

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, August 12, 2019

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 12, 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.
City Clerk Lisa Tapia

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the invocation.

INVOCATION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Peoples led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence for the members of our community who have passed on since our last meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Munch led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMEND THE AGENDA

Council Member Green offered a motion to amend the agenda.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to amend the agenda to discuss the following items at the end of business:

- (GG) Sala Avenue
- (JSN) Property Taxes for Disabled Veterans Over 65
- (JP) Fire Stations – Surplus and Sell

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LOOP LINEN

Mayor Peoples presented a proclamation to Scott Burke honoring Loop Linen Service on the event of their 90th Anniversary.

Mr. Burke thanked the Mayor and City Council and then announced the recent purchase of the old Donnaud Building at 499 Fourth Street, which will house New Orleans Party Rentals as well as expanded operations of Loop Linen Service.

LMA AWARD

Mayor Peoples announced that the City of Westwego was presented a 2018 Community Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Improvement in Basic Services at the 82nd Annual LMA Convention. He stated that the City won this award because of the new Fire Station and thanked the Westwego Fire Department and the Westwego Volunteer Fire Company for all of the work they have done over the years to make the new Fire Station a reality.

Council Member Valence commended Charles Hudson, Ryan Guidroz, and the firefighters who helped them for their hard work as they led the Louisiana State Firemen's Association Conference in New Orleans last weekend and thanked them for representing Westwego so well.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

PHILIP LEBLANC

Philip LeBlanc addressed the City Council to discuss Loop Linen's negative impact on his neighborhood.

A discussion followed.

CINDY LEFORT

Cindy Lefort addressed the City Council to discuss Loop Linen's negative impact on her neighborhood.

A discussion followed.

SCOTT BURKE

Scott Burke addressed the City Council to discuss the impact that Loop Linen has on the surrounding neighborhood. He stated that Loop Linen wants to be a good neighbor and will address the problems with lint and vibration.

A discussion followed.

JOHNNY SHADDINGER

Johnny Shaddinger addressed the City Council to discuss Loop Linen and to discuss the proposed millage to fund Police Officer salary increases.

A discussion followed.

JAMES SIMMONS, JR.

James Simmons, Jr. addressed the City Council to announce his candidacy for Louisiana State Representative, District 83.

KYLE M. GREEN, JR.

Kyle M. Green, Jr. addressed the City Council to announce his candidacy for Louisiana State Representative, District 83.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr., Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz, Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr., Mechanical Inspector Tommy Baxter, Plumbing Inspector Walter "Bubba" Choquette, Jr., EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr. Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca, Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier, and Code Enforcement Officer Perry Talamo submitted their written reports.

Electrical Inspector Doyle Guidroz was not present but had submitted his written report earlier.

City CPA James Butler addressed the City Council to present the 2018 Annual Audit Report and to discuss the 2019 Budget.

A discussion followed.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, July 8, 2019.

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

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to take Items 5 and 6 under Old Business at this time.

Council Member Nobles stated that he would also like to move Item 1 under Old Business to the end with the WHARF video.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to take Items 5 and 6 under Old Business at this time and to move Item 1 under Old Business to the end with the WHARF video.

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

ITEMS 5 & 6 FROM NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Peoples reported that the Martin House Roof and Avenue A Projects are now substantially complete and asked the City Council to adopt the following resolutions recognizing this status.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

Offered by All Council Members:

RESOLUTION 2019-08(A)

A resolution authorizing substantial completion status to Roofing Solutions, LLC. for Roof Replacement at 306 Sala Ave (No. 147814), in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Aptim, Inc.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adopt Resolution 2019-08(A)

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

Offered by All Council Members:

RESOLUTION 2019-08(B)

A resolution authorizing substantial completion status to Kass Bros., Inc. for Avenue A Street Improvements (No. 129730B), in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Aptim, Inc.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adopt Resolution 2019-08(B)

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

There were no ordinances for introduction.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance prohibiting the erection of billboards within the city limits of the City of Westwego.

Council Member Valence asked the Council to postpone adoption of this ordinance until next month in order to allow clarification of what constitutes a billboard, and to also enact a moratorium on large signs and/or billboards until the issue is addressed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to discuss a moratorium on large signs and/or billboards until the issue is addressed.

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

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to continue the ordinance prohibiting the erection of billboards within city limits until next month.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (LHV) WHARF Project Update

This item was moved to the end of the agenda to be taken along with Item 5 under New Business.

2. (LHV) Sewerage Plant Update

Mayor Peoples stated that the bid opening for the Sewer Plant Improvements will be Thursday, August 22, 2019, and that the bid opening for the Sodium Hypochlorite System will be Monday, August 28, 2019.

Council Member Valence asked about safety gear and vaccinations for sewer workers.

Mayor Peoples stated that everyone who works on streets and sewer will have proper safety gear and vaccinations.

3. (JP) Water Plant

Mayor Peoples stated that he has received prices, and that it will cost about \$42,971.00 to remove the windows and close in the openings with blocks to secure the water plant building for use as a safe house. He stated that funds are available to do this.

A discussion followed.

4. (JP) 617 Vic Street Condemnation

Mayor Peoples stated that condemnation proceedings will resume for 617 Vic Street because the owner has not removed the structure as agreed.

5. (JP) Martin House Roof Substantial Completion

This item was addressed earlier.

6. (JP) Avenue A Substantial Completion

This item was addressed earlier.

7. (JP) Utility Billing Adjustment

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the Utility Billing Adjustments.

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

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

Mayor Peoples stated that he has instituted new procedures for the verification of requests for Utility Billing Adjustments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JP) Re-subdivision & Zoning Classification

Mayor Peoples discussed the re-subdivision and possible re-zoning of City property at the site of the old City Hall.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to submit the plans for the City property at the site of the old City Hall to the Zoning Board.

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

2. (JP) Pump to River

Mayor Peoples discussed repurposing the pit at the water plant as a drainage substation. He stated that the infrastructure is already in place to pump the water to the Mississippi River, and asked the City Council to authorize him to have an engineer look at it and prepare an estimate of cost.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Green, authorize Mayor Peoples to have an engineer look at repurposing the pit at the water plant into a drainage substation to pump runoff to the Mississippi River and prepare an estimate of cost.

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

3. (JP) 100 Year Anniversary Celebration

Mayor Peoples discussed the 100th Anniversary Celebration being planned for Sunday, September 8, 2019 at the Westwego Farmers and Fisheries Market. He stated that Jefferson Parish Councilman Paul Johnston has committed \$10,000.00 for the celebration, including fireworks. He stated that there will be a parade beforehand, with the celebration at 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

A discussion followed.

4. (JP) Sand Bagging

Mayor Peoples stated that he purchased a sandbagging machine to supply Westwego residents only with sandbags during a hurricane event. The amount of bags each resident will receive will be determined.

5. (JP) WHARF Project Video & WHARF Project Update

Mayor Peoples announced plans to use video presentations at City Meetings.

He then discussed the WHARF Project. He reported that the contract with Wildlife and Fisheries for the first \$995,000.00 is ready and will be signed soon, and that the \$5,000,000.00 that Senator Alario and Representative Billiot were able to have moved into Priority 1 will become available after the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is signed.

Mayor Peoples announced that today is Council Member Nobles' birthday, and that Council Member Green celebrated his birthday on August 6.

AMENDED ITEMS

1. (JSN) Property Taxes for Disabled Veterans Over 65

Council Member Nobles asked the City Attorney to research the recent Constitutional Amendment granting property tax exemptions to Disabled Veterans over 65 years of age.

2. (GG) Sala Avenue

Council Member Green reported that the trees on Sala Avenue have grown to the point that the roots are disrupting the sidewalks.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples stated that he is getting prices to remove the trees and repair the damages, for the repair and LED retrofitting of the street lights, and for planters to replace the trees.

3. (JP) Fire Stations – Surplus and Sell

Mayor Peoples discussed selling the decommissioned Fire Stations.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to authorize him to have the properties appraised.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to have the decommissioned Fire Station properties appraised.

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

Council Member Nobles excused himself and left to celebrate his birthday with his family.

WHARF PROJECT VIDEO

Mayor Peoples narrated the WHARF Project Video, which is an aerial tour of the project site.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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

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, September 9, 2019, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
