

MARCH 13, 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 at 126 East Main Street, Ville Platte, Louisiana on March 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

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

There was absent: None.

**PUBLIC HEARING-----5:30 P.M.
ROADSIDE STREET CONVAISSING**

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 Mayor who announced that the Board was ready for the transaction of business.

It was moved by Alderman Jack and seconded by Alderwoman Alfred to approve the minutes of February 13, 2007.

Motion Carried.

Council Announcements, Alderman Jack presented a proclamation for approval. The Mayor then proclaimed March 17th as “Seventh District Annual Woman’s Day” to be held at the St. John Baptist Church of Ville Platte and signed the official proclamation.

Alderman Dardeau requested more street lights in Shady Acres Subdivision. He stated that the lights in the subdivision are far apart and there is need for more lights. The Mayor requested that the Chief of Police conduct a survey with Alderman Dardeau of the subdivision and make a recommendation back to the Mayor.

Introduction of Ordinances

Alderman Dardeau introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 10, 2007.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR NORTHSIDE PARK PROPERTY LEASE RENEWAL

Alderman Jack introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 10, 2007.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR LEASE/SALE OF CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 109 EAST MAIN & SOUTHWEST RAILROAD

Alderman Perron introduced the following ordinance with public hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 10, 2007.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR NEW MULTI-HOUSING UNITS THAT REQUEST CITY SERVICE OR ANNEXATION

Ordinance for Consideration

It was moved by Alderman Perron and seconded by Alderman Dardeau to approve the following Ordinance with the following amendment, deleting paragraph (2) under section (c):

**ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE
TO REGULATE CANVAISSING ON STREETS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS
ORDINANCE #031307 #1**

An Ordinance proposing to regulate and prohibit with exceptions the canvassing within the city limits,

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognize the need for controlling traffic by which motor vehicles travel in and around the City of Ville Platte;

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognize that the free flow of traffic and the safety of individuals for the purpose of soliciting funds in drives solely for charitable, civic or service organizations within the city of Ville Platte is important to its citizens' right;

WHEREAS in case any one or more of the provisions of this ordinance shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provisions of said ordinance, but the same shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained therein. Any constitutional or statutory provisions enacted after the date of this ordinance which validate or make legal any provisions thereof shall be deemed to apply hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Ville Platte, State of Louisiana, in legal and regular and/or special session, acting as the "Governing Authority" of said City, after a public hearing with legal notice, adopt an ordinance outlined herein prohibiting street canvassing with the exceptions as noted within the city limit of Ville Platte in accordance with the terms of this ordinance.

Section XX-A Street canvassing – Prohibited.

It is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and it shall be unlawful for any person to canvass, beg or solicit persons on the streets or sidewalks of the city for the purpose of selling books, wares, merchandise or articles of any description or to beg or solicit funds for any purpose. Such practice is hereby declared to be a nuisance and obnoxious to the personal rights, convenience and privileges of the public and it is further declared as impeding orderly traffic on streets and sidewalks unless, and except, in cases where the solicitor involved shall have strictly complied with the requirements set forth herein.

Sec. XX – B Same – Exception.

The provisions of the preceding section shall not apply to persons over eighteen (18) years of age or persons under their supervision who are less than eighteen (18) years old soliciting funds in drives sponsored solely for charitable, civic, or service organizations provided the following conditions are met:

- (a.) A letter of permission to the solicitor for the fundraising activities must be issued by the mayor of the City of Ville Platte. The organization receiving permission from the mayor must also obtain a permit of understanding from the Ville Platte Police Department regarding the locations of the proposed canvassing and solicitation, the time the event will start, and the time it is scheduled to conclude. Such permit of understanding may be denied by the police department if the date and times conflict with other events at the locations sought to be permitted or, in the opinion of the police department, will cause undue traffic delays and/or jeopardize the safety of the canvassers and/or the motoring public.
- (b.) Members or volunteers canvassing or soliciting on behalf of the organization shall:
 - 1. Wear orange colored clothing while in the travel portion of the street which shall display on his head, chest, and/or back a total of not less than four hundred square inches of material of a daylight fluorescent orange color known as "hunter orange" during the solicitation period. (This coverage amount was taken from the Wildlife and Fisheries rules regarding deer hunting in public areas. So, this rule would basically require a solicitor to wear a hunter orange vest.)
 - 2. Wear a clearly visible badge, uniform and hat, or insignia of the organization for which the person is canvassing or soliciting. (this contemplates baseball teams, for example, wearing their uniforms and hats, or church groups wearing their t-shirts, volunteer firemen wearing their uniforms, etc....for purposes of identifying the group.)
 - 3. Place orange traffic cones not more than fifteen (15) feet apart down the center line of the traffic lanes for a distance not less than fifty (50) feet which shall be provided to solicitors by the City of Ville Platte. The City of Ville Platte shall provide the appropriate orange traffic cones and may require solicitors to make a deposit for the use of the traffic cones in an amount not to exceed more than \$25.00.
 - 4. Remain on the sidewalk while traffic is in motion.
 - 5. Enter the street only when traffic is stopped.
 - 6. Make no attempt to impede the flow of traffic at the permitted site.
 - 7. Return to the sidewalk immediately upon collection of the funds being solicited.

The Ville Platte Police Department may, at any time during the permitted solicitation, suspend or terminate the solicitation if conditions arise which, in the opinion of the department, jeopardize the safety of the solicitors or canvassers or the motoring public.

- (c.) Permit limitations:
 - 1. Permits issued by the Ville Platte Police Department shall be for a period not to exceed one (2) days.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SAID ORDINANCE WAS HELD AT 5:30 P.M., March 13, 2007.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

The ordinance is declared **PASSED AND ADOPTED** at Ville Platte, Louisiana, on this the 13th day of March 2007.

ATTEST:

Shelley Fruge', City Clerk

The Mayor informed the Council that in their packets was a list of abandoned buildings. After little discussion, it was moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Arvie to have our building inspector to revisit and inspect the buildings and report his findings at the next Council meeting.

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Jack to approve the following liquor permits:

1. Permission for Sacred Heart to sell liquor April 18-19, 2007 at the Northside Civic Center.
2. Jim's Express Mart, Inc.
3. Ortego Food Lane.
4. Carol's Specialty Meat

All permits were found to be in order.

Motion Carried.

Rod Lafleur, City Treasure presented the financial reports and bills. He also stated that he would have a report listing overtime pay status at then next meeting.

Police Chief Lartigue– Gave his activity report and then recommended hiring Shawn Duplechain as a Police Sergeant. The Chief stated that he will not have to attend the academy because he's returning within the required three (3) year period. He also recommended hiring Ashli Gunter as a part-time Dispatcher to cut down on the overtime. It was moved by Alderwoman Alfred and seconded by Alderman Sam to hire Shawn Duplechain as Probational Police Sergeant and Ashli Gunter as a part-time Dispatcher as recommended by the Chief and approve by the Mayor.

Motion Carried.

Fire Chief Demoruelle– Gave his activity report and then reported that the Emergency Preparedness Committee met March 12, 2007. He also informed the Council that the new fire truck will be used in a parade in Baton Rouge in memory of all Louisiana Fallen Firefighters.

Engineer Report – Recommended that the Council accept the roof at City Hall as substantially complete. The Mayor informed the Engineer that he wants to do a punch list, even if accepted. It was then moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Perron to accept the roof at City Hall as substantially complete with a final inspection to include the Mayor.

Motion Carried.

No other managers had reports at this time.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor appointed Guy Mitchell as City Prosecutor as a result of the resignation of Julhelene Betsy Jackson who accepted a position in an other city. It was then moved by Alderman Dardeau and seconded by Alderman Arvie to confirm the appointment.

Motion Carried.

The Mayor also congratulated the Ville Platte High Bulldogs' Basketball team for their accomplishments and informed the Council that he would do something for the Basketball team at the next scheduled Council meeting. The team reached the Top 28 State Playoff's.

The Mayor thanked Sharon Fontenot and others for their help with the Swamp Pop Festival, which was a success.

The Mayor then thanked Pam McGee for her contributions to the Pet Parade and the Treasures Day (Garage Sale) at the Civic Center.

There being no other business;

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

Motion Carried.

William "Bill" Jeanmard, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelley Fruge, City Clerk