

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, March 12, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met In Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, March 12, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

There were present:

Mayor Joe Peoples
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 Munch, Sr.
Absent: District 1 Council Member Glenn Green, Sr.

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. Mayor Peoples asked that we remember the 17 children in Parkland, Florida that loss their lives, Mrs. Delta Munch, the mother of Chief Dwayne Munch, Sr. and Mr. Preston" Pepper" Tassin the father of Karen Reine the Payroll Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDA THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to amend the agenda to have citizens address the City Council concerning cats after the Condemnation Hearings.

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

BARRY BORDELON and JASON MC DANIEL PROGRESSIVE WASTE

Mayor Peoples stated the number one complaint from the citizens in Westwego is the garbage service. Trash is not being picked up, cans are thrown and broken, trash being left in cans, etc. Barry Bordelon stated he is sorry for the inconvenience and is trying to correct the problems. Jason McDaniel of Progressive Waste is the supervisor for the City of Westwego and is available if any Council Member or the Mayor needs to contact him. A discussion followed. Mr. Bordelon and the Mayor discussed the recycle bins. Mr. Bordelon asked if recycling bins can be stenciled when the next order is placed. This will help to clarify that these bins are not to be pickup by the garbage service.

HENRY QUINTANILLA – 258 AVENUE B BRENDA ROGERS – 614 CHIPLEY STREET

Mr. Ouintanilla and Mrs. Rogers addressed the City Council and the Mayor to give an update on the 30th Annual Run on the Bayou which took place on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at Bayou Segnette State Park. It was a great success with 359 runners and walkers participating. This is the only fundraiser the Westwego Beautification Commission has. They wanted to express their appreciation to the sponsors, Senator John Alario, Jr., Representative Robert Billiot, Council Member Lisa Valence, the Westwego Fire Department for cooking, the Westwego Police Department for security, Westwego EMS for first aid, and the Junior Fire Fighters for providing water to the runners. Thanks to LA Kids for singing the National Anthem at the opening ceremony. Mr. Quintanilla and Mrs. Rogers asked the Council Members to consider contributing at least \$100.00 per year to help with the maintenance of the flower beds. Mr. Ouintanilla asked for assistance in maintaining the flower beds and the Westwego signs. Mayor Peoples thanked the Westwego Beautification Commission for their hard work.

JOHNNY THERIOT – 949 AVENUE D

Mr. Theriot addressed the City Council seeking an Occupational License. He will be taking over ownership of Paul's Seafood at the Shrimp Lot on Louisiana Street and changing the name to Mahailya Seafood.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Johnny Theriot subject to all inspections.

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

TED REINE, JR. – 1201 OLDE OAKS DRIVE

Mr. Reine thanked Chief Munch and the Police Department for the wonderful military tribute they gave his Grandfather, Preston “Pepper” Tassin who passed away recently, . Mr. Reine addressed the City Council to consider offering Westwego Senior Citizens that are homebound transportation to their spouse or children’s funeral. This was a problem their family experienced and would hope that no other Senior Homebound Citizen would have to go through. Mayor Peoples offer his condolences and stated that he would check into the possibly of providing this service. Council Member Nobles agreed and asked City Attorney Joel Levy to check into providing this service and the legality that is involved.

QUIANA RIDGLEY – 1340 ½ FOURTH STREET

Ms. Ridgley addressed the City Council seeking an Occupational License for a hair salon. There was previously a hair salon at this location and she will be maintaining the same hours and business that was provided previously.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Ms. Ridgley subject to all inspections.

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

AMENDA THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to take Resolution 2018-03(C) out of order.

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

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolution for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2018-03(D)

Offered by Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux:

A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) of Sales Tax Bonds of the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to sell and issue said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

David Wolf an Attorney with the Adams and Reece Law Firm in New Orleans representing the DEQ Clean Water Revolving Loan that the City of Westwego has applied for. Mr. Wolf discussed the particulars on the DEQ Loan. A discussion followed.

Moved by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2018-03(D).

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

DANIELLE SATAWA – SHOPPERS VALUE FOODS – 1070 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Ms. Satawa addressed the City Council regarding the Shoppers Value Foods Store that will be replacing the Winn Dixie at 1070 Westbank Expressway. There plans are to open in April 2018, the only renovations will be nonstructural. Ms. Satawa is seeking an Occupational and Alcohol License.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational and Alcohol License subject to all inspections

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

DIANE SPIELER – 627 AVENUE H

Ms. Spieler addressed the City Council regarding a permit to rent the vacant apartment in her backyard. This apartment has been vacant for 10 years. Mayor Peoples and the Building Inspector Skip Lombas, Jr. explained why the former apartment can no longer be used as a separate residence. A discussion followed. Ms. Spieler addressed her concern for the frequent loss of power due to problems at the substation. Mayor

Peoples will call Kent Green with Entergy. Council Member Valence and Council Member Nobles discussed with Entergy the numerous reasons for the outages.

Council Member Rivere asked that the 5 minute rule for addressing the City Council be followed.

ZIYAD ISA – 1347 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Isa addressed the City Council regarding a name change for the business at 1347 Westbank Expressway. Anointed Kitchen Cabinets will change the name to Amazing Kitchens. Council Member Nobles discussed the poor condition of the parking lot and asked that the owner contact him.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant a name change only for Amazing Kitchens.

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

LYNNE LIGHTFOOT – 528 FIFTH STREET

Ms. Lightfoot a columnist and photographer for Gulf Coast Motorsport Magazine addressed the City Council regarding Wego Cruzin'. This will be a social event, not a car show that will be a part of the Friday Night Concerts at the Farmers Market beginning Friday, April 6, 2018. Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier has no objection to using half the parking lot for this event.

Moved by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to approve Wego Cruzin' at the Friday Night Concerts at the Farmers Market.

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

JOE NEATHAMER – 1100 and 1101 VICTORY DRIVE

Mr. Neathamers addressed the City Council concerning an Occupational License for his facility, JMN Specialties and Maytech and asked if an additional Occupational License is needed for 1066 Victory Drive. City Attorney Joel Levy will research if an additional Occupational License is needed for 1066 Victory Drive.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License for 1066 Victory Drive if needed pending the research by City Attorney Levy.

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

LEONARD WAGUESPACK – 800 7TH STREET

Mr. Waguespack addressed his concerns about the sand at 803 Avenue H. Mayor Peoples will send Code Enforcement to inspect this situation. Mr. Waguespack addressed the City Council concerning the sewer plant. A discussion followed.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Peoples received a letter from the JCOA informing the City of Westwego for the year 2018 they will not charge for senior meals and their hope is that this may continue. The JCOA has asked that the City of Westwego to make an annual donation of \$5,000 per year to help with the nutrition program.

(JP) John Monzon – Long Term Flood Protection

Mr. Monzon will be present the next meeting with a power point presentation.

(JP) Proclamation honoring the Queen of King Arthur Carnival Krewe

Mayor Peoples presented a proclamation to Brandi Bernard honoring her as Queen of King Arthur Carnival Krewe.

(JP) SPCA Vaccination Day – March 25, 2018 – Catfish Bourgeois Park

Mayor Peoples announced the SPCA Vaccination Day will be March 25, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be a \$15.00 fee per pet, cash only.

Council Member Valence announced the Jefferson Performing Arts Society play Marvelous Wonderettes will be performing the next two weekends at 177 Sala Avenue.

(JP) Ground Breaking Ceremony - Louis Marrero Park – March 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Peoples invited all to attend the Ground Breaking Ceremony on Saturday, March 17th at 9:00 a.m.

(JP) Sidney Guillot Dedication – Police Station - March 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Peoples invited all to attend the Sidney Guillot Dedication at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 17th.

CONDEMNATION HEARINGS

W. J. LeBlanc was present as curator for the properties.

Michelle Vidrine-Corona, CCR was present to record the hearings.

443 GILLICAN STREET

Will be continued at the next City Meeting

468 GILLICAN STREET

Will be continued at the next City Meeting. Henry Mitchell was present to represent 468 Gillican Street. City Attorney Joel Levy asked Mr. Mitchell if he has any objection to the condemnation of 468 Gillican Street. Mr. Mitchell stated he does have objection therefore, City Attorney Levy informed Mr. Mitchell he needs to be present at the next City Meeting on April 9, 2018.

498 LOUISIANA STREET

Will be continued at the next City Meeting

470 GILLICAN STREET

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to open Condemnation Hearing.

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

The hearing for 470 Gillican Street was recorded by Michelle Vidrine-Corona, CCR.

No one was present for 470 Gillican Street

Curator W. J. LeBlanc entered into evidence documentation of his efforts to contact the owners of 470 Gillican Street, and stated that he had received no correspondence from any interested parties.

The City Attorney entered into evidence documentation of his preparations for this hearing.

Mo Saleh, of PEEC, Inc., was sworn in and testified regarding the condition of 470 Gillican Street. A copy of his report was entered into evidence.

Mo Saleh discussed the condition of the property and recommended removal of the structure. Mayor and Council had no questions for Mr. Saleh.

Mayor Peoples invited anyone wishing to speak on this condemnation hearing for 470 Gillican Street. No one spoke concerning this condemnation hearing.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to close public Condemnation Hearing.

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

City Attorney Joel Levy asked the City Council to order demolition within 30 days or the City of Westwego will remove at the owner's expense.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to demolish said building within 30 days or the City of Westwego will remove at the owner's expense.

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

ROBIN BEAULIEU JEFFERSON PARISH ANIMAL SHELTER

Ms. Beaulieu, of the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter stated she had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor and a few of the Council Members in February. The Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter and the City of Westwego with work in partnership to solve the feral cat problems in our area. She understands there are citizens on both sides of the issue wants to make sure that everyone is heard. Ms. Beaulieu stated the Mayor never said anything about euthanizing any animals and believes this was misinformation. There is a cat problem in Westwego and Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter wants to offer real solutions. Research has shown that TNR, Trap, Neuter, and Return, does work. It is not an immediate fix but it is a fix to the problem. Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter has received a grant from Best Friends to start a Community Cat Program and the City of Westwego has agreed to work with the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter on this program. There will be a meeting at the end of this week to discuss feral cats and community cats. The Mayor has agreed to send some of his staff for training at this meeting. Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter will also make available to the citizens of Westwego free spay and neuter programs for cats, dogs, and bunnies. The Community Cat Meeting will be held in Westwego within the next two weeks.

Mayor Peoples stated he has no interest in euthanizing the cats and he and the Council are here to represent all citizens in the City of Westwego.

MERVIN GRAVES – 472 DOGWOOD DRIVE

Mr. Graves stated he has cats and feeds the strays however, all his cats including the strays are fixed. Mr. Graves stated he is attending the meeting tonight to find out the truth.

JOHNNY SHADDINGER, JR. – 312 AVENUE B

Mr. Shaddinger spoke about taking advantage of the grant offered by Robin Beaulieu with the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter.

DIANE SPIELER – 627 AVENUE H

Ms. Spieler runs a non-profit rescue and expressed her concern for the feral cats. Mayor Peoples stated the City of Westwego is partnering with Jefferson Parish and will form a board. Mayor Peoples asked Ms. Spieler to be on that board and to sign up with Robin Beaulieu from the Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter.

SANDI MATHERNE – 429 CELOTEX PARK

Ms. Matherne stated she has been doing TNR on her street and it has been very successful. She started with 30 cats and now is down to 8 cats she has been doing it for five years and the program does work.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to remove #16 (JP) Cats, under new business.

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

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to have a cooperative endeavor with the Jefferson Parish Human Society.

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

Mayor Peoples took a two minute break to allow the people that wanted to exit and then continue with the monthly meeting.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. original report was submitted. Chief Munch stated it was the Police Department's honor to do the 21 Gun Salute for this World War II Veteran, Mr. Preston Tassin.

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz had a class to attend. Mr. Keith Bouvier was present and stated report was submitted. He also thanked everyone for their support with the Fire Expo.

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

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

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. Mr. Aldor announced the new ambulance is being decaled at this time.

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca original report was submitted for this month and last month. Mr. Fonseca wanted to address the concern the Mr. Reine brought up earlier concerning transportation. Mr. Fonseca explained the Senior Center does not own the bus and they must follow DOTD rules as to how it can be used. Council Member Valence offered to work with Mr. Fonseca to determine if we can use the bus for this in the future. Mayor Peoples stated we are going to study and research this service and see if it can be available in the future. Allison Romero is in charge of the transportation and expressed we have a lot of rules to follow with the DOTD however, we will be able to use the old bus for community services such as this. A discussion followed.

Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier original report was submitted. Mr. Bouvier stated the next concert will be Friday, April 6, 2018. Mayor Peoples discussed the water line at the Farmers Market the cost of \$2,400.00.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, giving the Mayor authorization to do the water line at the Farmers Market for \$2,400.00

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

Council Member Nobles asked that once this project is completed the Mayor would check into the issues on the other side.

Mayor Peoples stated there is a Code Enforcement Report that will be added to reports in order to keep the council informed. Mayor Peoples stated that Code Enforcement is enforcing the ordinances that was enacted by this City Council or the previous City Councils. Council Member Nobles asked the warning for code violations be extended beyond five days to allow the citizens to comply. This will be discussed under Old Business #11.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, February 05, 2018

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, February 05, 2018.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2018-03(B)

Offered by Council Member Valence:

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into the 1st Amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana for Street Improvements, Including the Placement of Fire Hydrants, Planning & Construction, FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-13-02.

Moved by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2018-03-(B).

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

RESOLUTION 2018-03(C)

Offered by Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux:

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement between Jefferson Parish and the City of Westwego to provide funding in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 to be used for the demolition and improvements of the City's Sewerage Treatment Plant and for the purchase of equipment to be used to improve and maintain the City's sewerage system.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, for discussion.

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

Council Member Valence asked Mo Saleh to answer questions concerning the Sewer Plant. Mr. Saleh stated it will take 4 to 6 months to have the belt press fabricated and 2 ½ months for the static screen. The bid is good for 45 days. A discussion followed. Mayor Peoples recommends we do the SCADA system and the sodium hypochlorite first. Mr. Saleh also recommends the purchasing of the SCADA system and the sodium hypochlorite first then the static screen. Mayor Peoples asked how much warranty is on these products, Mr. Saleh said one year from purchase. It was decided the pumps should be put on hold for now. A discussion followed.

Moved by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2018-3(C) and purchase the SCADA system, sodium hypochlorite, and static screen with the \$250,000.00.

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

RESOLUTION 2018-03(D)

Offered by Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux:

A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) of Sales Tax Bonds of the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to sell and issue said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Resolution 2018-03(D) was adopted earlier.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for introduction.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

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 10, 11, 12, and a part of Lot 9, Square 3, Westwego Heights Subdivision, into Lots 10-A and 12-A, Square 3, Westwego Heights Subdivision, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated December 27, 2017.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JSN) SCADA System Update

Discussed earlier.

2. (LHV) Sewer System Update

Mayor Peoples read a letter from the DEQ pre approving the loan.

3. (LHV) Water Plant Update

Mayor Peoples read an email he received today from Mr. Boudreaux of things that need to be completed by April 1, 2018. Mayor Peoples stated we will do our best to accommodate him with these requests. A discussion followed.

4. (JLT) Reports

Council Member Thibodeaux requested copies of reports so she may be better informed of the happening in the City. Mayor Peoples will include her in updates. Council Member Valence asked that they receive emails or texts of updates and Council Member Nobles asked that he receive a copy of the Fire Prevention Reports because he is unable to print them from his phone.

5. (JP) Utility Bill Adjustments

Mayor Peoples stated there was an increase in utility bill adjustments due to the number of people who had broken pipes from the freeze.

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

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

6. (JP) Parish Meeting

Mayor Peoples will be setting up a meeting with Parish President Yenni's office. All Council Members will be invited two at time to discuss the cost of the water for the next three years and also the possibility of Jefferson Parish taking over our entire system.

7. (JP) Bill Payment Options

Mayor Peoples announced we now accept VISA and Master Card on all transactions. The credit card company charges a fee of 3.5% for the convenience of using your card. The City of Westwego does not make any money from this.

8. (JP) Garbage Collection Service

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. (JP) Fire Hydrant Update

Mayor Peoples announced all RD Woods have been replaced with the exception of one. The city was ready to install the final RD Woods but the Levee Board informed the City of Westwego to stop and wait for the Mississippi River to recede before continuing work. All hydrants are now working.

10. (JP) Water Line Repair Updates

LRWA Rural Water Company came and did two days of testing and found nine leaks. They will be coming back and do more testing. Mayor Peoples spoke with them and they have agreed to do some free sewer smoke testing for us whenever they are available.

11. (JP) Wharf Update

Mayor Peoples announced the City of Westwego workers have cleared out more trash and debris. The Levee Board is working on the temporary road that will enable us to get to the WHARF. Council Member Valence thanked Mayor Peoples and expressed how happy she is to see this project going forward. Council Member Nobles thanked Council Member Valence for getting the one million dollar grant from the Wildlife and Fisheries. Council Member Valence said it was a joint effect between herself, Mayor Peoples and Representative Robert Billiot.

12. (JP) Code Enforcement Forms & Procedures

Mayor Peoples spoke with City Attorney Joel Levy and was advised that there does not have to be an ordinance passed for the Code Enforcement Procedure Booklet to be implemented. This is just the code enforcement procedures for our Code Enforcement Officers to follow. Mayor Peoples stated the body camera and iPad are working very well.

13. (JP) Tax Sale

Mayor Peoples stated the late fees are paid to Civic Source which was voted on by this Council. Civic Source will be handling the Tax Sale which will be held July 18, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Westwego Historic Museum

Council Member Nobles wanted to make sure there is a set schedule for the Westwego Historic Museum to be open each week. Mayor Peoples stated currently Lori is at her regular schedule at the Museum. Mayor Peoples wanted to inform the council that the roof at the Museum is leaking. Mayor Peoples got an estimate on repairing the roof or replacing the roof. The price is \$650.00 to patch the roof and \$8,700.00 to replace the roof. Council Member Nobles asked City CPA Jim Butler if the \$75,000.00 fund for Sala Avenue could be used for this project. Mr. Butler stated it can be.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to use part of \$75,000.00 fund for replacement of the roof on the Westwego Historic Museum.

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

Council Member Valence asked if Lori with the Westwego Historic Museum could begin working on a brochure about the history of the Westbank that would include stops in Gretna and Lafitte and possibility two or three restaurants. All Council Member agreed.

2. (JSN) Westwego Art Center

Council Member Nobles asked for an update on the Westwego Art Center. Mayor Peoples stated he and Jim Butler met with Michael Lee Studios, the architect that drew the scope of repairs that need to be done. He is currently reworking this to get it within the price range needed. Mayor Peoples discussed possibilities to help get exposure of Sala Avenue such as restaurants, coffee shops, etc.

3. (JSN) 1344 Fourth Street

Council Member Nobles asked when the repairs at 1344 Fourth Street can be completed. Mayor Peoples stated the Vac Con Truck is broken and the repairs will be completed once the truck is fixed.

4. (JSN) City Hall Funds

Council Member Nobles stated we have money from FEMA and the Parish Funds for City Hall upgrades and wanted to check into generators for City Hall. CPA Jim Butler explained we had two \$150,000.00 grants from the Parish for the New City Hall. One was restricted for furnishing for \$75,000.00 and that money was spent. Mr. Butler stated we have between \$75,000.00 and \$127,000.00 available. Mayor Peoples discussed the parking lot across on West Drive will cost \$35,000.00 for labor and cement and additional money for sand. This parking lot will be done with the money we negotiated with Bosco from the punch list. Council Member Nobles requested rails on the back cement slab, Council Member Rivere asked for file cabinets that lock in the Council Members Offices. Council Member Valence asked for \$1,000.00 to frame pictures for City Hall and possibility displaying local artist's work. A discussion followed concerning the generators and wiring of the generator. Council Member Valence asked if we could work toward a new sign at City Hall. A discussion followed. Mr. Butler stated after the parking lot is complete on West Drive there will still be \$112,000.00 available.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to budget \$80,000 .00 toward a generator for City Hall and the parking lot on West Drive and a hold be placed on the balance of the \$112,000.00 until it is determined what is needed.

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

5. (MJR) Cameras in City Hall

Council Member Rivere addressed the issue of cameras in City Hall. Mayor Peoples stated as long as signs are posted that you are under video surveillance it is legal. A discussion followed. City Attorney Joel Levy stated the Mayor has the authority as Administrator of the City Building to place cameras in City Hall. Council Member Rivere asked that a poll be taken of the Council Member as to whether they are in opposition of the cameras in the individual offices. Council Member Nobles, Council Member Valence, and Council Member Rivere are in opposition of the cameras in the individual offices. Council Member Thibodeaux stated she is uncomfortable with the cameras in the offices. Council Member Rivere asked that the record reflect the poll taken.

6. (MJR) Monthly Checks

Council Member Rivere requested the Accounts Payable Clerk have a detailed spreadsheet for every check that is written and given to the City Council monthly. CPA Jim Butler explained that before a bill is paid it has been entered and classified to the said department then approved for payment. Mayor Peoples stated a journal is available on the computer and they can view it from the City Council Offices. Mr. Butler stated they are printed and in a journal, Mayor Peoples said it is fine that the City Council come in and review this journal.

7. (MJR) Park Maintenance

Council Member Rivere requested putting two people for park maintenance during the peak of baseball season. Mayor Peoples stated this is fine with him however, they must be supervised.

8. (JLT) Work Orders

Council Member Thibodeaux asked to see the work orders.

9. (JLT) Addresses

Council Member Thibodeaux asked that addresses be visible from the street. Mayor Peoples asked Maurice to put that notice on the next water bill.

10. (JP) 2018 Millage

A Special Meeting for 2018 Millage will be April 16th at 6:00 p.m.

11. (JP) Alcohol Permit

Voo Doo Baseball Team is holding an event on May 20, 2018 at the Farmers Market and they need an Alcohol Permit for this event.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Alcohol Permit to the Voo Doo Baseball Team.

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

12. (JP) Movie Industry Check

Mayor Peoples stated he would like to use the \$2,500.00 check the City of Westwego received from the Movie Industry for the recent purchase of the 40 foot container at the Louis Marrero Park.

Moved by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, giving the Mayor authorization to use the Movie Industry Check for the purchase of the container.

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

13. (JP) Entergy Donation

Mayor Peoples spoke to Entergy about a donation of \$1000.00 toward the purchase of an excavator. He would like to use this money along with the money from the sale of the old van and trucks to purchase the excavator. Council Member Rivere asked that this be tabled to next meeting.

14. (JP) Term Limits

Mayor Peoples stated he promised the citizens during his campaign he would put this on the agenda. Mayor Peoples asked the City Council's input on this matter. Council Member Rivere stated he is not looking out for the next 5 years but the next 20 to 50 years and the effect this could have on our future. Chief Munch has opposed term limits until recently. He changed his view because people get into politics for the right reasons but about 80 percent begin to feel like what is in it for them after many years in that position. Chief Munch feels like three terms limit is best. Council Member Nobles also feels three term limit is best.

15. (JP) Citizen of the Month Certificate

Mayor Peoples stated this is something that he feels we should start doing. He would like to recognize citizens in the City of Westwego that goes above and beyond helping other citizens in this city. He asked for the City Councils input and any nominations they may have. Mayor Peoples feels this would be great for our city.

16. (JP) Cats

Discussed earlier.

17. (JP) Tourist Information Center

Mayor Peoples suggested moving the Tourist Information Center to the Farmers Market to save the \$1600.00 per month that is paid in rent for the property. A discussion followed.

AMENDA THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to amend the agenda to discuss 603 Westbank Expressway.

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

Council Member Rivere spoke of the letter the council received last week from the owner of the apartments at 603 Westbank Expressway in reference to the dumpsters. Council Member Rivere asked that the record reflect the ordinance concerning the dumpsters was put into effect in 1998. The owner asked that the dumpsters be grandfathered in and not required to have a fence placed around the dumpsters.

Moved by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to deny the request that the dumpsters be grandfathered in.

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

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adjourn meeting at 10:10 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2018.

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

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, April 9, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
