

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session

Monday, January 14, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, January 14, 2019. 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 honor of the deceased members of our community and Weldon Steve, Kenneth Coulon, and Phillip Crabtree former employees of the Police Department and the Fire Department.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Attorney, Joel Levy led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to amend the agenda.

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

1. (GG) 301 – 305 Fourth Street
2. (JP) Avenue A and Westbank Expressway
3. (JP) Bus Benches
4. (JP) DMV
5. (JP) Myrtle C. Thibodeaux School Sign

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to amend the agenda to discuss the above topics.

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(JSN) Council Member Nobles announced the Westwego Historical Society is holding a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the City of Westwego at 6:00 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2019, at the Westwego Historical Museum, 275 Sala Avenue, Westwego, Louisiana. Cake and soft drinks will be provided.

Mayor Peoples stated in January 1919 the city was declared a village, in December 1919 it was declared a town and in 1951 Westwego was declared a city. Mayor Peoples and the City Council will meet to plan the Official Celebration.

(LHV) Run on the Bayou

Council Member Valence announced the Annual Run on the Bayou will take place on Saturday, January 26th at 8:00 a.m. at Bayou Segnette Park. All proceeds will benefit the Westwego Beautification Committee.

(JP) Mo Saleh – Sewer Plant

Mo Saleh, of PEEC, Inc. provided a written report on the Sewer Plant. Mr. Saleh discussed this written report. A discussion followed.

(JP) Benefit Analyst LLC– Kari Salva and Duaine Duffy

Ms. Kari Salva and Mr. Duaine Duffy of Benefit Analyst, LLC explained the Health Insurance Proposal to Mayor Peoples and the City Council. A discussion followed.

(JP) Daul Insurance – Kelly Daul and Ryan Daul

Mr. Kelly Dual of Dual Insurance, gave the Health Insurance Proposal to the Mayor and City Council. A discussion followed. Mr. Ryan Daul of Dual Insurance presented Workmen's Compensation and Liability Proposals to the City Council. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to accept LWCC Workmen's Compensation and the Liability Renewals through Dual Insurance.

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

Health Insurance was taken under advertisement. A Special Session will be held to discuss and vote on the City of Westwego's Health Insurance.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

CHASE BRUNER – 849 AVENUE B

Mr. Bruner addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License mail and phone only for Bruner, LLC

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant a Home Occupational License to Chase Bruner, Bruner, LLC.

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

BETTY LANDRY – 421 SALA AVENUE

Ms. Landry gave the City Council and Mayor Peoples the Quarterly Report from the Westwego Historical District Commission. Ms. Landry thanked Mayor Peoples for the demolition of the home on Sala Avenue. Council Member Rivere asked Ms. Landry if there is still a vacancy on Westwego Historical District Commission Board. Ms. Landry will provide a list of the board to the council so they may review and hopefully suggest someone for the vacant position.

FRANCES BOFFONE KUEHNE – 17 LOUISIANA STREET

Ms Kuehne with Progressive Barge Lines thanked the Mayor and City Council for 43 years of partnership and support of their company. In December Progressive Barge Lines was sold to Savage Marine. Savage Marine is requesting an Occupational License.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Savage Marine.

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

ROSETTA BONVILLIAN – 826 AVENUE E

Ms. Bonvillian addressed the City Council to explain the problem with residents putting various items on the city servitude to prevent cars from parking. Mayor Peoples stated an ordinance was recently passed addressing the city servitude. Perry Talamo of Code Enforcement will look into this matter. Ms. Bonvillian provided a list to Mr. Talamo.

CAROL LEBRANE – 321 LAROUSSINI STREET

Ms. LeBrane addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License for her catering business inside of Mugs Shots at 321 Laroussini Street.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to grant an Occupational License to Carol LeBrane pending all necessary inspections.

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

JERICKA SHOULDER – 1091 AVENUE H

Ms. Shoulder addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for 1091 Avenue H to sell handbags and accessories.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Jericka Shoulder pending all necessary inspections.

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

JOHNNY SHADDINGER – 312 AVENUE B

Mr. Shaddinger addressed the City Council to discuss the Sewer Plant and the Water Plant. A discussion followed.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

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

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. was not present but 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.

Council Member Nobles addressed Keith Bouvier to discuss the repair issues at the Farmers Market.

The Mayor and Keith are addressing the roof repairs. Council Member Valence asked about the plumbing issue, Keith stated the water was coming from the roof issues. Council Member Green asked for the update on the fence at the market. Mayor Peoples stated the materials have been ordered and will be installed soon. Mayor Peoples and Keith met and discussed other repair issues. The Mayor met with Facility Planning and a plan will be put together and will be bid out for the needed repairs. Mayor Peoples discussed the problems with graffiti, and hopes cameras will deter this problem. Council Member Rivere asked about the entertainment schedule for future concerts. A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples asked the City Council to consider moving Wego Fest back to Catfish Bourgeois Park. A discussion followed.

Council Member Green offered a motion to move Wego Fest to Catfish Bourgeois Park. There was not a second. Council Member Green withdrew his motion. Council Member Rivere asked that Wego Fest be taken under consideration.

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

Mayor Peoples/James Butler CPA – Financial Report – Budget vs. Actual. Mr. Butler was not present.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, December 10, 2018

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, December 10, 2018.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2019-01(A)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution declaring January 2019 to be National Law Enforcement Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2019-01(A).

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

RESOLUTION 2019-01(B)

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election held in the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 8, 2018, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2019-01(B).

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

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinance for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE #1567

An ordinance adopting the 2019 Legislative Calendar for the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Ordinance 1567.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (GG) Christian-Jones Playground

Council Member Green requested an update on the cement parking area in front of Christian Jones Playground and the date of the Dedication Ceremony. Mayor Peoples stated the lowest bid for the cement project was five thousand eight hundred dollars (\$5,800.00) from Geaux Concrete. A date for the Dedication Ceremony will be discussed later in this meeting.

2. (GG) Lazy River Landing

Council Member Green noticed numerous lights are not working at the Lazy River Landing. Mayor Peoples will look into this issue. Mayor Peoples will be getting bids for the walkway that drops down on the barge at the Lazy River Landing.

3. (GG) Avenue A and Fourth Street

Council Member Green stated there is a spot on Avenue A and Fourth Street that must be paved. Mayor Peoples spoke with Atmos Entergy concerning the pot holes they are creating within the city. Mayor Peoples stated Avenue A and Fourth Street is saw cut and ready to pave. The weather has caused a delay but the paving will be done soon. Mayor Peoples discussed the paving of the pot holes in the city.

4. (LHV) Sewer Plant Update

The Sewer Plant was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. (JP) Utility Adjustment

There were no utility adjustments at this time.

6. (JP) Update Catfish Bourgeois, Louis Marrero, and Christian Jones Playground

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the following parks: Catfish Bourgeois Park is open and the Dedication Ceremony needs to be scheduled. The Dedication Ceremony for the Christian Jones Playground must be scheduled, the cement work that was discussed tonight needs to be done, and the Christian Jones Playground sign is being worked on. There are issues at the Louis Marrero Park however, there is a new project contact person at Meyers Engineering which hopefully will help to solve these issues.

7. (JP) Update on Condemned Houses

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the condemned houses. Mayor Peoples personally knocked down the following buildings: 372 Sala Avenue, 498 Louisiana Street, 541 Laroussini Street, 443, 468, and 470 Gillican Street. These locations have finally been demolished after years and years of discussion. Liens

will be filed on these properties that were demolished. Mayor Peoples said when we consider the money that was saved by demolishing these building with the city's excavator, the price of the excavator has already been recouped. Mayor Peoples stated the two swimming pools that have been an ongoing issue have been filled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (GG) Railroad Crossing on Sala Avenue

Council Member Green stated the railroad crossing on Sala Avenue is getting worse. Mayor Peoples contacted the Property Management Division at Union Pacific Railroad.

2. (MJR) Street Repairs

Council Member Rivere spoke to Mayor Peoples concerning the street repairs that are needed on Tanglewood Drive. Council Member Valence stated there are three spots that need to be fixed from Magnolia Street to the Westbank Expressway. Council Member Rivere stated repairs are needed from Magnolia Street to the Westbank Expressway and patches from Magnolia to Lapalco Blvd. The council would like Mayor Peoples to get prices on repairing this area. Council Member Nobles spoke of the road repairs that are needed on Central Avenue near CVS Pharmacy and Patterson Street. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to get bids to repair the road on Tanglewood Drive.

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

Council Member Valence asked for a list of street repairs and these repairs be put out for bid. Mayor Peoples will prepare the list however; the weather has interfered with the blacktop work being completed.

3. (JSN) Removal of Chemical Tanker Cars behind Cedre Drive

Council Member Nobles believes the Railroad is storing chemical tanker cars once again behind Cedre Drive. Mayor Peoples will check on this. Council Member Thibodeaux asked if there is a noise ordinance for the railroad. Chief Munch discussed the noise ordinance for the railroad. A discussion followed.

4. (JP) EMS Building

Mayor Peoples would like to demolish the EMS Building and remove the trailer behind the EMS Building and bring it to the Wharf Project.

5. (JP) 617 Vic Street

Mayor Peoples asked that this be tabled at this time because the property may be purchased.

6. (JP) Canopies and Concession Stand at Louis Marrero Park

Mayor Peoples discussed and entertained a motion to remove the canopies and the concession stand at the Louis Marrero Park. Council Member Rivere is in favor of removing the canopies but asked that we hold off on removal of the concession stand.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to remove the canopies at Louis Marrero Park.

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

AMENDED AGENDA

1. (GG) 301 & 305 Fourth Street

Council Member Green stated that 301 & 305 Fourth Street are in terrible condition and asked that Code Enforcement review and site the owners. Mayor Peoples will send Perry Talamo with Code Enforcement.

2. (JP) Avenue A Bids

Mayor Peoples stated there were three bids on this project. Two bids were well over the budget and one bid was within the budget. The lowest bid came in at \$448,686.00. Mayor Peoples explained if any change orders are needed the City would be responsible however, within the bid is \$18,200.00 for police detail. Chief Munch stated the ordinance has been changed and the police detail is not needed. The

police will only be needed at the intersection of Fourth Street and Westbank Expressway. Mayor Peoples asked the City Council if they want this sent to Facility Planning for concurrence. A discussion followed. Council Member Nobles asked for copies of the bids. Council Member Rivere asked that this be tabled and addressed at the Special Session that will be held soon.

3. (JP) Bus Benches

Mayor Peoples discussed the one proposal that was received for the bus benches. The bus benches will be taken under advisement.

4. (JP) DMV

Mayor Peoples and the Director of the DMV met concerning the DMV Budget. The Director feels the transaction fee can be raised from \$4.50 to \$6.00. If the transaction fee can be increased it will compensate the deficiency we have within the DMV budget. If this is not possible the City of Westwego will have to make cuts to stay within the available funds.

5. (JP) Myrtle C. Thibodeaux School Sign

The DOTD has rejected the signs for the Myrtle C. Thibodeaux School on the Westbank Expressway because it does not meet the guidelines. Mayor Peoples read the letter from the DOTD explaining the guidelines. Council Member Valence requested a copy of this letter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(JSN) AG Opinion

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to go into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

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

The Mayor and City Council returned from Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

ADJOURN

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adjourn meeting at 8:37 p.m. Monday, January 14, 2019.

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, February 11, 2019, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
