

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, March 14, 2022

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2022, 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 Campbell 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.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There were no presentations, announcements, or acknowledgements.

BIDS

THE WHARF WATERLINE

Project Engineers Hamid Alizadeh and Gerard Gillen addressed the City Council to open the four bids received for the Wharf Waterline as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Contractor's License</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Beverly Construction Co., LLC	35678	\$443,388.00
Palmisano Construction, LLC	44187	\$301,487.00
Kass Bros., Inc.	14914	\$305,755.00
Cycle Construction Co., LLC	36961	\$348,872.00

Mayor Billiot entertained a motion to take the bids under advisement.

MOVED by Council Member Utley, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to take the bids under advisement.

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

GENERATORS FOR THE LIFT STATIONS

Mayor Billiot stated that one bid was received for the five lift station generators.

The City Clerk read aloud the bid, as follows: Taylor Power Systems, \$131,175.00.

Mayor Billiot entertained a motion to take the bids under advisement.

Council Member Utley offered a motion to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Council Member Nobles as a unanimous motion.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to take the bids under advisement.

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

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

BRENDA ENGERON

Brenda Engeron addressed the City Council to discuss parked cars blocking the sidewalks near her home and a new tank at Loop Linen which negatively affects her quality of life.

Mayor Billiot stated that he would contact Loop Linen about the tank and that Chief Munch would address the cars parking on sidewalks.

KENISHA FARLOUGH

Kenisha Farlough addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Mobile Phlebotomy Service from her home at 826 Avenue H.

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 Kenisha Farlough to operate a Mobile Phlebotomy Service from her home at 826 Avenue H.

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

CINDY LEFORT

Cindy LeFort addressed the City Council to discuss recent fire events near her home and to thank the Fire Department for their quick and appropriate responses to those fire events.

LARRY HOGAN

Larry Hogan addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to operate a Construction Business from his home at 802 Fifth Street.

A discussion followed.

MOVED by Council Member Bonvillian, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to grant a Home Occupational License for Mail and Telephone Service Only to Larry Hogan to operate a Construction Business from his home at 802 Fifth Street.

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

HEAR ALL REPORTS

The following written reports were submitted prior to the meeting:

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.
Fire Chief Robert J. Hebert, Jr.
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

Westwego Farmers and Fisheries Market Coordinator Heather Saddler addressed the City Council to discuss coming activities at the Market.

Mayor Billiot asked Ms. Saddler to speak about the WHARF Project.

Ms. Saddler discussed the recent meeting with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at the WHARF Project site regarding the damages from Hurricane Ida.

Mayor Billiot discussed DNR requirements for the removal of the downed trees and debris at the WHARF Project, and other work that must be done to make the site ready for the public.

Mayor Billiot also discussed the Lazy River Landing and the planned walkway over River Road. He stated that the landing needs more work than originally thought but that work will proceed to prepare for a trial run, as well as funding that may be available for the walkway.

Mayor Billiot discussed repairs needed at the Westwego Farmers & Fisheries Market. He asked Project Engineer Gerard Gillen, of APTIM, to discuss this further.

Project Engineer Gerard Gillen addressed the City Council to discuss the repairs needed at the Market, both for damages from Hurricane Ida and for other maintenance. He stated that he had solicited bids from four contractors, two of whom declined to bid (Note: The expected cost for this project is below the limit that would require a formal advertised bid).

Mayor Billiot discussed funding for the repairs. He stated that he may need to ask the City Council for discretionary funds.

A discussion followed.

RESOLUTION 2022-03(A)

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Valence, to proceed with the repairs to the Westwego Farmers & Fisheries Market; i.e. to authorize Mayor Robert E. Billiot, Sr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into contract with Tasch, LLC, for Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to the Westwego Farmers and Fisheries Market.

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to approve the minutes of the Special Session of Monday, February 7, 2022 and the Regular Session of Monday, February 14, 2022.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

A resolution authorizing Mayor Robert E. Billiot, Sr., on behalf of the City of Westwego, to enter into contract with Tasch, LLC, for Hurricane Ida Damage Repairs to the Westwego Farmers and Fisheries Market, FP&C Project No. 50-MV4-0306.

Mayor Billiot stated that this resolution was adopted earlier.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Offered by Council Member Campbell:

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 9B, 10B, and 11B, Square 20, Whitehouse Subdivision, and is more fully shown on a plan by Dufrene Surveying & Engineering, Inc., dated February 8, 2022. (233 Ave B and 237 Ave B)

Offered by Council Member Utley:

An Ordinance Amending and Reenacting Chapter 10 – BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS ARTICLE II. – SPECIAL BUILDING REGULATIONS DIVISION 1 – GENERALLY Sec. 10-46 Fence regulations; definitions; permits required.

Mayor Billiot recognized Chief Munch who reported that his officers are investigating the parking issue reported earlier in the meeting.

A discussion followed.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

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 9, 10, 11 and 12, Block 4, Westwego Heights Subdivision, into Lots 9-A and 11-A, Block 4, Westwego Heights Subdivision, more fully shown on a plan by S. Z. S. Consultants, Inc., dated December 28, 2021.

(Approved by the Zoning Planning Advisory Board on March 2, 2022 – Formerly known as 720 West Dr.)

A discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Calvin Galiano Park Walking Track

Council Member Nobles reported that he and Council Members Valence and Utley have obtained quotes for the landscaping at the Calvin Galiano Park Walking Track and that they will be splitting the cost to have the work done from their discretionary funds.

2. (REB) Utility Bill Adjustments

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

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

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

Offered by Council Member Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1605

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 9, 10, 11 and 12, Block 4, Westwego Heights Subdivision, into Lots 9-A and 11-A, Block 4, Westwego Heights Subdivision, more fully shown on a plan by S. Z. S. Consultants, Inc., dated December 28, 2021.

(Approved by the Zoning Planning Advisory Board on March 2, 2022 – Formerly known as 720 West Dr.)

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. No one spoke in favor of the ordinance; no spoke in opposition.

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

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

MOVED by Council Member Nobles, and seconded by Council Member Utley, to adopt Ordinance 1605 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 9, 10, 11 and 12, Block 4, Westwego Heights Subdivision, into Lots 9-A and 11-A, Block 4, Westwego Heights Subdivision, more fully shown on a plan by S. Z. S. Consultants, Inc., dated December 28, 2021.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Redistricting

Council Member Nobles asked for an update on Redistricting.

Cedric Floyd, of Data Center, LLC, appeared via Zoom Meeting to discuss the status of Redistricting.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Floyd stated that he will have an expanded presentation at the next meeting.

2. (LHV) 706 Victory Drive

Council Member Valence discussed the condition of the structures at 706 Victory Drive and asked that the property be inspected to determine whether condemnation proceedings should begin.

Mayor Billiot stated that he would investigate the matter.

3. (REB) Hearing Officer – Code Enforcement

Mayor Billiot discussed the possibility of a Hearing Officer to address and resolve code violations faster than it presently takes in city court.

A discussion followed.

4. (REB) Fire Chief Lawsuit

Mayor Billiot reported that the City is being threatened with a litigation regarding the Fire Chief's position.

5. (REB) Louis Marrero Playground – Gym Floor, Fence, Fields, Concession Stand

Mayor Billiot discussed the gym floor, fence, fields, and concession stand at the Louis Marrero Playground. He stated that there is more work to be done at Louis Marrero Playground, some of which may have to be paid for with discretionary funds.

A discussion followed.

The Mayor and City Council retired to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss the threatened litigation regarding the Fire Chief's position.

The Mayor and City Council returned from Executive Session at 7:46 p.m.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Council Members, to adjourn at 7:46 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2022.

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, March 14, 2022, in the Council Room at City Hall, 1100 Fourth Street, Westwego, Louisiana.