

City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Special Session

Monday, October 15, 2018

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Special Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, October 15, 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

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Peoples stated No. 3 Official Journal will be tabled until more information is gathered.

#### AGENDA

##### 1. (JP) Water Rates

Mayor Peoples discussed the City of Westwego Water Rate Increase Form that was prepared based on the actual data for one year. Mayor Peoples explained this is the projected water rates for residential and commercial customers. Mayor Peoples stated the commercial and residential increase would cover the deficiencies we have yearly and help with the much needed improvements of our system. A discussion followed. Mayor Peoples stated on this proposal there will be a two percent (2%) cost of living increase on the water and sewer rates annually.

Mayor Peoples and the City Council discussed water meters that were viewed at the Louisiana Municipal Association Conference (LMA Conference) earlier this year. A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples and the City Council discussed the projected commercial rates.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to open public hearing.

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

Kevin Farris – 844 Keller Avenue

Mr. Farris addressed the Mayor and City Council asking how long the new rates will stand. Mayor Peoples explained the built in cost of living increase each year. Mayor Peoples discussed the urgent need for an increase in the water fee to compensate the deficiency we have each year in the water department. A discussion followed.

Leonard Waguespack – 800 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Mr. Waguespack asked how this rate increase would affect him. Mayor Peoples had Mr. Waguespack's utility bill history in hand and explained. A discussion followed.

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

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

##### 2. (JP) Intergovernmental Agreement

Mayor Peoples discussed the Intergovernmental Agreement between Consolidated Waterworks District No. 2 of the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana and the City of Westwego. Mayor Peoples and City Attorney Joel Levy reviewed this agreement. The only changes in the agreement that was necessary was an address change and the requirement of a certified water tester to test the water daily. Mayor Peoples will

check with Jefferson Parish concerning the certified water tester. A discussion followed. Council Member Nobles asked that the City Council get a copy of the water test results that are being performed by the city at this time. Mayor Peoples agreed. Council Member Valence asked City Attorney Levy did he approve of this agreement. Mr. Levy said the agreement is legally fine.

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to authorize the Mayor to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement between Consolidated Waterworks District No. 2 of the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Westwego.

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

City CPA Jim Butler pointed out that the 2019 Budget is being done with the new rates from Jefferson Parish, therefore an ordinance is required with the new rates from Jefferson Parish.

The City Council discussed presenting the new water rates to organizations within the city and having two meetings open to the general public to discuss the new water rates.

3. (JP) Official Journal – Tabled

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adjourn meeting at 7:12 p.m., Monday, October 15, 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, November 12, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

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