City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Regular Session  
Monday, April 12, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 12, 2021 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

The meeting was streamed live on Facebook Live.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council Member Green led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence for the members of our community who have died since our last meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There were no presentations, announcements, or acknowledgements.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

BETTY LANDRY

Betty Landry addressed the City Council to discuss street signs and 406 Sala Avenue.

Mayor Peoples stated that 406 Sala Avenue is pending a signature on the necessary paperwork.

Ms. Landry offered to help with obtaining the signature of the owner.

Council Member Valence stated that the street signs have been corrected.

DONNA LEWIS

Donna Lewis addressed the City Council to discuss drainage issues near her home.

Mayor Peoples stated that the owner of the adjacent property is getting prices to have the chain wall repaired but that this will not resolve all of the water problems.

A discussion followed.

DANA JOHNO

Dana Johno addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate his business, The Kitchen Physician, LLC, from his home at 451 Sala Avenue.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Dana Johno to operate his business, The Kitchen Physician, LLC, from his home at 451 Sala Avenue.

APPROVED. Yea: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux
FRANK MARROCCO – BWC NEW ORLEANS, LLC
Frank Marrocco, of BWC New Orleans, LLC, addressed the City Council to discuss the renewal of the Special Permitted Use for the storage of hazardous materials at 660 LaBauve Road.

A discussion followed.

ALI MALIK – JENCARE SENIOR MEDICAL CENTER
Ali Malik addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for Jencare Senior Medical Center to operate in the Westwood Shopping Center at 1070 Westbank Expressway.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Jencare Senior Medical Center to operate in the Westwood Shopping Center at 1070 Westbank Expressway.

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

KRISTEN BYAS – TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS
Kristen Byas addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate the Transformation Academy of Performing Arts Dance Studio at 1096 Fourth Street.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to grant an Occupational License to Kristen Byas to operate the Transformation Academy of Performing Arts Dance Studio at 1096 Fourth Street.

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

ZEKEITHIA CHATTMAN – LITTLE SCHOLARS EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY LLC
Zekeithia Chattman addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate the Little Scholars Early Learning Academy LLC at 1096 Fourth Street.

A discussion followed.

No action was taken on Ms. Chattman's request.

CONDEMNATION HEARINGS
120 SHORT STREET (STRUCTURE A)
Mayor Peoples stated that the Engineer’s Report on 120 Short Street (Structure A) shows that it is structurally sound but needs to be boarded up and repaired.

A discussion followed.

The City Attorney recommended sending a letter and resetting the hearing.

HEAR ALL REPORTS
Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr., Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz, Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr., EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr., and Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca submitted their written reports.

Plumbing Inspector Chuck Pooré, Electrical Inspector Doyle Guidroz, Mechanical Inspector Jeremy Floyd, Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier, and Code Enforcement Officer Perry Talamo were not present. Their written reports were submitted earlier.

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report/Budget vs. Actual. There were none.

Council Member Nobles asked about the Stonehouse Coffee Company.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples and Council Member Nobles agreed that this matter should wait until the new administration takes office in July.
APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, March 8, 2021.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following resolutions for adoption:

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

RESOLUTION 2021-04(A)

A resolution accepting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Louisiana Municipalities, as completed for the City of Westwego by the Mayor and his staff, as a required part of the audit for which the City has recently engaged a Certified Public Accountant.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2021-04(A) accepting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Louisiana Municipalities, as completed for the City of Westwego by the Mayor and his staff, as a required part of the audit for which the City has recently engaged a Certified Public Accountant.

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

Offered by Council Member Green:

RESOLUTION 2021-04(B)

A resolution in opposition to the construction of a Formosa Plastics Facility in St. James Parish.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Resolution 2021-04(B) in opposition to the construction of a Formosa Plastics Facility in St. James Parish.

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

Offered by Council Member Valence:

RESOLUTION 2021-04(C)

A resolution accepting the project known as the Central Avenue Asphalt Streets Improvements, FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-13-02, contracted between the City of Westwego and Barriere Construction Co. on February 9, 2021, as Substantially Completed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2021-04(C) accepting the project known as the Central Avenue Asphalt Streets Improvements, FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-13-02, contracted between the City of Westwego and Barriere Construction Co. on February 9, 2021, as Substantially Completed.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following ordinances for introduction:

Offered by Council Members Nobles:

An Ordinance approving the plan of survey and resubdivision of a certain piece or potion of ground situated in the City of Westwego, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana, in that part thereof known as Lot NG-1 National Gypsum Property into Lot NG-1A, Lot NG-1B and Lot NG-1C, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated December 16, 2020.

A discussion followed.

Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance 1587 of the Westwego Code of Ordinances regarding Short-Term Home Rentals to correct its placement within the Code of Ordinances and the numbering of its articles and sections.

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Offered by Council Member Valence:

An ordinance amending the Westwego Code of Ordinances to provide for suspension and revocation of Short-Term Home Rentals license permits for good cause.

Offered by Council Member Green:

An ordinance of special permitted use approved by the Westwego City Council at the request of Blackwater New Orleans, LLC for the storage of hazardous materials in bulk as required in accordance with Sections 16-87 and 34-71 of the Westwego Code of Ordinances.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following ordinances for adoption:

Offered by All Council Members:

ORDINANCE 1594

An ordinance authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples to take all actions and sign all documents necessary to advertise for sale and sell the surplus immovable property known as Lot 24A, Square 37, Whitehouse Subdivision, Municipal Address 1162 Avenue C, Westwego, Louisiana, and providing for related matters.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to open a public hearing for this ordinance.

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

Mayor Peoples entertained public comment. No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to close the public hearing.

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

A discussion followed.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adopt the ordinance as Ordinance 1594.

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

Offered by All Council Members:

ORDINANCE 1595

An ordinance authorizing Mayor Joe Peoples to take all actions and sign all documents necessary to advertise for sale and sell the surplus immovable property known as ¼ of Lot 34 Sala or Zeringue Plantation, Municipal Address 206 Louisiana Street, Westwego, Louisiana, and providing for related matters.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to open a public hearing for this ordinance.

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

Mayor Peoples entertained public comment. No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to close the public hearing.

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

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adopt the ordinance as Ordinance 1595.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (GG) Inspection – 126 Louisiana Street

Council Member Green discussed 126 Louisiana Street.

Mayor Peoples reported that Aptim Engineering has inspected 126 Louisiana Street and will be providing an updated report by the end of the week.

2. (GG) Inspection – 116 and 120 Short Street

Council Member Green discussed 116 and 120 Short Street.

Mayor Peoples stated that 120 Short Street has already been addressed.
MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to have 116 Short Street inspected for possible condemnation.

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

3. (JN) WHARF Update

Council Member Nobles discussed the plans and drawings for the WHARF Project.

A discussion followed.

4. (JT) Dog Park

Council Member Thibodeaux asked for an update on the Dog Park.

Mayor Peoples stated that he has spoken with the DEQ but that he is not going to obligate the new administration on a decision he had to make with two months left to the term.

A discussion followed.

5. (JP) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. (GG) Catfish Bourgeois Playground Marquee

Council Member Green discussed the marquee sign at Catfish Bourgeois Playground.

Mayor Peoples stated that the City has signed an agreement with Coogan and Coogan, Inc. for a new color marquee sign at no cost to the City.

A discussion followed.

2. (LV) Historical Museum – Painting

Council Member Valence discussed painting the Historical Museum.

Mayor Peoples stated that he is obtaining quotes to have the Historical Museum pressure washed and painted.

A discussion followed.

3. (JP) Millage Renewals

Mayor Peoples discussed the approval of the 2021 millages and the renewal of four millages that are expiring this year. He entertained a motion to appoint David Wolfe of Adams and Reese to assist with the expiring millages.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to appoint David Wolfe of Adams and Reese to assist with the expiring millages.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. (LV) Court Cases Update

Mayor Peoples stated that Council Member Valence has already received the information she needed and so the executive session will not have to be held. Council Member Valence agreed.

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to discuss the following matters:

(JN) Calvin Galiano Park
(LV) Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program
(JP) EOC

APPROVED. Yeas: Green, Nobles, Valence, Rivere, Thibodeaux
(LV) Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program

Council Member Valence announced that Jefferson Parish is running an Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program for safety or accessibility purposes. She stated that applications are being accepted through the end of this month, and that application forms are available at the Senior Center.

(JP) EOC

Mayor Peoples stated that the Westwego Police Department will be in charge of the EOC, and that he has turned the keys over to Chief Munch.

(JN) Calvin Galiano Park

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to award the contract for the Calvin Galiano Park Improvements to the low bidder, J. A. "Jack" Julius, Jr., Inc., with a bid price including Alternate 1 of $256,205.00.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green to award the contract for the Calvin Galiano Park Improvements to the low bidder, J. A. "Jack" Julius, Jr., Inc., with a bid price including Alternate 1 of $256,205.00.

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

Council Member Valence asked about the two butterfly and hummingbird gardens that are in the park. She noted that there is plumbing into the gardens.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples stated that he will have an update on all of the Capital Outlay Projects next month.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:14 p.m., Monday, April 12, 2021.

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

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, April 12, 2021, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.