

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

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**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA  
Minutes for February 11, 2020 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, February 11, 2020 5:00 PM

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Vidrine.

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

Absent: None

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.

**Item added to the agenda:**

At the request of the Mayor to add another item to the agenda, it was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve adding the following item to the agenda:

1. Bar closing time

**Approval Of:**

**1. Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting of January 21, 2020**

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the minutes of January 21, 2020. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

**Monthly Report for January 2019 (Budget to Actual)**

Mayor Vidrine announced, the expenses for the month of January were \$155,113.53; and the expenses for December were \$269,884.80. The month of January had a decrease in expenses by \$114,771.00.

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the Expense Report for the month of January. Council compared budget to actual as presented, year to date from the monthly report. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously**

**Council Comments:**

1. Councilman Riggs inquired about the fence on Derouen St., He asked that the Mayor look into the situation with the tree that fell, not sure if it's the City's tree or the Housing Authority. Mayor will have the Engineer look into the situation.  
Councilman Riggs asked that the Mayor look into refinancing the Bonds at a lower interest rate and he inquired about the yearly loan payments on the (red) vehicles whether or not it could be paid monthly to save interest on the loan.
2. Councilman Riggs inquired about a pay increase for the Police Dept. The Mayor and Chief are hoping to raise the pay to at least \$15.00 an hour.
3. Councilwoman asked about applying for grants for the Police Dept.

Public Comments on Agenda Items listed (4 minutes each)—

**Mr. Sampson expressed concerns with the street cameras.**

**Rufus Serille also inquired about the cameras, whether or not they are night vision cameras.**

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Fire Chief Report: Chris Harrison**

There were a total of 18 calls for the Ville Platte Fire Department for the Ville Platte Fire District.

**2. Ville Platte Police Hiring**

Chief Neal is requesting the hiring of Matthew Willis (POST Certified) and Drake Atchinson with the Ville Platte Police Dept. providing they meet all of the City's requirements. It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the hiring. All in favor motion carried.

**3. NEW Tip Ville Platte App:**

**Mayor announced that the new Tip Ville Platte App is ready for use.**

**4. New Street Cameras-- no comments**

**5. Jay Gielow/Connie Lamke-Close Railroad (Main to Magnolia)**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the closing of Main St. to Magnolia on May 16, 2020.

**6. Mr. Arthur Sampson-Streets/Roads/Pot holes**

Mr. Sampson appeared before the Board to discuss the Streets/Roads/Potholes. Mr. Sampson presented a list of streets and potholes that is in need of repairs in their districts.

**7. George Morgan—Abandoned Housing & Police Training**

Mr. George appeared before for the Council to discuss Abandoned Housing and Police Training.

**8. Rufus Searile—Deposit not refunded**

Mr. Rufus appeared before the Council to appeal the decision to deny his rental deposit refund for the use of the MLK Center.

**9. March City Council Meeting**

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve moving the regular City Council meeting scheduled for March 10 to be rescheduled for March 17, 2020.

**Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties**

The owner of the property on N. Chat has not demolished the building because she is waiting to receive the approval from the Department of Environmental Quality on how to dispose of the asbestos.

705 West Oak, 707 West Oak and 709 West Oak, Ville Platte

901 N. Stagg and 905 N. Stagg St., Ville Platte

211 E. Cotton –Demolished by owner

**Motion by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Joseph to send notices to the owners of the above addresses for demolition. All in favor, motion carried**

Resolutions

Ordinances

Proclamation

Permits

**New Business; Cricket Phones (Strip Mall next to Pizza Hut) Cheap and Best on Lincoln Road.**

- Mayor Vidrine met with Centurylink representatives on the internet service. The Mayor is still in talk with Universal Communication to have a third internet service in this area.

Ordinance:

Proclamations

Permits

**1. Liquor Permit-Sharon Fontenot, Swamp Pop Reunion**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and Councilman Sam to approve the Liquor Permit for the Swamp Pop Reunion. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

New Business: John Deville-Chicken Coup

**Reports**

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

There were a total of 276 complaints in the month of January 2020 of which 252 required reports. There were 24 citations issued 50 arrests of which 09 were felony arrest and there were 39 accidents reported.

**City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau- No report**

**Mayor's Report**

1. Will be taking Section 8 applications in City hall from 8:30 until 3:30
2. Still taking appointments for Income Tax.
3. Mayor announced that property taxes are in the delinquent phase, and late fees will be attached to the bill.
4. Mayor reminded everyone of the Swamp Pop dance on February 25, 2020.
5. The Food Pantry has been changed from February 25 to Feb 19 due to Mardi Gras.

**Councilwoman Lemoine inquired about the Utility Report.**

**Adjournment**

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05

Approved By:

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Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

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Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk

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