

Ville Platte City Council Minutes for April 12, 2022

**Public Hearing held at 4:30 PM
City of Ville Platte**

**Public Hearing for Ordinance to allow alcohol consumption on premises in certain situations
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine announced the commencement of the first Public Hearing regarding an ordinance amending the city ordinances allowing for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises of certain businesses and read the following posting announcing same on the April 12, 2022 Ville Platte City Council Agenda.

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine opened the hearing by orally reading the proposed amendment to the ordinance as such:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE V OF SECTION 3-47 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, ALLOWING FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE PREMISES OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

Mayor Vidrine then called on Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Ville Platte, and he read the proposed ordinance and supporting “Expansion of Licensed Premises Agreement” as such:

Sec. 3-47. - Sale and consumption prohibited in public streets and outside business buildings, to include:

(d) There shall be exempt from this section any restaurant that completes and adheres to all the stipulations, conditions and considerations contained in an “EXPANSION OF LICENSED PREMISES AGREEMENT” as developed and maintained by the City of Ville Platte.

and he narrated through the “Expansion of Licensed Premises Agreement” as such:

Name of Business: _____

Location: _____

Date of Request: _____

EXPANSION OF LICENSED PREMISES AGREEMENT

An Alcoholic Beverage Permit holder (Permittee) may apply for an expansion of their licensed premises from the City of Ville Platte. The Permittee, including all affiliated partners, members, officers, directors, and/or shareholders, shall meet, maintain and comply with ALL of the following:

1. Permittee shall provide a letter requesting an expansion of their current Alcoholic

Beverage Permit. The letter of request shall include a diagram of the current permitted area and the requested expansion area, details of the layout of the expansion area, how the expansion area will be utilized, parking plan and security plan.

2. Continually meet all requirements of the City of Ville Platte's Code of Ordinances pertaining to Alcoholic Beverages and Noise Control, unless otherwise noted herein.

3. Permittee shall maintain compliance with all local and state building, fire, health, zoning, and other applicable ordinances and/or statutes.

4. Permittee will be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises, subject to local and state regulations, ordinances, and statutes. However, patrons are not allowed to leave the premises with an open alcoholic beverage container.

5. All employees and managers, including the Permittees, who sell, serve and/or dispense alcoholic beverages shall possess a valid local Certificate of Qualification (Bar Card) and Louisiana Responsible Vendor/Server Card (State Bar Card).

6. A Permittee or Designated Manager shall be on the licensed premises during all hours of operation. The establishment shall not remain open unless a Permittee or a Designated Manager is in attendance therein. All Designated Managers must be approved by the office of Alcohol and Noise Control prior to an individual assuming the responsibilities of a Designated Manager.

7. Permittee shall apply for and receive a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the City of Ville Platte for use of any type of Hookah products on the premises.

8. Noise emanating from the licensed premises shall not be plainly audible between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and close of business at a distance of 50 feet in any direction from the property line of the licensed premises. Distance may be reduced based on any noise violations. Noise includes, but is not limited to, amplified music, acoustical music, patrons, and employees.

9. The licensed premises shall close NO LATER than 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and NO LATER than 2:00 a.m. on Friday nights and Saturday nights. Hours of operation may be adjusted based on noise or other violations.

10. All outdoor lighting and speakers shall be directed away from all residential properties.

11. The licensed premises shall maintain compliance with the restaurant requirements. Unless otherwise stated, a restaurant means, an establishment:

(a) Which operates a place of business whose average monthly revenue from food and nonalcoholic beverages exceeds 50 percent of its total average monthly revenue from the sale of food (for consumption on the licensed premises) and nonalcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverages.

- (b) Which serves food on all days of operation.
- (c) Which maintains separate sales figures for alcoholic beverages.
- (d) Which operates a fully equipped kitchen used for the preparation of uncooked foods for service and consumption of such foods on the premises.

12. Permittee shall provide the Alcohol and Noise Control Division a monthly breakdown of all sales figures, including percentages, on a quarterly basis, for on-premise food and nonalcoholic beverage sales; delivery sales; and alcoholic beverage sales. Quarterly reports are due as follows:

First Quarter due by April 30th; Second Quarter due by July 31st; Third Quarter due by October 31st and Fourth Quarter due by January 31st. Upon request, quarterly sales figures shall be approved by a Certified Public Accountant. An annual report (January 1st through December 31st) shall be due by February 28th of each year. The annual report shall be approved by a Certified Public Accountant. Any violation of the City of Ville Platte's Code of Ordinances, or this Expansion of Licensed Premises Agreement shall subject all permits issued to revocation, suspension, fines and/or the withholding of an alcoholic beverage permit in accordance with the City of Ville Platte's Code of Ordinances.

A representative from the applicant and a representative from the City will sign the agreement acknowledging its terms and conditions

No other comments were made.

At 4:45 PM Mayor Jennifer Vidrine announced the public hearing was concluded.

**City of Ville Platte, Public Hearing held at 4:45 PM
Public Hearing to receive public comments on the application for an additional cell tower
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine announced the commencement of the second Public Hearing receiving public comments regarding an application for an additional cell tower in the city and read the posting announcing same on the March 12, 2022 Ville Platte City Council Agenda.

There was some discussion of the exact location amongst the council present.

No other comments were made.

At 5:00 PM Mayor Jennifer Vidrine announced the public hearing was concluded.

**City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting**

**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for April 12, 2022 held at 5:00 PM**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte met in a Regular Session in the Council Chamber in City Hall, 126 E. Main St. Ville Platte, LA on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:00 PM. The

The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Vidrine.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Jerry Joseph, Mike Perron, Jordan Anderson, Councilwoman Christina Sam and Councilman Bryant Riggs, and City Clerk Hilda Edwards, and Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Soileau, Fire Chief.

Absent was: Eric Lafleur

Following the Invocation and Pledge, roll called by Hilda Edwards, City Clerk, and announced that a quorum was present. The Mayor and Board of Alderman of the City of Ville Platte were duly convened as the Governing Authority of the City of Ville Platte.

Items added to the Agenda:

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Joseph and with no opposition, adding the following items to the agenda:

1. Police Department Hires as Item No. 10

1. Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting January 11, 2022

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the minutes of February 8, 2022 meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

2. Monthly Report for January 2022 (Budget to Actual)

The expenses for the month of February 2022 were \$203,135.10 and the expenses for the month of March were \$208,669.41. The expenses were \$5,534.31 more in the month of March than in the month of February due to one-time expenses of \$1,800.00 for Pipeline Integrity regarding upgrades mandated by the State, new computers at Annex and City Hall, catalytic converters on 2 vehicles and service on dump trailers and tractors. The Budget to Actuals for all departments and the **LAMP Report** were discussed.

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the April monthly report. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Vidrine commented on Senator Bill Cassidy's trip to Ville Platte announcing funding for a broadband internet grant to bring fiber to every home and business in Ville Platte. It will generate the location of an office and local hires. It will provide 10 gigs of speed and will be beneficial to students and businesses alike at affordable rates. The mayor also commented on the beginning of the street repair and resurfacing project and the upcoming City Easter egg hunt. She also recognized KVPI radio for recently being presented the "Uniquely Louisiana" award by their fellow Louisiana broadcasters. She also announced the arrival of the new phone system in city hall and she commented on the recently held Farmers' Market and thanked Hundred Fold Café and the Sawtells for hosting.

Council Comments:

Lemoine: Councilwoman Lemoine questioned about phones and locating service departments at the Girls-Boys Place; Mayor commented in process.

Sam: Councilwoman Sam expressed concern about the condition of the City Barn; Mayor commented once insurance claim is settled from recent storm work will begin.

Joseph: Councilman Joseph had no comments.

Anderson: Councilman Anderson asked about cleaning ditches. Don White will follow up.

Perron: Councilman Perron had no comments

Riggs: Councilman Riggs commented on the old L&V store on Martin Luther King Drive and interjected he would be opposed to its reopening. He commented on US Senator Cassidy's visit and the efforts regarding fiber. He commented on the street repair project and its timing. He elaborated on the mayor and council's overall efforts.

Mayor Vidrine added commentary regarding the new streets, security cameras, additional street lighting, efforts regarding our parks and the city's entire mission as we recover from the interruptions caused by the Covid virus. She encouraged our citizens to get involved and make Ville Platte better. She concluded by announcing that the Girl-Boys Place will be back operating this summer and she provided key dates as such: Registration June 3 at 1PM; Program planned to be from June 6 thru July 22.

Public Comments on Agenda Items listed (4 minutes each)—No public comments
Agenda Items:

Arthur Sampson approached to comment on Agenda Item No. 6 {(Cordez Ceasar –Road Closure Request) for annual cook-off}. He advised that last year it was as simple as asking the then City Clerk and she called the chief and secured permission to close the road. He complained that this year they were being required to appear before the council for approval. Mayor Vidrine advised that they were unable to reach Mr. Ceasar to advise him, but everything appeared to be in order and approval was anticipated. Mr. Sampson thanked the council.

There were no further public comments.

The mayor then proceeded with the Agenda Items:

- 1. Fire Chief Report- He advised that** we are a ISO Class 2 rating and explained, 1 being the best 10 being the worst, for each point drop it is estimated to result in an 8 to 10 % increase in premiums. He advised that to keep this rating the department must complete many tasks and in fact they have completed their pre-incident planning with area businesses. He commented on our sufficient water volume for fighting fires **and he made the following report for March – 24 calls for the Ville Platte area, including 2 structure fire calls, 1 vehicle call with a fatality, 11 grass fire calls, 2 trash fire calls, 7 alarm activation calls, 2 hazardous condition calls, 1 mutual aid calls in St. Landry Fire District 3.**

The mayor then asked the council for permission to jump ahead to item No. 3;

- 3. Jerri Ledoux – Congressman's Mike Johnson's Office**
Jerri Ledoux, on behalf of Congressman Mike Johnson, made a presentation the Certificate of Congressional Commendation to Ville Platte's Robert Perron for 50 years of service as a fireman.

The council then proceeded to item No. 2;

- 2. Engineer's Report – Ronnie Landreneau.** Mr. Landreneau commented on the street repair and overlay project. He commented on the parks projects and he advised that we need to start looking at the water enrichment grant program and the L-Gap grant program.

The council then proceeded to item No. 4;

- 4. TriCom Real Estate Cell Tower** – Mayor announced that a public hearing to receive public input regarding the proposed tower to be located at 1738 W. Main Street was held at 4:45 PM on this day, April 12, 2022 prior to the regular council meeting. The input was received and a motion to accept TriComm's proposal to construct a new cell tower was made by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Perron and adopted without opposition. Mayor announced that the permit would be granted.
- 5. Melissa Gibson, Jill Stevens – Dog Pound** – Stevens first asked for a progress report regarding the need for repairs to the kennels that were in need of same. The mayor advised that we had been and were continuing to coordinate a repair/build new kennel effort with the welding program at the Southwest Technical College. Additionally, Stevens suggested a supervisor oversee staff operations at the dog pound and listed several reasons she contended justified such need. Mayor Vidrine encouraged Stevens and Gibson to make sure we had their concerns in writing to ensure they received the proper attention. Stevens suggested personnel training and individuals who may be willing to provide such training at no charge and Mayor assured such training would be welcome. Stevens offered plans to construct a new shelter and suggested a new location for same. Councilwoman Lemoine concurred with the suggestion of a new location. Gibson then asked that someone be sent to the pound once a week to check out conditions and operations. Mayor Vidrine assured that she would appoint someone specifically for that task. Gibson also advised that the dog pound's Facebook page was not being maintained. Sonia Christopher was then allowed to join Stevens and Gibson and advised the council that she visited the pound and staff was conducting business with very lenient guidelines. She also complained about animal comfort conditions at the pound. Mayor Vidrine asked Christopher to leave her email address and suggested the possibility of creating an advisory committee of concerned citizens to help with the pound. Nina David was then allowed to join the conversation and she approached the council to concur with the comments of the previous appearers regarding the dog pound. Mayor Vidrine closed the deliberations of Item No. 5 by thanking all for their passion and compassion for the "cher baby dogs". She assured that this council will make every effort possible to make improvements.
- 6. Cordez Ceasar – Road Closure Request** – Mayor Vidrine advised that all proper protocol had been adhered to and urged granting of the proposal to close Northeast Railroad between Main and LaSalle Streets for a ccokoff/festive occasion on April 30, 2022. Coucilwoman Lemoine also urged the reminder of the cleanup day to be held April 23, 2022.
- 7. Sarahi Sawtelle – Day of Prayer.** Mrs. Sawtelle was joined by her husband, Steven, who invited all to join them at Hundred Fold Coffee to observe the National Day of Prayer on May 5 at 12 Noon.
- 8. Louisiana Municipal Gas Association (LMGA) Resolution.** The following resolution was explained by Mayor Vidrine and offered and adopted as such:

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Anderson:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AND AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION AUTHORITY AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 10-B OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950.

WHEREAS, the City of Ville Platte, State of Louisiana, has previously become a member of the Authority in accordance with the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4546.2 of the Act, the governing authority of the City of Ville Platte State of Louisiana, desires to approve the appointment of Mayor Jennifer Vidrine to serve as a Director of the Authority and to approve the appointment of Hilda Edwards to serve as an alternate Director to act in the absence of the director herein above named;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing authority of the City of Ville Platte, State of Louisiana, acting in such capacity:

Section 1. That, pursuant to the Act, appointment of Mayor Jennifer Vidrine to serve as a Director of the Authority for a term of four (4) years from the date hereof is approved and that the appointment of Hilda Edwards to serve as an alternate Director, for like term, to act in the absence of the director is approved.

Section 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Passed and adopted by the City of Ville Platte, State of Louisiana, on this 12th day of April, 2022, by the following votes:

Yeas: Anderson, Joseph, Lemoine, Perron, Riggs, Sam

Neas: None

Absent: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 12th day of April, 2022

Mayor

City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is an exact copy of a resolution adopted on this 12th day of April, 2022, by the governing authority of the City of Ville Platte, State of Louisiana, at a meeting thereof regularly convened and after proper notice thereof having been given; and I further certify that the same remains in full force and effect.

City of Ville Platte, State of Louisiana, this 12th day of April, 2022.

City Clerk

- 9. **Salary Increase – Staff Person.** Mayor advised that this employee with the utilities department does street department work and does mechanic work and has been saving us money working on vehicles and machinery and offered increasing his salary from \$13.00 an hour to \$14.00 an hour

for consideration. A motion was made as such by Councilman Perron and Seconded by Councilwoman Sam and was approved without opposition.

10. Chief of Police Hires. Chief Neil Lartigue offered Julian Alfred and Carla Thibodeaux for hires as Jailers. A motion was made as such by Councilman Joseph and Seconded by Councilwoman Sam and was approved without opposition.

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

City Clerk Hilda Edwards reported 2 properties had been cleaned within the last month. The Mayor encouraged the public to participate and help identify abandoned properties that need cleaning. Author Sampson advised of a property that needed attention. Steven Sawtelle also advised a property that needed attention. Councilman Riggs then questioned about the business creating an eyesore on E. Hickory Street. Councilman Riggs then questioned about the large dead fallen tree that is located across the street just south of the city graveyard. After some discussion it was decided that we would have some legal research conducted to determine a possible remedy. Councilwoman Lemoine then read aloud the Nuisance ordinance and some discussion Mayor Vidrine asked Chief Lartigue to look into the possible fines and penalties associated with same.

Ordinances:

1. Introduction

None

2. Adoption

Alcohol consumption on certain premises ordinance

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilwoman Sam to adopt the alcohol consumption on certain premises ordinance. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Proclamations

No proclamations offered but Mayor advised that April was National Fair Housing Month.

New Business

1. **Evangeline Tactical** (manufacturing and sale of firearms) – Kyle Marsh appeared and explained his proposed business. After some discussion, Mayor Vidrine assured the city would review the legality of same and respond as soon as possible.
2. **Foires Cajun Cuisine** (Food Truck) Amanda Snoke appeared and explained her proposed business. After some discussion, Mayor Vidrine assured the city would review same and address as soon as possible.

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 720 calls for assistance in the month of March 2022---15 citations, 12 arrests of which 13 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 18 automobile accidents with 1 fatality. Calls were down 60, citations down 18, felony arrests were up 2, accidents down 9.

At the urging of Councilwoman Lemoine, Mayor Vidrine reiterated April 23rd as cleanup day.

Adjournment

With there being no other business, Mayor Vidrine called for a motion to adjourn. A motion by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Joseph to adjourn.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Hilda Edwards, City Clerk