

City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Regular Session

Monday,  
February 11, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, February, 11, 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  
Asst. Police Chief Jason DiMarco

#### 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.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

#### PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mo Saleh of PEEC, Inc. presented an estimate of the cost for the Sewer Plant Projects. A discussion followed. Council Member Valence asked the Mayor and Mr. Saleh to apply for funding through the Community Development for 2019. The Mayor and Mr. Saleh will begin the process for this funding. Council Member Valence asked that the Mayor reach out to Councilman Ricky Templet and Councilman Paul Johnson for monetary assistance for these projects. The Mayor explained Mr. Johnson is already helping the City of Westwego with funds to locate the lines and valves within our city. The Mayor will check with Councilman Templet for assistance. Council Member Nobles asked the amount that will be given by Councilman Paul Johnson. A verbal agreement of \$200,000.00 has been offered by Councilman Johnson. Once we receive the funding from Jefferson Parish a survey company and a sounding company will be working to find the water lines and valves within our city. A discussion followed. Council Member Rivere asked Mr. Saleh about the funding of the Louisiana Street Sewer Lift Station. A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples thanked Mrs. Brenda Rogers for the \$250.00 dollars she received from the Friends of Jefferson to plant a tree in Catfish Bourgeois Park in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of Westwego.

#### ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

MELENIE BREAUX – 1610 FOURTH STREET

Mrs. Breaux with Walter Breaux Electric addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for their business which recently moved to 1610 Fourth Street.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant a Home Occupational License to Walter Breaux Electric

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

HENRY QUINTANILLA – 258 AVENUE B

Mr. Quintanilla thanked the Westwego Fire Department and all the volunteers for cooking the red beans and rice for the Run on the Bayou which took place at Bayou Segnette Park on Saturday, January 26, 2019.

Council Member Valence thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, EMS, and the Beautification Department for making this run a great success.

JOHNNY SHADDINGER – 312 AVENUE B

Addressed the City Council to discuss December and January Utility Bills. A discussion followed.

PAUL TRAN – 1500 FOURTH STREET

Mr. Tran is the new owner of the building at 1500 Fourth Street and addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for storage use only in the transportation of frozen shrimp. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to grant an Occupational License to Paul Tran pending all inspections.

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

#### HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police – Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. was not present however, Jason DiMarco the Assistant Chief submitted the report.

Fire Chief – Ryan P. Guidroz was not present, however he submitted his 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.

EMS Director – Joseph J. Aldor, Jr. was on call, however his report was submitted.

Senior Center Coordinator – Brant Fonseca submitted his original report.

Farmers Market Coordinator – Keith Bouvier submitted his original report.

Code Enforcement – Perry Talamo submitted his original report.

Mayor Peoples/James Butler CPA – Financial Report – Budget vs. Actual

Council Member Rivere asked for an update on the fence at the Farmer’s Market. The materials have been ordered and construction should begin soon.

#### APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, January 14, 2019

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session on Monday, January 14, 2019.

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

Special Session on Thursday, January 24, 2019

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to approve the Minutes of the Special Session on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

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

#### RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

RESOLUTION 2019-02(A)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution recognizing February 2019 as Black History Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adopt Resolution 2019-02(A)

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

RESOLUTION 2019—02(B)

Offered by Council Member Valence:

A resolution requesting the Parish of Jefferson, its officials; the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's office, and the Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries to monitor and regulate the operation of Air Boats in Bayou Segnette and surrounding tributaries.

Council Member Valence asked that a letter be sent to the Parish of Jefferson concerning the noise of the air boats in Bayou Segnette and the surrounding area. Mayor Peoples read a letter from Entergy concerning the work they are doing in the Bayou Segnette area. Mayor Peoples spoke to Kent Green with Entergy and received an email from Mr. Green stating they will be installing decibel meters to monitor this issue.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2019-02(B)

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

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, February 11, 2019, and laid over for publication of notice:

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for introduction.

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

An ordinance amending Chapter 42 – Subdivisions and Subdivision Regulations, Article II. Municipal Regulations, Section 42-26 Application Procedures for Subdivisions and Resubdivisions.

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

An ordinance approving the plan of survey and resubdivision of a certain piece or portion of ground situated in the City of Westwego, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, in that part thereof known as Lots B, C, D, 30-A and 31-A, Square 76, Whitehouse Subdivision, into Lot 30-B, Square 76, Whitehouse Subdivision, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated November 5, 2018.

Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance approving the plan of survey and resubdivision of a certain piece or portion of ground situated in the City of Westwego, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, in that part thereof known as Lots 1, 2, and Plot A, Westwego Heights into Lots 28A and 28B, Westwego Heights and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated October 31, 2018.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

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, March 11, 2019, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (GG) Update on Avenue A and Fourth Street

Mayor Peoples received the price for this project. Work should begin this week or next.

2. (GG) Update on LaBauve Road from Kinder Morgan to EMR Scrap Yard

Council Member Green asked that the shoulder on LaBauve Road be filled promptly. Mayor Peoples explained the contractor cannot do the work with his equipment until the water dries up. This area will be filled as soon as it is possible.

3. (GG) Update on Sala Avenue Public Buildings

Council Member Green asked for an update on the City Buildings on Sala Avenue. Mayor Peoples stated they may be a possible renter for the old Food Bank Building. Mayor Peoples discussed the River Boat Landing. Plans have been received for the walkway, however additional money is needed. At this time we are looking for someone to build the hydraulic arms that are needed for the landing. The material for the Martin House has been ordered, once the material is received construction will begin. The bid for the Arts Center came in over budget. At this time there may be a possible tenant interested in this building. Mayor Peoples is working with Facility Planning concerning the repairs at the Museum.

4. (JSN) Update on Patterson Street Asphalt Repairs

Council Member Nobles sent an email concerning the condition of Patterson Street to the Mayor's Office. The bad blacktop has been removed and limestone has been laid down until it can be repaired with new blacktop. The front of Patterson Street will be repaired with cement.

5. (JSN) Update on Engineer's Estimate of Costs for Sewer Plant Project

This was addressed earlier in the meeting.

6. (LHV) WHARF Update

Council Member Valence gave a progress report on the WHARF Project. She stated the city is close to completing their DEQ obligations. Council Member Valence hopes by the spring we will receive the money from the Wildlife and Fisheries to continue to move forward on the WHARF Project.

7. (MJR) Update on Tanglewood Drive

Mayor Peoples stated he has received the bid for the work on Tanglewood Drive however, he is waiting for another bid. .

8. (JP) Utility Adjustment

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

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

9. (JP) DMV Fees

Mayor Peoples and the Director of the DMV talked concerning the DMV fees. The Director stated the City Council must write a resolution to increase the license fee from \$4.50 per transaction to \$6.00 per transaction in order for this increase to occur.

The Mayor entertained a verbal resolution.

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

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

A discussion followed. Mayor Peoples would like a signed agreement on a year to year basis. Council Member Nobles asked that a number system be placed in the waiting room of the DMV to inform the customers the current number the DMV is working on. Mayor Peoples is getting a price on installing a glass to separate the DMV and City Hall.

RESOLUTION 2019-02(C)

A resolution levying a fee of six dollars (\$6.00) for each service or transaction carried out as an operation of the Office of Motor Vehicles located in Westwego City Hall, as set forth under Louisiana Revised Statutes 32:429, and authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the State of Louisiana for the collection of said fee.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Resolution 2019-02(C).

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

10. (JP) Short Term Rentals

Mayor Peoples asked the City Council to review the City of Gretna's ordinance concerning short term rentals. A discussion followed.

11. (JP) Underground Storage Tanks

The underground storage tanks have been removed at the water plant and sewer plant. The Mayor stated the generator from the water plant is in poor condition and he would like to place it in the City Auction on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (MJR) District 4 Street Repairs

Council Member Rivere has a list of street repairs from his district that he would like the Mayor to bid out. Mayor Peoples will ride with each City Council Members and review the street repairs that are needed in their district. A discussion followed.

2. (JSN) City Permits Applied For – Copy to Council Members

Council Member Nobles asked that a list of city permits be given to each Council Member. Mayor Peoples stated a copy of the residential permits will be placed in the Council Members box for their district, however a copy of commercial permits will be given to all Council Members.

Council Member Green asked the City Attorney to investigate the status of the Special Permitted Use for Blackwater and Kinder Morgan. The City Attorney Levy will get with Chief Manuel Torano concerning the current Special Permitted Use.

3. (JP) City Auction

Mayor Peoples announced the City Auction will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the Westwego Police Station.

4. (JP) Water Meter Deposits & Regulations

Mayor Peoples discussed issues with this ordinance and feels it needs to be changed. The city is losing a lot of money on rental properties. The Mayor will meet with City Attorney Levy to address increasing deposits on rental property and adjusting the cut off time for delinquent bills from three months to two months on all properties. The Mayor feels liens on the property should be paid before a residence can get a water meter. The Mayor hopes this will help to recoup the money that is being lost. A discussion followed.

ADJOURN

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adjourn meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 11, 2019.

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

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