

JANUARY 9, 2007
VILLE PLATTE CITY COUNCIL
VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA

The Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Ville Platte, Louisiana met in regular session at the regular monthly meeting at the Ville Platte City Hall at 126 East Main Street, Ville Platte, Louisiana on January 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: Alderwoman Carol Alfred.

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

It was moved by Alderman Jack and seconded by Alderman Perron to approve the minutes of December 12, 2006.

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Sam to acknowledge receipt of the financial statement and monthly bills.

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Alderman Arvie and seconded by Alderman Perron to approve the beer permit: George Attle – to sell beer at the Martin Luther King Center on January 20, 2007.

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Alderman Dardeau, seconded by Alderman Perron to approve the following resolution:

City of Ville Platte, Louisiana

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS

Resolution considering mayoral personnel appointments and authorizing the hiring of professional consultants and certain part-time positions, effective upon signature and approvals of various policies and budget amendments.

SECTION 1: The following appointments were offered in omnibus form for consideration by Mayor Bill Jeanmard with terms as noted:

City Clerk: Shelley Fruge – Effective February 1, 2007
Deputy Clerk/Water Production Superintendent: Joseph Cliff Fontenot
Street Commissioner: Cecil Green
Disposal/Sewer Department Director: Schmelling Thomas
Water Department Director: Jackie Doucet
Gas Department Director: Marcus Johnson
Park/Recreation Director (all but south side): Robert “Ringo” Fontenot
Park/Recreation Southside Director (MLKC): Terry Wilson
City Engineer: J. Ronald Landreneau
City Attorney: Eric Lafleur
Asst. City Attorney: Vacant
Asst. City Attorney (City Prosecutor): Julhelene “Betsy” Jackson
Tax Collector: Donna Veillon
City Treasurer: Rod Lafleur
Human Resource Director: Rod Lafleur (Contracted)
Inspectors: Building: Nathaniel Thomas
Electrical: Elton Manuel
Plumbing: Burgis Smith
Construction Coordinator (Water/Sewer/Streets): Carroll Duos
Main Street Coordinator: Pam McGee
Grants Director: Sharon Fontenot

Mayor, council and staff noted above shall receive same benefits as the previous administration.

All department directors/appointments are expected to attend all regular council meetings and all committee meetings affecting their departments.

SECTION 2: In order to fund the previously noted positions, IT IS RESOLVED, the Mayor is authorized to establish compensations and amend the current fiscal year budget if needed; the Mayor is further authorized to establish two weeks vacation and two weeks sick leave benefits to the position of City Clerk.

SECTION 3: In order to enable the new administration to immediately commence work on its hiring and initiatives, IT IS RESOLVED, the Mayor is further authorized by this resolution to negotiate with, hire and execute contracts with certain firms, consultants, associations, part-time employees, including but not limited to the following fields:

Deputy Clerk, Accounting and Financial, Transitional Assistance, Development Project Coordinator, Community Liaison, Code Enforcement Officer, Grants and Office Manager.

SECTION 4: IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, upon approval, appoints the firm of J. Ronald Landreneau and Associates, Inc. for the purpose of municipal and associated engineering services and the firm of Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and Company for auditing and accounting services; and Eric LaFleur, PLC is herein appointed to serve as legal representative of city to oversee, advise and administer regarding legal issues and professional services required by the city;

SECTION 5: In order to maintain a smooth transition from one administration to another, IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing financial institutions shall be appointed in their current capacity;

SECTION 6: In order to maintain order at all public meetings, IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rules of Citizens Participation be approved as presented; (Attachment A)

SECTION 7: In order to comply with all local and state laws, IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor shall be given the authority to comply with the policy of rental facilities as presented; (Attachment B)

SECTION 8: Finally, IT IS RESOLVED that the Mayor is further authorized to amend the budget, if needed, to allow up to \$20,000.00 in additional repairs, modifications, office items and furnishings of City Hall.

SECTION 9: The above confirmation and resolution was adopted on a vote taken by yeas and nays entered on the minutes of the clerk as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Arvie, Dardeau, Jack, Perron and Sam.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alderwoman Alfred.

The resolution is declared PASSED AND ADOPTED at Ville Platte, Louisiana, on this the 9th day of January 2007.

Bill Jeanmard, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bryan Savant, City Clerk

The Mayor announced that it was time to select a Mayor-Pro tem and suggested appointing Alderman Jack with appointments to be by secret ballot beginning next year. It was then moved by Alderman Perron and seconded by Alderman Arvie to approve the appointment of Alderman Jack as Mayor Pro tem with appointments to be by secret ballot beginning next year.

Motion Carried.

The audit report was submitted by John S. Dowling. No action was taken.

Police Chief Neil Lartigue requested that the Council amend his budget to include a new vehicle. It was moved by Alderman Jack and seconded by Alderman Arvie to amend the budget to include a new police vehicle for the chief not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Motion Carried.

At the request of the Police Chief, and the approval of the Mayor, it was moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Perron to hire the following: Joseph R. Fontenot as Probational Police Sergeant, pending he passes the physical; Gabe Dupre as Provisional Police Officer, pending he passes the physical; and Chad Mead Provisional Police Officer, pending he passes the physical and background check clearance.

Motion Carried.

At the request of the Fire Chief Ted Demoruelle, and the approval of the Mayor, it was moved by Alderman Jack and seconded by Alderman Arvie to appoint Blake Perron and Blake Marcantel as Probational Fire Captains and to create another Captain position so that all shifts have a supervisor.

YEAS: Aldermen Arvie, Dardeau, Jack, and Sam.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alderwoman Alfred.

ABSTAIN: Alderman Perron.

Motion Carried.

Fire Chief also announced that Edgar Bradley has completed his training through the academy and did well. He also stated that the back-up generator at the fire substation has been charged.

Engineer report – Engineer has reported roof repair for City Hall is ready to start. They received a bid for the Martin Luther King Center heating and cooling system at a price of \$3,600.00 with a one-year maintenance contract to change the filter twice a year at a price of \$1,200.00 annually. After that time, changing the ceiling text.

**CDBG Grant is in its design phase and will begin within 45 to 60 days with Sewer Construction to begin in the late Spring.

**Completed cost estimate on obtaining grants to repair of the Water System.

**Informed Alderman Perron that he will be meeting with him to make a recommendation on the Demoncherveaux drainage problem.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor informed the Council that the Grant Writer Sharon Fontenot requested a resolution seeking funds for the YOU Program. It was moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Jack to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF VILLE PLATTE
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS
FROM THE ST. LANDRY – EVANGELINE UNITED WAY

WHEREAS, the mission of the St. Landry – Evangeline United Way is to provide support to communities of St. Landry and Evangeline parishes, by uniting people who care with people who need; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the St. Landry – Evangeline United Way is to be the “way” by which volunteers, resources and agencies are “united” to enhance the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the value statement of the St. Landry – Evangeline United Way is to be accountable and honorable, with integrity to donors and those they serve;

WHEREAS, the Youth Opportunity Unlimited (Y.O.U.) Program created, sponsored and conducted by the City of Ville Platte subscribes to these same values and vision and conducts the Y.O.U. Program accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the City is seeking funds to continue this program which so greatly benefits the youth of our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ville Platte City Council hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for a grant from the St. Landry – Evangeline United Way for the benefit of the Y.O.U. Program
2. Appoints the Mayor as agent of the City of Ville Platte to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and Adopted the 9th day of January, 2007.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Ville Platte City Council following roll call vote:

Yeas: Arvie, Dardeau, Jack, Perron, Sam
Nays: None
Absent: Alderwoman Alfred.

Bryan Savant
City Clerk

William C. Jeanmard
Mayor

The Mayor requested to suspend the current hiring ordinance and resolutions until a new policy is drafted. It was moved by Alderman Jack and seconded by Alderman Arvie to suspend the current hiring ordinance and resolutions all its amendment's until they could get a new one.

Motion Carried.

Alderman introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to begin at 5:30 p.m. February 13, 2007:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE TO PROHIBIT PARKING OF TRACTOR TRAILERS ON STREETS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

An Ordinance proposing to make the parking of tractor trailers within the city limits,

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SAID PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 13, 2007.

Alderman Dardeau introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to begin at 5:30 p.m. on February 13, 2007:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS

An Ordinance proposing to requirements and rules regarding the construction of sidewalks within the city limits,

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SAID PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 13, 2007.

Alderman Dardeau introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to begin at 5:30 p.m. on February 13, 2007:

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE
TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT CITY BUILDING CODE**

An Ordinance proposing to amend and re-enact city building code,

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SAID PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 13, 2007.

Alderman Sam introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to begin at 5:30 p.m. on February 13, 2007:

Bonding Financing Ordinance to be inserted.

It was then moved by Alderman Jack and seconded by Alderman Sam that, there be no further business, the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

William "Bill" Jeanmard

ATTEST:

Bryan Savant, City Clerk