

CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2024

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 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, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Sherell Roberts. ABSENT: Chasity Warren (*arrived late*).

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Minister Marie Greene, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the Prayer and Mrs. Marie Frilot-Williams, military veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Mayor Alsandor read a prepared statement regarding meeting decorum as it relates to speaking on agenda items during meetings. This notice will be posted and adhered to for all meetings.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting held 02/20/2024. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved approve the following changes to the agenda:

Under the CONSENTS Section:

- Adding Item No. 23-B, "**ACCEPT** Fire Operator Joshua Thomas' Resignation, effective 03/03/2024, and **APPROVE** payment in the amount of \$5,644.80 for 288 Vacation Hours and 48 Bonus Hours".
- Adding Item No. 23-C, "**ACCEPT** Firefighter Michael Galindo's Resignation, effective 03/11/2024, and **APPROVE** payment in the amount of \$689.76 for 48 Vacation Hours".

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved adopt the agenda with the approved changes. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Presentation of a plaque by Opelousas Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board Chairperson Mrs. Sarah Branton to recognize Mr. Harry Jerry for twenty-four years of service as a member on the F & P Civil Service Board.
- COVID-19 Update from Opelousas General Health Systems (OGHS) representative.
  - Hospital is encouraging vaccinations, especially the flu vaccine
  - Isolate/staying away from others when not feeling well
- Announcement by Mrs. Marie A. Frilot-Williams in reference to Guns Down Power Up, a non-profit organization.
- Presentation by Ms. Patrice Melnick, Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center Director, to announce upcoming museum events. Information on upcoming events at the museum can be gathered by contacting Ms. Melnick at [museum@cityofopelousas.com](mailto:museum@cityofopelousas.com) or at 337-948-2589.
- Mayor Alsandor announced that there have been issues with lawn care services blowing grass into the culverts and drains. He stated that the grass needs to be raked up instead because it is clogging the drains and culverts.
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. None.

## **REPORTS**

Committee Reports and Discussion of Committee Recommendations: (a) Budget Committee.

CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 @ 5:30 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chasity Warren, Chairwoman; Marvin Richard, Vice-Chairman; Sherell Roberts; and John Guilbeaux. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Alderman Guilbeaux led the Prayer and Alderman Cummings led the Pledge to the U. S. Flag. Alderwoman Warren asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The City Clerk noted that the following items were requested to be added to the agenda:

(Item No. 3B), "Questions/discussion regarding \$650,000.00 worth of transfers from ARPA funds to City of Opelousas". On a motion by Alderwoman Warren, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved to add Item No. 3B to the agenda. On a motion by Alderwoman Warren, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the agenda with the approved changes.

1. Discussion of the understanding of former police officer Savannah Butler's time sheet.

*Alderwoman Warren questioned Officer Butler's time sheets that showed she worked 10 hours in August 2023 at a school board meeting and that she worked the day after the incident involving the Police Chief and his wife. Police Capt. Frank Boudreaux told committee members that city officers are normally paid using 80-hour pay periods. Boudreaux said work performed by officers after 80 hours is considered overtime. Confirmation for officers' work hours are usually established using radio contact by officers when they first enter their vehicles and leave for duty. Capt. Boudreaux stated that the radio logs back up whether the officer is doing the job and then they back that up with the payroll documents. Committee members were interested in determining whether Butler worked the 10 hours attributed to her for a school board meeting in 2023 and for a funeral the day after she was allegedly involved in the shooting incident at her residence. Although it might indicate that she worked the funeral, Capt. Boudreaux explained that after being pre-planned for that duty, Officer Butler was ultimately pulled from that December 23<sup>rd</sup> detail and did not get paid for those hours. Several committee members also told Boudreaux that it's obvious school board meetings do not last 10 hours and they are having difficulty understanding exactly how officers are paid during their customary pay period as well as any overtime work. Alderman Guilbeaux said that the 10 hours don't match up with the time sheets and the hours of the school board meeting. He stated that they are not auditors, but they are finding things that would bring up questions. Capt. Boudreaux pointed out that sometimes the payroll sheets during the 80-hour pay intervals include officers being moved around to different events or locations, depending on the situation. Alderwoman Warren stated that no action would be taken at this time.*

2. Discussion of the money being used for the improvements of City Hall.

*Alderwoman Warren asked what funds or money is being used for improvements in city Hall. Mayor Alsandor stated that when the first approval of the first disbursement of the ARPA money was voted on, it was \$150,000 that was directed toward the City Hall. That money is still in that account which will be used. Mayor Alsandor handed out a document to the board members relating to ACT 397. He stated that during their time in office, they have been fortunate enough to get some grants through CWF which allowed the City to get some money for the police department and cameras for the City of Opelousas which is stated on the*

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form they are looking at. Through ACT 397 with the help of our legislators, the City was able to acquire \$500,000, and \$260,000 of that money is going toward the rehabbing and improvement of City Hall along with the \$150,000. The City has also applied for a \$50,000 grant with Verizon through their Hometown Grant. The City will also be asking Downtown Development to send us another \$50,000 for the improvement of City Hall. Alderwoman Warren asked if the City had to have matching funds for this grant. Mayor Alsandor responded "Not a dollar". Alderwoman Roberts asked how much it is costing to renovate the inside of City Hall. Mayor Alsandor responded that it will be roughly about \$400,000 - \$450,000. Alderwoman Roberts asked how much do we have on hand right now for it. Mayor Alsandor responded that they had \$150,000 that the Council did approve in the budget and \$260,000 out of the \$500,000 from the water system funds. Alderwoman Roberts pointed out that the document the Mayor provided has the City of Opelousas as the Contracting Party. She asked if they bid out this particular job. Mayor Alsandor responded that the Architecture Firm they brought in is the same firm that is working at the Library and is the one used through the LCDBG monies. Alderwoman Roberts asked who the architecture firm is. Mayor Alsandor responded that it is Beverly's Architecture Firm. Alderwoman Roberts asked is this not something that the Mayor was supposed to bring to the Council for approval. Mayor Alsandor responded that the money was designated from the State for the improvement of City Hall and with the Council's approval or without their approval, this money has to be spent on City Hall and the water system. Alderwoman Roberts stated that she was asking because if it had been brought to their attention then they would even be here discussing it. Alderman Richard stated that they need to have better communication so we won't be in a situation like this having a meeting on something they don't need to be having a meeting on. Alderwoman Delita Broussard asked if the City looked into whether anybody else wanted to work on this job before they brought in the other firm. Mayor Alsandor stated that LCDBG was already working with the Library project and while the architect was there, they asked them to look at City Hall. No action needed at this time—forward to full council.

3. Discussion of allowing a certified accountant to view the City's budget, as long as we are provided with the qualifications of the accountant and discussion to possibly hire an accountant (contracted) before we approve the budget. Mayor Alsandor stated that there are 8 applicants for the Accountant position and they will all be vetted. He stated that in the next month to month and a half after the vetting, they should have a candidate. No action at this time.
- 3B. Questions/discussion regarding \$650,000 worth of transfers from ARPA funds to City of Opelousas. Mayor Alsandor stated that those funds (\$500,000 for revenue loss and \$150,000 for AMI metering project) were transferred to the city's account at American Bank from the ARPA funds at Evangeline Bank. He stated that initially the City was only able to write 3 checks a month from the ARPA funds so that is why there were transfers done and they the City found out that they could do wire transfers from Evangeline Bank to American Bank. Alderwoman Roberts asked how much money is left from the ARPA funds. Mayor Alsandor stated that that amount is right under \$1.3 million. He stated that the City was also able to get \$2.1 million dollars to address the bridges in the City. No action needed.

On a motion by Alderman Guilbeaux, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The Budget Committee Meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the Budget Committee Report. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Review Monthly Finances. A copy of the financial report was provided to the Council by Mayor Alsandor. No motion was made by any council member for acceptance of the financial report. No action taken.

Public Works Director's Report. Mr. Travis VanWright gave an update of existing projects and answered questions from the Council and the public. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the Public Works Director's Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, and John Guilbeaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. A copy of the Engineer's Monthly Status Report was provided to the Council members. Mr. William Jarrell stated that the bids had been received on last week for the Phase 1 Sewer Collection Rehabilitation Project. Those results and the Engineers recommendation have been submitted to DEQ. If DEQ concurs with the low bid and the Engineers recommendation, then they will schedule the loan closing for the \$25 million for the Sewer Program. After that loan is closed, then the Engineers will continue to do other projects as they come up and outlined in the application. He also stated that the plans and specifications for the Bridge project have been completed and submitted to FP&C for review and approval. Upon their approval from FP&C, the Engineers will advertise for bids for that project. At the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the clarifiers, digesters, and T-filter components have been completed and are all in operation and the plant is performing a lot better now getting some positive results. Alderwoman Warren asked for a motion to approve the funds needed for the relocation of the Bernice Street pump station in the amount of \$400,000. On a motion by Alderman John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to accept the Engineers Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, and Delita Broussard.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to place the request for the additional \$400,000 to relocate the Bernice Street Lift Station on next month's agenda for discussion and approval. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Approve payment to former police officer Savannah Butler in the amount of \$7,038.24 for 144 hours of unused Annual Leave and 228 hours of Compensatory Time, following her resignation effective 02/16/2024. On a motion by Alderman John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to **APPROVE** payment to former police officer Savannah Butler in the amount of \$7,038.24 for 144 hours of unused Annual Leave and 228 hours of Compensatory Time, following her resignation effective 02/16/2024. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Charles Cummings, and Sherell Roberts.

NAYS: Delita Broussard.

ABSENT: None.

Presentation by Ms. Yocha Payne, Property Tax Clerk and Mr. Lance Ned, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer, regarding outstanding code enforcement liens being placed on City property tax bills. Mr. Ned stated that over the years there have been a lot of fees that have accumulated due to grass cutting fees, demolitions, etc., that have not been paid by the citizens. He stated that going forward, the City will be filing liens for these outstanding fees which will then be placed on the property tax bills if they are not paid by June. These fees will be due in full when the customer pays their property tax bill. If the property tax bill is not paid, then the property will go into the tax sale. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Ned in Code Enforcement at 337-948-2533 or Ms. Yocha Payne at 337-948-2527.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discuss and consider approval of Sterling Resources Corporation's request for the **ANNEXATION** and the **ZONING OF C1** of the property listed below:

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A 10.775 ACRE TRACT OF LAND TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS SITUATED IN SECTION 105, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. (I-49 North Service Road).

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 03/11/2024 and recommended approval of this item. An ordinance will be introduced at next month's meeting to begin the annexation process. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren and Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to approve the request to introduce an ordinance at next month's meeting to begin the annexation process for Sterling Resources Corporation. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discuss and consider approval of Faysha Enterprises, LLC/Sharlene Alexander's request for a VARIANCE approval from a RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE (R1-ZONE) to a RESIDENTIAL 3 ZONE (R3-ZONE) to operate a Housing for seniors and veterans at 1044 Crouchet Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 03/11/2024 and was denied due to opposition voiced by the public. On a motion by Alderman John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard, it was resolved to postpone this item until next month's meeting for further discussion. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Chasity Warren, and Marvin Richard.

NAYS: Sherell Roberts.

ABSENT: None.

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to Grant Authority to Advertise for a Public Hearing to consider condemnation/demolition of the following properties:

- (a) Wilton Manuel, 810 Walnut Street (Abandoned Wooden Structure)
- (b) Vincent Thomas, c/o Darlene Thomas, 405 Academy Street (Abandoned Brick Structure)

The Public Hearing will be held at next month's meeting. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, and John Guilbeaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

## **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING JUNKED PROPERTY A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND PROVIDING FOR THE ERADICATION OF SUCH CONDITIONS.**

**INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE  
AN ORDINANCE DECLARING JUNKED PROPERTY A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND  
PROVIDING FOR THE ERADICATION OF SUCH CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, the Opelousas City Council believes that a reasonable exercise of the police power of the City of Opelousas government should address issues of public safety, protection of economic values to properties and, in general, the maintenance of public peace and good order, safety, health, moral or general welfare within the City of Opelousas.

WHEREAS, the Opelousas City Council believes that an ordinance is necessary to establish revised regulations concerning nuisances, junked items and enclosures in order to promote the public interest within the city limits of City of Opelousas and to impose reasonable and nondiscriminatory regulations concerning these subject matters.

WHEREAS, this Chapter of the Code of Ordinances of City of Opelousas is intended to be a reasonable regulation of nuisances, junked items and enclosures which regulations will effectuate the public safety and protection of economic values to properties.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance providing for such benefits was introduced at a public meeting of the governing authority on March 12, 2024, by Councilmember Delita Broussard;

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing on the Ordinance was duly published in the Opelousas Daily World, and a public hearing on same was held on April 9, 2024;

WHEREAS, on Motion of Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and Second by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, this Ordinance was offered for final adoption with the following results recorded:

Yea:

Nay:

Absent:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the governing authority of City of Opelousas, that the following provisions are enacted under the City of Opelousas Code of Ordinances:

### **CHAPTER 34 PUBLIC NUISANCES**

Section 34-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to address issues of public safety, protection of economic values to properties and, in general, the maintenance of public peace and good order, safety, health, moral or general welfare within the City of Opelousas.

Section 34-2 Definitions.

(a) "Abandoned vehicle" means any motor vehicle, as defined in this Chapter, or other similar mechanism, device, or means of conveyance that is inoperable and is left unattended on public property for more than three (3) days, or that has remained illegally on public property for a period of more than three (3) days, or that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than three (3) days.

(b) "Authority" means the agency and/or department, including any authorized employee or agent thereof, charged with enforcing this Chapter on behalf of City of Opelousas.

(c) "City" shall mean City of Opelousas.

(d) "Dispose" shall mean, in any way whatsoever, to throw, discard, place, deposit, discharge, bum, dump, drop, eject, or allow the escape of a substance.

(e) "Junked item" means any;

1. Junked vehicle;
2. Unused major electrical appliance and/or parts thereof, including but not limited to washing machines, clothes dryers, refrigerators, and freezers;
3. Machinery and/or equipment or parts thereof other than a junked vehicle and unused electrical appliances which, by reason of deterioration through rusting, rotting, or otherwise, have become inoperable and/or unusable for the purpose for which they were intended;
4. Construction debris; and
5. Waste paper, boxes, and crates and/or parts thereof.

(f) "Motor Vehicle" shall mean any vehicle or similar mechanism, device, or means of conveyance which is self-propelled and designed to travel along the ground, on the water, in the air, and shall include, but not be limited to, automobiles, buses, motorbikes, motorcycles, motor scooters, trucks, tractors, go-carts, golf carts, campers and trailers, airplanes and boats. The term motor vehicle shall not include, and specifically excludes, non-motorized bicycles, scooters and the like, and any farm implement.

(g) "Nuisance" shall mean the maintaining, using, placing, depositing, leaving or permitting to be or remain on any public or private property of any of the following items, conditions or actions; provided, however, this enumeration shall not be deemed or construed to be exclusive, limiting or restrictive, nor shall it include dense smoke, noxious fumes, gas, soot, cinders, or accumulation of stagnant waters which occur as a result of agricultural activities:

1. The carcasses of animals or fowl not disposed of within a reasonable time after death.
2. The pollution of any public well or cistern, stream, lake, canal, roadside ditch or body of water by sewage, dead animals, creamery, industrial wastes or other substances.
3. Any accumulation of stagnant water permitted or maintained on any lot or piece of ground.
4. Dense smoke, noxious fumes, gas, soot or cinders, in unreasonable quantities.

(h) "Owner" means that person whom which is reflected/listed in any public record as the owner of the property in question.

(i) "Private property" means any property which is privately owned and which is not public property.

(j) "Public property" means:

1. Any street or highway which shall include the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained for the purposes of vehicular traffic.
2. Any other publicly owned property or facility, including the waters of the parish and state.

Section 34-3. Declaration of public nuisance; prohibition.

The presence of any junked vehicle or abandoned vehicle within the corporate limits of City of Opelousas shall be deemed and is hereby declared a public nuisance. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or maintain such a public nuisance by abandoning, wrecking, dismantling, partially dismantling, rendering inoperable, or discarding any vehicle on the real property of another or on public property, or to suffer, permit, or allow any junked vehicle and/or abandoned vehicle to be parked, left, or maintained on his own real property, provided that this section shall not apply to:

- (1) Any junked vehicle in an appropriate business, storage place, or depository, maintained at a location where such business, storage place, or depository is authorized by and is in compliance with the Code of Ordinances of City of Opelousas and other regulations promulgated by the State of Louisiana and/or Parish of St. Landry; and
- (2) Any vehicle stored as the property of a member of the armed forces of the United States who is on active-duty assignment.

Section 34-4. Notices to Abate Violations of this Chapter.

Whenever any public nuisance exists within the corporate limits of City of Opelousas, the City Code Enforcement Director shall cause written notice to be sent to the alleged violator ordering such alleged violator to abate the condition deemed by the Code Enforcement Director to be a nuisance under this Chapter. When such nuisance consists of a junked item,

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a similar notice shall also be forwarded by the Code Enforcement Director to the last known registered owner of the vehicle provided such information is known by the agency responsible for law enforcement within the corporate limits of City of Opelousas. Whenever such information is not known by such law enforcement agency, the Chief of such agency or his designee shall certify that such information is unknown to the law enforcement agency in an affidavit provided by the Chief or his designee to the Code Enforcement Director prior to any further action or actions taken against such junked item.

Section 34-5. Manner of Service of Notices to Abate Violations of this Chapter.

Any notices or orders required by this Chapter shall:

1. Be in writing;
2. Provide the municipal address of: (a) the cited property; and/or (b) the property upon which the nuisance(s) exist(s);
3. Provide the date of the inspection(s);
4. Provide a description of alleged violation(s);
5. Provide the mailing address and telephone number of the Code Enforcement Department;
6. Provide the risk of fees, penalties, costs, and liens that may be imposed for continued violation(s); and
7. Provide the remedial measures required to abate the condition.

Section 34-6. Penalties for Violations of this Chapter.

Any person adjudicated to be in violation of any provisions of this Chapter shall be liable to City of Opelousas for a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day. Each act in violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a separate offense.

Section 34-7. Judicial Order of Abatement.

(A) If, within the delay provided by a notice to abate, an alleged violator fails to abate a condition deemed by the Code Enforcement Director to be a public nuisance, City of Opelousas may file a Rule to Show Cause Why an Order of Abatement should not issue directed to the alleged violator to show cause, if any, why he or she should not be required to correct the condition deemed by a public nuisance by the Code Enforcement Director.

(B) The Rule to Show Cause may proceed by summary proceeding and shall be directed against the owner or occupant of the premises, or both.

(C) Service of the Rule to Show Cause shall be made by the Sheriff.

(D) Opelousas City Court shall have jurisdiction to hear the Rule to Show Cause.

(E) If the evidence adduced at the hearing warrants an affirmative finding of a public nuisance, the City Court Judge shall declare the condition a public nuisance and order its abatement within a period of no more than forty-five (45) days from the date of judgment. The City Court Judge shall also fix the reasonable cost of abatement and assess all court costs against the nonprevailing party. The City Court Judge may assess a fine as provided by Section 34-6 of this Chapter.

Section 34-8. Failure to Obey Judicial Order of Abatement.

Once all delays for a suspensive appeal of the Judicial Order of Abatement have run, and the public nuisance is not abated in compliance with the order of the City Court, the City of Opelousas shall be authorized to enter the premises in question to remove or cause to be removed the junked item, and to dispose of it as follows:

1. Upon the removal of any junked item by reason of a failure to comply with the judicial order of abatement, City of Opelousas may take the junked item into its custody without any liability whatsoever to the owner of the premises, the occupant of the premises, the registered owner or to any other party whatsoever.
2. Junked items removed by City of Opelousas may be disposed of by removal to the Parish Landfill or by transfer to a scrap iron dealer willing to remove the junked items at no cost to City of Opelousas.
3. City of Opelousas may employ its own personnel, equipment, and/or facilities, for the purpose of removing junked items, or it may employ such other persons, equipment, and/or facilities to remove such junked items.
4. Any junked items removed by City of Opelousas pursuant to this Section shall be deemed public property, and any proceeds from the disposition of such items shall be deemed public property.

Section 34-9. Liability for cost of abatement.

The cost of abatement, as determined by the Judgment or Order of the Opelousas City Court, shall be the personal liability of the owner of the premises, the occupant of the premises and/or of the registered owner of the junked motor vehicle, in applicable cases, and may be recovered by the city in the action initiated by the Rule to Show Cause. The Code Enforcement

Director may also cause to be recorded in the mortgage records of St. Landry Parish, an attested bill of costs showing the cost of removal and the place or property on which the nuisance existed so as to establish in favor of City of Opelousas a lien and privilege securing the payment by the property owner, occupant, and/or registered owner of the junked vehicle, of such charges, costs and expenses.

Section 34-10. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor, or at midnight of the tenth day after the receipt of the ordinance by the Mayor, whichever shall occur first.

## **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES**

**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2023 WHICH PROVIDED FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON SALES AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, IF ANY. *No Amendments for Consideration.***

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONDEMNATION/DEMOLITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY was opened at 6:47 p.m.:

(a) City of Opelousas, 124 E. Grolee Street (Abandoned Brick Structure)

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:56 p.m. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard, it was resolved to postpone action on this item for 90 days for further review to find investors to rehab the building. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, and John Guilbeaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2023 WHICH PROVIDED FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON SALES AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES was opened at 7:05 p.m.: Attorney Broussard explained that an approval of this Ordinance would mean that the closing would be at 2:00 a.m. and Ordinance No. 6 would officially be off the books. No other comments or questions.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

## **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES (VOTE REQUIRED)**

**ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2023 WHICH PROVIDED FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON SALES AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

ORDINANCE NO. 01 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2023 WHICH  
PROVIDED FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON SALES AND CONSUMPTION  
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 6 of 2023 providing for further restrictions on sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages was introduced at a public meeting of the Opelousas City Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, and adopted by the governing authority on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of 2023, and signed by the Mayor of Opelousas that same day;

WHEREAS, several public meetings discussing Ordinance No. 6 of 2023 and litigation followed;

WHEREAS, at a public meeting of the Opelousas City Council on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, this Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 6 of 2023 was introduced by Council member Delita Broussard;

WHEREAS, after introduction notice of this ordinance was duly advertised in the official public journal on February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and a public hearing on same was held Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Thereafter, on Motion of Council Member Delita Broussard and Second by Council Member Chasity Warren to adopt this Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 6 of 2023, the title of the ordinance was read, and a roll call vote was held and the following results were recorded:

Yea: Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, and Delita Broussard.

Nay: Charles Cummings and Sherell Roberts.

Absent: None.

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2024**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the governing authority of the City of Opelousas in legal session convened, that Ordinance No. 6 of 2023 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor, or at midnight of the tenth day after the receipt of the ordinance by the Mayor, whichever shall occur first.

Opelousas, Louisiana this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

I, Leisa Anderson, Municipal Clerk for City of Opelousas, do hereby certify that I delivered a copy of this Ordinance to the Mayor of Opelousas on March 13, 2024, who received it that same day.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leisa Anderson, Municipal Clerk

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Julius Alsandor, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03 OF 2024**

**A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, AS MAIN STREET DAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
MAIN STREET DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

WHEREAS, since 1984, Louisiana Main Street has helped communities revitalize their historic downtowns—celebrating community character and generating impressive economic returns; and

WHEREAS, the year 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of Louisiana Main Street, and we are joining the statewide celebration of 40 years of transformative work throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s 36 designated communities have generated impressive results over the last 40 years, logging 15,935 new jobs, 3,785 new businesses, \$549.5 million in private investment, \$437 million in public investment, and 1.2 million volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, every dollar invested in the state program returns \$2.90–\$7.40 in state sales tax annually, and \$190,000 per year of state income tax is generated from jobs created by Main Streets; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Main Street leads a statewide network of designated communities: Abbeville, Bastrop, Columbia, Crowley, Denham Springs, DeRidder, Donaldsonville, Eunice, Franklin, Hammond, Homer, Houma, Kenner, Leesville, Minden, Monroe, Morgan City, Natchitoches, New Iberia, New Roads, Opelousas, Plaquemine, Ponchatoula, Ruston, Slidell, Springhill, St. Francisville, St. Martinville, Thibodaux, West Monroe, and Winnsboro, and the following districts in New Orleans: Broad Street, Lower Ninth Ward, North Rampart Street, OC Haley Boulevard, and Old Algiers; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Main Street also works with communities who are on the pathway to potential designation, and currently Arcadia, Broussard, Jonesville, and Winnfield are “Lagniappe” communities; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Main Street’s communities are also part of a national network of 1,200+ Main Street communities, led by Main Street America; and

WHEREAS, the Main Street program is a proven model for economic development—when downtown grows, the whole community grows; and

WHEREAS, leaders from Main Street communities from all corners of Louisiana are gathering at the state capitol today.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Opelousas City Council does hereby designate Tuesday, March 19, 2024, as Main Street Day and does hereby commend Louisiana Main Street and its thirty-six designated communities for their outstanding downtown revitalization efforts throughout the state.

The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, following a roll call vote:

YEAS: Sherell Roberts, Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, and Charles Cummings.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

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**CONSENT AGENDA (PERSONNEL)**

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, the following personnel items were approved:

- **ACCEPT** Police Officer Recruit Arlandea M. Garrett’s Resignation, effective 02/24/2024.
- **ACCEPT** Fire Operator Joshua Thomas’ Resignation, effective 03/03/2024, and **APPROVE** payment in the amount of \$5,644.80 for 288 Vacation Hours and 48 Bonus Hours.
- **ACCEPT** Firefighter Michael Galindo’s Resignation, effective 03/11/2024, and **APPROVE** payment in the amount of \$689.76 for 48 Vacation Hours.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Chasity Warren, Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Sherell Roberts.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- *No Items Submitted.*

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR