

City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Regular Session  
Monday, December 11, 2017

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met In Regular Session at 6:00 P.M., Monday, December 11, 2017, 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 J. Munch  
City Clerk Lisa Tapia

#### 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 memory of the deceased members of our community.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

#### ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

##### JOHNNY SHADDINGER – 312 AVENUE B

Johnny Shaddinger addressed the City Council on various issues.

##### MARVIN BLACK – 447 GILLICAN

Marvin Black addressed the City Council regarding his property at 447 Gillican Street and the letter he received from Code Enforcement. Mr. Black stated his yard is clean. Mayor Peoples stated this property is on the list for condemnation and read the engineers report. Council Member Green and Mayor Peoples will visit said property on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Council Member Green stated condemnation on the property will be on hold at this time.

##### TERRY BOUCHER – 11 LOUISIANA STREET

Terry Boucher addressed the City Council requesting an Occupational License for Westside Wheels and Tires at the same location of his Westside Powder Coating.

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Terry Boucher subject to all requirements.

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

##### PROFESSOR TANYA TAYLOR - 484 AVENUE A

Tanya Taylor addressed the City Council to request patrol of police officers to increase in her area. Chief Munch spoke in regards to the patrolling schedule for the City of Westwego. Chief Munch advised Professor Taylor to visit the website and request for additional patrol. Chief Munch explained this can be done monthly.

AMENDA THE AGENDA

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to amend the agenda to discuss the following:

1. (JP) Verbal Resolution for a change order at the Fire Station
2. (JP) Bus Benches
3. (LHV) Zoning Changes

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(LHV) Christmas Under The Trees

Council Member Valence thanked James Boheman and Charles Hudson for all their hard work on Christmas Under The Trees. Christmas Under The Tree will continue until early January and Council Member Valence encouraged citizens to visit and enjoy Christmas Under The Trees.

Council Member Valence wanted to remind everyone about Run On The Bayou on Saturday, January 27, 2018. This run will benefit the Westwego Beautification Commission.

Mayor Peoples announced that Atmos Gas Company is repairing gas lines in District 1 at this time. Eventually they will be repairing the entire city.

The Mayor stated city workers have begun removing signs on telephone poles throughout the city such as garage sale signs, etc. Mayor Peoples read a letter from a citizen thanking the City of Westwego for removing the advertising signs that are a distraction and an eye sore.

BUDGET HEARING

2018 Budget & Amendment to the 2017 Budget

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to open discussion.

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

A discussion followed. City CPA Jim Butler spoke in regards to the budget.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to hold a Special Meeting.

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

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 5:00 to discuss the Amended 2017 Budget and the 2018 Budget.

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

HEAR ALL REPORTS

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

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his original report. Chief Guidroz thanked everyone that came out on Sunday, December 10, 2017 for the Fire Department's Christmas Parade.

Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr. submitted his original report.

Mechanical Inspector – Tommy Baxter has nothing to report at this time.

Plumbing Inspector – Walter "Bubba" Choquette, Jr. has nothing to report at this time.

Electrical Inspector – Doyle Guidroz was not present.

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. Mr. Bouvier announced the free movie night will be on Friday, December 15, 2017 at 6 p.m.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, November 13, 2017

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Green, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, November 13, 2017.

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

## RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption.

### RESOLUTION 2017-12(A)

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation, A/E Project No. 1432, with Gottfried Contracting, LLC in the additive amount of \$16,940.77 to provide repairs to Clarifier No. 3 and delete painting of Clarifier No. 2.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2017-12 (A).

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

### RESOLUTION 2017-12(B)

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

A resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to submit a pre-application to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for the purpose of placing the Westwego Waste Water Treatment Plant Repair and Improvement Project on the Project Priority List for funding through the State Revolving Fund loan program, further authorizing Mayor Peoples to furnish such additional information as may reasonably be requested in connection with the pre-application, and designating Mayor Peoples as the Official Project Representative for the City of Westwego for any project that may result from the submission of the pre-application.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to adopt Resolution 2017-12 (B).

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

## ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for introduction.

Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance adopting the 2018 Legislative Calendar for the City of Westwego.

Council Member Valence noted a change needed to be made in the 2018 Legislative Calendar concerning the Regular Session Meeting for February due to the Mardi Gras Holiday.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Green, to approve the change for the Regular Session February Meeting from February 15, 2017 to February 5, 2017.

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

Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance repealing Chapter 10 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS - Article II Special Building Regulations - Division 2. Flood prone Areas in its entirety and adopting a new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO) and all of the enumerated subsections in order to comply with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to provide for related matters.

A discussion followed.

Michelle Gonzales with Jefferson Parish Flood Plan Management spoke regarding this ordinance.

A discussion followed.

## ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinance for adoption.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

An ordinance amending and readopting the 2017 Budget for the City of Westwego.

This will be continued to the Special Budget Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

An ordinance approving the 2018 Budget for the City of Westwego.

This will be continued to the Special Budget Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. (JP) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

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

### 2. (GG) Update on Christian Jones Playground

Council Member Green asked for the update on the Christian Jones Playground. Mayor Peoples stated they received three letters from Facility Planning giving permission to get bids.

### 3. (GG) Update on Westwego Art Center

Council Member Green asked for the update on the Westwego Art Center. Mayor Peoples stated he will get a crew to clean the building. Mayor Peoples and the Building Inspector Skip Lombas will go and evaluate what repairs need to be done.

### 4. (GG) Update on Christmas Decoration

Council Member Green asked about the Snowflakes Christmas Decorations from Avenue C to Louisiana Street. Mayor Peoples discussed the lights on Sala Avenue. A discussion followed.

### 5. (MJR) Farmers Market

Council Member Rivere would like to revisit the fees for the Farmers Market for local schools. Council Member Rivere asked that the fees be \$260.00 for local schools for a one time use every calendar year.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to charge a fee of \$260.00 for local schools to rent the Farmers Market for a one time use every calendar year.

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

### 6. (LHV) Update on the WHARF

Council Member Valence would like to reserve City Hall to update the community regarding the WHARF Project.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Green, to have a public meeting on January 9, 2018 to discuss the WHARF Project.

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

### 7. (JLT) Update on Code Enforcement Procedure

Council Member Thibodeaux will make changes and email the Mayor and Council the Code Enforcement Procedure Pamphlet to review. Mayor Peoples stated that Code Enforcement is now wearing body cameras and will be equipment with I-Pads soon.

### 8. (JP) Martin House

Mayor Peoples stated the Facility Planning has requested that the Martin House be re-bid.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to re bid the Martin House.

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

Amelia Whitted thanked the Chief of Police Dwayne Munch for the Senior Citizen Christmas Party.

#### AMENDED AGENDA

1. (JP) Verbal Resolution for a change order at the Fire Station.

#### RESOLUTION 2017-12(C)

A resolution approving Change Order No. 5 to the Fire Station, Planning & Construction (Jefferson), FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-13-01 contracted between the City of Westwego and J.A. "Jack" Julius Jr., Inc. on September 8, 2016.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Resolution 2017-12(C).

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

2. (JP) Bus Benches

Mayor Peoples addressed the City Council to approve a request for proposal on bus benches.

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to approve a request for proposal for bus benches.

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

3. (LHV) Zoning Changes

Council Member Valence would like to hold a zoning meeting after the first of the year to check on commercial zoning. City Clerk Lisa Tapia will schedule this meeting after the first of the year.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. (GG) 370 Sala Avenue

Council Member Green stated this should read 372 Sala Avenue and this property is in great need of repairs. Mayor Peoples asked Ms. Betty Landry with the Westwego Historical Society to address the Council concerning this property. Ms. Betty stated this property has been sold. She has spoke to the new owner and he will keep the front building and demolish the back building.

2. (GG) Trees on Sala Avenue

Council Member Green stated the trees on Sala Avenue are growing up to the electrical wire. Mayor Peoples stated he is aware that these trees are already causing problems. Council Member Green and Mayor Peoples will visit the site and elevate what can be done.

3. (GG) Farmers Market Christmas Tree

Council Member Green expressed his concern that there were no Christmas Decorations at the Farmers Market this year. Farmer Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier addressed the issue concerning the Christmas Decorations.

4. (JSN) Farmers Market Water Supply

Council Member Nobles asked the status of installing faucets for the upcoming crawfish boils. Mayor Peoples and Council Member Nobles will visit the site this week to evaluate what needs to be done.

5. (JP) Recycling

Mayor Peoples stated that 200 recycling bins have been ordered to start the program. Citizens will only pay the cost of the recycle bins. The recycle bins will be picked up once a week by city workers. A citizen asked if the old recycle bin can be used. Mayor Peoples stated that will be allow, however they must come to City Hall and register the old recycle bin.

6. (JP) Senior Center

Mayor Peoples met with Al Robicheaux to discuss the price of meals the City of Westwego is charged for our senior citizens. They discussed the Jefferson Council on Aging helping the Westwego Senior Center with the meals. The Jefferson Council on Aging will help the City of Westwego with 24 meals which will be a saving of \$44,000.00 per year.

7. (JP) Tourist Information Center

The Council and Mayor Peoples spoke about having a Souvenir Store/ Tourist Information Center. This will help assist with the cost of the Tourist Information Center.

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Valence, to research the possibility of a Souvenir Store/ Tourist Information Center.

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

8. (JP) New City Hall

Mayor Peoples met with Boasso Construction and stated they finished their punch list and Meyers Engineering recommended punch list. Mayor Peoples asked Council Members to approve the final payment to Boasso Construction and to allow him to get bids for the parking lot, rear of building and the walkway.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, seconded by Council Member Valence, to pay Boasso Construction the final payment and allow Mayor Peoples to send letters for bids on the parking lot, rear of building, and the walkway.

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

9. (JP) 468, 470, 443, 447 Gillican Street; 713 Avenue C; 498 Louisiana Street

Mayor Peoples stated he sent letters to the owners of the above properties and only one resident appeared at the City Meeting, the owner of 447 Gillican. Mayor Peoples read the engineers report for the above properties.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, seconded by Council Member Valence, to start condemnation process on 498 Louisiana Street.

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

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, seconded by Council Member Rivere, to send a letter requesting a hearing with the owner of 713 Avenue C.

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

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to start condemnation process on 470 Gillican Street.

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

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to start condemnation process on 443 Gillican Street. .

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

Mayor Peoples stated the property at 447 Gillican will be placed on hold at this time.

MOVED by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to start condemnation process on 468 Gillican Street.

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

10. (JP) Christmas and New Year's Holidays

Mayor Peoples checked with Jefferson Parish concerning their Christmas and New Year Holiday schedule, which will be on Monday and Tuesday this year. Mayor Peoples asked that we follow Jefferson Parish Holiday Schedule and change the City of Westwego Holiday Schedule from the Friday holiday to Monday and Tuesday holiday. All Council Member were in favor of this change.

Council Member Rivere stated he would like to appoint Brad Usea to the Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Peoples wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the citizens of Westwego and the Council Members.

ADJOURN

MOVED by All, and seconded by All, to adjourn meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 11, 2017.

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

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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, January 8, 2018, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

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