

City Hall  
Westwego, Louisiana  
Regular Session  
Monday, February 8, 2021

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2021 in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.

There were present:

Mayor Joe Peoples  
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

District 1 Council Member Glenn Green, Sr. was unable to attend.

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

Mayor Peoples 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

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There were no presentations, announcements, or acknowledgements.

#### ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

##### JERICKA SHOULDER

Jericka Shoulder addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Retail Men's Apparel Business at 1091 Avenue H, Unit A.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Jericka Shoulder to operate a Retail Men's Apparel Business at 1091 Avenue H, Unit A.

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

##### RANN SOK

Rann Sok addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Donut Shop at 1445 Westbank Expressway, Suite B.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Rann Sok to operate a Donut Shop at 1445 Westbank Expressway, Suite B.

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

##### MAGGIE CAMPBELL

Maggie Campbell addressed the City Council to introduce herself and announce her candidacy for Council Member, District 1.

##### KATHERINE RODRIGUEZ

Katherine Rodriguez addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate an Auto Shop at 1344 Fourth Street.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Rivere, to grant an Occupational License to Katherine Rodriguez to operate an Auto Shop at 1344 Fourth Street.

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

#### HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr., Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz, 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.

Chief Building Inspector Leslie "Skip" Lombas, Jr., Plumbing Inspector Chuck Pooré, and Electrical Inspector Doyle Guidroz were not present. Their written reports were submitted earlier.

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report/Budget vs. Actual.

There were no questions.

#### APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, January 11, 2021.

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

#### RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following resolutions for adoption:

Offered by Council Member Rivere:

##### RESOLUTION 2021-02(A)

A resolution accepting the project known as the Louis Marrero Gym, FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-05-03, contracted between the City of Westwego and Galaforo Construction, LLC, as Substantially Completed.

MOVED by Council Member Rivere, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to adopt Resolution 2021-02(A) accepting the project known as the Louis Marrero Gym, FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-05-03, contracted between the City of Westwego and Galaforo Construction, LLC, as Substantially Completed.

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

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

##### RESOLUTION 2021-02(B)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of City of Westwego, to submit a grant application and accompanying documents to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, Office of Community Development for repairs and improvements to the water distribution system in the City of Westwego through the State of Louisiana Community Water Enrichment Fund program, Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2021-02(B) authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of City of Westwego, to submit a grant application and accompanying documents to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, Office of Community Development for repairs and improvements to the water distribution system in the City of Westwego through the State of Louisiana Community Water Enrichment Fund program, Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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

Offered by Council Member Thibodeaux:

##### RESOLUTION 2021-02(C)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to make all necessary applications for funding under the Local Government Assistance Program of the Louisiana Office of Community Development, fiscal year 2020-2021, for the replacement of sewer lift stations that are underground with ones that are above ground.

MOVED by Council Member Thibodeaux, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt Resolution 2021-02(C) authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Westwego, to make all necessary applications for funding under the Local Government Assistance Program of the Louisiana Office of Community Development, fiscal year 2020-2021, for the replacement of sewer lift stations that are underground with ones that are above ground.

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

#### ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following ordinance for introduction:

Offered by Council Member 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 22, 23, 24, 25, and part of Lot 21, Square 37, Whitehouse Subdivision, into Lots 22A and 24A, Square 37, Whitehouse Subdivision, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated June 1, 2018.

#### ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples read aloud the following ordinance for adoption:

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

#### ORDINANCE 1592

An Ordinance amending Chapter 26 – Article VI – Electronic Enforcement – Division 3. Vehicle Speed – Sec. 26-228 Traffic Safety Fund.

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

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

Mayor Peoples entertained public comment. No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adopt the ordinance as Ordinance 1592.

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. (JSN) EOC Building

Council Member Nobles asked about the Grand Opening Ceremony for the EOC Building.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to hold the Grand Opening Ceremony for the EOC Building at 9:00 a.m., Friday, February 12, 2021.

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

##### 2. (JSN) Calvin Galliano Park

Council Member Nobles asked about the bid opening for Calvin Galliano Park.

Mayor Peoples stated that the bid will be advertised starting this week, with a pre-bid meeting Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and the bid opening on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

##### 3. (LHV) Sewer Plant Update

Council Member Valence asked for an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.

Engineer Mo Saleh addressed the City Council to discuss the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. He stated that the equipment that has been installed is in use, and that the only items left are the P5 and P6 pumps, with substantial completion expected the first week of March.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples asked Mr. Saleh to discuss the Water Meter Replacement Project.

Mr. Saleh discussed the status of the Water Meter Replacement Project. He stated that the installation of the new electronic meters should start by the middle of March and will take six to twelve weeks to complete.

Mayor Peoples stated that the entire south side of the City, from Victory Drive to Louisiana Street south of the Westbank Expressway, will be getting new electronic meters that will be read remotely from City Hall.

4. (JP) Senior Center Update

Mayor Peoples reported that the storage building behind the Senior Center has been repaired and sided with vinyl siding, and that the cement around the Center has been pressure washed.

5. (JP) Honor Square Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the status of Honor Square. He stated that he hopes to hold the dedication on Sunday, March 7, 2021.

6. (JP) WHARF Project Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the status of the WHARF Project. He stated that we are still waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers for permission to cross the levee with the water and sewer lines, as well as other approvals needed for the project to progress. He entertained a motion to accept the proposal from APTIM Engineering for the design, construction, and administration of the Wetlands Harbor Activities Recreational Facility (WHARF).

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to accept the proposal from APTIM Engineering for the design, construction, and administration of the Wetlands Harbor Activities Recreational Facility (WHARF).

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

A discussion followed.

Mayor Peoples reported that the resurfacing of Central Avenue from the Westbank Expressway to Lapalco Boulevard will start on February 23, 2021.

A discussion followed.

7. (JP) Gazebo Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the Gazebo Project. He stated that the posts are up, and they are starting to put up the steel frame.

8. (JP) Louis Marrero Park Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the status of the Louis Marrero Park Improvements. He stated that a date needs to be set for the dedication of the children's playground.

A discussion followed.

The dedication of the children's playground was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Monday, February 15, 2021.

9. (JP) Museum Update

Mayor Peoples discussed the repairs being performed at the Museum. He stated that he is getting a price to have the Museum painted.

10. (JP) Gym Update

Mayor Peoples reported that the contract to paint the Gym has been awarded.

11. (JP) Utility Billing Adjustments

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. (MJR) Park Lighting / Entergy Grant

Council Member Rivere discussed an Entergy grant to install LED lighting at the parks.

A discussion followed.

2. (JP) Michael Louviere Drive

Mayor Peoples discussed the dedication of Michael Louviere Drive.

A discussion followed.

The dedication of Michael Louviere Drive was set for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, February 20, 2021.

Council Member Nobles asked Chief Munch to discuss dedicating the Westbank Expressway.

Chief Munch discussed dedicating the Westbank Expressway from Louisiana Street to Victory Drive in honor of Officer Michael Louviere under the Louisiana Memorial Highways Program.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Thibodeaux, to apply to the Department of Transportation and Development to have the Westbank Expressway from Louisiana Street to Victory Drive dedicated in honor of Officer Michael Louviere under the Louisiana Memorial Highways Program.

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


Mayor Peoples stated that absentee voting will have started by the time of the next City Meeting and offered the City Council and Chief Munch an opportunity to address the public.

Council Member Nobles, Council Member Valence, Council Member Thibodeaux, Chief Munch, and Mayor Peoples each addressed the public in turn to announce their candidacy for re-election.

ADJOURN

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2021.

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

  
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Joe Peoples, Mayor

  
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Lisa Tapia, City Clerk

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The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego will meet in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2021, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.