

City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for September 14, 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, September 14, 2021 5:00 PM. The *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 Chris Soileau, City Attorney, Administrative Secretary, Hilda Edward and Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer.

Mayor Vidrine called for a moment of silence for Judge Saunders who passed away. 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.

- **Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting August 10, 2021**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

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

The expenses for the month of July were \$194,839.18 and the expenses for the month of August were \$202,728.93. The expenses were \$7,889.75 more in the month of August than in the month of July. The first year installment on the police cameras was due; purchase a \$10,000 gas meter and few other expenses.

Dirk Deville, Chief Administrator Officer presented the Financial report, Mr. Jim resigned his position and the City is in the process of hiring someone.

New Items added to the agenda: Building Inspector and Council on Aging

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Anderson to add the two items to the agenda. All in favor, motion carried

City Engineer Ronnie Landreneau

Mr. Landreneau reported on the Street Overlay and Captiol Outlay projects. Plans and Specs are in Baton Rouge waiting for approval.

Facility Planning and Control

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Joseph to allow Ronnie Landreneau, City Engineer to start the public bids wants the project has been approved by the Facility Planning and Control. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Landreneau announced that the City received Recovery Funds.

Mr. Landreneau will submit an application for the five million Sewer and Water Grant.

Mayor's Comments:

Sand bags are available for Ville Platte city residents.

Bids will be taken for the repairs of annex; in the meantime the employees will be moved to the Boys and Girls Club Location 1, the old City Hall building on Main St.

Councilman Riggs inquired about the discount for the use of the centers.

Councilman Riggs inquired about the tree on Cotton St., and the CARE ACT Funds and redistricting for the city.

Council Comments:

Councilman Perron inquired about the Side Shedder, grass needs to be cut. Mayor said she has a Side Shedder is on order, due to COVID-19 everything is on back order.

Public Comments on Agenda Items listed (4 minutes each)—No public comments

Agenda Items:

1. Fire Chief Report

There were 25 calls made in the month of August to the Ville Platte Fire Department, which includes 10 for Fire District #2 and 15 for the Ville Platte Fire District.

2. Disposal of old vehicles, etc. behind the sewer Dept. and on any city property.

Mayor Vidrine requested approval to dispose of old vehicles and any other items that are no longer in use. It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the disposal of old vehicles and any other items that need to be disposed.

3. Melissa Gibson-Work going on with the Dog Pound

Melissa is a volunteer at the Dog Pound; she has been there for a year and half. Jill Stephen, also a volunteer at the Dog Pound also attended.

4. Item added to the agenda: Lisa DeRouen----Evangeline Council on Aging Transit

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the renewal sponsorship by the City of Ville Platte. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Ted Demourelle-Building Inspector

Mr. Demourelle appeared before the Mayor and Council to discuss the Cross Connections and Grease Traps.

Ms. Gibson appeared before the Mayor and Council to express their concerns and recommendation for the Dog Pound.

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

Resolutions

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve Resolution (011421-01) to apply for emergency funding to repair the large sink hole on Harvey Labas St. The cost is approximately 86, 332.50. All in favor motion carried.

RESOLUTION---91421-1

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Ville Platte, Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, acting as governing body of said do hereby enact the following resolution on this day the 14th of September 2021; and,

WHEREAS: The City of Ville Platte is applying for Emergency funding through the Local Government assistance Program, a grant program that has been made available by the Louisiana Office of Community Development; and,

WHEREAS: The City of Ville Platte in its customary and regular inspection of streets, found that Harvey Lebas Street, at a location adjacent to Ville Platte Lower Elementary School, has developed serious sinkholes whereby the driving public has been put in a serious unsafe condition; and,

WHEREAS: The sinkhole appears to be related to a nearby sewer manhole and whereby this street does not have any subsurface drainage, it appears that this significant sinkhole is a result of the heavy and continuous rainfall experience throughout the last several months: and,

WHEREAS: This dangerous situation needs to be repaired immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the City of Ville Platte by way of this resolution dose hereby approve to submit this application to the Office of Community Development for Emergency funding in the amount of \$86,332.50.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the Declaration of Emergency Resolution (91421-02) to have work done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION---91421-02

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Ville Platte, Parish of Evangeline , State of Louisiana, acting as governing body of said do hereby enact the following resolution on this day the 14th of September 2021; and,

WHEREAS: The City of Ville Platte is having work done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, said work to repair and/or refurbish major components of the wastewater treatment plant, including but not limited to, the Boat Clarifier; and,

WHEREAS: This work, not anticipated and unforeseen, has caused the substructure of the Boat clarifier to fail and cause an Emergency, said Emergency needing immediate repair and/or replacement; and

WHEREAS: This condition needs immediate attention to correct this serious condition, said condition, including the removal of large amounts of sludge and, if uncorrected will cause a condition where the plant cannot be properly operated; and,

WHEREAS: Said Emergency shall be published in the local Journal on September 19th 2021; and,

WHEREAS: The City of Ville Platte will negotiate a contract with available Public Works Contractors in the area in order that this serious condition can repaired; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing body of the City of Ville Platte by way of this resolution does hereby authorized Emergency Funding for this project and further authorize the Mayor to negotiate a favorable contract for such work.

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Proclamations

Permits--None

Repots

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 689 calls for assistance in the month of August 2021---17 citations, 7 arrests of which 7 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 33 automobile accidents.

City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau- Todd Deville(moved up)

Mayor's Report:

Adjournment

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk