

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, February 13, 2023

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2023, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

There were present:

Mayor Robert E. Billiot Sr.
District 1 Council Member Maggie Campbell
District 2 Council Member Johnny S. Nobles Jr.
District 3 Council Member Lisa H. Valence
District 4 Council Member Robert J. Utley
Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch Sr.
City Clerk Lisa Tapia

District 5 Council Member Robert J. Bonvillian was unable to attend.

The meeting was streamed live on Facebook Live.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pastor Thomas James Cole, of True Love Full Gospel Ministries, 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 Nobles led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(MC) WESTWEGO BLACK HISTORY

Council Member Campbell discussed Black History Month. She then introduced Thomas Thompson and Melanie Rogers, who addressed the City Council to discuss their grandfather, Thomas McKinney Thompson (1884-1954), an important figure in the history of Westwego. Thomas McKinney Thompson owned and operated Old Favorite Presser, and later McKinney Cleaners, from a shop behind his house at 237 Sala Avenue and served as the Clerk of the Historic True Vine Baptist Church.

Loretta Brehm addressed the City Council to discuss the history of Westwego. She asked the people of Westwego to join Mr. Thompson and Ms. Rogers in contributing information about their families and their contributions to the history of Westwego.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

ROBERT KEMP – 100-104 FOURTH STREET – STEVIE RAY'S

Robert Kemp addressed the City Council on behalf of the Succession of Stephen Brightbill regarding Stevie Ray's Bar at 100-104 Fourth Street. Mr. Kemp stated that the property has been listed for sale and that he hopes that it will be sold quickly.

HENRY QUINTANILLA

Henry Quintanilla addressed the City Council on behalf of the Westwego Beautification Commission to thank the Fire Department for their assistance with the Marid Gras Gumbo Sale. He also discussed the sidewalk at his property on Avenue C.

Mayor Billiot stated that the Beautification Commission did a wonderful job with the Mardi Gras Gumbo Sale.

JERRI LOMBAS

Jerri Lombas addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Snowball Stand on the Shrimp Lot.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Jerri Lombas to operate a Snowball Stand on the Shrimp Lot.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

PAMELA SCHAUBHUT

Pamela Schaubhut addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Snowball Stand at 1000 Central Avenue.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Pamela Schaubhut to operate a Snowball Stand at 1000 Central Avenue predicated upon the satisfaction of all requirements therefor.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

AUBREY MCGUIRE

Aubrey McGuire addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate an Art Gallery at 374 Sala Avenue.

MOVED by Council Member Campbell, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Aubrey McGuire to operate an Art Gallery at 374 Sala Avenue predicated upon the satisfaction of all requirements therefor.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

MONICA WERTZ – DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Monica Wertz addressed the City Council on behalf of the State Legislative Committee of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators to present the Delta Kappa Gamma Friend of Education award to Mayor Billiot for his high achievement.

D. J. TAYLOR – ENTERGY

Entergy Louisiana Customer Service Manager D. J. Taylor addressed the City Council to introduce himself and offer his service to the City.

A discussion followed.

JEANNE O'BOYLE

Jeanne O'Boyle addressed the City Council to request a permit to operate a Short-Term Rental at 451 Sala Avenue.

Council Member Valence explained the ordinance governing Short-Term Rentals. She stated that Short-Term Rentals are allowed in the Historic District.

Mayor Billiot asked Ms. O'Boyle to submit her application for her permit.

JACK FERNANDEZ – BWC TERMINALS

Jack Fernandez, of BWC Terminals, 660 LaBauve Drive, addressed the City Council to discuss the schedule for the diesel pump installation at their facility and the renewal of the ordinance of special permitted use.

A discussion followed.

GROUP INSURANCE – KELLY DAUL

Kelly Daul, of USI Insurance Services/Daul Insurance, addressed the City Council to discuss the renewal of the group health, dental, and vision plans.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to approve the renewal of the group health, dental, and vision plans as presented.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(LHV) FEDERAL GRANTS

Mayor Billiot stated that Council Member Valence has been working with Heather Saddler and Brian O'Reily to apply for Federal Grants.

Council Member Valence discussed Federal Grants. She stated that the City has applied for and received a planning grant under the Federal Safer Streets and Roads for All program, and that the City has also applied for grants under the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program.

A discussion followed.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

WILLIAM O'NEIL

William O'Neil addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate his business from his home at 1523 West Drive. He stated that he would have one vehicle for his business.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to William O'Neil to operate his business from his home at 1523 West Drive.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

BIDS

There were no bids.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.
Fire Chief Charles M. Hudson
Chief Building Inspector Leslie P. Lombas, Jr.
Plumbing Inspector Chuck Poore
Electrical Inspector Roger Myers
Mechanical Inspector Jeremy Floyd
EMS Director Thomas J. Calamari, Jr.
Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca
Code Enforcement Officer Chad M. Usea
Financial Report/Budget vs. Actual

Mayor Billiot stated that all reports have been submitted.

MOVED, and seconded by All Council Members, to accept all reports.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, January 9, 2023, and the Special Session of Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

There were no resolutions for adoption.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

There were no ordinances for introduction.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

ORDINANCE 1616

An ordinance in accordance with La. Revised Statutes 33:404.1, amending and reenacting Chapter 2 Administration, Article III. Officers and Employees, Section 2-51, and Section 2-52, fixing the compensation of the Mayor, Council Members, Clerk, Chief of Police, and other Municipal Officers.

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

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

The City Clerk read the ordinance aloud.

Mayor Billiot entertained public comment.

Henry Quintanilla spoke in opposition to the ordinance.

No one spoke in favor of the ordinance.

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

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members Present, to adopt Ordinance 1616 amending and reenacting Chapter 2 Administration, Article III. Officers and Employees, Section 2-51, and Section 2-52, fixing the compensation of the Mayor, Council Members, Clerk, Chief of Police, and other Municipal Officers.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

ORDINANCE 1617

An ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 44 Utilities, Article II. Water, Section 44-19 Water rate schedule established.to provide for the annual increase or decrease based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index.

The City Clerk read the ordinance aloud.

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

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

Mayor Billiot entertained public comment; there was none.

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

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to adopt Ordinance 1617 amending and reenacting Chapter 44 Utilities, Article II. Water, Section 44-19 Water rate schedule established.to provide for the annual increase or decrease based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

ORDINANCE 1618

An ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 44 Utilities, Article 2 Sewage, Division 5 Use of Public Sewage system, Section-182 Annual increase in sewer user charges and surcharges to provide for the annual increase or decrease based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index.

The City Clerk read the ordinance aloud.

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

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

Mayor Billiot entertained public comment.

Leonard Waguespack and Kenny Lataxes spoke regarding the ordinance.

There were no other comments, for or against.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to close the public hearing.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Ordinance 1618 amending and reenacting Chapter 44 Utilities, Article 2 Sewage, Division 5 Use of Public Sewage system, Section-182 Annual increase in sewer user charges and surcharges to provide for the annual increase or decrease based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

OLD BUSINESS

1. (REB) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian

2. (REB) 100-104 Fourth Street

This item was addressed earlier.

3. (REB) 363 Louisiana Street

Mayor Billiot stated that there has been some activity at 363 Louisiana Street and that he will contact the owner to find out what is being done.

4. (REB) 914 Avenue E

Mayor Billiot stated that he will write to the owners and family members and that he hopes to have an answer for a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (REB) Hazard Mitigation

Mayor Billiot stated that the Hazard Mitigation public outreach on Sala Avenue went well.

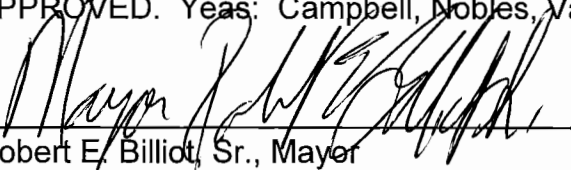
Council Member Campbell discussed the public outreach.

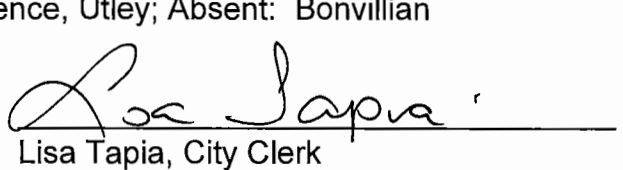
Mayor Billiot stated that there will be more public outreach meetings, and that there may be a Special Session pertaining to those grants.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2023.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley; Absent: Bonvillian


Robert E. Billiot, Sr., 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, March 13, 2023, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
