

City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Regular Session  
Monday, February 5, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met In Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February 5, 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  
Asst. Chief of Police Jason Dimarco  
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 Valence led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### AMENDA THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to amend the agenda to add two Resolutions.

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

#### ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

RONALD DUFRENE - 1003 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET      CHAROLTE FALGOUT - 1055 CEDRE DRIVE

Mr. Dufrene and Ms. Falgout addressed the city council regarding the yearly cancer benefit. In the past this fundraiser was called Breast Cancer Benefit however, the name is being changed to Cancer Benefit. The reason for the name change is that all proceeds from this event go to West Jefferson Hospital to treat all cancer diseases. The benefit will be moved from October to April. Mr. Dufrene asked the Council, Chief of Police and Fire Department for their assistance like they have done in the past. The Cancer Benefit will be at the Farmers Market on April 8, 2018 from 12 until 6:00 p.m. Any City of Westwego Cancer Survivor that is interested in being a part of the procession needs to contact Charlotte Falgout or Ronald Dufrene.

JOHNNY SHADDINGER - 312 AVENUE B

Mr. Shaddinger addressed the City Council regarding the water plant.

LEONARD GUIDROZ - 238 LOUISIANA STREET

Mr. Guidroz addressed the city council to request a name change for his business from CM Custom Vinyl Graphics to CM Custom Graphics Works.

Moved by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to change the business name.

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

VINH PHAM – 1445 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Pham addressed the city council requesting an Occupational License for his nail salon, 7 Nails Studio at 1445 Westbank Expressway.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Vinh Pham subject to all requirements.

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

AMENDA THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to amend the agenda to move Old Business #3 to discuss now.

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ryan and Kelly Daul – Insurance

Kelly Daul addressed the city council concerning the health insurance for the City of Westwego. There is a 22 percent increase for the health insurance renewal. Council Member Nobles wanted the City of Westwego Employees to know the Mayor and Council worked very hard to get the best policy and price available. A discussion followed.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to change the deductible from \$500.00 to \$700.00 and the City of Westwego to continue paying 66% and the employees paying 34% of the premium.

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

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to keep the prior dental insurance with no increase in premium.

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

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to check with Humana on their vision plan which will be on a completely voluntary basis with no cost to the City of Westwego.

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

AMENDA THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to amend the agenda and return to ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL.

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

Ryan Daul – Liability Package, Auto and Workmen’s Compensation.

Mr. Dual discussed the increase in the Workmen’s Compensation premium that is due to increased losses. Mayor Peoples stated we will get with the LWCC for safety classes, films, etc. to help with this rating and safety.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to approve the Liability, Auto and Workmen’s Compensation Insurance.

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

Mayor Peoples announced the Sidney Guillot Plaque will be installed on March 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Westwego Police Department, 401 Fourth Street. All are invited to attend.

Mayor Peoples discussed the tax sale of past due properties including 2017 properties. A list of past due property taxes will be posted by the front window where the water bills are paid. A list of these properties will be put in the council’s mail boxes.

Mayor Peoples discussed recycle bins are available to purchase at \$14.00 per bin. They can be purchased at the front window. We will start pick up on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for pick up, no fee on water bill or taxes. There is a onetime fee of \$14.00 to purchase the recycle bin.

## HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. was absent due to his Mother's illness. Assistant Jason Dimarco was present and stated original report was submitted.

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz original report was submitted. Chief Ryan announced on March 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-7 p.m. will be the Annual Fireman's Fair and Expo at the Farmers Market.

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

Mechanical Inspector – Tommy Baxter - absent

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

Electrical Inspector – Doyle Guidroz – absent, original report was submitted.

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

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca absent, Mr. Fonseca will submit in March.

Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier report submitted.

Code Enforcement Chad Usea - absent

## APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, January 08, 2018

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, January 08, 2018.

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

## RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

### RESOLUTION 2018-02(A)

Offered by Council Member Valence:

A resolution in support of the application by Our Lady of Prompt Succor School for School Signs on the north and south sides of the Westbank Expressway within the City of Westwego.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2018-02(A)

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

### RESOLUTION 2018-02(B)

Offered by Council Member Matthew J. Rivere

A resolution approving Change Order No. 6 to the Fire Station, Planning & Construction (Jefferson), FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-13-01 contracted between the City of Westwego and J. A. "Jack" Julius Jr., Inc. on September 8, 2016.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2018-02(B)

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

### RESOLUTION 2018-02(C)

Offered by Council Member Matthew J. Rivere

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, Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Office of the State Fire Marshal, for the allocation of state funds to the City of Westwego for the Planning and Engineering Phase for Construction of a New Fire Station in Westwego.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2018-02(C)

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

RESOLUTION 2018-02 (D)

Offered by Council Member Valence: (ADDED 2/02/18)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to submit an application to the Jefferson Parish Department of Community Development for the purpose of placing the Westwego Waste Water Treatment Plant Repair and Improvement Project on the Project Priority List for funding through the Community Development program, further authorizing Mayor Peoples to furnish such additional information as may reasonably be requested in connection with the application, and designating Mayor Peoples as the Official Project Representative for the City of Westwego for any project that may result from the submission of the application.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2018-02(D)

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

RESOLUTION 2018-02 (E)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution recognizing February 2018 as Black History Month in the City of Westwego.

Moved by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2018-02(E)

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

RESOLUTION 2018-02 (F)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution declaring February 2018 to be National Heart Disease Month in the City of Westwego.

Moved by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2018-02(F)

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

None

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1553

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.

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

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

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

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Member, 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 1553.

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

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. (JLT) Code Enforcement Procedures

City Attorney Levy reviewed the Code Enforcement Procedure Package and stated it was very well prepared. Mayor Peoples stated he wants a word change and will put in an ordinance next month and start the process for approving the Code Enforcement Procedure Package. Council Member Valence thanked Council Member Thibodeaux for her hard work on this package.

### 2. (JLT) Code Enforcement IPads (ADDED 2/02/18)

Mayor Peoples stated they have a meeting on Wednesday to check with Verizon concerning the IPads.

### 2. (JSN) Fire Prevention Yearly Inspection Reports

Council Member Nobles states he would like a copy of the yearly inspection reports. Chief Ryan stated they do a monthly report and send it to the Mayor. Mayor Peoples will send copies to all Council Members.

### 3. (JSN) Health Insurance

Spoke of earlier in the meeting.

### 4. (GG) Oak Trees at 400 Block of Sala Ave

Council Member Green addressed the Mayor concerning the oak trees on Sala Avenue. The trees are starting to impend the electrical wires. Council Member Green asked the Mayor to check into the trees being trimmed to avoid the electrical wires and check with residents to see if they want limbs cut that interfere with their roof. The Mayor will check into this problem with the oak trees on the City of Westwego property.

### 5. (GG) Update on Wastewater Operators

Council Member Green asked for an update on the Wastewater Operators. Mayor Peoples stated Mo Saleh has been working hard on this and has spoken to the DEQ. Once the skater system is working properly we will need two operators and one swing operator. A discussion followed. Council Member Green stated we have put a lot of money into the water plant and he would like to look into getting our water plant up and running. Mayor Peoples stated we will put together a packet which will have the figures for operating our water plant or having Jefferson Parish provide the water. After looking at these figures we can make an educated decision and the citizens of Westwego can vote. Council Member Nobles asked when will the 30 day test on our water system will be conducted, Mayor Peoples stated it will be in April. A discussion followed.

### 6. (GG) Update on City Recreation Facilities

Council Member Green asked for an update on the Klein Street Playground and the Westwego Gym. Mayor Peoples stated bid opening will be on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in City Hall. A discussion followed. Council Member Rivere asked that once the bids come in he would like to request a special meeting so this does not have to wait until the March Regular Meeting.

### 7. (JP) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

APPROVED: YEAS: Green, Nobles, Rivere, Thibodeaux; OPPOSED: Valence

### 8. (JP) Condemned Houses

Mayor Peoples stated the City of Westwego Policy, "Firm but Fair" is working very well. The City of Westwego does have a volunteer group that is willing to assist with cleanup for the citizens that have a health problem and unable to clean their property.

### 9. (JP) Update on Fire Hydrants

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the fire hydrants. We are receiving many compliments on the red fire hydrants. At this time there are only two hydrants left to repair and those will be replaced on Wednesday. We will then begin Phase II, which includes the hydrants that are low to the ground. Valves are being

installed in case a vehicle hits the hydrant, that way the water can be shut off easily. We are having problems with valves that do not work. Mayor Peoples talked to LRWA, Louisiana Rural Water Association and they may be coming next week to conduct a free water testing. This will help us to find leaks and valves that are not working.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JP) Increase in cost of Mosquito Control

Mayor Peoples received a letter from the parish that the price of the mosquito control will be increasing. It will be going up from \$1.81 to \$1.85 per month.

Council Member Rivere wished Mayor Joe Peoples a Happy Birthday.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adjourn meeting at 7:19 p.m. Monday, February 5, 2018.

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

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Joe Peoples, Mayor

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Lisa Tapia, City Clerk

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The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego will meet in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 12, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

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