

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

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 8, 2021, 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

Pastor Terry Ray of New Day Christian Center led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence for the members of our community who died since our last meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Council Member Valence thanked Pastor Terry for coming tonight. She also commended and thanked the churches in Westwego for helping the community recover from Hurricane Ida.

Mayor Billiot stated that Council Member Valence speaks for everyone.

Mayor Billiot took the Ordinances for Adoption at this time. He called City CPA Jim Butler to the podium to discuss the budget.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION/BUDGET

Council Member Utley stated that he would like to delay the adoption of the budget while waiting for some new numbers to come in.

City CPA Jim Butler addressed the City Council to discuss the Budget.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Billiot took Item 4 under Old Business at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

4. (REB) Water and Wastewater Sector Program

Mayor Billiot asked Mr. Butler to discuss the Water and Wastewater Sector Program.

City CPA Jim Butler addressed the City Council to discuss the Water and Wastewater Sector Program. MR. Butler that the original application was for \$4.6 million with a \$1.535 million match for each project, but that we could amend the application to \$5 million with a \$1.25 million match, which would reduce the points towards the evaluation of the application by 6 points and require us to follow Federal procurement law.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Billiot entertained a motion to amend the application.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to amend the Water and Wastewater Sector Program application from \$4.6 million with a \$1.535 million match for each project, to \$5 million with a \$1.25 million match for each project.

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

Mayor Billiot took Item 2 under Old Business at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

2. (REB) Barriere Construction Contract

Mayor Billiot discussed paving Spruce Street in front of Isaac Joseph Elementary School.

Council Member Nobles stated that the project is long overdue and offered a motion to blacktop the road.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to authorize Mayor Billiot to have Spruce Street in front of Isaac Joseph Elementary School blacktopped.

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JEFFERSON PARISH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Jefferson Parish Department of Community Development Urban Planner Pat Haughey addressed the City Council to discuss the Annual Action Plan for U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Program Grants, and Emergency Solution Grants. He stated that there will be a public meeting for Public Comment on January 5, 2022 at the Government Building in Gretna.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Billiot stated that he would meet with Mr. Haughey to discuss the City's top priorities.

EMS PERSONNEL TO PRESENT – WESTWEGO EMS (LA) BILLING SERVICES

Paramedic Nicole Volpi addressed the City Council to discuss a new Electronic Patient Care Reporting and Billing System. She stated that funding for the current system through the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Communication Division will end on January 1, 2022, and that the Westwego EMS, together with its mutual aid partners, East Jefferson General Hospital, West Jefferson Medical Center, and Gretna EMS, want to select Image Trend to replace it in order to allow full compatibility between services and with area hospitals.

Assistant EMS Director Thomas Calamari discussed the costs for the new system. He stated that the initial setup cost is \$15,207.50, with an annual fee of \$9,282.50, and a 13.5% fee for collections.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Billiot entertained a motion to move forward.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to move forward with the Image Trend Electronic Patient Care Reporting and Billing System.

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

EAGLE SCOUT LOGAN CAVALIER

Mayor Billiot introduced Eagle Scout Logan Cavalier and presented him with a Proclamation recognizing and congratulating him upon his attainment of the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

FRED SCHASSAR

Fred Schassar addressed the City Council to discuss the flags at Honor Square.

OMAR & GINA DUNCAN

Omar and Gina Duncan addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a restaurant, J's Creole Wings, at 1101 Westbank Expressway.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant an Occupational License to Omar and Gina Duncan for the construction and operation of a restaurant, J's Creole Wings, at 1101 Westbank Expressway predicated upon DOTD approval for the entrance onto the Westbank Expressway and the approval of the State Fire Marshall.

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

CORNELL BROWN

Cornell Brown addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Pressure Washing and Lawn Service from his home at 668 Avenue A.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Bonvillian, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Cornell Brown to operate a Pressure Washing & Lawn Service from his home at 668 Avenue A.

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

EBONY BROWN

Ebony Brown addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Beauty Salon, Essence of Beauty, at 1026 Westbank Expressway.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Ebony Brown to operate a Beauty Salon, Essence of Beauty, at 1026 Westbank Expressway.

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

HOAI NGUYEN

Hoai Nguyen addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Nail Salon, Paradise Nails, at 1280 Westbank Expressway.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Campbell, to grant an Occupational License to Hoai Nguyen to operate a Nail Salon, Paradise Nails, at 1280 Westbank Expressway.

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

TESHA GALLO

Tesha Gallo addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Mobile Body Contouring Business from her home at 1160 Avenue E.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Tesha Gallo to operate a Mobile Body Contouring Business from her home at 1160 Avenue E.

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

JOSHUA WASHINGTON

Joshua Washington addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a Snowball Stand, Rosa's Place, at 1309 Lapalco Boulevard.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Joshua Washington to operate a Snowball Stand, Rosa's Place, at 1309 Lapalco Boulevard.

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

TONY POCHE

Tony Poche addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Home Repair Business from his home at 626 Avenue H.

MOVED by Council Member Bonvillian, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Tony Poche to operate a Home Repair Business from his home at 626 Avenue H.

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

RONDELL CARSON & GWENDALYNN CARSON – CARSON'S BAKERY LLC

Rondell Carson and Gwendalynn Carson addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate their Bakery, Carson's Bakery LLC, from the commercial kitchen at LeBrane's Creole Cuisine & Catering, 137 Sala Avenue.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Nobles, to grant an Occupational License to Rondell Carson and Gwendalynn Carson to operate their Bakery, Carson's Bakery LLC, from the commercial kitchen at LeBrane's Creole Cuisine & Catering, 137 Sala Avenue.

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

JOSE AVILO – JOSE FABRICATION LLC

Council Member Campbell addressed the City Council on behalf of Jose Avilo to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only for him to operate his Welding Fabrication Business, Jose Fabrication, LLC, from his home at 464 Celestine Street. She stated that Mr. Avilo understands that he may not do any of the work at his home.

MOVED by Council Member Campbell, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Jose Avilo to operate his Welding Fabrication Business, Jose Fabrication, LLC, from his home at 464 Celestine Street. No work may take place at this location.

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

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. submitted his written report and then discussed his department's response to the traffic issues during the closure of the Bayou Segnette Bridge on Lapalco Boulevard, and to noise issues at a local business.

A discussion followed.

Fire Chief Robert J. Hebert, Jr., and Chief Building Inspector Leslie P. "Skip" Lombas, Jr. submitted their written reports.

Plumbing Inspector Robert Smith, III, Electrical Inspector Roger Myers, Mechanical Inspector Jeremy Floyd, and EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr., were not present. Their written reports were submitted earlier.

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca submitted his written report. He stated that the air conditioners were installed last week and are working well, and that the monthly birthday parties will resume in January.

Chief Munch stated that he hopes to begin holding the Easter and Christmas parties again in 2022.

Council Member Nobles reported that Union Local 447 wants to hold a party for the Seniors.

Code Enforcement Officer Chad M. Usea submitted his written report.

The Financial Report/Budget vs. Actual were addressed earlier.

Farmers and Fisheries Market Coordinator Heather Saddler addressed the City Council to introduce herself and discuss her duties. She stated that the recent Trick-or-Treat event was a success and thanked everyone for supporting it. She announced that there will be a Craft Fair on Sunday, November 21, 2021, and that there are already thirty-five craft vendors registered.

Mayor Billiot discussed the Jefferson Performing Arts Society. He stated that Ms. Saddler will be working with them for community outreach and activities on Sala Avenue.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED by Council Member Valence, and seconded by Council Member Nobles, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, October 11, 2021, and the Special Session of Monday, October 25, 2021.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Utley:

RESOLUTION 2021-11(A)

A resolution proclaiming November 11, 2021, to be Veterans Day, and November to be Veterans Month, in the City of Westwego.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adopt Resolution 2021-11(A) proclaiming November 11, 2021, to be Veterans Day, and November to be Veterans Month, in the City of Westwego.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

There were no ordinances for introduction.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Utley:

An ordinance amending and readopting the 2021 Budget for the City of Westwego.

Offered by Council Member Utley:

An ordinance approving the 2022 Budget for the City of Westwego.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to table the discussion of the amendment of the 2021 Budget and the adoption of the 2022 Budget until the Regular Session of Monday, December 13, 2021.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. (REB) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

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

2. (REB) Barriere Construction Contract

This item was addressed earlier.

3. (REB) Millage Election

Mayor Billiot stated that there will be a mailout to inform the voters regarding the Millage Election.

4. (REB) Water and Wastewater Sector Program

This item was addressed earlier.

5. (REB) Gym

Mayor Billiot reported that the Gym is now being used for two voting precincts and then discussed the remaining repairs that need to be done.

6. (REB) THE WHARF PROJECT

Project Engineer Hamid Alizadeh, of APTIM Environmental & Infrastructure, LLC, addressed the City Council to discuss the Waterline for The WHARF Project. He stated that the request for bids has been advertised, and that the deadline for the submission of bids is 4:00 p.m., Monday, December 13, 2021, with the bid opening during the City Meeting at 6:00 p.m. the same day. He then discussed the permits and mitigations needed for construction of the WHARF Project.

A discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (LHV) Street Signs

Council Member Valence discussed the street signs that were damaged or lost during Hurricane Ida. She stated that the signs have been ordered and will be up as soon as possible.

2. (RJU) 363 Louisiana Street

Council Member Utley discussed the condition of 363 Louisiana Street and asked that the owner be contacted to see if they are going to clean it up.

Mayor Billiot stated that he will try to contact the owners.

3. (REB) Sludge Removal from Sewer Plant

Sewer Superintendent Louis Duhe discussed the build-up of sludge in the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Billiot discussed the issues with the removal of sludge from the Wastewater Treatment. He stated that it will cost \$108,563.07 to have a licensed company remove and dispose of the existing built-up sludge. He entertained a motion to do so.

Council Member Utley offered a motion, seconded by Council Member Valence, to split the cost six ways from discretionary funds, which Council Member Nobles amended to a joint motion of the full City Council.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to split the cost of having the sludge removed from the Wastewater Treatment Plant six ways from discretionary funds.

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

4. (REB) RV Emergency Letter

Mayor Billiot discussed the use of RV's as temporary housing while homeowners are repairing their homes. He stated that the City will issue a letter regarding temporary housing and inspections.

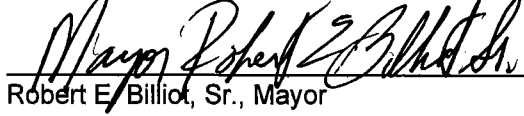
5. (REB) Hurricane Ida

Mayor Billiot discussed the remaining cleanup from Hurricane Ida. He stated that the City will continue with the cleanup, and that there will be one more sweep under the debris removal contract.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., Monday, November 8, 2021.

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, December 13, 2021, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.
