

Ville Platte City Council Minutes for June 27, 2022
City of Ville Platte, Public Hearing held at 11:45 AM

A Public Hearing to receive public comments and input regarding a proposed ordinance adopting an amended operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for the City of Ville Platte and a proposed ordinance adopting an operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 for the City of Ville Platte

Ville Platte, Louisiana.
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA

Mayor Vidrine opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance and then announced the Public Hearing to receive public comments and input regarding a proposed ordinance adopting an amended operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for the City of Ville Platte and a proposed ordinance adopting an operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 for the City of Ville Platte had begun.

Mr. Rufus Serialle approached the podium and voiced his concerns about the pavilions at the Martin Luther King Center. Mayor Vidrine advised that covid, hurricanes, etc. held up the project but it is scheduled to be completed. She asked City Engineer Ronnie Landreneau to address the timeline and so he did. He discussed the process of achieving a finished product as well. Mayor Vidrine answered Mr. Serialle's questions concerning the contractor and stated that Dupree Consultant was the consultant and that the elevation was a result of the adjacent rice fields. Mr. Serialle then questioned about the overlaying from St. John Church on Hickory Street to Alton Locks Street (the MLK Center). City Engineer Landreneau then explained the process by which that section of street would be repaired. Mr. Serialle then asked questions and received responses regarding other streets and traffic issues.

Mayor Vidrine then announced that it was 12:02 PM and that the Public Hearing to receive public comments and input regarding a proposed ordinance adopting an amended operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for the City of Ville Platte and a proposed ordinance adopting an operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 for the City of Ville Platte had concluded.

Ville Platte City Council Minutes for June 27, 2022

Special Meeting held at 12:00 PM
City of Ville Platte

To adopt a proposed ordinance amending the operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for the City of Ville Platte and a proposed ordinance adopting an operating budget of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 for the City of Ville Platte.

126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ville Platte met in a Special Session in the Council Chamber in City Hall, 126 E. Main St. Ville Platte, LA on Monday, June 27, 2022 12:00 PM.

The Special Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Vidrine.

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Jerry Joseph, Mike Perron, Jordan Anderson, Councilwoman Christina Sam, Councilman Bryant Riggs, City Clerk Hilda Edwards, Chief Administrative Officer Dirk Deville, Fire Chief Chris Soileau and Police Chief Neil Lartigue.

Absent was: City Attorney Eric Lafleur.

Following the Invocation and Pledge, roll called by Hilda Edwards, 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.

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

Agenda Items:

Mr. Ryan Leday Williams addressed the council regarding the Phase 4 water project.

Mayor Vidrine explained that the Phase 4 Water Project would be addressed with the infrastructure monies that would be coming down. Mr. Williams questioned regarding monies he understood were dedicated to the Phase 4 Water project after the past utility rate adjustments. Mayor Vidrine emphasized that no monies from that adjustment were dedicated to Phase 4. Mr. Williams then questioned the payoff of the \$9,000,000.00 bonds and the savings and collateral by Sustainability Partners. The Mayor insisted that Sustainability Partners is not requiring any collateral for the sewer plant. He then asked about the payout of the bonds. The mayor explained that the bonds would be paid out and then payments on the bonds payout will begin within 90 days.

1. Presentation of the Amended Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and presentation of the Operating Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 - Chief Administrative Officer Dirk Deville.

Chief Administrative Officer Dirk Deville gave a brief overview of the Amended Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and presentation of the Operating Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

Councilwoman Lemoine questioned the differences in salaries and Mayor Vidrine asserted the hourly raises that had been approved earlier this fiscal year as the reason for those increases. Lemoine then asked about the increase in parks and Deville advised that the budget included the monies from the Love Louisiana Outdoors Grant. Lemoine then asked about sewer repairs being budgeted when SP was supposed to be handling repairs which we explained would no longer be necessary once the new sewer plant was up and running. Lemoine then asked about interest on delinquent accounts and Mayor Vidrine assured that now that Covid is not requiring us to leave utilities on those numbers would go down. Lemoine then asked about the bad debt expenses and Mayor Vidrine suggested it was an audit definition having to do with depreciation and she assured Lemoine she would get an explanation. Lemoine then questioned about the gas loss and we advised we were replacing gas meters but the gas losses through old gas lines would continue to be an issue until addressed. Lemoine then asked about Phase 4 and Mayor explained she would be attending a meeting on July 6 and she would know more then. Lemoine then asked about surpluses and Deville reminded the council that we had budgeted for losses this year considering the cost associated with the road construction project.

Mayor Vidrine then called for a motion to adopt the ordinance amending the Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. It was moved as such by Councilwoman Christina Sam and the motion was seconded by Councilman Jerry Joseph and without opposition the ordinance was adopted.

Mayor Vidrine then called for a motion to adopt the ordinance adopting the Operating Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. It was moved as such by Councilman Jordan Anderson and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Faye Lemoine and without opposition the ordinance was adopted.

2. Discussion of equipment purchases – Mayor Vidrine

Mayor asked for motion to allow her to enter into non-binary agreements that will allow the city to enter into purchase agreements that will allow the city to lock in purchase prices prior to July 1, 2022. She explained that we would have 6 months to cancel any such orders.

Councilman Mike Perron so moved, motion was seconded by Councilman Jerry Joseph and without opposition motion was adopted.

Adjournment

With there being no other business, Mayor Vidrine called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was offered by Councilwoman Christina Sam and seconded by Councilwoman Faye Lemoine to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:31 PM

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Hilda Edwards, City Clerk