

**City of Ville Platte**  
**Public Hearing for Ordinance to amend Animal Control Ordinance**

---

**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**  
**Minutes for February 8, 2022 held at 4:45 PM**

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine announced the commencement of the Public Hearing and read the following the posting announcing same on the February 8, 2022 Ville Platte City Council Agenda.

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine opened the hearing by orally reading the proposed amendment to the ordinance as such:

“Owners of vicious dogs must, within 60 days of the effective date of this division, provide proof to the city clerk of public liability insurance in the amount of at least \$50,000.00, ~~\$100,000.00~~, insuring the owner for any personal injuries inflicted by his or her vicious dog. ~~The policy shall contain a provision requiring the city be notified immediately by the agent issuing the policy in the event the insurance policy is cancelled, terminated or expires. The animal owner shall sign a statement attesting he or she shall maintain and not voluntarily cancel the liability insurance policy during the permit period, unless he or she ceases to own or keep the animal prior to the expiration date of the permit period. In the event the animal owner advises he or she cannot obtain insurance, he or she shall be ordered to surrender the animal to the city for humane destruction. The animal owner shall provide the city with proof of insurance every year.~~

(Ord. of 8-9-88)

- **Sec. 5-47. - Penalties.**

Whoever violates any provision of this division shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be punished by fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 or imprisonment of not more than six months in jail or by both fine and imprisonment.

(Ord. of 8-9-89)

- **Sec. 5-48. - Reserved.**
- **Sec. 5-49. - Severability.**

If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this division is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court, such a decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this division.

(Ord. of 8-9-89)

- **Sec. 5-50. - Impoundment.**

Should a vicious dog be found at large within the city limits of the City of Ville Platte, authorized city employees shall impound said dog. If within five days of such impoundment the owner of the dog does not pay an impoundment fee of \$100.00 plus the cost of boarding the dog and registering the dog, if it is required to be registered, authorized city employees shall humanely destroy such dog or otherwise dispose of it in a manner authorized by the mayor and board of aldermen.

(Ord. of 8-9-88)

Immediate impoundment.

An animal declared to be dangerous or vicious may be immediately impounded without a pre-impoundment hearing when an animal control officer determines such immediate impoundment is necessary for the protection of public health or safety. Such immediate impoundment may be ordered for any violation of this article or when an animal bites a person or domestic animal.

Destruction.

- (a) An animal control officer may order the destruction of an animal that is determined to be extremely dangerous to public health or safety, an animal that has made an extremely vicious attack on an individual, or domesticated animal, or an animal declared dangerous or vicious whose owner is unable or unwilling to adequately restrain the animal.

- (b) An animal control officer shall give written notice by certified mail or hand-delivery of written notification of his or her intention to destroy such animal to the owner or custodian of the animal, who may request in writing, within ten business days of delivery of such notice, a hearing before the city council to contest the intended destruction.
- (c) If no hearing is requested pursuant to the foregoing subsection, the animal shall be destroyed pursuant to applicable provisions of law.
- (d) The animal owner shall be responsible for payment of all boarding costs and other fees as may be required by the city to humanely and safely keep the animal during any hearing proceedings.

#### Confinement if insured; Structures

Except when leashed or muzzled as provided in this section, a dangerous animal shall be securely confined indoors or confined in a locked pen or other secure enclosure that is suitable to prevent the entry of children and is designed to prevent the animal from escaping. The enclosure shall include shelter and protection from the elements and shall provide adequate exercise room, light and ventilation. The enclosed structure shall be kept clean in a clean and sanitary condition and shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) The structure must have secure sides and a secure top, or all sides must be at least ten feet high;
- (b) The structure must have a bottom permanently attached to the sides or the sides must be embedded not less than one foot into the ground; and
- (c) The structure must be of such material and closed in such a manner that the animal cannot exit the enclosure on its own.
- (d) Indoor confinement. No dangerous animal shall be kept on a porch, patio or in any part of a house or structure that would allow the animal to exit such building on its own volition. In addition, no such animal shall be kept in a house or structure when the windows or screen doors are the only obstacles preventing the animal from exiting the structure.

#### Duties imposed on owners of vicious or dangerous dogs.

- (a) The owner shall immediately notify an animal control officer when a “dangerous” dog:
  - (1) Is loose or unconfined; or
  - (2) Has bitten a human being or attacked another animal; or
  - (3) Was sold, given away, or died; or
  - (4) Has moved to another address.
- (b) Prior to a dangerous dog being sold or given away the owner shall provide the name, address, and phone number of the new owner to an animal control officer. Each owner shall execute a document to be supplied to an animal control officer, acknowledging that said owner is aware of the “Dangerous” dog classification, and that said owner shall comply with the requirements of this title.”

Mr. Patrick Bowie rose to ask about the loose dogs in town. Mayor Vidrine advised that citizens are encouraged to call Animal Control anytime they see loose animals. Dirk Deville, Vile Platte Chief Administrative Officer, explained that today’s hearing was part of the process to adopt a stronger ordinance holding individuals more accountable regarding their animals.

No other comments were made.

At 5:00 PM Mayor Jennifer Vidrine the public hearing was concluded.

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

---

**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**  
**Minutes for February 8, 2022 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 8, 2022 5:00 PM. The *The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Vidrine.*

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

Absent was: 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.

**Items added to the Agenda:**

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Anderson and with no opposition, adding the following items to the agenda:

1. Introduction of the Redistricting Ordinance

**1. Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting January 11, 2022**

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilwoman Sam to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

**2. Monthly Report for January 2022 (Budget to Actual)**

The expenses for the month of December were \$177,466.25 and the expenses for the month of January were \$184,648.07. The expenses were \$7,181.82 more in the month of January than in the month of December due to Annual payment by Police Department for equipment totaling \$10,800.00, a Cleco cola payment, expenses to accommodate the annual property tax billing and a required Pipeline Integrity Report for the gas department. Budget to Actual for all departments included. The **LAMP Report** was made as well disclosing a balance of \$2,371,358.00.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the February monthly report. All in favor, motion carried.

**Mayor's Comments:**

1. Mayor Jennifer announced that the Evangeline Parish Health Unit would take over Covid Testing Monday thru Friday 9am to 2 pm and they would continue dispensing vaccines on Thursdays from 8:30 am to 3 pm. She advised that for first time vaccines they were still giving out \$100 Visa Cards on site for those 5 years old and older and she encouraged everyone to consider vaccinations and boosters.

**Council Comments:**

**Lemoine:** Questioned about livestock ordinances in city. She expressed concerned about loose sheep. Mayor advised we will look into the matter and prepare ordinance for introduction if necessary.

**Sam:** Expressed concern about the traffic around James Stephens, especially in the evenings. Chief Lartigue advised that a "No Left Turn" sign would be helpful. Mayor Vidrine advised sign would be ordered and erected at instruction of Police Department.

**Joseph:** No comments.

**Anderson:** Questioned about security cameras. Mayor cameras installations were in process

**Riggs: 1)** Advised residents in the area of the intersection of W. Jefferson at N. Coreil were requesting the removal of the 4-way stop signs to eliminate traffic stopping there and stalling with their loud music. Chief Lartigue advised that Charles Tate had drafted an amendment to the current ordinance that would allow officers to stop individuals if the music was loud enough that they could hear it from a certain distance. This led to a discussion of gunshots in town and Chief said if certain area is identified he can put more patrols in that area to try and determine the source. This led to a discussion of a shortage of officers and bonuses and incentives in recruiting officers. City Treasurer/Human Resources Director Rod Lafleur explained our current incentives.

**Mayor:** Questioned Chief Lartigue regarding satellite office in Woods Section. Chief advised in process.

**Mayor:** Acknowledged receipt of Card of gratitude from Councilman Anderson in the wake of the passing of his father, the late Councilman Lionel Anderson and the graciousness of the City, Mayor and Council. Mayor Vidrine reiterated Councilwoman Sam's similar sentiments in the wake of the passing of her husband, the late Councilman Donald Sam.

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

**Agenda Items:**

- 1. Fire Chief Report- January –Presented by Fire Lady Courtney Edwards, 19 calls for the Ville Platte area and a total of 19 calls with the Parish; 2 mutual aid calls in St. Landry Fire District 3; No fatalities.**
  
- 2. Engineer’s Report-Ronnie Landreneau**  
**Ronnie Landreneau** appeared before the Council and discussed fire hydrant program and costs. He briefly discussed sewer plant progress and discussed preparation for the street repair and overlay program. Mr. Landreneau then discussed the sewer plant process in more detail.  
  
**Bert Carson of Sustainability Partners** discussed the prospect of his agency providing funding to provide for the design and purchase of a rebuilt sewer plant facility.  
  
**Upon motion by Councilman Riggs, second by Councilman Joseph, take Proclamations out of order and make presentation to Francis Arvie (Former City Employee) Family.**
  
- 3. Animal Control Employee Status-Promote part-time to fulltime.** Upon motion by Councilman Joseph, seconded by Councilman Anderson, without opposition, so approved.
  
- 4. TriCom Real Estate Cell Tower – Mr. Tom Holloman** advised that he was here on behalf of Vertical Bridge who AT&T had contracted with to erect a new tower on the property of David Cidello. Mayor advised that the permit request and contract would be forwarded to our attorney’s for review.

**Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties**

City Clerk Hilda Edwards gave a report on the Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties program.

**Ordinances:**

- 1. Introduction**
  - a) Ordinance to amend Article V of Section 2 of the utility ordinance affecting the definition of Industrial Service as it relates to gas usage by industrial entities.**

The ordinance was introduced by Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, it was introduced as follow:

Industrial Service is defined as (a) sewer service provided for use by large industrial entities which do not receive water service from the City or produce goods for wholesale only, and (b) gas service provided for use by large industrial entities with average gas usage of 1,000 CCF or more per month on average over a twelve-month period.

**A Public Hearing will be held on March 8, 2022 at 4:430 PM.**

- b) Ville Platte City Council Re-Districting Ordinance**

The ordinance was introduced by Councilman Jerry Joseph, it was introduced as follows

The consideration of the adoption of Plan 3 to the Ville Platte City Council election districts in accordance with the 2020 census.

**A Public Hearing will be held on March 8, 2022 at 4:45 PM.**

- 2. Adoption**

- a) Animal Control Ordinance**  
It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Anderson to adopt the amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**Surplus Vehicles Advertised for Bid**

The following bids were received:  
2009 Dodge Avenger - \$1,236.00  
Scrap Ford Taurus SE - \$160.00  
Scrap Dodge Pickup - \$41.00  
Scrap Pickup 10 - \$120.00

Scrap Dodge Ram - \$111.00  
Scrap GMC Van #12 - \$120.00  
Scrap Crown Victoria - \$111.00  
Scrap Crown Victoria #2 - \$111.00

It was moved by Councilwoman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to accept the bids. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

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

There were a total of 734 calls for assistance in the month of January 2022---11 citations, 11 arrests of which 3 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 24 automobile accidents. Calls were down 11, citations up 5, misdemeanor arrests up 1, felony arrests the same at 3, accidents down 5 and no fatalities.

**Mayor's Report:**

**Adjournment**

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:30**

**Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor**

**Attest By:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hilda Edwards, City Clerk**