

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, October 9, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 9, 2017, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana

There were present:

Mayor Joe Peoples
District 1 Council Member Glenn Green, Sr.
District 2 Council Member Johnny S. Nobles, Jr.
District 3 Council Member Lisa H. Valence
District 4 Council Member Matthew J. Rivere
District 5 Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Peoples led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence in memory of the deceased members of our community and the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Green led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Rivere welcomed Council Member Green back.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Peoples announced the five (5) minute time limit rule will be enforced.

CURTIS GUILLOT – 601 OAK STREET

Curtis Guillot addressed the City Council regarding the Sidney Guillot Plaque from the Old City Hall, 417 Avenue A, dedicated in 1993. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Green, to determine a location for the plaque on the New City Hall and have it installed.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Mayor Peoples said there will be a ceremony once plaque is installed.

BETTY LANDRY – 421 SALA AVENUE

Betty Landry gave City Council a formal report for the Westwego Historical Society. Betty Landry addressed the City Council concerning the salary of city employees. Mayor Peoples addressed this concern. All employees have a 90 day evaluation.

CLARA BERGERON – 1026 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Clara Bergeron addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for a hair salon at 1026 Westbank Expressway formally Fantastic Sams.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Clara Bergeron subject to all requirements.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

KAYLA COMARDELLE – 385 LOUISIANA STREET (OLE SWAMP INN)

Kayla Comardelle addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License and Liquor License for 385 Louisiana Avenue, the Ole Swamp Inn.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to grant an Occupational License and Liquor License to Kayla Comardelle.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RONNIE HARRIS – CIVIC SOURCE

Ronnie Harris will wait to address the City Council once said item is on the agenda.

TARSHIA ROBINSON – 1037 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Tarshia Robinson addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for a branch office for Cherie's Tender Care, LLC at 1037 Westbank Expressway. This office will be for training and office use only.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant an Occupational License for Cherie's Tender Care, LLC.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

JOHNNY SHADDINGER – 312 AVENUE B

Johnny Shaddinger addressed the City Council to discuss various issues on the sewer plant. A discussion followed.

LEONARD WAGUESPACK – 800 7TH STREET

Leonard Waguespack addressed the City Council to discuss various issues. A discussion followed.

JAVIER CORREA – 286 ½ LOUISIANA STREET

Javier Correa addressed the City Council to request a container for storage in his backyard.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant permission for a container for storage to be placed in the rear yard pending code requirements.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to amend the agenda to discuss Civic Source.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RONNIE HARRIS – CIVIC SOURCE

Ronnie Harris addressed the City Council concerning Civic Source, which is a company that performs tax sales and sales of adjudicated properties. Mr. Harris asked the City Council to renew their agreement with Civic Source. The City of Westwego does not pay fees for this service. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to move up the resolution concerning Civic Source.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolution for adoption:

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(H)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples to enter into a Professional Service Agreement for and on behalf of the City of Westwego, Louisiana with Civic Source to assist in the collection of fees and delinquent property taxes, including, but not limited to, tax sales.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Resolution 2017-10(H).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(JP) Lt. Governor's Beautification Award

Mayor Peoples read a proclamation from the Lieutenant Governor 2017 Beautification Award presented to the "Keep Jefferson Parish Beautiful Advisory Board". Mayor Peoples recognized Brenda Rogers, who is a resident of the City of Westwego and a member of the Advisory Board. He thanked Mrs. Rogers for her assistance in getting garbage cans for the Westwego Farmers Market.

(JP) Water Service Line Coverage

Mayor Peoples spoke to the citizens of Westwego concerning a scam that is trying to sell water line insurance coverage. Mayor Peoples stated this letter is not from the City of Westwego.

Mayor Peoples announced the City of Westwego Employees will be wearing new uniforms. He also spoke on the new payroll system that will be in effect shortly.

Council Member Valence announced the Facebook page for the City of Westwego is available.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

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

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his original report.

Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr. submitted his original report.

Mechanical Inspector – Tommy Baxter stated he had nothing to report at this time.

Plumbing Inspector – Walter "Bubba" Choquette, stated he had nothing to report at this time.

Electrical Inspector – Doyle Guidroz was not present.

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

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca submitted his original report. Brant Fonseca announced the fundraiser that will be on Wednesday, October 11th.

Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier addressed the City Council to present his report. He discussed recent events at the market and announced coming events.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, September 11, 2017

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, September 11, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(D)

A resolution approving the 2015 Environmental Audit in connection with the Louisiana Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program prepared for the Westwego Wastewater Plant for submission to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, seconded by Council Member Valence, to discuss the resolution.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Council Member Nobles asked for more information. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-10(D).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(E)

A resolution approving the 2016 Environmental Audit in connection with the Louisiana Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program prepared for the Westwego Wastewater Plant for submission to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, seconded by Council Member Green to adopt Resolution 2017-10(E).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Valence:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(A)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, 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 Maintenance and Operation of the WHARF Project.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-10(A).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(F)

A resolution declaring October 2017 to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED and seconded by All Council Members, to adopt Resolution 2017-10(F).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(B)

A resolution proclaiming the month of October to be Fire Prevention Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED and seconded by All Council Members to adopt Resolution 2017-10(B).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(G)

A resolution proclaiming November 11, 2017 to be Veterans Day, and November to be Veterans Month, in the City of Westwego.

MOVED and seconded by All Council Members to adopt Resolution 2017-10(G).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(H)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples to enter into a Professional Service Agreement for and on behalf of the City of Westwego, Louisiana with Civic Source to assist in the collection of fees and delinquent property taxes, including, but not limited to, tax sales.

This resolution was adopted earlier in the meeting.

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(C)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Westwego and the Parish of Jefferson for necessary repairs, maintenance, and upgrades to the City's water system to be provided by the Westwego Water Department, at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Moved by Council Member Rivere and seconded by Council Member Green to adopt Resolution 2017-10(C).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles to amend the agenda to discuss Kidney Disease Awareness Month

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Green:

RESOLUTION 2017-10(I)

A resolution proclaiming the month of November to be Kidney Disease Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Green and seconded by Council Member Nobles to adopt Resolution 2017-10(I).

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for introduction:

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

An ordinance amending and readopting the 2017 Budget for the City of Westwego.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

An ordinance approving the 2018 Budget for the City of Westwego.

Mayor Peoples asked Jim Butler to come forward to discuss the budget. A discussion followed.

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles to amend the agenda to discuss reappointing board members and Capital Outlay at the end of business.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for introduction:

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

An ordinance approving the plan of survey and resubdivision of a certain piece or portion of ground situated in the City of Westwego, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, in that part thereof known as Lots 12, 13, and 14, Square 1, Segnette Estates, into Lots 12A and 14A, Square 1, Segnette Estates, and is more full shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated July 19, 2017

Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance approving the plan of survey and resubdivision of a certain piece or portion of ground situated in the City of Westwego, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, in that part thereof known as Lots 65,66, and 66, Square A, Victory Subdivision, into Lots 65A and 67A, Square A, Victory Subdivision, and is more full shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated August 31, 2017

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

An Ordinance enacting Chapter 33 – Regulated Activities – City Wharfs, Piers and Back-down Ramps; together with all the enumerated sections therein.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for adoption:

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1545

An Ordinance amending Chapter 34 – PLANNING AND ZONING – ARTICLE II – ZONING Sec. 34-70 – Exceptions and modifications. (f) Projections into open areas - subsection (2).

MOVED by Council Member Nobles and seconded by Council Member Valence to open a public hearing for this ordinance.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Mayor Peoples invited public comment. No one spoke in favor of, or in opposition to, the ordinance.

MOVED by All Council Member Present, to close the public hearing.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, seconded by Council Member Green to adopt Ordinance 1545.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 26 – Article VI – Electronic Enforcement – Division 3. Vehicle Speed – Subsection B adding Sec. 26-229 Expenditure of Discretionary Funds.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence to continue discussion of said ordinance at the next meeting.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux: Absent: Nobles (stepped out)

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JP) Utility Bill Adjustments

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the Utility Bill Adjustments as recommended.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

2. (LHV) Sewer Plant meeting

Council Member Valence asked that they have more conversation before spending the BP money on this project. Council Member Nobles asked about violations. Mayor Peoples discussed paper work is up to date. Mayor Peoples will have Mo Saleh meet with council members to explain all details.

3. (LHV) Update on WHARF Project

Council Member Valence spoke on behalf of the project. Mayor Peoples discussed meeting with the levee district, Corp of Engineers, and DEQ. A discussion followed.

4. (JSN) Update on Water Plant Improvements

Council Member Nobles asked about the Parish water system for the future and that council members be included in the meeting with Jefferson Parish concerning the water system. Council Member Valence feels they need more information to make decisions, preferably in writing. A discussion followed.

5. (JLT) Code Enforcement Procedures

Council Member Thibodeaux has been reviewing the ordinances with Chad Usea and will work to get all procedures correct.

6. (JP) City Auction

The City of Westwego will hold an auction on Saturday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the Old City Hall, 419 Avenue A. On Friday, October 13th there will be a viewing of items for the auction.

7. (JP) Fire Hydrant Replacement and Painting

Mayor Peoples discussed the fire hydrants. The red fire hydrants have been fixed and are working properly. Our goal is to have every fire hydrant working properly. Brain Hebert will be working part time to fix the fire hydrants that can be repaired without removing them. Colored rings will be installed according to the pressure coming out of the hydrants.

8. (JP) River Boat Landing Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the River Boat Landing and repairs that need to be done. Mayor Peoples is waiting on estimates for the repairs. The River Boat Landing will be cleaned and painted by city employees to save the city money. Council Member Green asked to meet with Mayor concerning the River Boat Landing.

Mayor Peoples will be giving Council Members weekly updates and Council Member Valence will be putting information on our Facebook page so the citizens can keep updated on events.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (MJR) Four way stop sign at Ave E and Eleventh St

Council Member Rivere explained that Avenue E and Eleventh Street is the only street that does not have a 4 way stop sign.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green to install a 4 way stop sign at Avenue E and Eleventh Street.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

2. (MJR) Basketball Free Play

Council Member Rivere addressed the concern for basketball free play. He explained the fees charged by the park are for rentals and not for citizens participating in free play of basketball. There will be a sign posted where citizens can sign up for date and time desired for free play. The same is for our recreation department teams. The fee that applies is for travel teams.

3. (JSN) Ongoing negotiations for Parish water

Council Member Nobles addressed this earlier in meeting.

4. (JLT) Work Order Procedures

Council Member Thibodeaux asked the procedure for work orders. Mayor Peoples explained the procedure for work orders and stated the council members will get a weekly report from his office.

5. (GG) Hurricane Victims

Council Member Green discussed the recent storms and the help that is needed to assist the victims of these storms. Chief Ryan expressed that the fire department and other fire departments have been collecting gift cards to distribute to local organizations in the affected areas. They have collected \$18,000.00 in gift cards at this time.

6. (GG) Westwego Food Bank

Council Member Green discussed the need to reopen the food bank for the citizens of Westwego. Mayor Peoples spoke on behalf of the old food bank building. Mayor Peoples will reach out to Second Harvest and Cargill concerning a food bank and the council members may want to meet to discuss a location for the food bank.

7. (JP) Water Line Leak Testing

Mayor Peoples met with Mayor Timmy Lemoine with Louisiana Rural Water Association. Mr. Lemoine is also the Mayor of Moreauville. Louisiana Rural Water Association will do water line testing for us.

8. (JP) Uncollected Utility Bills

Mayor Peoples explained the past due uncollected water bills for 2001-2007 totaled \$40,771.27 and from 2008-2016 totaled \$108,122.66. Mayor stated we will be hiring a company to collect these bad debts.

9. (JP) Sewer Plant Equipment Purchase

Mayor Peoples expressed we are in dire need of fixing our sewer plant. Mayor Peoples read aloud the letter from the Professional Engineer that inspected the plant. A discussion followed. Mayor Peoples discussed his plan to fund the sewer plant repairs.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence to get other estimates and opinions. A discussion followed.

APPROVED: Yeas: Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux; Abstained: Green

10. (JP) Permit Fines

Mayor Peoples discussed the need for higher fines for work started without the proper permits. Mayor Peoples will work with Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas concerning this.

11. (JP) River Road Improvements

Mayor Peoples sent a letter to Representative Billiot and Senate Alario regarding ditches and the road way on the River Road. Mayor Peoples met with the DOTD. Representative Billiot and Senate Alario are working on helping the City of Westwego with this problem.

12. (JP) House Donation

Mayor Peoples has talked to Steve Brightbill concerning the donation of a house on Fourth Street. Mayor Peoples discussed the different locations this house can be moved to and used for.

AMENDED AGENDA

Mayor Peoples asked the City Council to submit names for the vacancies on the Zoning Board and the Westwego Historical Committee.

Mayor Peoples discussed the list prepared by Jim Butler for the funding available for Capital Outlay. Mayor will ask Jim Butler for monthly updates on this list.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adjourn meeting at 9:20 p.m. Monday, October 9, 2017.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Joe Peoples, Mayor

Lisa Tapia, City Clerk

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