

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, May 8, 2023

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, May 8, 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 Captain Edward Beyerback, for Chief Munch
Administrative Assistant Wendy Maise for City Clerk Lisa Tapia

Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch Sr. and City Clerk Lisa Tapia were 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 Sam Croghan, of CrossLife Fellowship Church, led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence for the deceased members of our community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CEDRIC FLOYD, DATA CENTER LLC – CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

Cedric Floyd, of Data Center LLC, addressed the City Council to discuss the reapportionment of Council Districts due to the results of the 2020 Decennial Census.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Floyd stated that the proposed district maps will be posted on the City website, and that there will be a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 18, 2023, for public input.

LOUISIANA CULTURAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

Mayor Billiot announced that there will be a meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, regarding the Louisiana Cultural Districts.

CONDEMNATION HEARING

There were no condemnation hearings.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

JAMES BALLI

James Balli, of Family Dollar Stores, addressed the City Council to request an Alcohol Beverage Permit for the sale of beer and wine, for their store at #9 Westbank Expressway.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant an Alcohol Beverage Permit to Family Dollar Stores for their store at #9 Westbank Expressway.

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

CHRISTIAN MUNCH

Christian Munch addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Charter Fishing Business from his home at 1257 Barbe 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 Christian Munch to operate a Charter Fishing Business from his home at 1257 Barbe Drive.

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

LEONARD WAGUESPACK

Leonard Waguespack addressed the City Council to discuss private trees touching live power lines.

CARLUS JAMES

Carlus James addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Laundromat at 728 Fourth Street.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Bonvillian, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant an Occupational License to Carlus James to operate a Laundromat at 728 Fourth Street.

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

CHIEN VU – WESTWEGO SEAFOOD LLC

Chien Vu, of Westwego Seafood, LLC, addressed the City Council to discuss the possibility of operating a seafood market and restaurant with snowballs and bubble tea at 431 Fourth Street (the old bank building).

A discussion followed.

Mayor Billiot stated that he will call Mr. Vu to schedule a meeting to discuss his plans.

BIDS

EMERGENCY DEBRIS COLLECTION

EMERGENCY DEBRIS MONITORING

Engineer David Boyd addressed the City Council to discuss the results of the recent advertisement for proposals for Emergency Debris Collection and for Emergency Debris Monitoring. He stated that there were three responses for each and recommended Ceres Environmental Services, Inc., for Emergency Debris Collection, and Rostan Solutions, LLC, for Emergency Debris Monitoring.

A discussion followed.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to award the contract for Emergency Debris Monitoring to Ceres Environmental Services, Inc., and to award the contract for Emergency Debris Monitoring to Rostan Solutions, LLC.

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

WATER METERS WITH AMI SYSTEM

Mayor Billiot stated that the Water Meters With Ami System Bid was postponed.

Mayor Billiot took Item 1 under New Business out of order.

JOSHUA BUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jefferson Parish School Board Superintendent Dr. James Gray and Jefferson Parish School Board Member District 1 Dr. Gerard LeBlanc addressed the City Council to discuss Joshua Butler Elementary School.

A discussion followed.

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 accepted all reports

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 2023-05(A)

A resolution approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Westwego to provide funding at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00 towards the design of a safe pedestrian walkway from Sala Avenue over the levee to a dock along the Mississippi River as a part of an initiative to revive the City of Westwego's dock, to promote tourism, and to provide additional recreational facilities for the citizens of the City of Westwego and of the Parish of Jefferson.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adopt Resolution 2023-05(A) approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Westwego to provide funding at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00 towards the design of a safe pedestrian walkway from Sala Avenue over the levee to a dock along the Mississippi River as a part of an initiative to revive the City of Westwego's dock, to promote tourism, and to provide additional recreational facilities for the citizens of the City of Westwego and of the Parish of Jefferson.

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, April 10, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 2023-05(B)

A resolution requesting that the required local match for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant recently awarded to the City of Westwego by the United States Department of Transportation be waived due to the City's status as a Disadvantaged Community under the Justice40 Initiative.

Council Member Valence discussed the Safe Street and Roads for All grant and the City's status as a Disadvantaged Community under the Justice40 Initiative.

A discussion followed.

Council Member Utley offered a motion to allocate \$10,000.00 each from Council discretionary funds to be used towards the local match for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant if the funds cannot be found elsewhere so that the process is not delayed.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to allocate \$10,000.00 each from Council discretionary funds to be used towards the local match for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant if the funds cannot be found elsewhere so that the process is not delayed; and to adopt Resolution 2023-05(B) requesting that the required local match for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant recently awarded to the City of Westwego by the United States Department of Transportation be waived due to the City's status as a Disadvantaged Community under the Justice40 Initiative.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Offered by All Council Members:

An ordinance redistricting the Westwego City Council Districts to adjust said districts' boundaries as needed for population changes documented by the 2020 United States Decennial Census and providing for other related matters; and repealing any and all ordinances in conflict herewith.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1620

An Ordinance amending Chapter 26 – Article VI – Electronic Enforcement – Division 3. Vehicle Speed – Subsection B adding Sec. 26-228 Expenditure of Discretionary Funds.

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

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

Mayor Billiot entertained public comment.

John Shaddinger spoke in favor of the ordinance; no one spoke in opposition.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Ordinance 1620 amending Chapter 26 – Article VI – Electronic Enforcement – Division 3. Vehicle Speed – Subsection B adding Sec. 26-228 Expenditure of Discretionary Funds.

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

ORDINANCE 1621

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.

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

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

Mayor Billiot entertained public comment; there was none.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to adopt Ordinance 1621 authorizing the City of Westwego to dispose of, in accordance with Louisiana law, certain property that is no longer needed for public use.

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

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1622

An Ordinance repealing Sec. 34-73. – Zoning provisions regarding the opening or reopening of package liquor stores.

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

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

Mayor Billiot entertained public comment.

John Shaddinger and Leonard Waguespack spoke in favor of the ordinance; no one spoke in opposition.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Campbell, to adopt Ordinance 1622 repealing Sec. 34-73. – Zoning provisions regarding the opening or reopening of package liquor stores.

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

AMEND THE AGENDA

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to amend the agenda to discuss an Alcohol Beverage Permit.

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

NOVALL COLEMAN – LAVELL FOOD STORE LLC – 1498 FOURTH STREET

Novall Coleman addressed the City Council to request an Alcohol Beverage Permit for his business, Lavell Food Store, LLC, at 1498 Fourth Street.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Alcohol Beverage Permit to Novall Coleman for his business, Lavell Food Store, LLC, at 1498 Fourth Street.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (REB) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

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

2. (LHV) Safer Streets

This item was addressed earlier.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (REB) Joshua Butler Elementary School

This item was addressed earlier.

Mayor Billiot discussed low attendance at the Senior Center. He stated that something must be done to encourage participation.

Council Member Utley reported that signs have been posted at the City Boat Launch on Louisiana Street stating that parked vehicles without boat trailers will be towed. He asked Capt. Beyerback to have the Police Department patrol the area.

Chief Hudson announced that Jefferson Parish Council Member Deano Bonano has provided \$86,000.00 to purchase fifteen Motorola APX 6000 portable radios.

Council Member Utley thanked Council Member Bonano for funding the radios.

Chief Hudson reported that the State Fire Marshal has approved the plans for the Columbus Street fire station and that renovations will begin soon.

Mayor Billiot discussed the MS4 certification. He asked the public to report anyone dumping oil or other prohibited substances into the drainage system.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:42 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2023.

APPROVED. Yeas: Campbell, Nobles, Valence, Utley, 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, June 12, 2023, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
