

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session

Monday, October 8, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, October 8, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

There were present:

Mayor Joe Peoples
District 3 Council Member Lisa H. Valence
District 4 Council Member Matthew J. Rivere
District 5 Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux
Captain Edward Beyerback III attended in Chief Dwayne Munch, Sr. stead.

District 1 Council Member Glenn Green, Sr. was unable to attend.
District 2 Council Member Johnny S. Nobles, Jr. was unable to attend.

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 lead 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.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(JP) Capital Outlay

Mayor Peoples announced the City of Westwego has been awarded \$7.2 million dollars for the Wharf Project, \$600,000.00 for the Emergency Preparedness Building, \$723,500.00 for parks, land and improvements, \$850,000.00 for Sala Avenue and infrastructure improvements, and \$300,000.00 for the Fire Station planning and construction. Mayor Peoples thanked Senator John Alario, Jr. and Representative Robert Billiot for all their hard work in helping the City of Westwego to receive these funds.

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to amend the agenda to discuss 541 Laroussini Street, Christmas under the Trees, a Special Meeting for water rates and the Official Journal.

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

CONDEMNATION HEARING:

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

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

541 LAROUSSINI STREET

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

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

The hearing for 541 Laroussini Street was recorded by Michelle Vidrine-Corona, CCR

City Attorney Joel Levy entered into evidence documentation and presented his return.

Curator W. J. LeBlanc entered into evidence documentation and presented his return.

Doug Uzee, Jr. represented Jerry Rogers, one of the heirs of the said property and requested additional time to repair the property at 541 Laroussini Street.

Hamid Alizadeh, of APTIM was sworn in and testified regarding the condition of 541 Laroussini Street. A copy of his report was entered into evidence.

Mr. Alizadeh discussed the condition of the property of which there are two structures. Mr. Alizadeh's report stated the property at 541 Laroussini is in dilapidated condition and it poses a safety and fire hazard therefore, he recommends it be secured until both structures can be demolished.

The Mayor and City Council had no questions for Mr. Alizadeh. Mr. Doug Uzee, Jr. had no questions for Mr. Alizadeh.

City Attorney Joel Levy's recommendation to the City Council is to order demolition and removal of 541 Laroussini Street.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to open public hearing.

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

Mayor Peoples invited anyone wishing to speak on this condemnation hearing for 541 Laroussini Street.

Darryl Frickey, 123 Eleventh Street, the grandson of Simon Frickey was sworn in and testified. Mr. Darryl Frickey spoke in favor of demolition of said property, and stated it is a matter of public safety.

Jimmy Frickey, 110 Eleventh Street, the grandson of Simon Frickey was sworn in and testified. Mr. Jimmy Frickey has no objection to demolition of said property.

Norman McEvers, 100 Eleventh Street, the son in law of Simon Frickey was sworn in and testified. Mr. Norman McEvers spoke in favor of the demolition of said property.

Todd Plaisance, 559 Laroussini Street was sworn in and testified regarding his interests and intentions for purchasing the property at 541 Laroussini Street.

Chad Usea the Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Westwego was sworn in. City Attorney Levy asked Mr. Usea if he posted the notice on the property stating the date of the condemnation hearing. Mr. Usea stated the notice was posted on the property. Mayor Peoples asked Mr. Usea the amount of times the City of Westwego had to cut the grass on this property. Mr. Usea stated approximately seven or eight times.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to close public hearing.

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

Council Member Rivere asked Hamid Alizadeh if the property at 541 Laroussini Street can be repaired. Mr. Alizadeh stated the structures on the property are beyond repair and recommends the structures be secured immediately. City Attorney Levy asked Mr. Alizadeh if he recommends permits be issued for this property. Mr. Alizadeh recommends that no permits be issued.

City Attorney Levy's recommendation to the City Council is to order demolition and removal of 541 Laroussini Street.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to demolish and remove the building at 541 Laroussini Street.

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

BETTY LANDRY – 421 SALA AVENUE

Ms. Landry gave the Quarterly Report for the Westwego Historical Commission. Ms. Landry discussed her concerns with individuals speaking out at the Westwego Historical Commission Meeting when Board Members are trying to conduct business.

BLAKE MATHERNE – 1028 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Council Member Valence spoke on behalf of Blake Matherne, Blake Matherne Insurance Agency LLC. Mr. Matherne is a State Farm Agent seeking an Occupational License.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant an Occupational License to Blake Matherne pending all inspections.

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

CORTNEY COLLO – 2816 VIRGINIA LEE DRIVE

Ms. Collo addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License for a stall at the Westwego Shrimp Lot.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Cortney Collo.

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

CONCEPCION ACEVEVEDO – 104 SALA AVENUE

Ms. Acevevedo addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License for El Rancho Sports Bar and Grill, LLC. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant tentative approval for an Occupational and Liquor License to EL Rancho pending all inspections and with the understanding there will be no cooking allowed and no use of the second floor.

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

JOHNNY SHADDINGER – 312 AVENUE B

Mr. Shaddinger thanked Mayor Peoples for allowing him to speak at the Dedication Ceremony for the New Fire Station. Mr. Shaddinger spoke about this project and thanked everyone involved.

JOSHUA JONES – 184 LAROUSSINI STREET

Mr. Jones spoke on behalf of his mother who was unable to attend. Mr. Jones addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License Mail and Phone Services only for their on-line business.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License, Mail and Phone Service only for the on-line business at 184 Laroussini Street.

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

ADAM EVERY – 1225 CENTRAL AVENUE.

Mr. Every addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning the surveillance camera on the pole near his home. Captain Beyerback stated he is not aware of this camera. Mayor Peoples advised Mr. Every to speak to Chief Dwayne Munch concerning this camera. A discussion followed.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police – Captain Edward Beyerback stated the original report was submitted.

Fire Chief – Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his original report.

Chief Building Inspector – Leslie “Skip” Lombas, Jr. submitted his original report.

Mechanical Inspector – Tommy Baxter submitted his original report.

Plumbing Inspector – Walter “Bubba” Choquette, Jr. submitted his original report.

Electrical Inspector – Doyle Guidroz was not present, but 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 there will be a concert at the Farmers Market on Friday, October 12, 2018. Movie Night will be Friday, October 19, 2018 at the Farmers Market.

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

Mayor Peoples/James Butler CPA – Financial Report – Budget vs. Actual. Mayor Peoples asked the City Council if they had any questions at this time. The City Council did not have any questions at this time.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, September 10, 2018

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, September 10, 2018.

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

Special Session of Monday, September 17, 2018

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the Minutes of the Special Session of Monday, September 17, 2018.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2018-10(A)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution proclaiming November 11, 2018 to be Veterans Day, and November to be Veterans Month, in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2018-10(A).

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

RESOLUTION 2018-10-(B)

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

A resolution authorizing the City of Westwego to adopt the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis completed by Jefferson Parish Floodplan Management and Hazard Mitigation Department. (Parishwide)

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to adopt Resolution 2018-10(B).

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

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, October 8, 2018, and laid over for publication of notice:

Offered by Council Member Green:

An ordinance amending and readopting the 2018 Budget for the City of Westwego.

Offered by Council Member Green:

An ordinance approving the 2019 Budget for the City of Westwego.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Mayor and Council will hold a regular meeting on Monday, November 12, 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.

City CPA Jim Butler discussed the budget. Mayor Peoples stated there will be a Special Session to discuss the water rates and he will meet with Council Members two at a time to discuss and answer any questions.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinance for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

ORDINANCE 1561

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.

Mayor Peoples stated the property to be disposed of is a 1987 E1 pumper from the Fire Department, 2005 Ford Expedition from the Fire Department, and a 590 Super L Case Backhoe from the Streets Department.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to open public hearing.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to close public hearing.

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

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Ordinance 1561.

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

Council Member Valence and Council Member Rivere asked about the Case Backhoe being used for parts. Mayor Peoples stated we can get more money now than saving the backhoe for parts. Mayor Peoples explained the money that is received from the backhoe will go to the City's General Fund and the Fire Department Budget will receive the funds from their equipment that is sold.

AMEND THE AGENDA

RESOLUTION 2018-10(C)

Offered by Council Member Rivere

A resolution declaring October 2018 to be National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2018-10(C).

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Water Plant Generator Repair – Update

Mayor Peoples stated the DEQ has required an underground fuel test be done. Once this test is completed the City may be required to put a new diesel generator with an above ground tank, therefore the Mayor does not intend to repair the current generator.

2. (MJR) Update on Playgrounds

Council Member Rivere gave an update on the Louis Marrero Gymnasium. The roof is in, however they could not start installation due to the weather. The equipment is installed for Catfish Bourgeois Park but it is not completed at this time. Christian Jones Park is waiting for a part for the canopy. Mayor Peoples stated he received a change order for the fence at Christian Jones Playground for \$14,288.00.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to approve a change order for Christian Jones Playground.

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

3. (JP) Jefferson Parish Water Agreement

City Attorney Joel Levy reviewed the Jefferson Parish Water Agreement and approved it. Mayor and the City Council agreed that this be tabled until the Special Session on Monday, October 15, 2018.

4. (JP) Church Property

Mayor Peoples would like to purchase this property will alternate funds. Council Member Valence would like to have the city purchase this property, however she would like further discussion on the Veterans Memorial that will be placed there. Mayor Peoples agreed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to purchase the Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church Property on Fourth Street.

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

5. (JP) Garbage

Mayor Peoples met with Waste Connections in hopes of solving the ongoing problems with garbage pickup.

6. (JP) Utility Adjustments

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

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

7. (JP) Sala Avenue Street Lights

Mayor Peoples discussed the direct burial cable being affected by the trees on Sala Avenue. Mayor Peoples spoke with Entergy concerning the possibility of them taking over the lights on Sala Avenue. We would have to change from direct burial cables to cable in conduit for this to occur. Mayor Peoples stated we must decide what would be the best solution for this problem with the cable and the trees.

8. (JP) LA 18 Ditch Update

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the ditch at LA 18. There was a pipe that was found that goes under the road toward the river. The contractor will install a conflict box around this pipe.

9. (JP) CDBG Grant Update

The City of Westwego was awarded the CDBG Grant for the sum of \$200,000.00 which will be allocated to the sewer plant.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JSN) No Parking Signs

Council Member Nobles spoke to the Mayor concerning No Parking signs at West Drive and Westbank Expressway.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to approve No Parking Signs at West Drive and Westbank Expressway.

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

2. (JLT) 531 Avenue A

Council Member Thibodeaux discussed the broken fence at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Cemetery that is causing a problem. Mayor Peoples spoke to Alfortish and they are willing to install a new six foot wood fence in the back section if the neighbor removes the old fence. Chad Usea with Code Enforcement will get with the neighbor concerning the removal of the old fence.

3. (JP) Entergy

Mayor Peoples discussed the letters that were placed on the doors on the southside of the Westbank Expressway from Entergy concerning the new lines being extended to Barataria. Entergy is doing what they can to ease the noise from this construction and the Mayor asked that we all be patient as this work continues.

Chief Dwayne Munch, Sr. arrived at 7:25 p.m. after attending a Night Out Against Crime.

4. (JP) Ordinance 906

Mayor Peoples would like Ordinance 906 to be changed. This ordinance requires a Policeman to hand deliver a letter advising the City Council of a Special Session. Mayor Peoples feels this is not necessary and will save the City of Westwego money if this is changed. The City Council took this under advisement.

5. (JP) Board Meetings

Mayor Peoples discussed interruptions that have been taking place at the Westwego Historical Commission Meetings. He read two letters he received concerning this problem and spoke of the verbal complaints he has received. A discussion followed.

AMENDED AGENDA

1. (LHV) Christmas Under the Trees

Council Member Valence announced the official lighting of Christmas Under the Trees will take place at Catfish Bourgeois Park on December 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Chad Usea, James Bowman or Lisa Valence if you are interested in participating in Christmas Under the Trees. Council Member Valence spoke to Mayor Peoples concerning the barricades that are needed for this event. Mayor Peoples stated he has ordered 30 new barricades that should be in soon.

2. (JP) Special Meeting

Mayor Peoples would like a Special Meeting to discuss water rates on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to conduct a Special Meeting on October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss water rates and the contract with Jefferson Parish.

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

3. (JP) Official Journal

Mayor Peoples asked City Attorney Levy to research the contract with the Times Picayune as our Official Journal. Mayor Peoples stated The Advocate wanted \$284.00 to publish the tax sale, however the Times Picayune wanted \$8,000.00 to publish this tax sale. Mayor asked that we table this until the Special Session on Monday, October 15, 2018 so we can research this further.

Council Member Rivere announced Jefferson Parish passed the "Do Not Toss" Ordinance. Jefferson Parish is working on putting this on their website. Council Member Rivere will notify the residents when this is available for the City of Westwego.

Chief Munch announced the National Night Out Against Crime will be at the Farmers Market from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adjourn meeting at 7:38 p.m. Monday, October 8, 2018.

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

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 12, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana
