

City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting and Public Hearing
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for March 5, 2020 held at 5:00 PM

Town Meeting

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte met in a town meeting setting at the Ville Platte Civic Center, 704 N. Soileau St. Ville Platte, LA on Thursday, March 5, 2019, 5:00 PM

The town meeting was called to order by Mayor Vidrine.

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

Absent: none

Following the Invocation and pledge of allegiance in unison, roll called by Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk announced that a quorum was present. The Mayor and the Board of Alderman of the City of Ville Platte were duly convened as the Governing Authority of the City of Ville Platte.

Agenda Item:

Crime issues in the city

Mayor's Opening Statement

Mayor Vidrine spoke about the rash of crimes in the City of Ville Platte. She spoke about the cuts in the police budget and the reason for the budget. She stated that the police department budget had the money for 10 patrolmen. The Mayor told the public that she invites their solutions to help combat crimes. After council comments, the mayor said she will open the forum for public comments.

Council Comments

Mike Perron expressed his concerns about the crime in the city. He also talked about the budget and restated there are positions available in the police department. He talked about there was a meeting about two years ago about crimes. He spoke about the pay for police department. He said police are hired but quit, and not sure why the hired police officers quit quickly after hired date.

Police Chief Neal Lartigue He spoke about the police budget cut. He said the only place he can cut the budget was through man power. He said the money that was for software was used to give police officers a raise to \$15.00 per hour. He spoke about truancy, which he stated is problem in most places. Chief Lartigue said the biggest problem in the city is juveniles. He said he ask the sheriff to allow him to use his deputies who post certified to help until the crime has stopped.

Brian Riggs spoke about his concerns on crime and issues with the police budget. Councilman Riggs said he spoke to four officers. The four offers express their concerns about their extensive

hours of work. Riggs indicated that the council hire officers every month. He expressed his concerns why there are only four officers. He decided to get expert advice from Mr. Vick Slaven to get an understanding of the police budget. He was concerned there were only one officer on patrol and the council hire police officers every month. He was concern about one police officer making overtime that was more than a monthly salary. Councilman Riggs was concerned that there were eight detective and police officers during the day and only one patrol officer at night. He had an issue with that schedule because most of the crimes were during the night. He wants this issued address. After reviewing the budget and crimes continue to increase, he decided to agree to a budget cut.

Lionel Anderson spoke on the issues of children out late at night. He said that parents need to be more responsible for their children. He spoke about the crime rate. He mentioned that his situation need to be fixed and we need to work together to fix the crime problems.

Public Comments

- Arthur Sampson
- James Bertholot
- Ken Pickney
- Kelley Trahan
- Brent Coreil
- Jorie Randle
- Brain Ardoin
- Robert LaFleur
- Joyce Thomas
- Samantha Guillory
- Linda Coreil
- Mr. Launey
- Brett Mcawee
- Ms. Lisa

Adjournment

The town meeting adjourned at 7:42.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:18

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk