

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

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**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**  
**Minutes for July 13, 2021 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, July 13, 2021 at 5:00 PM

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, Lionel Anderson, Jerry Joseph , Mike Perron , Donald Sam and City Clerk Shountilez L. Williams, Police Chief Neal Lartigue, Fire Chief Chris Soileau, Administrative Secretary, Hilda Edward and Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer.

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.

- Absent was: City Attorney, Eric Lafleur and Councilwoman Faye Lemoine

- **Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting June 14, 2021**

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Donald Sam to approve the minutes of June 14, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion carried

- **Special Meeting June 30, 2021**

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the minutes for Special Meeting held on June 30, 2021. All in favor, motion carried

- **Monthly Report for June 2021 (Budget to Actual)**

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the monthly report for the month of June. All in favor, motion carried. .

The city's expenses for the month of May were \$175,970.17 and the expenses for the month of June were \$249,671.89. The City's expenses were \$73,764.72 more in the month of June than in the month May, due to some unexpected expenses. The reports also include the budget to actual, the year to date balance and each department remaining budget balance.

**Item Added to the agenda:**

**Mayor Jennifer requested that three items be added to the agenda.**

1. Police Dept. personnel
2. Fire Dept. pay increase.
3. Presentation to Venita Doucet-Retired from the Ville Platte Police Dept.

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve adding three new items to the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Jennifer presented Venita Doucet (retired Admin. Asst. to the Chief of Police) with a plaque for her 21 years of service with the Ville Platte Police Department.

The recently purchased K9 police dog was introduced to the Mayor and Council at the Council meeting.

**Council Comments**

Councilman Riggs inquired about several ongoing projects.

## **Public Comments on agenda items listed (4 minutes)**

1. Fire Chief Report: presented by Firefighter Courtney Edwards

There were 17 calls for the month of June 2021. 10 calls for the Ville Platte Fire District and 7 calls for the District Fire, Ms. Courtney also reported, that the Fire Department is currently testing the fire hydrant.

### **1. Item added to the Agenda: Salary increase for the Fire Department.**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the five percent rate increase for the Fire Department personnel. All in favor, motion carried. This increase was included in the 2021-2022 budget and will be effective on July 16<sup>th</sup> payroll.

### **Item added to the agenda: Police department personnel**

- Chasity Edwards was promoted from part-time Jailer to full time Jailer, with a pay increase.
- Connie Lamke was promoted to Executive Secretary to the Police Chief, with a pay increase.
- Steven Deville was promoted from Police Sergeant to Police Lieutenant, with a pay increase.

Motion by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Riggs to approve the promotion and pay increase for the police personnel as presented by Police Chief Neal Lartigue. All in Favor motion carried.

### **2. Gazebo and Pocket Parks location:**

**The Pockets Parks will be located at the following locations:**

1. **City Park on Railroad**
2. **North Stagg St.**
3. **Cotton St. and Harvey Lebas (old police building)**
4. **Heritage Garden**

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the locations for the Pocket Parks. Funds for the Pocket Parks will be provided from a \$75,000 grant that the City of Ville Platte received. All in favor, motion carried.

### **3. Stokie Fontenot-Permission to sell alcohol at the annual alumni softball tournament.**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the alcohol permit. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties (Hilda)**

Only one house was torn down on E. Long St. and several properties were cut and cleaned.

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the demolition of the blighted house located at 119 E. Jackson. All in favor, motion carried.

## **Resolutions**

## **Proclamations**

## **Permits—**

## **Reports**

### **Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue**

There were a total of 733 complaints for assistance in the month of June 2021---21 citations, 19 arrests of which 5 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 37 automobile accidents.

### **City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau-**

Mr. Landreneau met with Mayor Jennifer and Dirk Deville on the street projects.

The Park Projects will start this fall.

### **Mayor's Report:**

## **Adjournment**

With there being no other business, Mayor Vidrine called for a motion to adjourn. A motion by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Sam to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:58**

**Approved By:**

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**Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor**

**Attest By:**

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**Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk**