

JULY 10, 2007  
VILLE PLATTE CITY COUNCIL  
VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte, Louisiana met in regular meeting at the Ville Platte City Hall, 126 East Main Street, Ville Platte, Louisiana on July 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

There were present: Mayor Bill Jeanmard, Alderwoman Carol Alfred, Aldermen Taranza Arvie, C.J. Dardeau, Mike Perron, Donald Sam, City Clerk Shelley Fruge, Administrative Assistant Rita Jack, City Attorney Eric LaFleur and City Engineer Ronnie Landreneau.

There was absent: Alderman Freddie Jack.

**PUBLIC HEARING---5:45 P.M---TO ENACT SECTION OF THE CODE FO ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF  
VILLE PLATTE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte were duly convened as the governing authority of the City of Ville Platte by the Mayor, who announced that the Board was ready for the transaction of business.

It was moved by Alderwoman Alfred and seconded by Alderman Arvie to approve the minutes of June 12, 2007 and special meeting of June 26, 2007.

Motion Carried.

Alderman Arvie thanked Arthur Sampson, Recreational Director, and his staff for doing a great job on the Summer Youth Program.

Alderman Perron also stated that drainage in Demoncherveaux Subdivision is doing fine.

The Mayor stated that he would like to thank Chip Holmes, YOU Director, and Sharon Fontenot, City Grant Writer, for a fine job on the recent graduation of the YOU Mentoring Program. He stated that it is perhaps one of the best programs sponsored by the City and is going well.

It was moved by Alderman Sam and seconded by Alderman Arvie to approve the following liquor permit: The Ville Platte Booster Club to sell beer at a softball tournament at the Northside Ball Park on August 10-12, 2007.

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Alderman Arvie and seconded by Alderman Perron to approve the following ordinance with the necessary changes:

**ORDINANCE NO. 07/10/07**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT SECTION \_ OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR  
THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA  
RELATIVE TO POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING LAW;  
AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.**

Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen/City Council of the City of Ville Platte, in legal session convened that of the Code of Ordinance for the City of Ville Platte, Louisiana is hereby amended and supplemented by adding Article VII. Police Department Personnel to read as follows:

"Article VII. Police Department Personal.

Sec. 74-150, Reimbursement by Peace Officer.

(a) Definitions.

(1) "Peace officer" means any full-time employee of the municipality or whose permanent duties actually include the making of arrests, the performing of searches and seizures, or the execution of criminal warrants, and is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or for the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of this State, but not including any elected or appointed head of a law enforcement department.

(2) "Law enforcement training course" means a basic or advanced course of study certified by the council on peace officer standards and training, for the purpose of educating and training persons in the skills and techniques required of a peace officer in the discharge of his duties.

(3) "Governmental entity" means any board, authority, commission, department office, division, or agency of the state or any of its local political subdivisions.

(b) Effective 08/10/07, any newly employed peace officer, hired to work on a full-time permanent basis, who has satisfactorily completed a certified law enforcement training course and basic firearms training program as a condition of employment, must enter into a written employment contract with the City of Ville Platte. This contract must be executed prior to employment and be for a period of two (2) years from the date of satisfactory completion of the certified training course and basic firearms training program.

(1) If a peace officer who has entered into a contract authorized under this Section accepts employment as a peace officer with another governmental entity, the peace officer shall reimburse the City of Ville Platte for the total training costs incurred and expended during his or her training program.

(2) The amount of reimbursement authorized by this Section shall be pro-rated based upon the percentage of time that the peace officer completed his or her employment contract. The amount of reimbursement authorized by this Subsection after the pro rata amount is calculated shall be reduced by the cost of the training provided by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

(3) The City of Vile Platte, as payer of the peace officer's law enforcement training course and basic firearms training program shall submit an itemized sworn statement to the peace officer, shall demand payment thereof, and may enforce collection of the obligation through civil remedies and procedures.

State Law Reference -La. R.S. 40:2402 and R.S. 40:2405

#### ARTICLE II

Be it further ordained that if any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect other provisions, Items, or applications of this Ordinance, which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

#### ARTICLE III

Be it further ordained that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on the 26th day of June 2007 by the Council notice of public hearing having been published on the 8th day of July 2007, said public hearing having been held, title having been read and Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Arvie seconded by Alderman Perron to adopt the ordinance, a record vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEAS: Alderwoman Alfred, Aldermen Arvie, Dardeau, Perron and Sam.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSENT: Alderman Jack

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the above Ordinance duly adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2007.

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William "Bill" Jeanmard, Mayor

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Shelley Fruge, City Clerk

DATE:  
NAME:  
ADDRESS:

Today, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007 you are being offered employment as a Police Officer contingent upon satisfactorily completion of the following:

(1) A physical assessment to determine your ability to perform the duties of a Police officer with or without accommodation;

(2) Drug Screening;

(3) Any additional tests or evaluations that may be necessary to confirm your employment. If, at any point, your evaluations are deemed unsatisfactory, this offer of employment will be withdrawn.

By signing this document, you agree to its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF OF POLICE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

cc: Personnel File

Appointing Authority Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Carried.

The Mayor informed the Council that he received a letter of request for annexation and that the property contiguous to requested annexation property is not in the City limit and has not been requested for annexation. Therefore, he informed the Council that the request will be taken under advisement.

The Mayor also informed the Council that they each received a report on the Ville Platte Water System and informed the public that they are welcomed to view a copy of said letter.

Donna Roberts, representing the New Addition Subdivision, appeared before the Council with requests and complaints. She informed the Council that the drainage in the subdivision is in need of repair and there is a need for street lights due to high, violent crimes. She also stated that people are trespassing on empty lots which are in need of cleaning.

The Mayor informed the group of concerned citizens that he would sit with Alderman Donald Sam and evaluates the light and drainage situation. He will also check to see if letters have been sent out to those mentioned landowners to maintain their property and post no trespassing signs.

Alderman Arvie informed the group that he and City Engineer have been working on solutions for the canal on Moran Street and have been talking to Police Jury for assistance.

It was then moved by Alderman Sam and seconded by Alderman Arvie to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte, Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing body of said City do hereby enact the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ville Platte and the Evangeline Parish Police Jury have always whenever possible worked jointly and in full cooperation for the maximum benefit of the residents of Evangeline Parish; and,

**WHEREAS**, in light of decreased State and Federal revenues to local governments, this cooperation has become all the more crucial to services in and around the Ville Platte area; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to continue this joint relationship of pooling its resources with that of the Parish to more effectively serve this community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte by way of this resolution do hereby request the Evangeline Parish Police Jury to provide assistance in the form of manpower and/or equipment in the cleaning and maintaining of the drainage canal which drains the southwest section of Ville Platte along the Percy Fontenot addition to Ville Platte.

**THUS DONE**, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007 in Ville Platte, Evangeline Parish, Louisiana.

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William "Bill" Jeanmard, Mayor

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Shelley Fruge, City Clerk

Motion Carried.

City Treasurer Rod LaFleur informed the Council that there have been no significant changes. Alderman received a copy of the monthly bills and financial statements.

\*\*Police Chief Neil Lartigue informed the group of concerned citizens that if they had complaints, call anytime. He also stated that he is in the process of hiring more part-time officers that would be patrolling the area.

Chief informed the Mayor and Council of the resignation of two officers, namely Patrick Hall and Chauncey Fontenot and that he should have two that will soon graduate from the academy.

\*\*Fire Chief Ted Demoruelle informed the Council that his department is preparing for the fire rating. He also informed the Council that he is conducting hurricane preparedness classes.

The Mayor stated that there should also be drills to better prepare for hurricanes.

\*\*City Engineer Ronnie Landreneau recommended that the Council adopt a resolution authorizing him to apply for a \$50,000.00 maximum grant to replace fire hydrants.

It was then moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Perron to authorize the Engineer to apply for the \$50,000.00 maximum grant to replace the fire hydrants.

Motion Carried.

Authur Sampson, Recreational Director, and his staff appeared before the Council to give a progress report on the Summer Youth Program. He informed the Council that he has a total of 130 children and that the Program is going well. He also stated that they have taken several field trips and plan to take more.

Mayor Jeanmard thanked Mr. Sampson and informed the Council that the program is very well structured.

\*\*Mayors' Report - Mayor informed the Council that Shady Acres Subdivision is experiencing drainage problems and may need dredging. The Mayor requested that the Engineer look into the problems.

The Mayor also informed the Council that the Longevity Pay is sometimes given twice a year, whenever possible and informed them that it has been budgeted for twice this year. He recommended giving its first budget amount and believes it will be possible to give it again in December. At the recommendation of the Mayor, it was moved by Alderman Sam and seconded by Alderman Arvie to give the employees the first budget amount of Longevity Pay.

Motion Carried.

The Mayor then informed the Council that there is an alley between Latour and Chataignier that he would like to have the City Engineer do a survey on to see if there are utilities there and do whatever is necessary to have the alley abandoned. Alderwoman Alfred then introduces two (2) ordinances to have two alleys abandoned, namely: Alley between Latour and Chataignier and the other between East Jackson and East Wilson. The public hearing for both will be on August 14, 2007 beginning at 5:45 p.m., with Council meeting to follow.

It was moved by Alderman Arvie and seconded by Alderman Perron that, there being no further business, the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

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William "Bill" Jeanmard, Mayor

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Shelley Fruge, City Clerk