

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 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. (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)
District 2 Council Member Johnny S. Nobles, Jr.
District 3 Council Member Lisa H. Valence
District 4 Council Member Matthew J. Rivere
City Clerk Lisa Tapia

District 5 Council Member Johnnie Lynn Thibodeaux and Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. were unable to attend.

Police Capt. Edward Beyerback was present on behalf of Chief Munch.

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 for the members of our community who passed since our last meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Mayor Peoples stated that the announcement of the Employee of the Year will take place next month because the employee was not able to attend tonight.

HAMID ALIZADEH – APTIM ENGINEERING

Engineer Hamid Alizadeh addressed the City Council to discuss the status of the following projects:

- W.H.A.R.F. Project
- Gazebo at Westwego Farmers & Fisheries Market
- Catfish Bourgeois Playground Bathrooms
- Louis Marrero Playground Play Area
- Street Overlay Project

A discussion followed.

MO SALEH – PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Engineer Mo Saleh addressed the City Council to discuss the status of the following projects:

- Sewer Plant
- Corner of Louisiana & Fourth
- GIS Line Locations
- Water Meter Replacement – South Side of Westbank Expressway

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples discussed sewer lift stations.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

JO ANN MATHERNE

Jo Ann Matherne addressed the City Council on behalf of Emad Nasser to request a name change on the Occupational License and Alcohol Beverage Permit to operate the Super Stop Supermarket at 201 Fourth Street. She stated that Mr. Nasser has acquired the LLC from former owner Mohamed Saleh.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant an Occupational License and Alcohol Beverage Permit to Emad Nasser to operate the Super Stop Supermarket at 201 Fourth Street

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

WESTWEGO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BETTY G. LANDRY

Westwego Historic District Commission Chairman Betty G. Landry addressed the City Council to present her Quarterly Report.

A discussion followed.

KATENN DELACRUZ HUMPHRY

Katenn Delacruz Humphry addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Tax Service at 138 Westbank Expressway.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Green, to grant an Occupational License to Katenn Delacruz Humphry to operate a Tax Service at 138 Westbank Expressway.

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

FRANK MARROCCO – BW TERMINALS

Frank Marrocco, of BW Terminals, 660 Labauve Drive, addressed the City Council to discuss plans for the construction of two storage tanks and the addition of coconut oil products to their Special Permitted Use.

A discussion followed.

MICHAEL MORIN

Michael Morin addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Disaster Response Business from his home at 930 Cedre Drive.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Michael Morin to operate a Disaster Response Business from his home at 930 Cedre Drive.

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

CAROL LEBRANE

Carol LeBrane addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Take-Out Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant, a Small Event Hall, and a kitchen to produce her retail bread pudding line at 137 Sala Avenue.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Carol LeBrane to operate a Take-Out Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant, a Small Event Hall, and a kitchen to produce her retail bread pudding line at 137 Sala Avenue.

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

CEDRIC FLOYD – DATA CENTER, LLC – 2020 REDISTRICTING PLAN

Cedric Floyd, President of Data Center, LLC, addressed the City Council to present a proposal for services to perform the 2020 redistricting plan for the Westwego City Council Districts.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to accept Mr. Floyd's proposal for services to perform the 2020 redistricting plan for the Westwego City Council Districts at a cost of \$20,000.00.

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

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Capt. Beyerback submitted Chief Munch's report.

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz, Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr., EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr., Farmers Market Coordinator Keith Bouvier, and Code Enforcement Perry Talamo submitted their written reports.

Mechanical Inspector Timmy Matherne, Plumbing Inspector Chuck Poore, Electrical Inspector Doyle Guidroz, and Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca were unable to attend, but had submitted their written reports earlier.

City CPA James Butler CPA was not present.

Mayor Peoples asked the City Council if they had any questions regarding the Budget vs. Actual Report.

The City Council had no questions regarding the Budget vs. Actual Report.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, December 09, 2019.

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

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Green, to approve the minutes of the Special Session of Thursday, December 26, 2019.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following resolutions for adoption:

Offered by Council Member Green:

RESOLUTION 2020-01(A)

A resolution declaring January 2020 to be National Law Enforcement Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to adopt Resolution 2020-01(A) declaring January 2020 to be National Law Enforcement Month in the City of Westwego.

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

Offered by Council Member Green:

RESOLUTION 2020-01(B)

A resolution recognizing February 2020 as Black History Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 202001(B) recognizing February 2020 as Black History Month in the City of Westwego.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

There were no ordinances for introduction.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1584

An ordinance adopting the 2020 Legislative Calendar for the City of Westwego.

Regular Sessions of the City Council shall be scheduled in 2020 as follows: Tuesday, January 14, 2020; Monday, February 10, 2020; Monday, March 9, 2020; Monday, April 13, 2020; Monday, May 11, 2020; Monday, June 8, 2020; Monday, July 13, 2020; Monday, August 10, 2020; Monday, September 14, 2020; Monday, October 12, 2020; Monday, November 9, 2020; Monday, December 14, 2020.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to open a public hearing for this ordinance.

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

Mayor Peoples entertained public comment; there was none.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Green, to adopt Ordinance 1584.

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

Council Member Rivere asked that the 2020 Legislative Calendar be posted on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JSN) (3) 20 Minute Parking Signs in front of City Hall

Council Member Nobles asked that three or four parking spots in front of City Hall be reserved as 15-minute parking for Utility Bills.

Mayor Peoples stated that he would take care of it.

2. (JP) Utility Billing Adjustments

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

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

3. (JP) Budget

Mayor Peoples discussed the budget. He noted that the City of Westwego had a \$4,000.00 unreserved fund balance at the start of the current term and that the unreserved fund balance is now \$1,100,000.00, with an additional \$1,000,000 reserved for emergencies. He stated that that the City has come a long way in two and a half years to go from broke to a \$2.1 million fund balance and things are getting fixed throughout the City.

Council Member Nobles stated that the reserved funds for emergencies include \$614,088.00 from the BP Oil Settlement, plus an additional \$385,912.00 to bring the total up to \$1 million that cannot be touched except for emergencies.

4. (JP) Airbnbs

Mayor Peoples discussed the regulation of Airbnbs.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to extend the moratorium on short-term rentals and Airbnbs.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to enact a 30-day moratorium on short-term rentals and Airbnbs.

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

5. (JP) Boat Launch

Mayor Peoples discussed the recent improvements to the Boat Launch and a problem with unlicensed and sunken boats in the canal near the Boat Launch. He stated that he is addressing the problems by enforcing existing code.

A discussion followed.

6. (JP) Old City Hall – Avenue B Property

Mayor Peoples discussed the Old City Hall Property and the Water Plant. He stated that he is working on wording for the sewer lift station rights-of-way that must be written into the sale agreement so that the Old City Hall Property can be advertised for sale by sealed bid. He reported that the Water Plant has been fenced and needs just a few door repairs to be ready for use as a safe house for first responders. He also reported that he has an appointment with the Levee Board to discuss the issue of pumping water to the River to alleviate flooding in that area.

7. (JP) Street Repairs Update

Mayor Peoples discussed Street Repairs throughout the City.

A discussion followed.

8. (JP) Louis Marrero Gym Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the Louis Marrero Gym Project, as well as plans for Calvin Galiano Park.

9. (JP) Honor Square Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the Honor Square Project, which will honor our Veterans and First Responders.

A discussion followed.

10. (JP) Sala Avenue

Mayor Peoples discussed the removal and maintenance of trees on Sala Avenue.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to authorize the removal of the large tree on Sala Avenue.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Farmers Market Gazebo

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. (JSN) Farmers Market Parking

Mayor Peoples discussed the work being done at the Farmers and Fisheries Market.

3. (JP) WANHUA CHEMICAL US OPERATIONS LLC

Mayor Peoples reported that Wanhua Chemical US Operations LLC is interested in locating a facility in Westwego and asked the City Council to call a special meeting for them to present their proposal.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to hold a special meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2010 for Wanhua Chemical US Operations LLC to present their proposal for a facility in Westwego.

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

4. (JP) EOC – Groundbreaking

Mayor Peoples asked the City Council to set a date for the EOC Groundbreaking.

A discussion followed.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

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

Joe Peoples, Mayor

Lisa Tapia, City Clerk

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego will meet in Special Session at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2020, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego will meet in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 11, 2020, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
