will own the leasehold and improvement. It will develop the conversion and repurposing improvements. The Maison Des Chambers Corporation will hold the City of Opelousas harmless from general and financial liability. The only responsibility of the City is to provide a long-term subordinate land, building and equipment lease and to subordinate same as security for the designated conversion improvements which will be to a first and/or second mortgage for the Lenders.

At its sole expense, Maison Des Chambers Corporation will retain the required consultants such as attorneys, appraisers, accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors, bank, contractors, development consultants, etc.

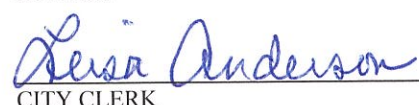
At its option and discretion, Maison Des Chambers Corporation will perform work timely as funds become available in various phases as will be expedient to repurpose said facilities. Maison Des Chambers Corporation will develop a feasible and viable project in a manner to address the needs for workforce residents along with community service spaces. The proposed repurposing may be to convert the top three floors to 30 one-bedroom suites more or less. At its sole discretion, Maison de Chambers may repurpose the ground entrance floor to be designed for business offices, event center, restaurant, culinary school with kitchen and/or retail spaces. Final plans and contract manual shall be presented to the Mayor and the City Project Manager for Review and approval.

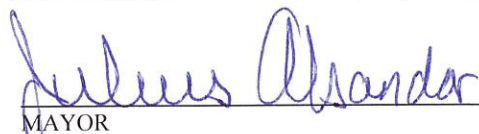
A licensed management agent for this development will be one duly qualified to manage tax credit and HOME Program property. An agent who is qualified to comply with the terms for the financing and reporting requirements for relevant HUD, HOME and similar government funded programs will be a qualified Real Estate Broker. The site manager will be selected by the Sponsor in cooperation with the Management Agent.

Maison Des Chambers Corporation will be completely responsible for contracting and arranging financial commitments for both the redevelopment and operation of said facility.

Maison Des Chambers Corporation or its assigns will assist the City of Opelousas to address its need for a workforce or similar residential facility to repopulate the downtown area. In return, said lease shall be for a nominal amount of \$100.00 per month to help make the redevelopment feasible and viable to put the building back into commerce and payable annually commencing upon completion of the redevelopment construction and full occupancy for the first and subsequent years thereafter.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NON-RESIDENTIAL VACANT STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS with the approved amendments. This Ordinance was introduced at a public meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, by council member Chasity Davis-Warren. Notice of a public hearing was properly advertised, and a public hearing was held on April 11, 2023. Thereafter, on motion of council member Delita Rubin-Broussard and second by council member Chasity Davis-Warren, this Ordinance was offered for final adoption, and following vote was recorded:

Yay: Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Chasity Davis-Warren, and Marvin Richard.

Nay: Charles Cummings.

Absent: Sherell Roberts.

ORDINANCE NO. 03 OF 2023

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NON-RESIDENTIAL VACANT STRUCTURES
IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
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Now therefore, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Opelousas, that the following chapter regulating vacant structures in the City of Opelousas is hereby adopted.

**CHAPTER 5
BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS
ARTICLE VIII. VACANT STRUCTURES**

Sec. 5-162. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this Article is to implement components of the Opelousas Downtown Development District Master Plan, adopted by the City in 2021 by promoting the revitalization of downtown Opelousas; encouraging the reuse of downtown's building stock; improving the conditions of vacant buildings in downtown to promote public health, safety, and welfare; and supporting economic development in downtown by returning vacant buildings into commerce to create a more vibrant and active downtown.

Sec. 5-163. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) "Hearing officer" shall mean a lawyer licensed to practice law in Louisiana for a period of at least two years.
- (2) "Department" means the Code Enforcement Department of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana.
- (3) "Director" refers to the Director of the Code Enforcement Department of the City of Opelousas, Louisiana.
- (4) The "District" means the Opelousas Downtown Development District as defined in RS 33:2740.39(A).
- (5) "Lawful activity" means any legal or legally non-conforming use as defined in City of Opelousas Zoning Ordinance.
- (6) "Owner" or "property owner" means any person, agent, firm, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other entity having a legal interest in the property.
- (7) "Secured", "secure", and "securing" shall have the same meanings and be subject to the same standards as set out in [Sec. 5-167. Standard of care for vacant properties.], unless expressly provided otherwise in this Article.
- (8) "Structure" means a combination of materials forming an edifice or building of any kind, or any piece of work artificially built up or comprised of parts joined together in some definite manner, but excluding the following: retaining walls; fences not over six feet high; platforms or decks not more than thirty inches above grade and not over any basement or story below; utility mains, lines, and underground facilities; and yard and play equipment. Structure does not include vehicles, recreational vehicles or campers.
- (9) "Vacant structure" means that all active lawful commercial or residential activity has ceased, or reasonably appears to have ceased for a continuous period of [one hundred and eighty (180) days]. Storage or "warehousing" is not considered an active lawful commercial activity.
- (10) "Violator(s)" means person(s), natural or juridical, who have been found liable for a Violation and/or ordered to correct a Violation in a written decision by the Planning and Zoning Commission as directed by this Article VIII.

Sec. 5-164. Applicability and administration.

- (a) Applicability.
 - (i) Unless otherwise provided, this Article shall apply to all vacant structures, as defined herein, which exist as of the effective date of this Article or which may hereafter be constructed or converted from other uses, and which are located within the boundaries of the District, as shown in Exhibit A.
 - (ii) This Article does not apply to single family or other residential Structures.
 - (iii) This Article does not apply to the State of Louisiana or any political subdivision of the State of Louisiana.
- (b) Authority of the Director. The Director is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of this Article.
 - (i) The Director shall have the authority to render interpretations of this Article and to adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of its provisions and ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of its implementation.
 - (ii) The Director may also enter into an agreement with a registered property owner to obtain compliance with this Article by a date certain in lieu of the deadlines otherwise provided by this Article.

Sec. 5-165. Registration process and requirements.

- (a) Notification to property owners. The Director, or designee, shall provide written notice to the property owner of a vacant structure by means of personal service, or by certified mail to their last known address according to the records of the St. Landry Parish Assessor's Office, and by posting on the property.
- (b) Registration by property owner required.
 - (i) The property owner of any vacant structure shall register each vacant structure with the Department within [ninety (90) days] from the date that written notice is issued to the property owner.
 - (ii) Registration shall include the following information:
 - (1) All required registration and inspection fees, unless otherwise waived in accordance with Sec. 5-170. Fee Waivers.
 - (2) The address and legal description of the property;
 - (3) The current name, physical address, mailing address, telephone number, and email information for every owner with an ownership interest in the property. Entities shall submit the same information pertaining to their registered agent, or other legal representations.
 - (4) The contact information for a local manager of the property.
 - (5) Proof of public liability insurance, in an amount no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) and covering the property.
 - (6) Complete the comprehensive plan of action form provided by the Department, detailing a timeline for correcting violations, rehabilitation, maintenance while vacant, and future use of the structure. The plan of action must be updated every six (6) months.
 - (7) A complete floor plan of the property for use by first responders in the event of a fire or other catastrophic event, except state or local fire employees authorized to act for their office may waive any or all of this requirement based on their existing information and needs.
 - (iii) Vacant structure property owners shall provide written notice to the Director, including providing a copy of any new deed, of any change in:
 - (1) Ownership of the property;
 - (2) Contact information for either the owner or the designated manager identified in paragraph 3 above.
 - (3) Written notice must be provided to the Department no later than thirty (30) days after such changes have occurred.
- (c) The Director may consider evidence provided to him/her that the property is listed and marketed for sale or lease for purposes of extending the length of time before the property must be registered.
 - (i) The property owner must provide comparable rental rates and days on market for comparable local properties as proof that the vacant property is being offered at a fair market value and has been on the market for a reasonable length.
 - (ii) The property owner must also provide proof that the vacant property is being actively marketed.
- (d) Proper registration shall be valid for a period of six (6) months. The property owner must register the property every six (6) months until the Director determines that the structure is occupied and in compliance with this Article.

Sec. 5-166. Property manager or agent.

- (a) Vacant structure property owners must designate a local property manager for each property and include the relevant contact information for the designated manager upon registering the property with the Department. Property managers shall act as agents for the property owner for purposes of accepting legal service, however the designation of a property manager does not limit the responsibilities of the property owner under the provisions of this Article.
- (b) The property manager or agent must be available at the number listed at all times in the event of an emergency or catastrophe.
- (c) The name and telephone number of the property manager or agent must be posted at the front of the vacant structure, in large, legible print as directed by the Director.
- (d) The name and telephone number of the property manager or agent must be provided to the Director, and to the [Opelousas Fire Department and Opelousas Police Department].
- (e) Property manager contact information required in this section must be kept current as outlined in Sec. 5-165(b)(iii).

Sec. 5-167. Standard of care for vacant property.

- (a) The standard of care for vacant properties shall be subject to approval by the Director, and shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (i) Applicable historic district regulations. Historic properties and properties within designated historic districts are additionally subject to all applicable rules and regulations provided in Chapter 5 Article V Historic Buildings. Where there is a conflict with this Article and Article V, Article V shall control.
 - (ii) Protective treatment: All exterior surfaces, including, but not limited to, doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences, shall be maintained in good condition, weather tight and in such condition so as to prevent the entry of rodents and other pests. All exposed wood or metal surfaces subject to rust or corrosion, other than decay resistant woods or surfaces designed for stabilization by oxidation shall be protected from the elements and against decay or rust by periodic application of weather coating materials such as paint, sealant or similar surface treatment. All surfaces with rust or corrosion shall be stabilized and coated to inhibit future rust and corrosion. Oxidation stains shall be removed from exterior surfaces. All siding, cladding and masonry joints, as well as those between the building envelope and the perimeter of windows, doors and skylights, shall be maintained weather-resistant and water-tight.
 - (iii) Premises identification: The property shall have address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Numbers shall be a minimum of four (4) inches/one hundred two (102) mm high.
 - (iv) Structure: All structural members and foundation shall be maintained free from deterioration and shall be capable of safely supporting the imposed loads.

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- (v) Exterior walls: All exterior walls shall be kept in good condition and shall be free from holes, breaks, and loose or rotting materials. Exterior walls shall be maintained weatherproof and properly surface coated where necessary to prevent deterioration.
- (vi) Roof and drainage: The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent accumulation, dampness or deterioration. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair, free from obstructions and operational, and shall properly direct rainwater towards storm drains, and prevent ponding of water next to foundation for an extended period of time.
- (vii) Decorative features: All cornices, belt courses, corbels, applications, wall facings and similar decorative features shall be maintained in good repair with proper anchorage and in a safe condition.
- (viii) Overhang extensions and awnings: All overhang extensions including, but not limited to, canopies, marquees, signs, awnings, and fire escapes shall be maintained in good repair and be properly anchored and supported as to be kept in a sound and safe condition.
- (ix) Stairways, decks, porches and balconies: Every exterior stairway, deck, porch and balcony, and all appurtenances attached thereto, shall be maintained structurally sound, in good repair, with proper anchorage and capable of supporting the imposed loads
- (x) Chimneys and towers: All chimneys, cooling towers, smoke stacks and similar appurtenances shall be maintained structurally safe and sound, and in good repair.
- (xi) Handrails and guards: Every exterior handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.
- (xii) Window, skylight and door: Every window, storefront, skylight transom, and exterior door part, including, but not limited to, the frame, the trim, window screens and hardware shall be kept in sound condition and good repair. All broken or missing windows shall be replaced with glass and secured in a manner so as to prevent unauthorized entry. All broken or missing doors shall be replaced with new doors which shall be secured to prevent unauthorized entry. All glass shall be maintained in sound condition and good repair. All exterior doors, door assemblies and hardware shall be maintained in good condition and secured. Locks at all exterior doors, exterior attic access, windows, or exterior hatchways shall tightly secure the opening. Windows and doors shall not be secured by plywood or other similar means mounted on the exterior except as a temporary securing measure, not to exceed a period of three (3) months, or period of time designated by the Director and compliant with standards established by the Director.
- (xiii) Basement hatchways and windows: Every basement hatchway shall be maintained to prevent the entrance of rodents, birds, rain and surface drainage water. Every basement window that is openable shall be supplied with rodent shields, storm windows or other approved protection against entry of rodents.
- (b) All repairs shall be subject to approval by [the Director, or designee, and Fire Marshall if applicable]. All required permits and final inspections prior to and/or following repairs shall be in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances.
- (c) Failure to maintain the vacant structure to the standards of care required by this Article shall be a violation and subject to the provisions of [Sec. 5-171. Jurisdiction, Enforcement and Penalties].

Sec. 5-168 Inspections.

The Department shall inspect any premises in the District for the purpose of enforcing or assuring compliance with the provisions of this Article, within 30 days registration. Upon request by the Director, or their designee, a property owner must provide access to all interior and exterior portions of the vacant structure in order to permit a complete inspection. The Director may designate third party inspectors to conduct inspections.

Sec. 5-169. Registration and inspection fees.

- (a) Vacant structure property owners shall tender a registration fee at each six (6) months registration.
- (b) The registration fee at the time of the first registration shall be seven-hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) plus an inspection fee of \$0.01 per square foot of floor area. Floor area is defined by the City of Opelousas Zoning Ordinance.
- (c) If re-inspection is required to determine that a violation has been remedied, the City may charge an additional inspection fee.
- (d) The registration fee for each subsequent registration shall increase by fifty percent (50%) of the registration fee paid during the previous period, with a maximum registration fee of five-thousand sixty-five dollars and fifty cents (\$5,065.50). The inspection fee shall remain unchanged.
- (e) All registration fees shall be used solely to offset the costs of this program, or to improve or promote the areas affected by these provisions in ways designed to improve the ability of property owners to sell, lease or develop the properties which are subject to this program.

Sec. 5-170. Fee waivers.

Property owners may seek a waiver to the fees outlined in Sec. 5-169. All fee waivers must be applied for, using the forms provided by the Department. Fee waivers may be issued as outlined below:

- (1) Property which has been devastated by a catastrophe such as fire, flood, or force majeure significantly damaging in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the structure:
 - (a) The owner has thirty (30) days to register from the date of the disaster but shall be exempt from the fees.
 - (b) This fee waiver is effective for later of the following dates:
 - (i) One year from the date of the catastrophe;
 - (ii) One year from the date that a state of emergency is lifted from the property; or
 - (iii) The earliest date that the property can reasonably be accessed by following a disaster that prevents access.
 - (iv) Thereafter all applicable fees are due.
- (2) A property owner who is indigent must register and is otherwise subject to this Article but shall be exempt from the fees. In order to establish the property owner is indigent, a property owner must provide all financial information requested by the Director, including income tax returns and a list of all properties owned. The fee waiver must be applied for on an annual basis.
- (3) Representatives of a property owner who is deceased or is no longer legally competent must register the property and are otherwise subject to this Article but shall be exempt from the registration fees for a period of six (6) months.
- (4) Where the owner of the property has obtained a building permit and is progressing in an expedient manner to prepare the premises for occupancy, the owner must register the property and is otherwise subject to this Article but shall be exempt from the registration fees for a period of 6 months. This fee waiver may be renewed in 6 month increments up to the anticipated period of construction approved by the Director.

Sec. 5-171. Jurisdiction, enforcement and penalties.

- (a) Whenever the Director determines that a Violation exists, a notice of violation(s) shall be provided to the alleged Violator(s). A notice of violation shall:
 - (i) Be in writing;
 - (ii) Be mailed via certified mail to the address on file with the St. Landry Parish Assessor's office;
 - (iii) Be posted at the subject property;
 - (iv) Provide the municipal address of the cited property;
 - (v) Provide the date of the inspection, if any;
 - (vi) Provide a description of the alleged Violation;
 - (vii) Provide the mailing address and telephone number of the Department;
 - (viii) Provide the time, date, and location of the administrative hearing whereby the alleged Violation(s) shall be adjudicated;
 - (ix) Provide notice that the failure to appear at the hearing shall be considered an admission of liability for the alleged Violation(s);
 - (x) Provide the risk of fees, penalties, costs, and liens that may be imposed for continued Violation; and
 - (xi) Provide the remedial measures that may be ordered to correct or abate the Violation(s).
- (b) Administrative Hearing and Appeal.
 - (1) When the Director determines that any property is in violation of this Article, the Director shall accord the registered property owner an opportunity to be heard at an Administrative Hearing conducted by the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate any Violation(s) alleged by the Director. All decisions of the Hearing Officer shall be reduced to writing and mailed to the property owner via certified mail.
 - (2) Prior to holding an administrative hearing pursuant to this Section, the alleged violator(s) shall be notified at least 15 days (inclusive of legal holidays) in advance of the date that such a hearing is scheduled. The date of the postmark shall be deemed to be the date of delivery. Any notification so sent and returned by U.S. Post Office shall be considered as having fulfilled the notification requirement. Any person charged with Violation(s) may present any relevant evidence and testimony at such hearing and may be represented.
 - (3) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Hearing Officer shall have a right to appeal such decision to the district court within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the Hearing Officer mailed written notice of the decision.
- (c) Failure to register with the Department after written notice to the vacant structure property owner, as is hereinafter specified, is a violation of this Article.
- (d) Any person found to have violated any provision of this Article shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. After due notice of the written decision by the Planning and Zoning Commission, each day that the Violation(s) continue, after the time for compliance, if any, has expired, shall be deemed a separate offense.
- (e) City of Opelousas shall have a lien and privilege against the immovable property in, on, or upon which Violation(s) have occurred. The lien and privilege shall secure all fines, fees, costs, and penalties that are assessed by the Planning and Zoning Commission after an administrative hearing. The recordation of the lien and privilege or notice of judgment by the Planning and Zoning Commission shall constitute a lien and privilege against the land upon which the Violation(s) exists. Any lien and privilege recorded against an immovable property under this Section shall be included in the next annual ad valorem tax bill.

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Sec. 5-172. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Article is, for any reason, held unconstitutional or invalid, such decision or holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. It being the intent of the City Council to enact each section and portion thereof, individually and each such section will stand alone, if necessary, and be in force not with the validity of any other division, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of these regulations.

Sec. 5-173. Effective Date.

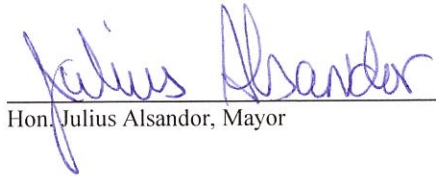
This Article shall be effective beginning April 11, 2024.

This Ordinance was forwarded to the Mayor on April 12, 2023, and signed by the Mayor on April 12, 2023.

Attest:



Leisa Anderson, City Clerk



Hon. Julius Alsandor, Mayor

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA (THE "CITY"), TO ISSUE UTILITY REVENUE BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS (\$100,000,000) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING AND ACQUIRING ADDITIONS, EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UTILITY SYSTEM OF THE CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren:

RESOLUTION NO. 09 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA (THE "CITY"), TO ISSUE UTILITY REVENUE BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS (\$100,000,000) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING AND ACQUIRING ADDITIONS, EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UTILITY SYSTEM OF THE CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "City" or the "Issuer"), now owns and operates a utility system consisting of a sewerage system, a waterworks plant and system and an electric distribution system (the three utility systems are hereinafter referred to in globo as the "System"); and

WHEREAS, the Issuer, acting through its governing authority, the Opelousas City Council (the "Governing Authority") desires to acquire additions, extensions and improvements to its water and wastewater treatment facility and sewer collection system (the "Project"), and to finance the Project and related costs through the issuance of its Utility Revenue Bonds, in one or more series or other evidence of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000) (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority proposes that the Bonds, or other evidence of indebtedness, shall be issued as authorized by the Louisiana Consolidated Local Government Indebtedness Act, Part II, Chapter 4, Subtitle II, Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 39:501, et seq.), Section 524 regarding revenue bonds and other constitutional and statutory authority (the "Act") to provide funds for (i) the Project; (2) a debt service reserve fund, if necessary; (3) capitalized interest, if necessary; (4) costs of issuance; and (5) related costs (the "Authorized Purposes"); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority proposes that the Bonds shall be secured by and payable in principal, interest and redemption premium, if any, solely from the income and revenues derived or to be derived by the Issuer from System including water and sewer user fees generated from the System, subject only to the prior payment of the reasonable and necessary expenses of administering, operating and maintaining the water and wastewater and sewer components of the System (the "Net Revenues"); and

WHEREAS, this Governing Authority, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, now desires to authorize the giving and publication of notice of intention generally describing the Bonds and the security thereof and setting forth a date and time when it will meet in open and public session to hear any objections to the proposed issuance of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Authority does further desire to express its "official intent" to reimburse certain expenditures with proceeds of the Bonds, as contemplated by Section 1-150- 2 of the United States Treasury Regulations, and

WHEREAS, this Governing Authority does further desire to provide for the employment of special bond counsel and a municipal advisor in connection with the issuance of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Authority desires to make formal application to the Louisiana State Bond Commission for approval to issue the Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Opelousas City Council, Opelousas, Louisiana, Parish of St. Landry, acting as the Governing Authority of the Issuer, that:

SECTION 1. Purpose. Pursuant to and in compliance with the provisions of the Act and other constitutional and statutory authority, this Governing Authority does hereby declare the intention to issue not to exceed One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000) of its Utility Revenue Bonds (the "Bonds"), in the name of the Issuer, in one or more series, the proceeds of which will be used to provide funds for the Authorized Purposes.

SECTION 2. Security for the Bonds. The Bonds shall be limited and special revenue bonds of the City, secured by and payable in principal, interest and redemption premium, if any, solely from the income and revenues derived or to be derived by the City from the operation of the System or work of public improvements, after paying the reasonable and necessary expenses of operating and maintaining the System (the "Net Revenues"). The Bonds shall not be a charge on the other income and revenues of the City as prohibited under the provisions of Article VI, Section 37 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, nor shall they constitute an indebtedness or pledge of the general credit of the City. The Bonds shall be of such series, bear such dates, mature at such time or times, not to exceed thirty-two (32) years from their date of issuance, bear interest at such rate or rates not exceeding six per centum (6.00%) per annum, be sold at such price or prices, be in such denomination or denominations, be in fully registered form, carry such registration privileges, be payable in such medium of payment and at such place or places, be subject to such terms of redemption and be entitled to such priorities on the income and revenues of the System as the City may provide by ordinance(s) adopted at the time or times of issuance of the Bonds.

SECTION 3. Ordinance. The City will, in such ordinance(s), enter into such covenants with the future owner or owners of the Bonds as to the management and operation of the System, the imposition and collection of rates and charges for the services rendered thereby, the disposition of such fees and revenues, the issuance of future bonds and the creation of future liens and encumbrances against the System and the revenues therefrom, the carrying of insurance on the System and the disposition of the proceeds of insurance, the keeping of books and records, and other pertinent matters as may be deemed proper by this Governing Authority to assure the marketability of the Bonds, consistent with the provisions of the Act and other applicable laws and regulations. Such ordinance(s) will also include remedies in case of default, provision for the issuance of parity bonds, and such additional covenants, agreements and provisions as are judged advisable or necessary by the City for the security of the registered owners of the Bonds, including sinking funds and reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the Bonds and an adequate depreciation fund for those repairs, extensions and improvements to the System as may be necessary to assure adequate and efficient service to the public, all as provided by the Act.

SECTION 4. Sale of Bonds. The Bonds will be sold at public or private sales and may be issued and sold in installments as needed, all as provided for in the Act and other statutory authority. The City intends to sell qualifying portions of the Bonds to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Health, respectively through their Clean Water State Revolving Fund ("CWSRF") and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund ("DWRLF"), however, the sale of the Bonds to other purchasers on more favorable terms will be considered.

SECTION 5. Public Hearing and Notice. This Governing Authority will meet in open and public session, on TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023, at FIVE O'CLOCK (5:00) P.M. at the Opelousas Municipal Plaza Meeting Room, 105 N. Main Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, or at an earlier or later regular or special meeting to be determined by the Governing Authority, in consultation with Bond Counsel, and with notice of said meeting duly advertised in the manner provided by law, to hear any objections to the proposed issuance of the Bonds; provided, however, if at such hearing a petition or petitions duly signed by the electors of the Issuer in an aggregate number not less than five percent (5%) of the number of the electors of the Issuer voting in the last special or general election held in the Issuer object to the issuance of the Bonds, then the Bonds shall not be issued until approved by a vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the Issuer who vote at a special election held for that purpose in the manner provided by Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended. Any such petition shall be accompanied by a certificate of the St. Landry Parish Registrar of Voters certifying that the signers of the petition are registered electors of the Issuer, and the number of signers amounts to not less five percent (5%) of the registered voters that voted in the last election held in the Issuer, all as provided by the Act.

SECTION 6. Notice of Intention. The Issuer is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to publish an appropriate notice of the intention of the Issuer to issue the Bonds in accordance with the provisions of this resolution and the Act. Such notice of intention shall be published in four (4) consecutive weekly issues of the official journal of the Issuer, and shall be in substantially the following form, with any such changes as may be necessary upon the advice of Bond Counsel:

NOTICE OF INTENTION

TO ISSUE NOT EXCEEDING \$100,000,000 OF UTILITY REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA
As provided by a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana (the "City") on April 11, 2023 the City HEREBY DECLARES ITS INTENTION to issue up to ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS (\$100,000,000) of its Utility Revenue Bonds (the "Bonds"), for the purpose of paying the cost to construct, acquire, extend, or improve the City's utility system (the "System").

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The Bonds will be limited and special revenue bonds of the City, secured by and payable solely from the revenues of the System, after the City has paid from those revenues the reasonable and necessary expenses of operating and maintaining the System. The Bonds will not be a charge on the other income and revenues of the City, nor shall they constitute an indebtedness or pledge of the general credit of the City. The Bonds will be issued pursuant to the Louisiana Consolidated Local Government Indebtedness Act, Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 39:501, et seq.), Section 524 regarding revenue bonds and other constitutional and statutory authority (the "Act");

The Bonds will be issued and authorized by ordinance(s) adopted by the City Council in one or more series, will mature in not to exceed thirty-two (32) years from their date of issuance, will bear interest at rates up to six percent (6%) per annum.

As provided by the Act, all of the other details of the Bonds will be set forth in the ordinance(s) authorizing their issuance, including the following: covenants relating to the management and operation of the System, the imposition and collection of rates and charges from the System's customers, the expenditure of such rates and charges, the issuance of future bonds and the creation of future liens and encumbrances against the System and all other pertinent matters as may be necessary to the authorization and issuance of the Bonds.

The Bonds will be sold at public or private sales, and may be issued and sold in installments as needed, all as provided for in the Act and other statutory authority.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the City Council will meet in open and public session on TUESDAY, MAY 9th, 2023, at FIVE O'CLOCK (5:00) P.M., in the CITY OF OPELOUSAS MUNICIPAL PLAZA MEETING ROOM, 105 N. MAIN STREET, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, or at another regular or special meeting of the City Council to be determined by the Mayor, in consultation with bond counsel and duly advertised in the manner provided by law, to hear any objections to the proposed issuance of the Bonds. If at such hearing a petition duly signed by electors of the City in a number not less than five percent (5%) of the number of such electors voting in the last special or general election object to the issuance of the Bonds, then the Bonds shall not be issued until approved at an election held for that purpose. Any such petition must be accompanied by a certificate of the St. Landry Parish Registrar of Voters certifying that the signers of the petition(s) are registered electors of the City and the number of signers amounts to not less than five percent (5%) of the registered voters that voted in the last tax election held in the City, all as provided by the Act.

SECTION 7. State Bond Commission. Application is hereby made to the State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for approval of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), in one or more series from time to time, to mature on or before thirty-two (32) years from the date thereof, and to bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed six percent (6%) per annum, as described above. A certified copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the State Bond Commission, together with a request for prompt consideration and approval of this application.

SECTION 8. Revolving Loan Fund Application. The Mayor is hereby authorized to submit a Loan Application and to enter into and to execute a Commitment Agreement between the City and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Health (together, the "Department"), in connection with the sale of the bonds respectively to the Department through its Clean Water State Revolving Fund ("CWSRF") and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund ("DWRLF"), and to further execute any and all other necessary documents, applications, certifications, filings necessary in connection with the financing of the Project with the Department.

SECTION 9. Declaration of Official Intent. Prior to the delivery of the Bonds, the Issuer anticipates that it may pay a portion of the costs of the Project from its Utility Funds or General Fund. Upon the issuance of the Bonds, the Issuer reasonably expects to reimburse any such expenditures from a portion of the proceeds of the Bonds. Any such allocation of proceeds of the Bonds for reimbursement shall be with respect to capital expenditures (as defined in Reg. 1.150-1(b)) and shall be made upon the delivery of the Bonds and not later than one year after the later of (i) the date such expenditure was paid or (ii) the date on which the Project was placed in service. This Section is intended to be a declaration of official intent within the meaning of Reg. 1.150-2.

SECTION 10. Employment of Bond Counsel. It is hereby recognized, found, and determined that a real necessity exists for the employment of bond counsel in connection with the Bonds, and accordingly, LaFleur & Laborde, Ville Platte, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans, Louisiana, represented herein by Eric LaFleur, is hereby employed as bond counsel ("Bond Counsel") to do and perform comprehensive legal and coordinate professional work. Said Bond Counsel shall prepare and submit to this Governing Authority for adoption of all the proceedings incidental to the authorization issuance, sale, and delivery of the Bonds, shall counsel and advise this Governing Authority as to the issuance and sale of the Bonds, shall take all steps in their opinion necessary or desirable relative to the sale of the Bonds and shall furnish their opinion covering the legality of the issuance thereof. The fee of Bond Counsel in connection with the issuance of the Bonds is hereby fixed at a sum not exceeding the maximum fee allowed by the Attorney General's fee schedule for comprehensive legal, and coordinate professional work in the issuance of revenue bonds, based on the amount of the actually issued, sold, delivered and paid for, plus reasonable "out-of-pocket" expenses, said fee to be contingent upon the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds.

SECTION 11. Employment of Municipal Advisor. It is hereby recognized, found, and determined that a real necessity exists for the employment of a municipal advisor in connection with the Bonds, and accordingly, Sisung Securities Corporation, New Orleans, Louisiana is hereby appointed and employed as municipal advisor ("Municipal Advisor") in connection with the Bonds. The Municipal Advisor shall assist the Issuer in evaluating the rates and charges for the System, in structuring the Bonds, in preparing an application to CWSRF and DWRLF, in coordinating the public or private sale of the Bonds, in assembling disclosure documentation as needed, and in obtaining necessary approvals for the Bonds. The fee to be paid to the Municipal Advisor shall be payable from the proceeds of the Bonds only upon the actual delivery of the Bonds and shall not exceed 0.3% of the par amount of the Bonds, plus reasonable expenses.

SECTION 12. Execution of Documents and Certificates. In connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds, the Mayor and the Clerk of the Governing Authority (collectively, the "Executive Officers") are each authorized, empowered and directed to execute on behalf of the Issuer such documents, including, but not limited to, the bond purchase agreement, term sheet, commitment or other documents required by lender or investors provided that any of the aforementioned documents must conform with the parameters of this Resolution, certificates and instruments as they may deem necessary, upon the advice of Bond Counsel, to effect the transactions contemplated by the bond ordinance to be adopted by the Issuer, the signatures of the Executive Officers on such documents, certificates and instruments to be conclusive evidence of the due exercise of the authority granted hereunder.

SECTION 13. SWB Swap Policy. By virtue of the Issuer's application for, acceptance and utilization of the benefits of the Louisiana State Bond Commission's approval(s) resolved and set forth herein, it resolves that the Issuer understands and agrees that such approval(s) are expressly conditioned upon, and it further resolved that it understands, agrees and binds itself, its successors and assigns, to full and continuing compliance with the "State Bond Commission Policy on Approval of Proposed Use of Swaps, or other forms of Derivative Products Hedges, Etc.", adopted by the State Bond Commission on July 20, 2006, as to the borrowing(s) and other matter(s) subject to the approval(s), including subsequent application and approval under said Policy of the implementation or use of any swap(s) or other product(s) or enhancement(s) covered thereby.

SECTION 14. Terminology. For purposes of meeting the requirements of the May 11, 2009 memorandum of the Director of the State Bond Commission to all bond counsel, any proceedings of the Issuer relating to the Bonds that refers to a principal amount or interest rate of the Bond shall be deemed to include the words "not to exceed" or "not exceeding" whether so stated or not, and any reference to a final maturity date or term contained herein shall be deemed to include the words "to mature on or before" whether so stated or not.

SECTION 15. Electronic Signatures. The Issuer consents and authorizes its Executive Officers to execute any documents related to this bond issuance by electronic signature in accordance with the Louisiana Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (La. R.S. 9:2601, et seq.), and electronically executed documents are deemed binding and legal on all parties to the extent allowed by the provisions of that act.

SECTION 16. Publication. This Resolution shall be published in one issue of the official journal of the Issuer as soon as possible. The Bonds herein authorized shall be incontestable and no court shall have authority or jurisdiction to inquire into the legality thereof if the validity of the Bonds and the security therefore is not raised within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Resolution.

SECTION 17. Severability. If any provision or item of this Resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this Resolution are hereby declared to be severable.

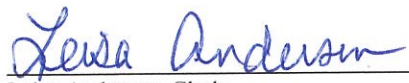
SECTION 18. Conflicting Resolutions. All other resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

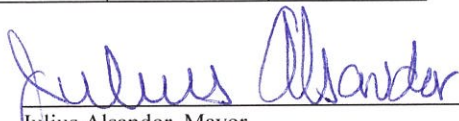
SECTION 19. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption or at the earliest date allowed by law.

SECTION 20. Vote. This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Name	Yea	Nay	Abstaining	Absent
Batiste, Milton III (District A)	X			
Rubin-Broussard, Delita (District B)	X			
Cummings, Charles W. (District C)	X			
Roberts, Sherell (District D)				X
Davis-Warren, Chasity (District E)	X			
Richard, Marvin (Alderman at Large)	X			

And the resolution was adopted on April 11th, 2023.


Leisa Anderson, Clerk


Julius Alsandor, Mayor

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023**

ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF OPELOUSAS TO PARTICIPATE IN ADDITIONAL NATIONAL SETTLEMENTS AS EXPRESSED IN THE RECENT NATIONAL PHARMACY DEFENDANTS' SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS (CVS, WALGREENS, AND WALMART DEFENDANTS) IN CONJUNCTION WITH AND PURSUANT TO THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO LOUISIANA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ("MOU").

On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard and seconded by Alderman Milton Batiste III, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2023

A Resolution authorizing the City of Opelousas to participate in additional NATIONAL SETTLEMENTS as expressed in the recent national Pharmacy Defendants' Settlement Agreements (CVS, Walgreens and Walmart Defendants),¹ in conjunction with and pursuant to the previously agreed to Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office ("MOU").²

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas recognizes that the entire State of Louisiana has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has a pending action in state court, and a number of Louisiana Parishes, Cities and Special Districts have also filed actions in state court or have been transferred to, or directly in, In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the "Opioid Litigation").

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas is a litigating public subdivision and has a pending action in the Opioid Litigation;³

WHEREAS, these National Settlements with the Pharmacy Defendants⁴ were publicly announced in or around December 2022 in the Opioid Litigation;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas recognizes, acknowledges and accepts that it is eligible to participate in the recently announced National Settlements with the Pharmacy Defendants;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas recognizes, acknowledges and accepts that it is not eligible to participate in the recently announced national/global Teva and Allergan Settlements⁵ by virtue of the State of Louisiana's separate, preceding Settlement Agreements with the Teva and Allergan Defendants pursuant to State Attorney General's authority in the Louisiana MOU, and further recognizes that its claims against the relevant Teva and Allergan Defendants will be dismissed pursuant to those Settlement Agreements;

WHEREAS, participation in these National Settlements by a large majority of Louisiana cities, parishes and special districts will maximize the amount of funds allocated for Louisiana under these National Settlements and should improve Louisiana's relative bargaining position during additional settlement negotiations;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in these National Settlements will reduce funds available to the State, the City of Opelousas, and every other Louisiana City, Parish and Special District;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) have sufficiently explained the details of these National Settlements to the City of Opelousas (through its City Attorney), the City of Opelousas has had an opportunity to ask questions concerning same, and the City of Opelousas's private attorneys have satisfactorily answered those questions to the best of their ability and based on currently available information;

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) firmly believe that the City of Opelousas's participation in these National Settlements is in the City of Opelousas's best interest; and

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) strongly recommend that the City of Opelousas participate in these National Settlements, and agree to be bound by the terms thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Opelousas finds that participation in these National Settlements is in the best interest of the City of Opelousas, its citizens, and its community(ies).

SECTION 2. That the City of Opelousas hereby re-affirms its support of a unified plan for the allocation of any funds and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the previously agreed-to and executed Louisiana MOU.

SECTION 3. That City Mayor, Julius Alsandor, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents or formal agreements to effectuate the City of Opelousas's participation in these National Settlements, including but not limited to, Settlement Participation Form(s)/Agreement(s), Releases and other necessary documents.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

SECTION 5. The Clerk is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Resolution to Neblett, Beard & Arsenault:

Neblett, Beard & Arsenault
c/o Dustin C. Carter
P.O. Box 12120
Alexandria, LA 71315

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

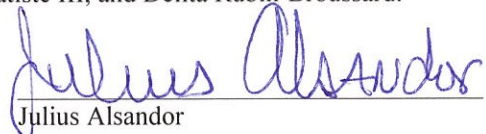
Adopted this 11th day of April, 2023 by the following roll call vote:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, and Delita Rubin-Broussard.

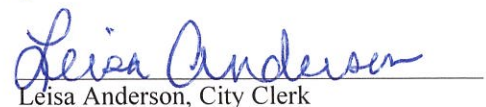
NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

MAYOR:


Julius Alsandor

ATTEST:


Leisa Anderson, City Clerk

¹ Available at: <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/faq-explanatory-charts/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/pharmacy-settlements/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022-National-Opioids-Settlements-FAQs-2-2-2023.pdf>.

² See <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/states/louisiana/> and <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021.10.21-MOU-Opioid-Litigation.pdf>.

³ *City of Opelousas, Louisiana v. Purdue Pharma L.P. et al*, Case No. 1:19-op-45685-DAP (N.D. Ohio).

⁴ The Pharmacy Defendants include all those listed in the relevant Settlement Agreements, including those listed in each Exhibit J appended to Settlement Agreements with CVS, Walgreens and Walmart and including all of their subsidiaries, predecessors, successors, joint venturers, current officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, affiliates, parents, and assigns.

⁵ See <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/teva-allergan-settlements/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/state-participation-status/>; <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/teva-allergan-settlement-documents/>.

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023**

ADOPT THE LCDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2023
LCDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas has been afforded the opportunity to participate in the FY 2022 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program administered by the Division of Administration for City of Opelousas; and,

WHEREAS, this program consists of constructing a new approximate 5,600 S.F. community center located within the existing South City Park; and,

WHEREAS, this program also consists of renovating the existing Opelousas Public Library located at 212 East Grolee Street. The proposed improvements consist of flooring, cabinets, windows, elevator(s), and electrical upgrades. Other activities may be necessary and will be determined during the project design development phase; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated project cost for both facilities is as follows:

FY 2022 LCDBG Grant Funds:	\$ 1,500,000
Opelousas Local Funds:	\$ 211,599
Total Project Budget:	\$ 1,711,599

WHEREAS, it is necessary under the program regulations to authorize certain actions and individuals to perform certain designated functions by the State.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Opelousas as legal recipient of the LCDBG funds does hereby authorize the following actions:

SECTION I

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, it is necessary under the Financial Management regulations of the LCDBG program to authorize certain individuals to sign for draw downs for request for payments and to authorize one certain individual to certify the correctness of each signature; and,

WHEREAS, it is further necessary under the Financial Management regulations of the LCDBG program to designate an official depository to hold LCDBG funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Opelousas as legal authorized recipient of the LCDBG funds, in regular session convened, that Leisa Anderson and Stephen W. Woods are hereby authorized to sign "Authorized Signature Card for Request for Payment;" and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Julius Alsandor shall certify to the correctness of the signatures; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, American Bank & Trust Company is hereby designated as the official depository for direct deposit of grant funds for the LCDBG project.

SECTION II

REQUISITION OF FUNDS

WHEREAS, the State requires adequate financial management control over LCDBG- funds. The establishment of a Requisition of Funds policy is a vital tool to such control.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the City of Opelousas that all invoices for work performed or materials used in relation to the LCDBG Program, prior to payment, must have attached a signed pre-printed project requisition form. The form and invoice shall be approved in the following order:

1. Approval by Project Administrator for budget control
2. Approval by the Secretary
3. Approval by the Mayor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Julius Alsandor, Katrena Tankersley, Leisa Anderson and Stephen W. Woods are hereby authorized to sign checks written on the LCDBG account.

SECTION III

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS, equal opportunity regulations of the LCDBG program require the appointment by the recipient of an Equal Opportunity Officer (EEO Officer) to have the responsibility for maintaining all pertinent EEO files, submitting on a timely basis all reports, answer all related correspondence and monitor all EEO areas;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Opelousas that Leisa Anderson is hereby appointed as EEO Officer for the life of the LCDBG program and as such is charged to faithfully execute all duties and responsibilities herein described.

SECTION IV

504 COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the State requires Grantees to designate a responsible person to coordinate the City of Opelousas efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Leisa Anderson is appointed as Section 504 Compliance Officer.

SECTION V

SECTION 3 COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS, the LCDBG program requires that all grant recipients establish and adopt by resolution a Section 3 Plan and appoint a Section 3 Coordinator and certification procedures.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Opelousas adopts a Section 3 Plan and appoints Leisa Anderson as its Section 3 Coordinator.

SECTION VI

RESIDENTIAL ANTI DISPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, the LCDBG Program requires that all grant recipients adopt by resolution a Residential Anti- Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Opelousas hereby adopts the attached Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan appoints Leisa Anderson as its Coordinator.

SECTION VII

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

WHEREAS, as part of its Citizen Participation Plan to reach out and inform its citizens, the City has developed a language access plan to inform its citizens who may not understand or speak English; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Opelousas hereby adopts the Language Access Plan and all updates for the City's LCDBG Program.

SECTION VIII

SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

WHEREAS, the LCDBG Program requires that all grant recipients adopt by resolution an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the regulation of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 24 CFR Part 8, implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Public Law 93-112); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Opelousas hereby adopts the Grievance Procedure for the City's LCDBG Program.

SECTION IX

POLICY STATEMENT FOR COMMUNICATING INFORMATION TO PERSONS WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS

WHEREAS, the CDBG Program requires that all grant recipients adopt by resolution a policy for communicating information to persons with hearing impairments;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached "Policy Statement For Communicating Information to Persons With Sensory Impairments" for the City of Opelousas is hereby adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Opelousas hereby adopts a policy to utilize the Louisiana Hearing Impaired Relay System for communicating with hearing impaired persons. The relay numbers are: Information 1-800-333-0605, TDD Users 1-800-846-5277 and Voice Users 1-800-947-5277.

Passed and adopted by the City of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, on April 11, 2023, by the following votes:

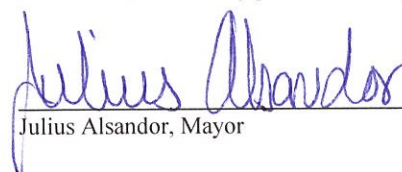
YEAS: Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

I, Julius Alsandor, Mayor, does hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the RESOLUTION duly passed and adopted by the City of Opelousas, Parish of Opelousas, State of Louisiana, on April 11, 2023.


Julius Alsandor, Mayor

ATTEST:


Leisa Anderson, Clerk

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023**

ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO CREATE THE ACADIANA REGIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE DISTRICT COMPRISED OF VARIOUS PARISHES IN OR NEAR THE ACADIANA REGION, PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Davis-Warren, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2023

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HB 357 TO CREATE THE ACADIANA REGIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, for a number of years, there has been inadequate space in local juvenile detention facilities to protect public safety through the pretrial detention of youthful repeat offenders and/or those charged with committing the most serious violent crimes, many of which involve the use of firearms and other dangerous weapons; and

WHEREAS, there approximately 12 local juvenile detention facilities in the state, many of which do not have space available to hold pretrial youth from outside of their respective jurisdictions or will not accept such use; and

WHEREAS, Act 501 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include seventeen (17) years old (Raise the Age Legislation), and

WHEREAS, many jurisdictions have experienced dramatic increases in serious violent crimes committed by youthful offenders with the use of firearms and other dangerous weapons since passage of the Raise the Age Legislation; and

WHEREAS, many youthful offenders committing these violent crimes with the use of firearms and other dangerous weapons must be released back into their communities because there is no available space in local juvenile detention facilities to hold them before trial thereby creating serious public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, this problem has been made worse by the fact that the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice ("OJJ") recently informed judges throughout the state that it is currently unable to accept sentenced youth into state custody because the OJJ juvenile detention facilities in that state are at full capacity causing a backlog of sentenced youth to remain in local juvenile detention facilities; and

WHEREAS, public safety can best be protected in the parishes in or near the Acadiana region by creating additional local detention facility space in the parishes in or near the Acadiana region for the pretrial detention of youthful repeat offenders and/or those youth charged with committing the most serious violent crimes many of which involve the use of firearms and other dangerous weapons; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Opelousas City Council hereby expresses its support of House Bill 357 to create the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District to be comprised of various interested parishes in or near the Acadiana Region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to those members of the Louisiana Legislature representing the City of Opelousas.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Opelousas City Council.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Yeas: Marvin Richard, Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Chasity Davis Warren.

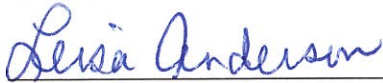
Nays: None.

Absent: Sherell Roberts.

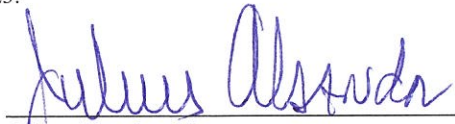
ABSTAINING: None.

THEREUPON, the above Resolution was declared adopted on this 11th day of April, 2023.

ATTEST:



Leisa Anderson, City Clerk



Julius Alsandor, Mayor

ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION.

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

STATE OF LOUISIANA
City of Opelousas

RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF 2023

WHEREAS, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans – individually and collectively – to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination wherever it exists; and

WHEREAS, this law guarantees for each citizen that critical, personal element of freedom of choice – selection of the home, and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the State of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement and support of each of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, the department and agencies of the State of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens, and

WHEREAS, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen to freely choose a home will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the City of Opelousas does hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

In the City of Opelousas

Done and signed on this 11th day of April 2023 with the following roll call vote:

YEAS: Milton Batiste III, Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, and Marvin Richard.

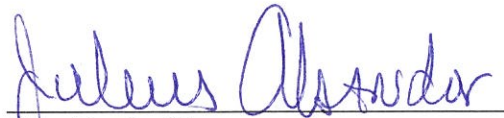
NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

ATTEST:



Leisa Anderson, City Clerk



Julius Alsandor, Mayor

CONSENT AGENDA (PERSONNEL)

On a motion by Alderman Milton Batiste III and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Rubin-Broussard, it was resolved to approve the following Personnel items:

- Accept Probational Fire Lieutenant Scott Roy's Resignation, effective 03/23/2023, and approve payment in the amount of \$6,463.76 for 336 hours of unused vacation and 8 hours of Bonus Time, pending verification by Opelousas Fire & Police Civil Service Board.
- Approve Permanent Driver/Operator Daniel Saucier's Promotion to Probational Fire Lieutenant, effective 04/02/2023, to replace Lieutenant Scott Roy.
- Approve Probational Police Officer Lumus Lastrapes' Administrative Leave with Pay, effective 03/30/2023.
- Approve Probational Police Officer Lumus Lastrapes' Termination, effective 04/11/2023.
- Accept Probational Police Officer Jonathon Author Smith's Resignation, effective 04/09/2023.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Rubin-Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Davis-Warren, Marvin Richard, and Milton Batiste III.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Sherell Roberts.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023

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 III and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK



MAYOR