

Final

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

**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for October 13, 2020-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, October 13, 2020 5:00 PM. The Meeting was conducted through Zoom due to the Coronavirus pandemic and in compliance to the Governor's stay at home orders, the City Council meeting will be held online.

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

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, Lionel Anderson, Donald Sam, Jerry Joseph and Mike Perron, and City Clerk Shountilez L. Williams, Police Chief Neal Lartigue, Fire Chief Fabian Poullard, Administrative Secretary Hilda Edwards and City Attorney Eric Lafleur, Chief Neal Lartigue

Following the Invocation and Pledge, roll called by Shountilez L. Williams, 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.

Attending in person: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, City Clerk Shountilez Williams, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, and Lionel Anderson, Admin. Asst. Hilda Edwards, Fire Chief Neal Lartigue, Councilwoman Faye Lemoine

- **Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting September 8, 2020**

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020 as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

- **Monthly Report for September 2020 (Budget to Actual)**

Mayor Vidrine announced, the expenses for the month of September were \$169,894.45 expenses for the month of October were \$171,916.27; and the expenses for the month of October were \$2,021.82 more than the month of September due to some unexpected expenses.

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the Expense Report for the month of September. Council compared budget to actual as presented, year to date from the monthly report. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously**

The City will enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Parish to assist with cleaning the canals. The Police Jury will be allowed to do work in the City.

- **Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Vidrine thanked the City workers for everything that was done to keep the city up and running during the hurricane. The City will be spraying for mosquitoes throughout the City this week. Mayor Vidrine reminded everyone that the state is still in Phase three of COVID 19 and testing is still going on at Evangeline Family Center at 505 E. Lincoln Road.

1. Halloween has been cancelled for this year due to COVID 19.
2. The majority of CLECO customers are back on.
3. Ville Platte High Homecoming is this weekend and there are guidelines to follow. The same guidelines will be followed for Sacred Heart's homecoming.
4. Mayor Vidrine reminded everyone to come to City Hall and connect their utilities, if you are using utilities without a deposit you will be charged with theft.

- **Council Comments:**

- Councilwoman Lemoine said she would like to have the canals cleaned, the discussion on cleaning the canals has been going on for two years and it's time to have it done. Ms. Lemoine also inquired about the opening date for City Hall Lobby. Mayor Vidrine said City Hall will be opened when it's fully equipped and outfitted with all of the safety precautions.

Councilman Anderson spoke with some of his constituents about cleaning their yard and the landlords should be responsible for cleaning their property.

- Councilman Riggs inquired about several issues concerning the City, including looking into giving the Street Department workers a pay increase, when will the Street Sweeper be repaired, the CARES ACT funds, grants for the park, maybe look into having two meetings a month and purchasing equipment to clean the ditches. Mr. Riggs asked several times about repairing the fence on Derouen St. and nothing has been done so far. Mr. Riggs inquired about the status of the Police Officers.

Public Comments on Agenda Items listed (4 minutes each)---

No public comments

Agenda Items:

1. **Fire Chief Report**

There were 24 calls made in the month of September to the Ville Platte Fire Department, which includes the Fire District. One mutual aid to St. Landry Fire Dept. #3

- **Ville Platte Police- Mayor Vidrine Presented Asst. Police Chief Chip Matt with a plaque for his 25 years of service with the Ville Platte Police Dept.**

Chief Lartigue presented two options for the purchase of Police Tasers for the Ville Platte Police Department from the Taser Company, Axon Enterprise. One option for four Tasers for Patrol Supervisors would cost \$11,000, and the other option for 15 Tasers, which would cover 12 patrolmen and 3 detectives, would cost \$54,000. Training comes with the package of 15 Tasers, but the package of four does not. The \$54,000 package can be divided into 5 payments of \$10,800 per year.

After some discussion it was moved by **Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the purchase of the Tasers, contingent upon bids from two other companies.**

All in favor, motion carried.

The Council also gave the go-ahead to purchase the stun guns as soon as the decision is made on which company to use instead of waiting until the next meeting.

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

Mayor announced that we are still sending letters out for overgrown grass and blighted property. We will continue to serve property owners with Letters of Compliance for abandoned houses and overgrown grass. Mayor also emphasis that you can't have a Mobile Home in the city limits that is older than 15 years old and it must be inspected by the Building Inspector. Campers are also not allowed to park campers in the city limit without approval, utilities will not be provided.

Resolutions:

Ordinance:

Proclamations

Permits

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 708 complaints in the month of September -2020 of which 300 required reports. There were 6 citations issued 23 arrests of which 16 were felony arrest and there were 27 accidents reported.

City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau-

Mr. Landreneau reported that he is currently working on several projects. Councilman Riggs asked about the gas meters. Only 25 meters has been installed and 11 meters had previously been installed.

Adjournment

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:11

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk