

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session

Monday, September 10, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, September 10, 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
Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch, 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 lives that were tragically lost on September 11th, 17 years ago. He asked that we also remember the deceased members of our community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Peoples announced the dedication of the New Fire Station, 1000 Fourth Street will be held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier presented Mayor Peoples with a plaque from the 17th Annual Red Knights LA1 9-11 "We Will Never Forget" Poker Run which took place at the Westwego Farmers Market on September 8, 2018. Council Member Valence acknowledged Steve Guillot for making this such a great event for our City.

Council Member Green thank Police Chief Munch for his assistance with the funeral procession of his wife's sister.

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to amend the agenda to discuss the following:

1. (MJR) Budget
2. (GG) 468 Gillican Street
3. (JSN) Meter Readers
4. (JSN) Water Plant Update
5. (JP) Martin House
6. (JP) Avenue A Street Repairs
7. (JP) Special Meeting

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

CONNIE MOTES – 100 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Ms. Motes addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License for 100 Westbank Expressway Units 1 and Unit 2 of the Westwego Shrimp Lot.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence to grant an Occupational License to Ms. Motes.

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

KEVIN FARRIS – 844 KELLER AVENUE

Mr. Farris addressed the Mayor and City Council expressing his disappointment with the date and time of the dedication of the New Fire Station. Mayor Peoples explained this time was coordinated with the Officials; Senator John Alario, Representative Robert Billiot, the Governor's Office, and Facility Planning. Council Member Rivere stated he will be present but was also disappointed with the time of the dedication. Mayor Peoples will check with the State Officials and see if the time of the dedication can be changed.

JEROME DAVIS, JR. – 385 LOUISIANA STREET

Mr. Davis representing Boo Boo's Bar at 385 Louisiana Street requested an Occupational License to cook outside of this facility. Council Member Rivere explained because Boo Boo's Bar is leasing the building they must first get approval with the property owners. The City Council is unable to go forward with this request until the approval from the property owner is granted.

RICHARD VANVECKHOVEN – 458 SALA AVENUE

Mr. Vanveckhoven would like to purchase the property at 458 Sala Avenue for use as residential upper stairs and commercial downstairs (a beauty shop and woodworking shop). Mayor Peoples and Council Member Green spoke in favor of this. Council Member Green asked that Mr. Vanveckhoven speak to the Westwego Historical District Commission at their meeting which will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles to approve use predicated upon the WHDC.

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

HEAR ALL REPORTS

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

Fire Chief – Ryan P. Guidroz is working at the New Fire Station and will be late however, he submitted his original report.

Chief Building Inspector – Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr. was unable to attend due to a family situation however, he submitted his original report.

Mechanical Inspector – Tommy Baxter submitted his original report.

Plumbing Inspector – Walter "Bubba" Choquette, Jr. is on vacation however, he submitted his original report.

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

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 and announced Movie Night at the Farmers Market will be Friday, September 21, 2018.

Code Enforcement – Chad Usea & Perry Talamo submitted original report.

Mayor Peoples/James Butler CPA – Financial Report – Budget vs. Actual Jim Butler was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Mayor Peoples stated if the City Council has any questions concerning the Financial Report they can meet with him to discuss it.

Council Member Rivere asked the Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier to discuss maintenance at the market concerning the toilet and roof repairs. Mr. Bouvier stated the parts are on order for the toilet repairs. Mayor Peoples stated he will be discussing the roof later in this meeting. Council Member Rivere expressed his concern for attendees walking on the stage during a concert, he recommends stage passes to defer this problem. He would like this to be strictly enforced due to injuries and for insurance purposes. Mayor Peoples and Keith Bouvier will meet to work on this request.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Special Session of Tuesday, August 07, 2018

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to approve the Minutes of the Special Session of Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

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

Regular Session of Monday, August 13, 2018

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, August 13, 2018.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2018-09(A)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples on behalf of the City of Westwego to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Jefferson Performing Arts Society for the operation of the Westwego Theatre for the Performing Arts and Community Center.

Mayor Peoples discussed the agreement with Jefferson Performing Arts Society concerning the maintenance of the building. This agreement was agreed upon and the City will be recouping approximately \$12,000.00 from past repairs and maintenance. This money will be placed in the General Fund.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to adopt Resolution 2018-09(A).

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RESOLUTION 2018-09(B)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution authorizing the City of Westwego to adopt the Appendix E as an amendment to the 2015 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update prepared and completed by Jefferson Parish Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Department, and Jefferson Parish Incorporated Municipalities to align with activity 510 of the Community Rating System. (Parish wide)

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2018-09(B).

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RESOLUTION 2018-09(C)

Offered by Council Member Valence:

A resolution in support of the application by Myrtle C. Thibodeaux Elementary School for School Signs on the north and south sides of the Westbank Expressway within the City of Westwego.

MOVED and seconded by All Council Members, to adopt Resolution 2018-09(C).

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RESOLUTION 2018-09(D)

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

A resolution declaring October 2018 to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2018-09(D).

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RESOLUTION 2018-09(E)

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

A resolution declaring September 2018 National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Resolution 2018-09(E).

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

RESOLUTION 2018-09(F)

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

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

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2018-09(F).

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to submit Capital Outlay Requests to the State of Louisiana Division of Administration Office of Facility Planning and Control for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Mayor Peoples explained this is the paperwork that is needed for Capital Outlay Request 2019-2020. Mayor Peoples stated everything listed on this request was listed on the Capital Outlay Request last year, however, he would like to adjust the priority of some of the requests. A discussion followed. This paperwork must be submitted before November 1, 2018 however, it is suggested we submit it by Mid-October. This resolution will be tabled and voted on at the Special Session on Monday, September 17, 2018.

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following entitled ordinances were introduced at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana held on Monday, September 10, 2018, and laid over for publication of notice:

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

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.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Mayor and Council will hold a regular meeting on Monday, October 8, 2018, at the Westwego City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana, at six o'clock (6:00) p.m., at which time there will be a public hearing prior to consideration of the adoption of the aforesaid ordinances.

Mayor Peoples explained the surplus is a Fire Truck, an Expedition from the Fire Department and a broken backhoe. Council Member Valence asked in the future that they receive a list of the surplus prior to voting on the ordinance. Mayor Peoples will provide a list.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

ORDINANCE 1560

An ordinance amending the Westwego Code of Ordinances to establish provisions with respect to the distribution of solicited and unsolicited print matter; and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to open the 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 Members, to close the public hearing.

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

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Ordinance 1560.

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

Council Member Rivere spoke on behalf of Ordinance 1560, he will post the website for this on his Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (GG) Update on repairs at the Westwego Historic Museum and Farmers Market

Council Member Green asked for an update of the Westwego Historic Museum. Mayor Peoples stated the roof has been patched and the ceiling repaired. At this time we are waiting on the electricians to check the problems with the elevator. All inspections have been brought up to date. Concerning the Farmers Market roof only one bid has been received thus far. Mayor Peoples is waiting on a price for the fence at the Farmers Market and a respond from the Rail Road concerning the position of the fence. Council Member Green asked about the toilet repairs, Mayor Peoples stated the toilets have been fixed numerous times and right now we are waiting on the parts to repair them once again. A discussion followed.

2. (GG) River Road Open Ditches Update

Council Member Green asked the status of the open ditches on the River Road. Mayor Peoples discussed the situation and stated work is being done on this project, however the weather has been effecting the work progress. Council Member Green asked that EMR be contacted concerning their driveways. Mayor Peoples will contact EMR.

3. (GG) Railroad Tracks – LA 18 & LA 541

Council Member Green stated the Railroad Tracks on LA 18 and LA 541 have continually gotten worst. Council Member Green asked that a citation be sent to the Yard Master. Mayor Peoples has been informed of new contacts and will be sending another letter concerning this problem.

4. (MJR) Louis Marrero Gymnasium

Council Member Rivere announced the roof for the Louis Marrero Gymnasium is scheduled to arrive this week.

5. (MJR) Catfish Bourgeois Playground

Council Member Rivere announced the equipment and the installation crew arrived today. Mayor Peoples and the City Council will meet this week to discuss the fence; height, color and arrangement of the fence. After the decisions are made concerning the fence a change order will be written.

6. (MJR) Christian Jones Playground

Council Member Rivere announced the equipment is onsite, however the weather condition is effecting installation. The gazebo has not arrived at this time. Mayor Peoples announced the slab is poured, the bike track is in, and the equipment is there just waiting on the weather to cooperate.

7. (JP) Utility Adjustments

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. (LHV) 811 Barbe Street

Council Member Valence stated the resident at 811 Barbe Street has requested a Residential Parking Only Sign. This location is near Vic A. Pitre Elementary School. Mayor Peoples will do a work order for this sign.

2. (JLT) Late Fees for Water Bills

Council Member Thibodeaux expressed the problem with residents paying their water bill on line with PayStar. Mayor Peoples gave each Council Member a list of totals that were paid through PayStar from January 1, 2017 to Friday, September 7, 2018. Council Member Thibodeaux stated the 4:30 p.m. closing time for payments credited that day needs to be stated on the water bill or the hours extended. She also requested the previous balance and payments received be shown on the site. Mayor Peoples asked Maurice Bourgeois, the Deputy Clerk to check into this.

AMENDED AGENDA

1. (MJR) Budget

Council Member Rivere spoke concerning the 2019 Budget that the Mayor and CPA Jim Butler will be working on in the next month or two. Council Member Rivere stated some of the Council Members would like the Mayor to

check into the ordinance being changed from a general fund budget to a line item budget. Mayor Peoples will discuss this with the City CPA Jim Butler.

2. (GG) 468 Gillican Street

Council Member Green spoke in behalf of 468 Gillican Street and stated the Engineer's Report stated the building is structurally sound and Council Member Green would like to give Mr. Henry Mitchell, Jr. 60 days to gain ownership.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to give Mr. Mitchell 60 days to gain ownership of 468 Gillican.

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

Council Member Green requested a sign on the Westbank Expressway and Fourth Street directing people to the True Vine Baptist Church, which is a Historical Landmark. Council Member Valence will get with Council Member Green regarding the signs.

3. (JSN) Meter Readers

Council Member Nobles asked that the Meter Readers close the meter boxes properly to prevent accidents. Mayor Peoples will speak to the Meter Readers concerning this matter.

4. (JSN) Water Plant Update

Council Member Nobles asked for an update on the Water Plant. Mayor Peoples stated the individuals producing the mud have volunteered however, we must pay for the chemicals. Mayor Peoples asked Mr. Bobby Utley to discuss the current situation at the Water Plant. Mr. Utley stated as of today, they have not been successful in producing the mud he also discussed that more holes were found in clarifier #3. A discussion followed. Council Member Nobles asked if Jefferson Parish responded concerning the purchasing of water. Mayor Peoples stated we are still waiting for a reply, he will send another email in the morning. A discussion followed.

Council Member Nobles discussed his ideas for the water line that is needed to cross the levee, a discussion followed.

5. (JP) Martin House

Mayor Peoples received a concurrence letter from Facility Planning on the roof at the Martin House. Advertising of bids will be on September 14th, 21st, and 28th.

6. (JP) Avenue A Street Repairs

Mayor Peoples stated the plans have been submitted for the street repairs on Avenue A. We are currently waiting on the concurrence letter from Facility Planning concerning these repairs. Mayor Peoples directed Hamid Alizadeh to complete the paperwork to bid the EOC Building regardless if we get the \$600,000.00 from Facility Planning. Mayor Peoples, Chief Munch and Hamid discussed alternates to the original plans, in order that the money that has been sitting for the past seven years can be used.

7. (JP) Special Meeting

Mayor Peoples asked for a Special Session to be held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss water rates.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to hold a Special Session on Monday, September 17, 2018 to discuss water rates.

YEAS: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux

ADJOURN

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adjourn meeting at 7:18 p.m. Monday, September 10, 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, October 8, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dedication of the New Fire Station, 1000 Fourth Street will be held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 6 p.m.

(Please note there is a time change for the dedication from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)