

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, February 13, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2017, in the Council Room at City Hall, 419 Avenue A, Westwego, Louisiana.

There were present:

Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr.
District 1 Councilman Glenn Green, Sr.
District 2 Councilman Johnny S. Nobles, Jr.
District 3 Councilman Norman J. Fonseca
District 4 Councilman Garrison J. Toups
District 5 Councilman Larry J. Warino, Sr.
City Clerk Maurice T. Bourgeois, Jr.
City Attorney Joel A. Levy
Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shaddinger called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the invocation.

INVOCATION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Rev. Kathy Radke-Storey, Chaplain of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and Co-Pastor of Celebration Church Westbank, led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence in honor of the deceased members of our community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Troop 2000 Boy Scouts led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

KELLY DAUL – DAUL INSURANCE

Kelly Daul addressed the City Council to discuss employee health coverage renewal. Humana offered a renewal with a thirty-four percent increase. Blue Cross offered several plans similar to the current Humana plan.

A discussion followed.

Councilman Nobles offered a motion to include for the city to continue absorbing the sixty-six percent (66%) of the extra cost.

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to accept the new proposal from Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance and to include for the city to continue absorbing the sixty-six percent (66%) across the board for City Employees.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups; Abstained: Warino

Kelly Daul also stated there is no increase for the voluntary Dental with United Health Care.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to continue the voluntary Dental with United Health Care.

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to continue the voluntary Dental with United Health Care.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Councilman Nobles stated the vote was for the sixty-six percent (66%) of the Blue Cross HMO Copay ninety five hundred dollars (90 / \$500) deductible. The PPO Plan is one hundred dollars (\$100) more a month so if any employee chooses the PPO Plan they would have to absorb that extra cost.

Councilman Nobles offered a motion for employees choosing the PPO Plan will absorb the extra cost.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, for employees choosing the PPO Plan will absorb the extra cost.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups; Abstained: Warino

HENRY QUINTANILLA

Henry Quintanilla addressed the City Council to complain about a neighbor. Mr. Quintanilla stated the neighbor's kids and toys are on the street with no supervision.

Mayor Shaddinger recommended calling the police when it is happening.

A discussion followed.

CHAD BARATTINI

Chad Barattini addressed the City Council to request a Special Event Liquor License and park fees waived for a benefit being held for his deceased father on March 4th.

Councilman Toups entertained a motion to waive with park fee with the understanding no alcohol is to be sold or served.

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to waive with park fee with the understanding no alcohol is to be sold or served.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups; Abstained: Warino

AARON RODRIQUEZ – NOLA BROADBAND

Aaron Rodriquez addressed the City Council for approval to locate equipment on water tower and in return he would provide free service to city facilities.

Mayor Shaddinger stated he would take it under advisement.

Police Chief Munch stated his department has a lot of equipment on the water tower and the new equipment would have to be reviewed by his IT personnel.

A discussion followed.

CHARLOTTE FALGOUT & RONNIE DUFRENE – 1003 FOURTH STREET

Charlotte Falgout addressed the City Council to thank the Mayor, Council, Chief and all involved in the Cancer Research Fundraiser event that was held in October. We were able to donate seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) to the West Jefferson Cancer Research. We also plan to host the benefit for Officer Michael Louviere Sunday, March 26th. We will have bands, car show and a poker run.

A discussion followed.

Police Chief requested for a beer permit on behave of the Police Benevolent for the event.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups; Warino

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to waive the rental and cleanup fees.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups ABSTAINED: Warino

Councilman Nobles spoke in regards to having an annual golf tournament to benefit the Fire, Police and EMS Departments in case of a tragic accident or serious sickness with proceeds to help them.

Mayor Shaddinger spoke in regards of having a policy in place for the future if tragedy was to ever occur again.

KENT HUNTER & ARMOND SULLIVAN – 385 LOUISIANA STREET

Kent Hunter and Armond Sullivan addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License and Alcohol Beverage Permit to operate the Swamp Inn located at 385 Louisiana Street.

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to grant an Occupational License and Alcohol Beverage Permit to operate the Swamp Inn at 385 Louisiana Street, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

KHANH NGUYEN – 138 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY SUITE A

Khanh Nguyen addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for a hair salon located at 138 Westbank Expressway, Suite A

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Green, to grant an Occupational License for a hair salon located at 138 Westbank Expressway, Suite A, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

DARLINE LOPEZ – 505 PAT DRIVE

Darlene Lopez addressed the City Council to waive park fees and asked to have a police officer present as well for their 3rd annual picnic for the single moms. We did this last year at the park and it was a huge success along with inspirational messages to the single moms.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to waive the park fees to host a picnic for the single moms on Saturday, May 13, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups ABSTAINED: Warino

AZELEA JONES & DAVID HANSLEY – 819 VICTORY DRIVE

Azelea Jones and David Hansley addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to reopen a snowball stand.

Mayor Shaddinger stated they cannot have a snowball stand because the area is zoned residential not commercial.

A discussion followed.

JOE PEOPLES – 448 AVENUE D

Joe Peoples addressed the City Council and announced he is a candidate and is running for Mayor and to discuss the water, sewerage and garbage rates.

A discussion followed.

BONI GLASS – 867 AVENUE H

Boni Glass addressed the City Council stated to the residence of Westwego I am here to speak on behalf of my deceased mother Barbara Glass. She has been a resident of this city for 73 years, my mother never got into city business until she occupied my grandmother's house with her boyfriend Lester Matherne. I lived with them briefly and heard for myself Mr. Matherne telling my mother how she should address everyone at the city meetings about the City and Fire Department on Avenue H. To everyone here I am so sorry.

Councilman Warino also stated he sent out a letter to District 5 stating he will not be seeking a Fourth term as Councilman for District 5. Councilman Warino also stated he wanted to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as Council Member.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Shaddinger thanked Rick Massarini for the new photographs and Janet and Keith Bouvier for the framing and hanging them.

Councilman Fonseca thanked Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca and the Senior Center for the fine Senior Center Mardi Gras Ball. Councilman Fonseca also stated he will present a proclamation at the next meeting for the King and Queen of Adonis.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief Building Official Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr. submitted his written report.

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. submitted his written report.

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his written report. Mr. Guidroz stated if any citizen has any concerns with the Westwego Fire Department my office is always open and if there is anything that goes on or questions on how we operate my door is always open and I am available to answer any questions.

AMEND THE AGENDA

Councilman Nobles entertained a motion to amend the agenda to discuss Farmers Market.

Councilman Warino entertained a motion to amend the agenda to discuss sidewalk on Fourth Street.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to amend the agenda to discuss Farmers Market and sidewalk on Fourth Street.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr. submitted his written report.

City Superintendent Robert J. Utley nothing to report at this time.

Superintendent of Water & Waste Water Treatment Paul J. Bernard nothing to report at this time.

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca was not present but had submitted his written report earlier.

Mayor Shaddinger recognized Mechanical Inspector Tommy Baxter and Plumber Inspector Earl Dufrene thanked them.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, November 14, 2016

Tabled by Councilman Warino.

Regular Session of Monday, December 12, 2016

Tabled by Councilman Warino.

Regular Session of Monday, January 09, 2017

Tabled by Councilman Warino.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolution for adoption:

Offered by Councilman Green:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(A)

A resolution recognizing February 2017 as Black History Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(A).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(B)

A resolution authorizing Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the State of Louisiana and the City of Westwego for the Water Tower, Line and Improvements (Jefferson), FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-15-02.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(B).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(C)

A resolution authorizing Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, for the allocation of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) of state funds for the Jefferson Performing Arts Society – City of Westwego.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(C).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(D)

A resolution authorizing Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, for the allocation of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) of state funds to the City of Westwego for the Westwego Farmers and Fisheries Market.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(D).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(E)

A resolution authorizing Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, for the allocation of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) of state funds to the City of Westwego for river shuttle services from the Westwego River Landing or improvements to Sala Avenue.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(E).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(F)

A resolution authorizing Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, for the allocation of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) of state funds to the City of Westwego for the Creative Arts Center.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(F).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-02(G)

A resolution authorizing Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, for the allocation of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) of state funds to the City of Westwego for the WHARF Project.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to adopt Resolution 2017-02(G).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

ORDINANCES FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no ordinance for consideration.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

There was no ordinance for adoption.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JIS) Utility Bill Adjustments

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to approve the Utility Billing Adjustments as recommended.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

2. (JIS) New City Hall

Mayor Shaddinger stated Boasso is working with the engineers to work on the punch list. Mayor Shaddinger also stated there was a discussion last month regarding the building being opened so I had the opportunity to speak with a few people regarding this issue and the State Fire Marshal gave us the approval to open the building on January 4, 2017 we also had the ribbon cutting ceremony on January 7, 2017 and we opened for business on January 9, 2017.

A discussion followed.

3. (JIS) Food Bank

Mayor Shaddinger stated the Food Bank is currently closed therefore the lease agreement is on hold because Second Harvest has pulled out and will not supply food to Senior Center. The plans are to move the Food Bank on Louisiana Street.

A discussion followed.

4. (GG) The Martin House

Mayor Shaddinger called Hamid Alizadeh up to discuss the Martin House.

Hamid Alizadeh stated the tornado in New Orleans East has caused the contractors to back out on bidding for the roof. Mr. Alizadeh also stated we are waiting for bids from the remaining contractors.

A discussion followed.

5. (LJW) Update – Garbage Contract

Councilman Warino stated he knows the contract was extended and asked if we have any word on where we are going with the contract or any numbers.

A discussion followed.

6. (LJW) Update – Fire Hydrants

Councilman Warino stated he was approached by constituents about the Fire Department millage that was passed a couple of years ago and in regards to the fire hydrants. Councilman Warino stated it was not true the millage was for the Fire Department and equipment and the fire hydrants come from the Street Department funds.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger stated there are rules that have to be followed.

7. (LJW) Update – Sewerage Smoke Testing

Councilman Warino stated the day operators are out with the street crews but the night operators are still on duty and on weekends they are there answering phones when the phones can be forwarded somewhere else so therefore what is being done about the smoke testing.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger stated there is not enough funding and will seek for grants and will go back to legislature.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JIS) New Fire Truck

Mayor Shaddinger asked Fire Chief Guidroz to discuss the new fire truck.

Fire Chief Guidroz stated the new millage was split in half and one half is for operational and the other half is for equipment. This year we are seeking the approval from the council to purchase a new fire truck.

CPA Jim Buter stated we have considered a bank loan but he lease companies are very aggressive at this point. We have four different proposals for the lease and three proposals were lower than the bank.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to lease purchase a new fire truck.

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to lease purchase a new fire truck.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

2. (GG) Handicapped Access

Councilman Green stated the side of the building that faces Central has a handicap parking but there is no handicap accessible ramp that comes around to the front of the building.

Councilman Nobles stated that was included in the change order.

3. (GJT) Testing of the New Water Tank

Councilman Toups asked when will the water tank be filled and if the contractors are paying for the water to fill the tank.

A discussion followed.

4. (LJW) Property Maintenance Ordinance

Councilman Warino stated the property maintenance ordinance has a lot of availability for people to enforce to have their properties cleaned up and have the city cleaned up. I just wanted everyone to look at it and read through it and go back in your district and take a look and see where we can clean some areas up.

Mayor Shaddinger stated we are concern about property maintenance and Code Enforcer Chad Usea is issuing citations and some residence choose to pay the fine and some are cleaning there properties.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to amend the agenda to allow Kent Greene from Entergy to address the residence regarding the power outages.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to allow Kent Greene from Entergy to address the residence regarding the power outages.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

KENT GREENE – ENTERGY

Kent Greene discussed the recent two major power outages to the Westwego substation.

A discussion followed.

FARMERS MARKET

Councilman Nobles asked the Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier to come up and discuss the problems at the Farmers Market.

Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier stated there are twenty-seven lights in the steps and they are filling up with water and are leaking voltage. A Commercial Electrician recommended changing the lights to LED with the cost of two-hundred and fifty dollars plus two-hundred and thirty dollars for each light to put a louver over them with a total cost of sixteen thousand dollars to replace all the lights. Lights on the steps are required by ADA.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to allow Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier to change the lights.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

SIDEWALK ON FOURTH STREET

Councilman Warino stated he had sidewalk repaired a couple of months ago and the city purchased the concrete and that was not supposed to happen.

Mayor called City Superintendent Robert J. Utley to discuss.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger stated we want to be sure we spend these public funds properly.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Councilmen, present to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2017.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

John I. Shaddinger, Jr., Mayor

Maurice T. Bourgeois, Jr., City Clerk

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego will meet in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth St, Westwego, Louisiana.
