

# City of Ville Platte

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## City Council Meeting

March 14, 2023 / 5:30 PM / Council Chambers

### Call To Order

1. Faye Lemoine
2. Tracy Jagneaux
3. Anna Frank
4. CHristina Sam-Absent
5. Shawn Roy
6. Bryant Riggs
7. Donald Bergeron-City Clerk/Tax Collector

Motion by Councilman Roy and 2nd by Councilman Jagneaux to approve February 14,2023 Meeting minutes. Motion unanimous.

Motion by Councilman Roy and 2nd by Councilwoman Frank to approve the February 16,2023 Special meeting minutes. Motion unanimous.

Motion to approve the Ryan LeDay Williams

February monthly financial report by Councilwoman Lemoine and 2nd by Councilman Jagneaux approved unanimously.

Call for council comments: Councilwoman Lemoine complimented the city street department workers on cleaning up main street. Mrs. Frank asked for help in her district with drainage issues.

Mr. Roy said he sees the progress in his district but there are sewer issues in his district and he won't stop working till every block is cleaned up. He also mentioned the city needs more surveillance cameras to make citizens feel safe. Mr. Jagneaux spoke of the need for drainage work in his district as well as a concern he has for groups collecting money for various fundraisers at the intersection of Tate Cove Rd and LaSalle streets.

In other business the council heard from Casey Ardoin with Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and company who reviewed the city's July 2021 thru June 2022 audit report.

Approved hiring Challis Green as Street and Drainage Superintendent at an annual salary of \$38 thousand. Motioned by Councilman Roy, 2nd by Councilwoman Frank. Motion unanimous.

Approved a contract with Keith Saucier of \$1,000 per month to be the city's Water Operator. Motion by Councilman Frank 2nd by Councilwoman Lemoine. Motion unanimous.

Approved payment of three claims for damages to private vehicles.

Approved health benefit proposal by Blue Cross/Blue Shield with a 4.4% increase and set open enrollment day for all full time employees for March 28 at 9 Am at city hall.

Approved a resolution in support of proposed U.S. Bicycle Route 90. A planned cross country route that will include the city as well as Chicot State Park. Motion by Councilman Jagneaux, 2nd by Councilman Roy. Motion unanimous.

Approved a resolution in support of an LDEQ Revolving Loan Program application of \$15 million at .95% interest as a contingency plan for sewer plant renovations. Motioned by Councilwoman Lemoine, 2nd by Councilwoman Frank. Motion unanimous.

City Engineer's Report from Ronnie Landreneau of Landreneau & Associates.

Reported that the city was awarded a Water Sector grant of \$5 million for refurbishment of 19 sewer lift stations in Ville Platte. The grant has a 20% match of \$1.3 million.

Asked the council for approval of a Resolution for Mayor to sign any and all documentation for DRA grant of \$300 hundred thousand with a \$300 thousand dollar match to repair two lift stations in Ville Platte

- Motion - Councilwoman FRANK 2nd by Councilman Jagneaux

Motion passed Unanimously

Asked the council for approval of a Resolution for Mayor to sign documentation for the water sector grant. Motioned by Councilwoman LEMOINE 2nd by Councilman Riggs. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Landreneau reported that his office is working on replacing approximately 1800 gas meters as well as working on water meters that are not reading remotely.

Fire Chief Chris Soileau reported Ville Platte Fire Department responded to 2 structure fires, 1 medical assist, 2 alarm calls and 8 service calls. Fire District 2 responded to 1 vehicle

fire, 1 grass fire, 1 trash fire, 1 medical assist, 2 alarms and 2 service calls.

Ville Platte Chief of Police Al Thomas reported 754 Calls up 100 from January. 34 Citations, down 41. 34 arrests, up 12. 14 felonies up 2. 16 accidents down 6.

Mayor Williams reported on an Economic Development meeting that was held at the Ville Platte Civic Center with representatives from USDA, SLCC, La Housing Corporation, and Washington State Bank. Programs that are available to the city as well as residents were discussed. The mayor reported that since taking office he had approved the repairs to well #8, #10 and #11, stating his goal is to provide safe drinking water to the citizens of Ville Platte. The mayor stated that he is working with providers and our engineer to repair or replace all of our gas and water meters that are not working properly. The mayor announced that new drainage equipment was purchased and delivered this week. This will help with our drainage needs and we will have drainage work being done everyday in the city. The mayor announced that an extension of 4 months had been requested for the Love Louisiana Outdoors grant that had been received to build pocket parks in the city. The contract will be scaled back to stay within the \$400 thousand budget. The grant does not require a match. The mayor signed an LGAP grant for \$23,671 for clean up of blighted property. And he announced the city was awarded a \$12,000 Water Enrichment Grant to help clean and repair the elevated storage and ground water tanks. The mayor will be advertising for a new storage shed for equipment and a break room/storage room. Finally he announced that he would be applying for a strategic planning grant to set priorities focusing on the city's energy and resources to strengthen

operations and ensure that we are working towards goals that assures the city's progress.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss a formal written demand for K time by a former employee was made by Councilwoman Frank and 2nd by Councilman Jagneaux. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to reenter the regular meeting was made by Councilwoman Lemoine and 2nd by Councilwoman Frank. Motion unanimous. A motion by Councilwoman Lemoine and 2nd by Councilwoman Frank that payment of requested K time be paid to former employee. Motion unanimous. Motion by Councilman Riggs and 2nd by Councilwoman Frank to adjourn. Motion unanimous.