

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Special Session
Thursday, January 24, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Special Session at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 24, 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
Chief of Police Dwayne Munch, Sr.
Deputy City Clerk Maurice T. Bourgeois, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Kelly Dual led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to amend the agenda to discuss Avenue A Street Overlay Project and an ordinance concerning boats in front yards.

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

HEALTH CARE

Kelly Dual, with Dual Insurance addressed the City Council to discuss his Health Insurance Proposal. Mr. Dual explained the insurance proposal that was given to the Mayor and City Council. Mayor Peoples would like to keep the same Health Care Plan and the city continue to pay 66% of the coverage. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, for discussion.

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

Council Member Nobles and Council Member Green thanked Mr. Duane Duffy of Benefit Analyst, LLC for his time in preparing the insurance proposal for the City of Westwego. After much consideration the Mayor and City Council reached the decision to continue with Dual Insurance for their health care plan.

Council Member Valence asked Mr. Dual of Dual Insurance to meet with the city employees and review the insurance plans that are available. Mr. Dual explained he has done this each year however, he would like to meet with groups every few months concerning their health care.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Green, to continue with Dual Insurance for the health care coverage and the City of Westwego continue paying 66% of the HMO Plan with the renewal of the Dental and Vision plans at the employee's expense.

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

PARK DEDICATION

Mayor Peoples discussed the date of the Dedication Ceremony for Catfish Bourgeois Play Area and the Christian Jones Memorial Playground. Due to the weather a decision was made to wait until the end of March. Mayor Peoples will review the calendar and email the City Council to confirm a date.

AMENDED AGENDA

1. (JP) Avenue A Street Overlay

Mayor Peoples spoke to the Engineer and Chief Munch concerning the police detail for this project. The police detail is not necessary and would be a saving of \$18,240.00. APTIM assured this saving would leave room for change orders that may be needed.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to approve said project pending the approval of Facility Planning.

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

2. (JP) Boats in Front Yards

Mayor Peoples has been receiving numerous complaints about boats and RV's in front yards. Mayor Peoples wanted to discuss this with the City Council before allowing Code Enforcement to address this problem. Mayor Peoples discussed an ordinance that is in on the books concerning this. A discussion followed.

Council Member Rivere and Council Member Thibodeaux expressed their concern with enforcing this ordinance. Council Member Rivere feels this ordinance needs to be tweaked. Council Member Nobles stated this is a fishing village and boats in the front yard has been allowed for many years. Council Member Nobles feels we need to consider whether it is a safety issue or not. A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples will have Code Enforcement make a list and provide this list to the City Council. This ordinance will not be enforced until changes are made.

AMEND THE AGENDA

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

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

Council Member Nobles would like to go on public record that the water rate increase is effective January 1, 2019 and was billed incorrectly on the December Utility Bills.

Mayor Peoples explained the January bill was actually the water usage for the month of December and should have been billed at the old water rate. There will be a credit on the February Utility Bill, however you current bill must be paid for the amount stated. A sign will be put at the front window explaining this situation.

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adjourn meeting at 6:24 p.m. Thursday, January 24, 2019.

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

Joe Peoples, Mayor

Maurice Bourgeois, Jr. Deputy 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.
