

City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Regular Session

Monday,  
March 11, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, March 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 4 Council Member Matthew J. Rivere  
District 5 Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux  
Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.

District 3 Council Member Valence 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 led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence in honor of the deceased members of our community. Mayor Peoples asked that we keep Council Member Valence's daughter in our prayers, she is having surgery in California.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Thibodeaux 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 to discuss the following items later in the meeting.

1. (GG) Enterprise Zone
2. (GG) 105 Norton Street
3. (GG) Christian Jones Playground

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

#### PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Brenda Rogers discussed the planting of a live oak tree for the 100 Anniversary of the City of Westwego. The planting will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at Catfish Bourgeois Park. Mayor Peoples thanked Mrs. Rogers for all she does with the Beautification Commission for our city.

Mrs. Rogers discussed the Run on the Bayou and the great success it was. She thanked Keith Bouvier and his team, Chief Munch, EMS, the Junior Deputies, and Louisiana Kids for all their help in making Run on the Bayou a great success. Mrs. Rogers thanked Mayor Peoples and the City Council for including the Beautification Commission in their 2019 Budget.

Mayor Peoples informed the citizens that there are letters being sent throughout the city concerning money owed for taxes, he stated this is a scam and is not from the City of Westwego.

Council Member Green thanked Chief Munch for the wonderful job they did with the funeral procession for his granddaughter.

#### ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

KELLY KAPESIS – 1090 FOURTH STREET

Kelly Kapesis addressed the City Council to request on Occupational License to operate a beauty salon at Sylvia's Beauty Salon at 1090 Fourth Street.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to grant an Occupational License to Kelly Kapisis to operate at Sylvia Beauty Salon.

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

KRISTY TAYLOR – 839 AVENUE G

Kristy Taylor addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License, telephone and mail only for her on-line embroidery business, Granny's Creation.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant a Home Occupational License to Kristy Taylor to operate Granny's Creation.

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

MIQUEAL JONES – 154 SALA AVENUE

Miqueal Jones addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License, telephone and mail only for his on-line uniform business.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant a Home Occupational License to Miqueal Jones.

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

COREY TRAHAN – 1019 FLANDERS – EMS IN JEFFERSON PARISH

Corey Trahan addressed the City Council concerning the EMS service of West Jefferson Hospital. Mr. Trahan addressed his concerns for the private ambulance company that West Jefferson Hospital will be possibly contracting in April of 2019. A discussion followed. EMS Director, Joseph Aldor spoke in regards to the Westwego EMS. Police Chief Munch spoke regarding LCMC.

LORETTA BREHM, PHILIP FRICANO – 250 LOUISIANA STREET

Loretta Brehm and Philip Fricano spoke to the City Council regarding the correct Occupational License needed for the Krewe of King Arthur for the location at 195 and 197 Louisiana for storage only and 55 Louisiana Street.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant an Occupational License to the Krewe of King Arthur pending inspections.

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

MARTHACLAYVETTE SMITH – 1029 A MAGNOLIA DRIVE

Marthaclayvette Smith addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for Genuine Hearts Transportation, LLC.

Council Member Rivere asked to review information before voting on this Occupational License.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to take out of order; New Business 4) Police Department Millage.

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

#### 4. (JP) Police Department Millage

Chief Munch stated the City of Westwego is losing police officers due to lower hourly pay and benefits. Chief Munch compared the starting hourly rates as well as benefits of the police officers in the surrounding communities. Westwego Police Officers fall below those rates and benefits. Chief Munch feels a millage is needed to keep our police officers and become competitive with the surrounding areas. A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to approve an Occupational License to Marthaclayvette Smith with Genuine Hearts Transportation.

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

## HEAR ALL REPORTS

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

Fire Chief – Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his original report. Mr. Guidroz announced the Lent Dinners will begin this Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station located at 677 Avenue H. The Westwego Firemen Fair and Expo will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2019 beginning at 12 noon.

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. Nicole Volpi with Westwego EMS thanked Mayor Peoples, Chief Munch, the Fire Chief and the City Council for their help in passing the EMS Millage. Ms. Volpi gave an explanation of the benefits of the millage and how it helps the residents of Westwego.

Senior Center Coordinator – Brant Fonseca submitted his original report.

Farmers Market Coordinator – Keith Bouvier submitted his original report. Mr. Bouvier announced the Concert Series will begin this Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Code Enforcement – Perry Talamo submitted his original report.

Mayor Peoples/James Butler CPA – Financial Report – Budget vs. Actual – Mayor Peoples asked the City Council if they had any questions on the budget, there were no questions.

Council Member Nobles asked for an update on the fence at the market. Mayor Peoples gave the update on the fence.

## APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, February 11, 2019

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session on Monday, February 11, 2019.

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

## RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

### RESOLUTION 2019-03(A)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution ratifying an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Westwego and the Parish of Jefferson for assistance in the purchase of trash cans to be placed in the public farmers' market area within the City of Westwego for the maintenance and beautification of this area, at a cost not to exceed \$6,392.00.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Resolution 2019-03(A).

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

### RESOLUTION 2019-03(B)

Offered by Council Member Green:

A resolution ratifying an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Westwego and the Parish of Jefferson to defray the costs for the construction of a water line within the City of Westwego for the maintenance and improvement of water supply, treatment, and service systems for the citizens of Westwego and Jefferson Parish, at a cost not to exceed \$250,000.00.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Resolution 2019-03(B).

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

## ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

### 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, March 11, 2019, and laid over for publication of notice:

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for introduction.

Offered by Council Member Green:

An ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 44-30 of the Westwego Code of Ordinances to provide for the discontinuation of water service for delinquency and related matters.

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

An ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 34-60 of the Westwego Code of Ordinances concerning the parking/storage of recreational boats, campers, trailers etc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Mayor and Council will hold a regular meeting on Monday, April 8, 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.

### ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for adoption.

#### ORDINANCE 1568

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.

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

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

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

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Ordinance 1568.

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

#### ORDINANCE 1569

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.

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

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

Mayor Peoples invited public comment. Mr. Jeff Khalil spoke in favor of this ordinance. No one spoke against this ordinance.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Ordinance 1569.

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

#### ORDINANCE 1570

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.

Council Member Nobles spoke in behalf of Council Member Valence because she could not be present. Council Member Valence approves this ordinance with the condition it remains residential.

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

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

Mayor Peoples invited public comment. City Attorney Joel Levy stated the resubdivision does not change the zoning. This property is zoned residential. At the time the purchaser comes for a building permit it can be determine whether it follows the proper setbacks and use requirements.

No one spoke in favor of, or opposition of this ordinance.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Ordinance 1570.

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

#### ORDINANCE 1571

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.

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

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

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

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Ordinance 1571.

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. (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, Rivere, Thibodeaux Absent: Valence

2. (JP) 372 Sala Avenue – Update

Mayor Peoples stated the home owner of the demolished property at 372 Sala Avenue has paid all liens in full.

3. (JP) Martin House Roof – Update

The roof on the Martin House is currently being replaced with a metal roof that looks like terracotta.

4. (JP) Museum Roof – Update

The same company that is doing the Martin House roof will begin construction on the Westwego Historical Museum roof repairs once the Martin House is complete. We were unable to get the funding from Capital Outlay therefore, we will be using funding from Sales Tax Appropriation from the Department of Treasurer to repair the museum roof.

5. (JP) Farmers Market – Update

Keith Bouvier and Mayor Peoples made a list of the repairs and a wish list of items that are needed at the Farmers Market. At this time they are waiting for bids for a walk in cooler and bids for the cement repairs that are needed. When the fence is being installed around the market a metal fence matching the color of the building will be placed around the dumpsters.

6. (JP) Avenue A & Fourth Street – Update

Mayor Peoples stated the concrete repairs at Avenue A and Fourth Street have been completed. Council Member Green stated how well these repairs came out.

7. (JP) Columbus & Avenue B – Update

Mayor Peoples stated the concrete repairs have been completed at Columbus and Avenue B, Columbus and Avenue D and Second Street and Avenue D. Mayor Peoples is waiting for a response from Atmos Gas Company concerning the repair of the potholes from the construction work that was performed.

8. (JP) Water Line to Kass Bros. – Update

The pipe was purchased for this water line however, with the height of the Mississippi River the construction had to be stopped. Once the river goes below a certain point the digging can resume.

9. (JP) Street Repairs – Update

Mayor Peoples is still waiting on two companies to give a price on the street repairs that are needed throughout the city. Mayor Peoples asked the citizens to be patient with the construction that is going on as we actively repair our infrastructure.

10. (JP) Avenue A Resurfacing – Update

Mayor Peoples spoke concerning the resurfacing of the Avenue A. Mayor Peoples gave the contractor the notice to proceed with the resurfacing.

11. (JP) Parks – Update

Mayor Peoples gave an update on Christian Jones Playground; the gate is finished and the park was opened on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The sign for the Christian Jones Playground needs to be ordered and the date for the dedication needs to be decided.

Council Member Green spoke concerning the cement area for parking at Christian Jones Playground. Council Member Green feels since the cement work is being paid from his discretionary funds he would like Bass Construction to do the work for \$8,000.00, the price bid on this job. Council Member Green stated this price is below the bid law. Mayor Peoples explained that the bid from Bass Construction was double the price from Geaux Concrete. Mayor Peoples understands Council Member Green is spending his discretionary funds for this project however, as Mayor he cannot justify signing a check for a contractor that is charging double the amount for the same work that another cement contractor would charge. Council Member Green stated Bass Construction will reduce their price by \$1,000.00. Mayor Peoples explained that is still \$3,000.00 more than the other cement contractor. Mayor Peoples stated if Bass Construction will do the work for the same price as Geaux Concrete he has no problem awarding Bass Construction the job. Council Member Green asked City Attorney Joel Levy to look into writing an ordinance that would allow a Council Member using their discretionary funds to use a company of their choice as long as the price is below the bid law. Council Member Green would like this ordinance for

April's Regular Session Meeting. Council Member Green told City Attorney Joel Levy he understands he works for Mayor Peoples and would hire his own attorney if necessary. City Attorney Joel Levy stated he works for the City of Westwego and he would not prepare an ordinance that he believes would violate state laws.

Mayor Peoples informed the City Council a date needs to be set for the dedication of Christian Jones Playground. Mayor Peoples gave an update on Louis Marrero Park and explained the setbacks this project is having. A discussion followed.

12. (JP) Church Property – Update

Mayor Peoples stated the appraisal for the church property came in at \$10,000.00. A discussion followed.

13. (JP) Sala Avenue Street Lighting – Update

Entergy evaluated the problems we are having with lighting on Sala Avenue. Mayor Peoples asked for a quote from Entergy to take over the special lighting on Sala Avenue. Once Entergy gets a sample of the replacement lights it will go before the Westwego Historical Commission for approval. Council Member Rivere asked Mayor Peoples to have Entergy look at the light at the boat launch that fell.

14. (JP) WHARF – Update

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the WHARF Project, the fence is installed and the classroom is on the grounds. At this time, we are waiting on a quote for a portable restroom. The city is waiting on the paperwork from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries for the first phase of funding to begin.

15. (JP) Sewer Plant – Update

The three static screens have arrived. Mo Saleh with PEEC, Inc. informed the Mayor the DEQ is requiring a few more statements be added before this project can be sent out for bid.

16. (JP) Smoothie King – Update

The Smoothie King Project is going forward at Avenue D and Westbank Expressway. Council Member Nobles asked for a copy of this building permit.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Appearance in front of City Hall

Council Member Nobles sent an estimate for the flower beds in front of City Hall to the Mayor and asked that the front of the City Hall Building be pressure washed and the columns be repainted. Mayor Peoples would like more estimates on the flower beds before proceeding.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to use money from the City Hall Fund to do the flower beds and painting of the columns.

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

Mayor Peoples gave an update on the generator for City Hall, which is close to being completed.

2. (JLT) Protocol for Sewer Plant & Water Plant Night Calls

Council Member Thibodeaux asked if the after hour phone calls are being forwarded to a certain phone number that someone can speak to. Mayor Peoples explained at 6:00 p.m. the phone is rolled over to the fire station and they dispatch the message to the person on call. Council Member Thibodeaux asked that this be added to our website and next month's utility bill.

3. (JP) LGAP

Mayor Peoples read a letter he received from Louisiana Government Assistance Program, LGAP stating the City of Westwego received \$21,900.00 for water line improvement. Some of these funds will be used for the water lines on Avenue A.

4. (JP) Police Department Millage

Police Department Millage was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. (JP) Utility Billing Program and IT for City Hall

Mayor Peoples hired an IT company to resolve the problems with our emails and computer systems. The Mayor is also checking in a new utility billing program.

AMENDED AGENDA

1. (GG) Enterprise Zone

Council Member Green stated that years ago the City of Westwego was an Enterprise Zone and would like the Mayor to look into becoming an Enterprise Zone once again.

2. (GG) 105 Norton Street

Council Member Green would like to begin condemnation proceedings on 105 Norton Street.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to begin condemnation proceedings on 105 Norton Street.

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

3. (GG) Christian Jones Playground

Christian Jones Playground was discussed earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adjourn meeting at 7:24 p.m. Monday, March 11, 2019.

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

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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, April 8, 2019, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

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