

Minutes of the Ville Platte City Council Regular Meeting

February 14, 2023 5 P.M.

City Council Chambers

126 E Main St. Ville Platte

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order. Roll Call was conducted. All council members were present.

Motion by Councilwoman Sam to approve the January 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the January 2023 Financial Statements was made by Councilman Jagneaux and seconded by Councilwoman Sam. Motion passed.

Mayor Williams called for Council comments. Mrs. Lemoine complimented the fresh new look in city hall and thanking the mayor for working to get the city's finances in order. Mrs. Sam commented that she will be staying on top of making sure that something be done to have property owners responsible for maintaining their properties. Mrs. Frank comments were on traveling around in her district to get a count of blighted properties to set up a process on clearing up blight. Mr. Roy commented that he has been walking in his district taking pictures and going one street at a time to address drainage issues. Mr. Jagneaux's comments also pertained to drainage issues in his district. Mr. Riggs commented on financial issues, auditor issues, collection issues, Covid, and sewer plant issues, and gas issues.

Mrs. Sharon Fontenot addressed the council with an update on the Swamp Pop reunion happening on Monday February 20th at the Ville Platte Civic Center. The event is a sellout with people coming from across the country.

Superintendent Darwin Lazard addressed the council with a proposal to use the old Heritage Manor Nursing Home as a new innovative school called Evangeline Reimagine Academy. This school will be for 6-8 grade students from mainly the Ville Platte area but any middle age student in the parish would be eligible to apply for admission. After further discussion a public hearing was set for February 16th at 5:45 pm to further discuss a path the city and school board could proceed on.

Gary Leleux with Valor Media gave a proposal on redesigning the city's website. The item was moved to the February 16th special meeting.

Compliance EnviroSystems LLC gave a presentation on storm drain clean out. Councilwoman Anna motioned to have EnviroSystems LLC give a price on work. It was seconded by Councilman Roy. The vote was five for and Councilman Riggs nay. Motion carried.

A motion to grant eligible employees longevity pay was made by Councilwoman Sam, seconded by Councilman Frank. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion by Councilwoman Frank, second by Councilman Roy to approve the city's holiday schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineer Ronnie Landreneau reported that the street project was completed and going to be closed out. Mr. Landreneau updated the council on sewer system issues.

Fire Chief Chris Soileau reported on the number of calls his department handled. The chief also asked the council to approve hiring Blaine Coreil as a part time fireman, motion passed. Hire Jacob Rose as a full-time fireman which was approved. Finally, the Fire Chief announced the promotion of Fireman Edgar Bradley to Captain.

Police Chief Al Perry Thomas gave a report on the number of calls his office received.

Councilman Jagneaux motioned and Councilwoman Lemoine second to approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Williams to execute and enter into and sign all documents received from Capital Outlay Facility Planning and Control. Motion passed unanimously.

A resolution to authorize Mayor Williams to execute and file an Application with the La. Department of Transportation to Aid Financing and Development for a grant for FTA Programs was made by Councilwoman Frank and seconded by Councilwoman Sam. Motion passed unanimously.

An ordinance to combine the position of city clerk and tax collector passed five to one with Councilman Riggs voting nay.

An ordinance setting the city attorney's salary passed unanimously.

An ordinance changing the time of city council meetings to 5:30 PM passed unanimously.

A permit for street canvassing on the corner of E LaSalle St and Tate Cove Rd by Ashley Smith for traveling expenses for LA Rockets AAU was approved.

A motion by Councilman Riggs, seconded by Councilwoman Frank to add allowing representatives from Sustainability Partners to address the council. There being unanimous consent to allow addition to the agenda, Mr. Adam Cain presented the council with background information on how the city came to an agreement to have SP refurbish Ville Platte's aging sewer plant.

A motion by Councilwoman Frank to go into executive session to discuss formal written demand on KTime by a former employee was seconded by Councilman Jagneaux. Motion passed unanimously.

After council reentered the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Sam and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine. The meeting was adjourned.