

**CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2026**

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 13th day of January 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Julius Alsandor presiding, the meeting was called to order.

Mayor Alsandor read a prepared statement regarding meeting decorum as it relates to speaking on agenda items and conduct during meetings. This decorum is to be adhered to for all meetings.

A moment of silent meditation was observed. Mr. Joe Anderson, Public Information Officer for Opelousas Police Department, led the Prayer and Alderman Charles Cummings, military veteran, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings held 12/09/2025. 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 Aldermen Marvin Richard and Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Charles Cummings, it was resolved to approve the following changes:

UNDER THE NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS SECTION:

Adding Item No. 9(c), "Designate Official Journal (Newspaper)".

UNDER THE CONSENTS SECTION:

Adding Item No. 35-B, "Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Hiring of Aaron Graff as a Fire Fighter Recruit, effective 12/01/2025".

Adding Item No. 35-C, "Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Hiring of Hunter J. Richard as a Fire Fighter Recruit, effective 01/06/2026".

UNDER THE REPORTS SECTION:

Replacing Item No. 12, "City Attorney's Report" with "Discussion by Alderwoman Chasity Warren regarding possible street repairs on Merrill 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.

On a motion by Aldermen Marvin Richard and John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved accept 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. Mayor Alsandor stated that there was no report from the hospital but everyone should be mindful of the changes in the weather and the increase in cases of the flu.
- Presentation by Ms. Patrice Melnick, Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center Director, for upcoming museum events and news. Ms. Melnick announced the following event at the Museum: Saturday, January 24, 2026, "Where We Live: Opelousas Neighborhoods" Art Exhibit opens featuring photos and art by Opelousas residents, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The exhibit will run from January 24 – May 2, 2026. For more information on other museum events, please contact Ms. Melnick by telephone at 337-948-2589 or by email at museum@cityofopelousas.com.
- Presentation by Mrs. Yocha Cannon, Property Tax Clerk, regarding property tax announcements for 2026. Mrs. Cannon presented the following tax information:

Property Tax Payments:

- Property taxes were due by 12/31/2025, all payments have an interest rate of 1% each month it is not paid.
- Payments not received by February 28, 2026 will incur a delinquent certified notice fee on their tax bill. The property tax sale is to be announced when a definite date becomes available.
- Property owners with one or more delinquent years must pay all years in full including current tax year
- There are no payment arrangements or extensions on property tax bills
- Payments can be made online @www.cityofopelousas.com, by mail, or in office only, there are no pay by phone payments for property taxes
- Customers do not need to have property tax bill to make a payment
- If there any changes that needs to be made on your tax bill such as, mailing address, phone numbers, emails, deceased members, etc. Now is the time to make those changes at the St. Landry Tax Assessor's office so that the change to the mailing address and name may reflect the tax bill for the following tax year.

Mail-in Payments:

- Mail in payments from December are still being processed there myself and my Supervisor Ms. Leisa Anderson our City Clerk and Tax collector are working diligently to finish processing these payments as quickly as possible.
- Interest will not be applied to mail in payments with a post mark date of 12/31/2025 on the mailing envelope stamped by the Postal Office; however payments post marked after 12/31/2025 will be return to sender with an updated bill
- Please use separate envelopes for water bill and property tax payments to ensure proper distribution to each department for processing of payments
- Payments made out to Sheriff Guidroz or a combination of Sheriff Guidroz and City of Opelousas tax payment will be returned to sender with a letter of explanation for return payment
- Checks that have a combined payment of a water bill and property tax bill payment on one check will be return to the sender with a letter requesting to resubmit payments with separate checks and separate envelopes

On a motion by Alderman John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard, it was resolved to accept the Property Tax report as presented. 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.

- Updates/Presentations from Mayor Julius Alsandor. Mayor Alsandor gave remarks regarding keeping our City clean. He began by saying "Don't Trash Our City" and if you have trash in your vehicles, don't throw it out on the streets. Instead, take it home and put it in your own trash can. Alderman Guilbeaux asked if Opelousas could go from one trash pickup day to two days. Mayor Alsandor directed him to attend Solid Waste's next meeting to pose that question. Attorney Broussard asked about the dumpsters that Mr. Lebouef with Solid Waste had previously stated would be strategically placed in different areas of the City for any excess trash disposal. No action needed at this time.

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NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Nominate and Appoint Mayor Pro-Tempore for Calendar Year 2026. A motion was made by Alderman Marvin Richard to nominate Alderwoman Chasity Warren as Mayor Pro-Tempore. The motion to nominate **Alderwoman Chasity Warren as Mayor Pro-Tempore** for Calendar Year 2026 was seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Delita Broussard, Charles Cummings, and Sherell Roberts.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAINED: Chasity Warren.

On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Chasity Warren, it was resolved to accept the following **Committee Appointments** submitted by Mayor Julius Alsandor for **Calendar Year 2026:**

Budget Committee:	Personnel Committee:	General Services Committee:
<i>John Guilbeaux, Chairman</i>	<i>Chasity Davis-Warren, Chairwoman</i>	<i>Marvin Richard, Chairman</i>
<i>Sherell Roberts, Vice-Chairwoman</i>	<i>Marvin Richard, Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Charles Cummings, Vice-Chairman</i>
<i>Charles Cummings</i>	<i>Sherell Roberts</i>	<i>Delita Rubin-Broussard</i>
<i>Chasity Davis-Warren</i>	<i>Delita Rubin-Broussard</i>	<i>John Guilbeaux</i>

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 Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to retain **Kolder, Slaven & Company** as the City's **Auditing Firm for Calendar Year 2026**. 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 Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to retain **Morgan Goudeau & Associates, Inc.**, as the City's **Engineering Firm for Calendar Year 2026**. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Marvin Richard, John Guilbeaux, Charles Cummings, Sherell Roberts, and Chasity Warren.
NAYS: Delita Broussard.
ABSENT: None.

The item to designate the **Official Journal (Newspaper)** for Calendar Year 2026 will be postponed until a later date. The *Daily World* will remain the current Official Journal until this item is revisited. Mr. Bobby Ardoin, with *St. Landry Now*, suggested that his online news media *St. Landry Now* could be used as an alternative source of publishing City notices although *St. Landry Now* does not meet the criteria to serve as the City's Official Journal at this time. Mr. Bobby Ardoin suggested that the City appoint *Eunice News* as their official journal because, as of 2020, the *Daily World* does not even have an office in Opelousas anymore nor a local post office box which disqualifies them according to R.S. 43:142. Attorney Broussard also highlighted that La. R.S. 43:140.2 could come into play if the City does not have an official journal and as such would be considered a news desert if there is no qualifying official journal for the area. This matter will be postponed and reviewed by the City attorney to be discussed at a later date.

REPORTS

Review Monthly Finances. A copy of the December 2025 financial summary and analysis was provided to the Council. Ms. LaWanda St. Ann gave a brief overview of the reports, stating that the City General Fund collected revenue in the amount of \$2,188,448 and had expenses of \$1,679,706 for the month of December. The City experienced a \$508,742 net profit in the General Fund, a \$117,603 net profit in the Water Fund, and a \$53,619 net profit in the Sewer Fund for the month of December 2025. On a motion by Alderman Marvin Richard and seconded by Aldermen John Guilbeaux and Charles Cummings and Alderwoman Delita Broussard, it was resolved to accept the Financial Report as presented. 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.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. A copy of the Engineer's Monthly Status Report was provided to the Council members. Mr. William Jarrell was not present. Mayor Alsandor gave the following report:

Water Main Installation - I-49 North Service Road (W321): Installation of new water main from Comfort Inn to Lakeview Subdivision Bid Phase Project includes the installation of a new 8" water main from the Comfort Inn to Lakeview Subdivision to provide potable water to properties along the east side of I-49. Bids received on October 28, 2025 and low bidder was Bihm Construction in the amount of \$223,937.98. Recommendation of award submitted. Funding provided by CSLEDD.

Water Treatment Facility - Upgrades & Modifications (WTP34): Upgrade of existing water treatment facility. LDH Review. This project is for the rehabilitation of the existing lime softening plant on Guidry Street. Estimated cost was originally \$12,738,387, and based upon final plans the revised estimated cost is \$16,730,000, and increase of \$3,991,613. Funding will be through LDH loan funds. Plans submitted to LDH for permitting/approval. Awaiting response from LDH.

Replacement of Galvanized Steel Mains & Service Lines (W309-4): Replace galvanized steel water lines. Design phase. This project includes the replacement of existing defective galvanized steel water mains and services lines throughout the water system. MGA is working on final plans and is currently behind schedule. Final plans originally scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2025, and has been updated to November 21, 2025. Preliminary estimate of cost is \$7,761,762 and funding will be through water sector grant and LDH loan funds.

Med-South Ground Storage Tank (GST) (W309-2): Replace existing ground storage tank and other work to place new GST identified in MGA project W302 into operation LDH Review The replacement of the existing GST was under construction with materials on-site since August 2023 but could not be completed due to low water pressure issues when the Med-South facility is taken offline (Ref. MGA Project W302). MGA completed plans to perform work to connect the new GST included in MGA Project W302 and to replace the existing GST (two GSTs will be provided). Plans completed and submitted to LDH for permitting. Upon issuance of LDH permit and OCD (Water Sector) approval, solicitation of bids will begin. Estimated cost is \$1,158,175 and will be funded through water sector grant and LDH loan funds.

On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to accept the Engineers Report as presented. 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.

Discussion by Alderwoman Chasity Warren regarding possible repairs for Merrill Street. The street had several water leaks that damaged the road making it almost impossible to pass. Alderwoman Warren inquired as to whether the City could get parish assistance to repair this road. Mayor Alsandor stated that the lines need to be repaired first before the road issues can be addressed. No action taken at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts and seconded by Alderman John Guilbeaux, it was resolved to approve Contract Change Order No. 3 (Final) in the decrease amount of \$5,657.55. This change order is necessary for the adjustment of final contract quantities. This change order is for Bridge Replacements and Upgrades Project, FP&C Project No. 50-MM6-23-01, MGA Project 8292. (Contractor: Siema Construction, LLC). 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.

Discuss and consider approval of KP THIND, LLC's request for CONDITIONAL USE in an NMU ZONE (Neighborhood Mixed Use Zone) at 1707 S. Union Street to construct a Convenience Store. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on 01/12/2026 and recommended approval of this item. On a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings and seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard, it was resolved to approve KP THIND, LLC's request for CONDITIONAL USE in an NMU ZONE (Neighborhood Mixed Use Zone) at 1707 S. Union Street to construct a Convenience Store. 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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

No Ordinances Submitted for Introduction.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES

No Amendments for Consideration.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No Items Submitted for Public Hearing

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

No Ordinances for Adoption.

RESOLUTIONS

No Resolutions Submitted for Adoption.

CONSENT AGENDA (PERSONNEL)

On a motion by Aldermen Marvin Richard and John Guilbeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was resolved to APPROVE the following personnel items:

- Accept Fire Captain Dwayne Frank's Retirement, effective 01/03/2026, and approve payment in the amount of \$6,623.68 for 216 vacation hours and 8 bonus hours.
- Accept Assistant Fire Chief Joseph St. Andre's Retirement, effective 01/01/2026, and approve payment in the amount of \$40,702.88 for 1,128 vacation hours and 8 bonus hours.
- Approve Christopher Dekerlegand's Confirmation from Probational Police Sergeant to Permanent Police Sergeant, effective 12/09/2025.
- Approve Lydia Johnson's Confirmation from Probational Police Communications Officer to Permanent Police Communications Officer, effective 01/06/2026.
- Accept Permanent Police Officer Galen Briscoe's Resignation, effective 12/22/2025, and approve payment in the amount of \$3,018.24 for 144 hours of unused annual leave.
- Accept Permanent Police Communications Officer Keroshia Charles's Resignation, effective 01/05/2026, and approve payment in the amount of \$1,296.00 for 96 hours of unused annual leave.
- Approve the Police Chief's recommendation for Hiring of Sabre Sylvester as a Probational Police Officer, effective 01/18/2026. Sabre Sylvester is a P.O.S.T Certified officer and has a Civil Service test score of 87% which expires 05/14/2027. Her working test period will begin 01/18/2026.
- Approve the Police Chief's recommendation for Hiring of Jeremy Johnson as a Police Officer Recruit, effective 01/19/2026. Jeremy Johnson has a Civil Service test score of 85% which expires 05/06/2026.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Fire Fighter Arsenio Cretain to Probationary Operator, effective 12/04/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Fire Fighter Blaise Barras to Probationary Operator, effective 12/04/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Fire Fighter Glen Maglalang to Probationary Operator, effective 12/04/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Fire Fighter David Ramirez to Probationary Operator, effective 12/04/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Lieutenant Jake Marks to Probationary Captain, effective 12/31/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Operator Cidic Del Castillo to Probationary Lieutenant, effective 12/31/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Promotion of Permanent Captain Toby Primeaux to Probationary Assistant Fire Chief, effective 01/01/2026.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Hiring of Aaron Graff as a Fire Fighter Recruit, effective 12/01/2025.
- Approve the Fire Chief's recommendation for Hiring of Hunter J. Richard as a Fire Fighter Recruit, effective 01/06/2026.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- *No Items Submitted.*

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Charles Cummings, seconded by Alderwoman Delita Broussard and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR