

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

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 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
District 5 Council Member Robert J. Bonvillian
Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch Sr.
City Clerk Lisa Tapia

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

Council Member Bonvillian led the assembly in prayer.

Mayor Billiot asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of the deceased members of our community, in particular, Judge Gerald J. Arceneaux, who passed away March 4, 2023. He stated that Judge Arceneaux served as City Magistrate for over thirty years.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WHARF PROJECT PHASE 2 – SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION

Project Engineer Gerard J. Gillen, III, PE, of Aptim, addressed the City Council to discuss the WHARF Project. He reported that Phase 2, the Roadway Crossing, is Substantially Complete. Mr. Gillen also discussed the status of the design of the elevated restroom and boardwalk.

A discussion followed.

RESOLUTION 2023-02(E)

A resolution accepting the project known as WHARF Phase 2 – Roadway Crossing Project No. 50-MV414-01, contracted between the City of Westwego and River/Gulf Marine, LLC., on October 11, 2022, as Substantially Completed on February 28, 2023.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to adopt Resolution 2023-02(E) accepting the project known as WHARF Phase 2 – Roadway Crossing Project No. 50-MV414-01, contracted between the City of Westwego and River/Gulf Marine, LLC., on October 11, 2022, as Substantially Completed on February 28, 2023.

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

NICK SANCHEZ

Nick Sanchez addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Real Estate Brokerage Business from his home at 1049 Cedre Drive.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Nick Sanchez to operate a Real Estate Brokerage Business from his home at 1049 Cedre Drive.

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

THOMAS BRUNO

Thomas Bruno addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Furniture and Sculpting Business at 83 Louisiana Street.

MOVED by Council Member Campbell, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Thomas Bruno to operate a Furniture and Sculpting Business at 83 Louisiana Street.

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

SHEBA LOGAN – BROTHERS FOOD MART

Sheba Logan addressed the City Council on behalf of Brothers Food Mart. She stated that she is the Business Manager for Brothers and that the location at 1200 Westbank Expressway is under new ownership. She requested an Occupational License for the location under the new ownership.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Bonvillian, to grant an Occupational License for the Brothers Food Mart at 1200 Westbank Expressway under the new ownership.

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

DUSTIN SIMON

Dustin Simon addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Fitness Apparel Business from his home at 1256 Kingswood Drive.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Dustin Simon to operate a Fitness Apparel Business from his home at 1256 Kingswood Drive.

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

HENRY QUINTANILLA

Henry Quintanilla addressed the City Council to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the recent Beautification Commission event.

DONNA FRICKEY, YOLANDA HAGER, and SHAUN DUFRENE

Donna Frickey, Yolanda Hager, and Shaun Dufrene addressed the City Council to discuss a 645-647 Avenue A.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Billiot asked the Chief Building Inspector to coordinate inspection of the structure.

CHARLES NEUMAN – 1490 FOURTH STREET

Charles Neuman addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Korean Barbecue Food Truck from his property at 1490 Fourth Street, and an Occupational License to operate a Weekend Indoor Flea Market at 1424 Fourth Street.

A discussion followed.

Council Member Nobles stated that he would have to meet with Mr. Neuman to discuss his plans for the food truck but that he does not have a problem with an indoor flea market.

Mayor Billiot recognized Ken Bouvier, who discussed potential issues with a flea market.

The discussion continued.

The Fire Chief asked that the property be inspected by the State Fire Marshal as well.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant tentative approval for an Occupational License for Charles Neuman to operate a Weekend Indoor Flea Market at 1424 Fourth Street predicated upon the satisfaction of all requirements therefor; the building must be fully inspected, including inspection by the State Fire Marshal; the market must be entirely inside; no merchandise may be displayed outside the building.

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

FARMERS & FISHERIES MARKET COORDINATOR HEATHER SADDLER

Farmers & Fisheries Market Coordinator Heather Saddler addressed the City Council to discuss Spring events. She announced the following: Booster Club Food Truck Fest Saturday, March 18, 2023, at Catfish Bourgeois Park; Car Show and Craft Fair Sunday, March 26, 2023, at the Market; Annual Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 2, 2023, at the Market; Friday Night Concert, the Band Epic, Food and Craft Vendors, Friday, April 14, 2023, at the Market; Wego Fest, Saturday April 29, 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., and Sunday April 30, 12:00 Noon – 9:00 p.m., bands, and food and craft vendors, at the Market; Annual Crawfish Cook Off, Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Market; Saturday, April 8, 2023, CrossLife Church second annual Family Fest, at the Market.

BIDS

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS – DEBRIS REMOVAL AND MONITORING

Mayor Billiot stated that the City is going to advertise requests for proposals for Emergency Debris Removal and for Emergency Debris Monitoring.

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, Utle, Bonvillian

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, February 13, 2023.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utle, Bonvillian

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 2023-03(A)

A resolution recognizing April 2023 as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

MOVED by Council Member Utle, and seconded by Council Member Bonvillian, to adopt Resolution 2023-03(A) recognizing April 2023 as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Westwego.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utle, Bonvillian

RESOLUTION 2023-03(B)

A resolution asking Congressman Troy Carter to support the City of Westwego in its efforts to secure funding for the design and construction of a pedestrian walkway bridge over River Road (LA541), from Sala Avenue to the Lazy River Landing, in the City of Westwego, Louisiana.

MOVED by Council Member Campbell, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2023-03(B) asking Congressman Troy Carter to support the City of Westwego in its efforts to secure funding for the design and construction of a pedestrian walkway bridge over River Road (LA541), from Sala Avenue to the Lazy River Landing, in the City of Westwego, Louisiana.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-03(C)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Robert E. Billiot, Sr. on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish of Jefferson for the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program, the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Campbell, to adopt Resolution 2023-03(C) authorizing Mayor Robert E. Billiot, Sr. on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish of Jefferson for the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program, the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-03(D)

A resolution authorizing Mayor Robert E. Billiot, Sr. on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into contract with D. L. Daigle & Co., LLC for the Westwego Performing Arts Theatre Hurricane Ida Repairs (A/E Project No. 20-2187).

The City Attorney discussed the contract.

MOVED by Council Member Campbell, and seconded by Council Member Bonvillian, to adopt Resolution 2023-03(D) authorizing Mayor Robert E. Billiot, Sr. on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into contract with D. L. Daigle & Co., LLC for the Westwego Performing Arts Theatre Hurricane Ida Repairs (A/E Project No. 20-2187).

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

RESOLUTION 2023-03(F)

A resolution approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish of Jefferson to provide funding from the FY2022 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant in an amount not to exceed \$48,248.20 for ten (10) Motorola APX 6000 radios.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2023-03(F) approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish of Jefferson to provide funding from the FY2022 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant in an amount not to exceed \$48,248.20 for ten (10) Motorola APX 6000 radios.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-03(G)

A resolution approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish of Jefferson to provide funding from the FY2022 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant in an amount not to exceed \$9,649.64 for two (2) Motorola APX 6000 radios.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Bonvillian, to adopt Resolution 2023-03(G) approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish of Jefferson to provide funding from the FY2022 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant in an amount not to exceed \$9,649.64 for two (2) Motorola APX 6000 radios.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

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 2, 3, and 4 of Original Lots 91 & 93, Salaville Subdivision, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated January 31, 2023. (Arthur Plaisance – 517 and 529 Laroussini Street)

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

There were no ordinances for adoption.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (REB) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

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

2. (REB) Stevie Rays Bar

Mayor Billiot discussed Stevie Ray's Bar, at the corner of Laroussini Street and Fourth Street. He stated that, after discussions with the owner's attorney, the owner has forty-five days to demolish the building, during which time the City will pursue condemnation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (REB) Fire Chief's Truck

Mayor Billiot discussed the purchase of a truck for the Fire Chief.

Chief Hudson stated that he is obtaining telephone bids for a pickup truck, and that funds are available from the equipment millage fund.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Bonvillian, to approve the purchase of a pickup truck for the Fire Department at a cost of \$41, 699.00, contingent on the bids coming in.

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

AMEND THE AGENDA

Mayor Billiot entertained a motion to amend the agenda.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to amend the agenda to discuss the appointment of Camnetar & Co. to perform the annual audit for the year 2022.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utlely, Bonvillian

Mayor Billiot entertained a motion to appoint Camnetar & Co. to perform the annual audit for the year 2022.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to appoint Camnetar & Co. to perform the annual audit for the year 2022.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utlely, Bonvillian

2. (REB) EMS Service

EMS Director Thomas Calamari addressed the City Council to discuss EMS staffing difficulties. He stated that there is a nation-wide shortage of EMS personnel and that the City is having difficulty recruiting and retaining personnel.

A discussion followed.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve a \$3.00 per hour increase for Paramedics and a \$1.50 per hour increase for EMTs.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utlely, Bonvillian

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2023.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utlely, 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, April 10, 2023, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.