

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2024**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 9th day of April 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, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren. ABSENT: None.

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.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Minister Marie Greene, Opelousas, Louisiana, led the Prayer and Alderman John Guilbeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux and Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting held 03/12/2024. 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 Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved approve the following changes to the agenda:

UNDER THE INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES SECTION:

- *ADDING ITEM NO. 21-B, "INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF OPELOUSAS TO DONATE TO ACADIANA RAILWAY IMMOVABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE OPELOUSAS INDUSTRIAL PARK".*

UNDER THE RESOLUTIONS SECTION:

- *ADDING ITEM NO. 28-B, "ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF OPELOUSAS TO ENTER A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO I-49 LIGHTING".*

UNDER THE NEW BUSINESS SECTION:

- *ADDING ITEM NO. 19-B, "Discussion by Ms. LaChica Wilson regarding daycares".*

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 Alderwoman Chasity Warren 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

- 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
- Presentation by Police Chief Graig Leblanc:
 - 2023 Officers of the Year – Cedric Jackson and Niles McGinty.
 - 2024 First Quarter Officer Award – Khaedayajha Sylvester.
- 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 or at 337-948-2589.
- Presentation by Mayor Julius Alsandor of a plaque and proclamation in recognition of J. S. Clark Leadership Academy Girls' Basketball Team – Division 5 State Champions.
- Reading of Public Comments/Questions, if any. None.

REPORTS

Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/2024. Mr. Casey Ardoin and Mrs. Christy Fusilier with Kolder, Slaven & Company presented the audit report. No motion was made by any council member for acceptance of the audit report. No action taken.

Review Monthly Finances. At this time, 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 Delita Broussard and Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, 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 they received approval from FP&C to advertise for bids for the Bridge Project and they will be receiving bids on 05/15/2024 @ 2:00 p.m. at City Hall Council chambers. Secondly, the work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant that was funded through the Water Sector Grant is substantially completed and they will be accepting that project as substantially complete later on the agenda. The Bernice Street pump station design work is approximately 40-50 percent complete and there will be a discussion later on the agenda regarding the funding for the relocation of that pump station. On a motion by Alderman John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard, 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.

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

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discuss and approve request to allocate an additional \$450,000.00 and acquire property at desired location on Bernice Street for relocation of the Bernice Street Lift Station. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwomen Delita Broussard and Chasity Warren, it was resolved to approve the request amend the budget to allocate an additional \$450,000.00 to acquire property at the desired location on Bernice Street for relocation of the Bernice Street Lift Station. 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.

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 recommended denial of the request due to opposition. The matter was postponed by the City Council at their 03/12/2024 meeting to be discussed at the 04/09/2024 meeting. Opposition was also submitted by Connie Emon on 04/08/2024 via email. Etha Amling and Jordan Amling also voiced opposition during the discussion. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard, it was resolved to accept the recommendation by the Planning Commission for DENIAL 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.

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and consider approval of HIS LIGHT KINGDOM - MARVIN ANDRUS's request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) to build a Church at 630 N. Court Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/08/2024 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and Alderman John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved to APPROVE the request for CONDITIONAL USE approval in an NMU ZONE (NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE ZONE) to build a Church at 630 N. Court Street. 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 LITTLE GIANTS LEARNING ACADEMY - DYPHNA BEVERLY's request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to open a Daycare at 1404 Washington Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/08/2024 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to accept the recommendation by the Planning Commission for APPROVAL of LITTLE GIANTS LEARNING ACADEMY - DYPHNA BEVERLY's request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to open a Daycare at 1404 Washington Street. 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.

Discuss and consider approval of AJ's LAUNDROMAT - BORIS CORMIER's request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to open a Laundromat at 947 Leo Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/08/2024 and recommended denial of this item. Mr. A. Broussard and Ms. Derry Levier voiced opposition to this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to accept the recommendation by the Planning Commission for DENIAL of AJ's LAUNDROMAT - BORIS CORMIER's request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to open a Laundromat at 947 Leo Street. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and John Guilbeaux.

NAYS: Chasity Warren and Marvin Richard.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Delita Broussard.

MAYOR ALSANDOR VOTED YES TO BREAK THE TIE. THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DENIAL OF THE REQUEST PASSES.

Discuss and consider approval of THE REFINERY MISSION - JOHNNY CARRIER's request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to construct a Transitional Housing/Multipurpose Facility at 729 W. South Street. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 04/08/2024 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to accept the recommendation by the Planning Commission for APPROVAL of THE REFINERY MISSION - JOHNNY CARRIER's request for VARIANCE approval in an R1 ZONE (RESIDENTIAL 1 ZONE) to construct a Transitional Housing/Multipurpose Facility at 729 W. South Street. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Delita Broussard.

Accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project, Water Sector Round 1 – LAWSP10259, MGA Project STP#85, as substantially complete. (Contractor: Trek, Inc.). On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to ACCEPT the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project, Water Sector Round 1 – LAWSP10259, MGA Project STP#85, as substantially complete. (Contractor: Trek, Inc.). 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.

Award contract for the Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation - Phase 1 Project, DEQ Project No. CS221198-01, MGA Project SC#251-1, to Bihm Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$3,894,776.34, subject to DEQ approval. On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwomen Chasity Warren and Delita Broussard, it was resolved to AWARD the

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contract for the Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation - Phase 1 Project, DEQ Project No. CS221198-01, MGA Project SC#251-1, to Bihm Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$3,894,776.34, subject to DEQ approval. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Discussion by Ms. LaChica Wilson regarding daycares. Ms. Wilson requested that the City do a study to see how many licensed child care facilities are in Opelousas and place a hold on any new centers opening. No action taken at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, OF ITS TAXABLE SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2024, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000); PRESCRIBING THE FORM, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SAID BONDS; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT; ENTERING INTO CERTAIN OTHER COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECURITY AND PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS; SELLING BONDS TO THE CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LOAN AND PLEDGE AGREEMENT AND OTHER LOAN DOCUMENTS WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; PROVIDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE BONDS TO SAID DEPARTMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. The Ordinance was introduced by Alderman Charles Cummings. The Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Ordinance will be held on 05/14/2024.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 4 OF 1998 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS CERTAIN PROPERTY AND CHANGING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY. (Sterling Resources Corporation's request for ANNEXATION and the ZONING OF C1 of the property listed below:

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 Ordinance was introduced by Alderman Charles Cummings. The Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Ordinance will be held on 05/14/2024.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF OPELOUSAS TO DONATE TO ACADIANA RAILWAY IMMOVABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE OPELOUSAS INDUSTRIAL PARK.

The Ordinance was introduced by Alderman John Guilbeaux. The Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Ordinance will be held on 05/14/2024.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO AN ORDINANCE DECLARING JUNKED PROPERTY A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND PROVIDING FOR THE ERADICATION OF SUCH CONDITIONS. *No Amendments Submitted 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 7:36 p.m.:

(a) Wilton Manuel, 810 Walnut Street (Abandoned Wooden Structure) *No representative was present for this property. Recommendation is to postpone until next month's meeting.*

(b) Vincent Thomas, c/o Darlene Thomas Fruge, 405 Academy Street (Abandoned Brick Structure) *Mrs. Fruge stated that she had not received any notice from the city concerning this and that someone else had told her that it was going to be on the agenda. She stated that this was her late father's property and she was trying to sell it but the sale fell through so she was trying to rehab the building but would need some extra time.*

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m. On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to postpone action on these items until next month's meeting. Verbal notice was given to Mrs. Darlene Thomas Fruge at this time and it was stated that written notice would also be sent out to her for the Public Hearing to be held at the 05/14/2024 meeting. 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.

Pursuant to an advertisement in the *Daily World*, A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING JUNKED PROPERTY A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND PROVIDING FOR THE ERADICATION OF SUCH CONDITIONS was opened at 7:53 p.m. City attorney stated that he drafted this ordinance for the Code Enforcement Officer and that it was a collaboration of ordinances from other municipalities. Mr. Lance Ned stated that there are many issues with junk cars on the streets and in people's yards. He stated that this ordinance will give them a little more enforcement to abate this issue and they will obviously have to work with law enforcement. The city clerk asked if this ordinance would also refer to other items such as washing machines, etc. Mr. Ned confirmed that it did and the attorney stated that the definition of the junk items is listed in the ordinance. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:57 p.m.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES (VOTE REQUIRED)

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

ORDINANCE NO. 02 OF 2024

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;

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WHEREAS, on Motion of Councilmember Delita Broussard and Second by Councilmembers Sherell Roberts and John Guilbeaux, this Ordinance was offered for final adoption with the following results recorded:

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

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

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, 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.

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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.

Opelousas, Louisiana this 9th day of April, 2024.

CERTIFICATION

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 April 15, 2024, who received it that same day.

Attest:

Leisa Anderson, Municipal Clerk

Approved:

Hon. Julius Alsandor, Mayor

Date

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

STATE OF LOUISIANA

City of Opelousas

RESOLUTION NO. 04 OF 2024

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 2024 as

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

In the City of Opelousas

Done and signed on this 9th day of April 2024 with the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

Leisa Anderson, City Clerk

Julius Alsandor, Mayor

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

RESOLUTION NO. 05 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FHWA RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FOR LOUISIANA (FRTPL), AS ESTABLISHED BY CFDA 20.219

WHEREAS, the US Federal Government provides funds to the State of Louisiana for grants to state, local and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trails; and

WHEREAS, the FRTPL has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the state and setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before the submission of said application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Opelousas does hereby:

1. Approve the filing of an application with FRTPL; and
2. Certify that the said applicant has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, sufficient funds to build (including 20% local match), operate and maintain the project; and
3. Appoint the Mayor as agent of the City of Opelousas to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to application, letter of commitment agreement, amendments, payment requests and completion report, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

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The above resolution having been submitted to a roll call vote was duly adopted on this 9th day of April 2024 as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 06 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FY 2024 BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) GRANT OF THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (OJP), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, UP TO THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000.00) ON BEHALF OF THE OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grants are to assist with the manpower hours and LPR – License Plate Reader Cameras, and WHEREAS, Council desires to authorize the Mayor to apply for said Grant.

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

Section 1. That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to apply for the FY 2024 BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) GRANT to help defray the cost for manpower hours and technology equipment for the City of Opelousas Police Department.

Section 2. That the Council does hereby further accept said Grant on behalf of the City of Opelousas should it be awarded to the Opelousas Police Department.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to this legislation were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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.

ABSTAINING: None.

THEREUPON, the above Resolution was declared adopted on this 9th day of April 2024.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. 07 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF OPELOUSAS TO ENTER A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO I-49 LIGHTING

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2019, the governing authority for City of Opelousas (“City Council”) adopted Resolution Number 27 of 2019 authorizing City of Opelousas to enter a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (“CEA”) with Central St. Landry Economic Development District (“CSLEDD”) to improve the lighting along Interstate 49 and U.S. Highway 190;

WHEREAS, City of Opelousas and CSLEDD desire to amend the original CEA to delete the following paragraph:

“THEREFORE, CSLEDD does hereby agree that it will pay for the cost of lighting improvements to be installed at the I-49 interchanges known as Harry Guilbeau Road, Judson Walsh Drive, Creswell Lane, and U.S. Highway 190, as set forth below.”

And to substitute in lieu thereof the following paragraph:

“THEREFORE, CSLEDD does hereby agree that it will pay for 10% of the cost of the lighting improvements to be installed under State Projects H.014552 (Creswell), H.014556 (U.S. 190), H.14553 (Harry Guilbeau), H.014557 (Judson Walsh) at the I-49 Interchanges known as Harry Guilbeau Road, Judson Walsh Drive, Creswell Lane, and U.S. Highway 190, as set forth below.”

WHEREAS, City of Opelousas and CSLEDD further desire to **delete** the following Section from page 3, Section 1, CANCELLATION:

SECTION 1: CANCELLATION

This commitment will expire on June 30, 2024, unless extended or terminated by the CSLEDD Board of Commissioners.

And to **substitute** in lieu thereof the following paragraph:

SECTION 1: CANCELLATION

This commitment will expire on June 30, 2029, unless extended or terminated by the CSLEDD Board of Commissioners.

WHEREAS, after discussion on Motion of Council Member Delita Broussard and Second by Council Member Marvin Richard, a roll call vote was held to authorize the Mayor of Opelousas to enter the proposed First Amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between City of Opelousas and CSLEDD for Lighting Improvements, and the following results were recorded:

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

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of the City of Opelousas in legal session convened, that:

1. City of Opelousas is authorized to enter the proposed First Amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between City of Opelousas and CSLEDD for Lighting Improvements; and
2. The Mayor of Opelousas shall be authorized to sign any documents necessary to bind City of Opelousas to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

Opelousas, Louisiana this 9th day of April, 2024.

Attest:

Leisa Anderson, Municipal Clerk

Hon. Julius Alsandor, Mayor

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CONSENT AGENDA (PERSONNEL)

- On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to **DENY** Probational Police Officer Tyrone Abrams' Termination of Administrative Leave with Pay, effective 03/30/2024. 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 Alderwoman Delita Broussard and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Clayton R. Edwards' Probational Appointment to Probational Police Communications Officer, effective 03/14/2024. 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.
- On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Aldermen Charles Cummings and John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Sergeant Jeremy J. Bias's Confirmation to Permanent Police Sergeant, effective 03/20/2024. 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.
- On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Warren and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Captain Frank J. Boudreaux's Confirmation to Permanent Police Captain, effective 03/20/2024. 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 Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Sergeant Derek D. Garrick's Confirmation to Permanent Police Sergeant, effective 03/20/2024. 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.
- On a motion by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Assistant Police Chief Mark A. Guidry's Confirmation to Permanent Assistant Police Chief, effective 03/20/2024. 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.
- On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Chasity Warren and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Sergeant Michael L. Hidalgo's Confirmation to Permanent Police Sergeant, effective 03/20/2024. 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 Alderwoman Chasity Warren and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Officer First Class Keith A. Ollison's Confirmation to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 03/20/2024. 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.
- On a unanimous motion by Aldermen Marvin Richard and Charles Cummings, Alderwomen Delita Broussard Alderwoman, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Officer First Class Khaedayajha S. Sylvester's Confirmation to Permanent Police Officer First Class, effective 03/20/2024. 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.
- On a motion by Aldermen Marvin Richard and John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Major Craig A. Thomas' Confirmation to Permanent Police Major, effective 03/20/2024. 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 John Guilbeaux and Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved to **APPROVE** Probational Police Lieutenant Loretta Etienne's Termination of Extended Sick Leave, effective 04/08/2024. 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.
- On a motion by Alderwoman Chasity Warren and Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to **ACCEPT** Probational Police Lieutenant Loretta Etienne's Retirement, effective 04/08/2024, and approve payment in the amount of \$114,332.96 for 3,271 hours of unused Annual Leave and 22 hours of unused Compensatory Time. 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.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

- *No Items Submitted.*

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

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR