

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, June 14, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 14, 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

INAUGURATION – JUNE 29, 2021 – THE ALARIO CENTER

Council Member Valence announced that the Inauguration of the incoming administration will take place at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at the Alario Center. She stated that all are welcome and invited to attend.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREEN

Council Member Green delivered his farewell speech.

HURRICANE SEASON

Mayor Peoples discussed preparations for Hurricane Season.

PROJECT ENGINEER MO SALEH

Project Engineer Mo Saleh, of Professional Engineering and Environmental Consultants, Inc., addressed the City Council to present the final deductive change order in the amount of \$26,426.00 for the completion of the Westwego Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to accept the final deductive change order in the amount of \$26,426.00 for the completion of the Westwego Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project.

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

Mayor Peoples announced that the City received a \$1,000.00 grant from Entergy.

FIRE CHIEF

Mayor Peoples discussed the advisory opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics regarding whether Assistant Fire Chief Robert Hebert may serve as the Fire Chief while continuing to serve as an Assistant Fire Chief. The Board concluded that the Louisiana Code of Ethics prohibits Mr. Hebert from being both the Fire Chief and an Assistant Fire Chief because the Assistant Fire Chiefs are supervised by the Fire Chief, which would compel Mr. Hebert as Fire Chief to participate in transactions in which he has an economic interest as an Assistant Fire Chief.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples stated that he will keep Fire Chief Ryan Guidroz in office until June 30, 2021, and the new administration will address the situation.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Mayor announced to the public that the Mayor and City Council plans to consider a resolution calling a special election to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021, seeking approval for the renewal of four (4) special taxes therein in the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana (the "City"). It was noted that the resolution calling the election will be considered at a public meeting of this governing authority to be held on Monday, July 12, 2021, at six o'clock (6:00) pm, at Council Chambers, 1100 Fourth St., Westwego, Louisiana.

Thereupon, a motion was made by Council Member Green, seconded by Council Member Nobles, and unanimously approved, authorizing the following notice to be published in the official journal of the City no more than sixty days nor less than twenty days before July 12, 2021, and also authorizing the requisite notification of state legislators whose districts include the City, all in the manner required by La. R.S. 42:19.1:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana, plans to consider a resolution calling a special election to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021, seeking approval for the City of Westwego, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of four (4) special taxes in said City, for the purposes of (i) maintaining and upgrading street lighting and for street maintenance, (ii) maintaining and operating the Police Department, (iii) maintaining and lighting public parks, and (iv) maintaining and operating the fire department. The resolution calling the election will be considered at a meeting to be held on Monday, July 12, 2021, at six o'clock (6:00) pm. The meeting will be held at Council Chambers, 1100 Fourth St., Westwego, Louisiana.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to authorize the publication of the above notice as discussed.

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

FRANCISCO MENDOZA

Francisco Mendoza addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Tire Shop at 725 Westbank Expressway.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples asked Mr. Mendoza to meet with the Chief Building Official to review his plans and return to the next City Council meeting.

JON CAILLETEAU

Council Member Valence addressed the City Council on behalf of Jon Cailleteau to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only for Mr. Cailleteau to operate his business, On Scene Santa, from his home at 1029 Central Avenue.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Jon Cailleteau to operate his business, On Scene Santa, from his home at 1029 Central Avenue.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT MAY CAMPBELL

Council Member-elect May Campbell addressed the City Council to commend and thank Council Member Green for his years of service on the City Council.

R. A. OSBORN AND THOMAS HENICAN

Attorneys R. A. Osborn and Thomas Henican addressed the City Council regarding 100 Fourth Street and 114 Fourth Street. Mr. Osborn stated that the succession of the record owner of the properties is being filed and asked that the condemnation proceedings for the properties be deferred to allow time for the appointment of the administrator for the succession. Mr. Osborn provided copies of the proceedings that were filed today.

A discussion followed.

Council Members Green and Thibodeaux agreed that condemnation proceedings should be delayed.

MARGARET HARRISON

Margaret Harrison addressed the City Council to thank Mayor Peoples for his four years of service as Mayor and to wish him the best for the future.

RONNIE ROUSSEL

Ronnie Roussel addressed the City Council to discuss his plans to construct a house and garage on his lot on Vic Street and to request permission to build the garage first.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant tentative approval of Mr. Roussel's request predicated upon approval of the building permit for the construction of the house and garage by the Chief Building Official.

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

DANIELLE TRONDSSEN

Danielle Trondsen addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Mobile Esthetics and Makeup Service, Miva Esthetics, from her home at 1049 Victory Drive, Apartment D.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Danielle Trondsen to operate a Mobile Esthetics and Makeup Service, Miva Esthetics, from her home at 1049 Victory Drive, Apartment D.

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

KEITH MARTIN

Keith Martin addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Sandwich Shop at 637 Westbank Expressway.

A discussion followed.

Council Member Thibodeaux asked Mr. Martin to meet with Council Member-elect Robert Bonvillian and return to the City Council next month.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr., Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz, Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr., Mechanical Inspector Jeremy Floyd, 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.

Plumbing Inspector Chuck Pooré and Electrical Inspector Doyle Guidroz were not present. Their reports were submitted earlier.

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Council Member Nobles offered a correction to the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, May 10, 2021. He asked that the discussion of Health Care be corrected to read as follows:

"...

(JP) Health Care

Council Member Nobles discussed adjusting the employees' contribution to the cost of Health Care Insurance for eligible employees to \$73.73 per pay period for employee only coverage, with the employees responsible for the additional cost of 34% of the dependent insurance premium.

..."

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, May 10, 2021, as corrected.

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

Council Member Green abstained because he was not present at that meeting.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the minutes of the Special Session of Monday, May 24, 2021

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

Council Members Green and Rivere abstained because they were not present at that meeting.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

Council Member Green offered a verbal resolution to change the name of Short Street to Ruby McCall Drive in honor of Ms. McCall, who was very active in the community and through whose efforts City Council Districts were established in the City of Westwego.

A discussion followed.

VERBAL RESOLUTION 2021-06(A)

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to change the name of Short Street to Ruby McCall Drive predicated upon the City Attorney's determination that this can be done by resolution.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

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.

Offered by Council Members Rivere:

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 26, 27, 28, 29, and part of Lot 25, Square 14, Whitehouse Subdivision, into Lots 26A, 27A, and 29A, Square 14, Whitehouse Subdivision, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated April 8, 2021.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

There are no ordinances for adoption.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (GG) Condemnation Update – 126 Louisiana Street

Mayor Peoples stated that the owners of 126 Louisiana Street have not provided plans for the rehabilitation of the structure as stipulated in the Orders of the City Council issued December 14, 2020.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Green, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to proceed with the demolition and removal of 126 Louisiana Street.

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

2. (GG) Condemnation Update – 116 Short Street

Council Member Green stated that Mayor Peoples has already given him an update on 116 Short Street.

3. (JP) Honor Square Celebration

Mayor Peoples thanked everyone who attended the grand opening of Honor Square yesterday. He stated that it is really nice and thanked the City Council for accomplishing this with him.

4. (JP) Avenue C & Louisiana Street Fire Stations

Mayor Peoples reported that both fire stations have been sold. He stated that the voting precinct from the Louisiana Street fire station was moved to the Columbus Street fire station some time ago, and that the voting precinct from the Avenue C fire station is being moved to the Gymnasium at 1200 Avenue D. He noted that the voting precinct from the Central Avenue fire station is also being moved to the Gymnasium.

5. (JP) Louis Marrero Park

Mayor Peoples reported that the two huge canopies at Louis Marrero Park have been removed.

6. (JP) Utility Bill Adjustments

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve the Utility Bill Adjustments as recommended.

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

Council Member Nobles announced that the Calvin Galiano Park Improvements have begun.

Mayor Peoples announced that the first block of Victory Drive will be closed tomorrow morning for the replacement of street panels.

Council Member Rivere stated that traffic is being detoured via Tanglewood Boulevard during the closure of the Lapalco Boulevard bridge over Bayou Segnette.

Council Member Valence stated that the bridge will be closed through November 4, 2021.

Chief Munch stated that he would contact the Parish about having traffic detoured via Westwood Drive.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (GG) Condemnation – 100 Fourth Street

Council Member Green discussed debris falling from the roof at 100 Fourth Street.

A discussion followed.

2. (GG) Condemnation – 114 Fourth Street

This item was addressed earlier.

3. (GG) Renaming of Short Street

This item was addressed earlier.

4. (JP) Publication of Notice of Public Meeting

This item was addressed earlier.

5. (JP) All Boards

Mayor Peoples read aloud the letter he sent to the members of the appointed boards.

6. (JP) Appoint Official Journal

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to continue using the New Orleans Advocate as the Official Journal.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to appoint the New Orleans Advocate as the Official Journal of the City of Westwego.

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

7. (JP) Council

Mayor Peoples offered each Council Member the opportunity to speak about the last four years.

The Council Members and Mayor Peoples each spoke in turn.

Mayor-elect Robert Billiot spoke briefly.

Council Member Nobles presented a plaque to Council Member Green for 24 years of service as a City Council Member for the City of Westwego.

Council Member Valence presented plaques to Council Member Rivere and Council Member Thibodeaux for their 4 years of service as City Council Members for the City of Westwego.

Council Member Nobles presented a plaque to Mayor Peoples for his 4 years of service as Mayor of the City of Westwego.

Chief Munch spoke briefly. He stated that the outgoing Mayor and Council Members have left Westwego in a better place than when they came in four years ago.

Mayor Peoples thanked the employees of the City of Westwego for their hard work and dedication.

Chief Munch announced that he just received a message from Parish Councilman Deano Bonano and that Councilman Bonano will start working tomorrow to have traffic detoured via Westwood Drive during the closure of the Lapalco Boulevard bridge over Bayou Segnette.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m., Monday, May 10, 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, July 12, 2021, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
