

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, January 8, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met In Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, January 8, 2018, 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
Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.
City Clerk Lisa Tapia

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

DAVANTI BRYANT – 1000 WEST DRIVE

DaVanti Bryant addressed the City Council concerning the relocation of his Fitness Center at 1000 West Drive to 1024 Westbank Expressway.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to relocate his Fitness Center pending inspections.

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

MERVIN GRAVES – 472 DOGWOOD DRIVE

Mr. Graves addressed the City Council concerning the Water Treatment Plant. A discussion followed. Mayor Peoples discussed the Water Plant and explained a vote of the Council will be required whether we continue running our water plant or go with Jefferson Parish for our water. Council Member Nobles stated that two Council Members will be present at negotiations with Jefferson Parish concerning the water.

JASON RODGERS – 55 LOUISIANA STREET

Mr. Rodgers addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License for a construction company that does cement work at 55 Louisiana Street.

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant an Occupational License to Jason Rodgers subject to all requirements. Building Inspector Skip Lombas, Jr. stated that a temporary occupancy for the trailers is needed until the building is complete. Council Member Green stated his motion did include this stipulation.

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

MAHER ABUKHALIL – 1608 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY AND 833 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Abukhalil addressed the City Council for an Occupational License and Liquor License for the two Shell Stations, G & G Express.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant an Occupational License for both locations.

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

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant a Liquor License for both locations.

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

BETTY LANDRY – 421 SALA AVENUE

Ms. Landry Chairman of the Westwego Historical Society addressed the City Council stated the Westwego Historical Society had a commissioner resigned due to illness therefore there is only three commissioners at this time. The Westwego Historical Society is in need of six more commissioners. Ms. Landry gave the update on the properties at 224 and 226 Sala Avenue and 372 Sala Avenue.

GARY TOUPS – 129 11TH STREET

Mr. Toups addressed the City Council concerning the black top area at Magnolia and West. Mayor Peoples stated the city has ordered a roller and will be doing the black tops area around the City of Westwego that need repairs. Mr. Toups addressed Mayor Peoples concerning the water plant. A discussion followed. Mayor Peoples stated he feels the water plant should be closed however he will do what is best for the citizens of Westwego.

JOHNNY SHADDINGER – 312 AVENUE B

Mr. Shaddinger addressed the City Council regarding the water plant, health insurance, and employees' salaries.

Mayor Peoples invited Kelly Dual with Dual Insurance to address the City Council regarding the health insurance. Kelly Dual gave an overview of the health insurance to the City Council. A discussion followed.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(MJR) Recognizing Tyler Vinet with the Boy Scouts of America

Council Member Rivere recognized Tyler Vinet a member of Troop 2000 with the Boy Scouts of America. Council Member Rivere congratulated him on his achievements and completion of the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. Mayor Peoples presented Tyler with a Proclamation and thanked him for his work he has done in our community.

Mayor Peoples acknowledged Louis Duhe, Jr. for his 34 years of outstanding service and dedication to the City of Westwego. Mayor Peoples acknowledged Thomas Effler for his 34 years of outstanding service and dedication to the City of Westwego.

Mayor Peoples spoke about the Recycle Bins that will be available at City Hall for the cost of \$14.00 per bin. Beginning in February the city will begin Recycle Pick Up once a week.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to allow use of the old bins for recycling. Citizens must register their old bins with the City of Westwego for pick up.

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

Council Member Rivere announced March 10th or March 17th will be Community Family Event at Catfish Bourgeois Park.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

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

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz was not present. Lonnie Taylor was present, the original report was submitted. Lonnie Taylor stated March 10th will be the Annual Fireman's Fair.

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

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

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

Electrical Inspector – Doyle Guidroz was not present. Original report was submitted.

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

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca submitted his original report.

Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier submitted his original report. Keith Bouvier asked the council concerning the fireworks for July 4th. Council Member Rivere stated the council is not allowed to use the discretionary funds for fireworks.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, November 13, 2017
Special Session of Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Regular Session of Monday, December 11, 2017
Special Session of Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mayor Peoples stated the Regular Session Minutes for Monday, November 13, 2017 was already approved.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the Minutes of the Special Session of Wednesday, November 29, 2017, Regular Session of Monday, December 11, 2017 and the Special Session of Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2018-01(A)

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

A resolution approving the 2017 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 2018-01 (A)

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 authorizing the City of Westwego to dispose of, in accordance with Louisiana law, certain property that is no longer needed for public use.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Valence:

ORDINANCE 1551

An ordinance adopting the 2018 Legislative Calendar for the City of Westwego.

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to open a public hearing.

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

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to close the public hearing.

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

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Ordinance 1551

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

Offered by Council Member Valence:

ORDINANCE 1552

An ordinance repealing Chapter 10 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS - Article II Special Building Regulations - Division 2. Floodprone Areas in its entirety and adopting a new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO) and all of the enumerated subsections in order to comply with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to provide for related matters.

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to open a public hearing.

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

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to close the public hearing.

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

Council Member Valence thanked City Attorney Joel Levy for working with Jefferson Parish to get the City of Westwego in compliance.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by All Council Members, to adopt Ordinance 1552

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

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Rivere, to amend the agenda to discuss Sewer Plant Operators in the Executive Session.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (LHV) Update on WHARF Project

Council Member Valence discussed the update on the WHARF Project. Council Member Valence changed the WHARF Meeting from January 9, 2018 to Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 6 p.m. to have a public discussion concerning the WHARF Project.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to have a public meeting on January 24, 2018 to discuss the WHARF Project.

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

2. (GG) Seven Oaks Street Lights

Council Member Green stated that some of the street lights have been installed however the remainder still needs to be replaced. Mayor Peoples stated Entergy is in the process of getting a new contractor that will guarantee that 93 percent of the street lights will be working at all times. Entergy assured the Mayor they will take care of the street lights, however this fell in the transition period.

3. (GG) Open Ditches on LaBauve Rd

Council Member Green stated there is \$151,000.00 available for the City of Westwego to use to close ditches. Council Member Green thanked Representative Robert Billiot, Senator John Alario, Jr., and Mayor Joe Peoples for their assistance in this matter. Mayor Peoples spoke to the DOTD concerning the pipes that must be used for this project.

4. (JLT) Code Enforcement

Council Member Thibodeaux update the City Council on the Code Enforcement Procedure Pamphlet. She stated the Mayor made a few changes and she will give the council a copy as soon as it is completed. Council Member Thibodeaux asked the status of the I-Pads for the Code Enforcement. Mayor Peoples said they are looking at alternate sources for the I-Pads. Mayor Peoples stated our Code Enforcement is now wearing body cameras.

5. (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

6. (JP) Guillot Plaque Placement

The Council Members asked Mayor Peoples to revisit the placement of the Sidney Guillot Chief of Police Plaque. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Rivere, to place the Guillot Plaque on the Police Department Building.

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

7. (JP) Bids on Belt Press

Mayor Peoples stated the bids on the Belt Press came in under what was anticipated saving the city around \$90,000.00. Mayor Peoples read each bid into the record.

8. (JP) 151 and 348 Sala Avenue

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the property at 151 Sala Avenue. Mayor Peoples received an appraisal on renting the building at 151 Sala Ave as possibly a restaurant. The appraisal came back in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00 per month for rental. Mayor Peoples stated he will have the building cleaned and painted. He would like to get the council's authorization to lease the building at 151 Sala Avenue for \$2,000.00 per month.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Green, to authorize the leasing of 151 Sala Avenue.

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

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the vacant property at 348 Sala Avenue. The appraisal came back at \$64,000.00. Mayor Peoples stated he needs to do research with the State of Louisiana concerning the sale of this property.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (LHV) Sewer Plant Operators

This will be moved to Executive Session.

2. (JP) Performing Arts Theatre

Mayor Peoples walked through this building with the contractor. This building is in deplorable shape. Mayor Peoples invited the council to visit this building with him. Mayor Peoples intends to notify Dennis Assaf that he needs to use some of the \$450,000.00 a year that they receive in State funds for the maintenance of this building.

3. (JP) Sewer Plant/Maintenance Shop

Sewer Plant and Maintenance Shop address change. Mayor Peoples stated after doing the paper work for the Sewer Plant and getting it in compliance it was found that the address on the Pumping Station that was being used is the address of the Sewer Plant. The address of the Sewer Plant will be 102 Vic A Pitre and the Maintenance Shop will be 104 Vic A Pitre. This will help with paperwork and deliveries.

4. (JP) Victory Drive & Expressway

Mayor Peoples stated the sign at Victory Drive and Westbank Expressway is not lit. Mayor Peoples called the DOTD they explained a car wreck damaged the lighting controller. The DOTD did put this on a work order and will work to have service restored.

5. (JP) Training Session for Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mayor Peoples stated there was a training session held recently at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mayor Peoples stated we will be doing a mock training exercise soon with the EMS, Police, and Fire Department.

6. (JP) Disinfectant System at Sewer Plant

Mayor Peoples stated we are looking into changing from chlorine gas at the Sewer Plant. We will be putting this out for bid. He will notify the council once the bids are received.

MOVED and seconded by All Council Members, to retire to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss the following:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. (JSN) Personnel Matters
2. (GG) Discretionary Spending
3. (LHV) Sewer Plant Operators

Returned at 7:57 p.m.

Council Member Rivere reminded everyone that the February Regular Meeting will be February 5, 2018.

ADJOURN

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adjourn meeting at 7:57 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2018.

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, February 5, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
