

City Council

Regular Monthly Meeting

City of Ville Platte, Louisiana
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
January 12, 5:00 P.M.

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, January 12, at 5:00** PM the council meeting was called to order by Mayor Vidrine.

Roll called by the City Clerk, Shountilez Williams, announced that we have a quorum.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Councilmen Mike Perron, Donald Sam Jerry Joseph, C. J. Dardeau, Bryant Riggs, City Clerk Shountilez Williams, and Interim Fire Chief Chris Harrison, Police Chief Neal Lartigue

Absent: Councilman Freddie Jack and City Attorney, Eric Lafleur

Following the Invocation and Pledge and roll call by the City Clerk, 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.

Added three new items to the agenda:

- Liquor Permit for
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Prairie Heritage, Inc. (Gilbert W. Aucoin).
- Apply for a grant for the fire Department.

It was moved by Councilman Dardeau and seconded by Councilman Sam to add three (3) new items to the agenda. In

Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

Minutes –Monthly meeting December 8, 2015

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the minutes December 8, 2015 as presented. In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

Special Meeting held January 5, 2016

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held January 5, 2016, as presented. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

Monthly report for December 2015

The expenditures for the month of **November** was **\$180,911.55** and the expenditures for the month of **December** were **\$157,790.93** the city spent **\$23,120.62 less** in the month of December than in the month of November.

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the monthly expenditures for the month of December. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

Council Comments- None

Public Comments on agenda items listed (4 minutes each)

Agenda Items:

Summer Feeding Program:

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to continue sponsoring the Summer Feeding Program to be held at Ville Platte High during the summer.

In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

City Holiday Closures:

1. Martin Luther King's day—January 18, 2016, Monday
2. Mardi Gras-February 9, 2016, Tuesday
3. President's day-February 15, 2016, Monday
4. Good Friday-March 25, 2016, Friday
5. Memorial day-May 30, 2016, Monday
6. Independence day-July 4, 2016, Monday
7. Labor day-September 5, 2016, Monday
8. Columbus day-October 10, 2016, Monday
9. Veteran's Day, November 11, 2016, Friday
10. Thanksgiving day-November 24, 2016
11. Day after Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2016, Friday
12. Christmas Eve Day-Observed Friday, December 23, 2016 (Christmas Eve is Saturday, December 24th, 2016)
13. Christmas Day-Observed Monday, December 26, 2016 (Christmas Day is Sunday, December 25, 2016)
14. New Year's Day-Observed Monday, January 2, 2017 (New Year's day is Sunday, January 1, 2017)

It was moved Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Dardeau to approve the Holiday Closure for the 2016 year. In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

Hiring-Fire Department

With the retirement of Fire Chief Ted Demourelle and some promotions, which created an opening, Fire Chief Chris Harrison recommended hiring a Firefighter/Operator.

It was moved by Councilman Dardeau and seconded by Councilman Perron to accept the recommendation and approve the hiring of Kyle Dupre as a Firefighter/Operator.

In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

Hiring-Police Department

1. Nathaniel Leday—POST Certified from Texas
2. Ryan Ferguson---- Take the Louisiana POST Certification-(not the full academy)
3. Samuel Tidwell--- POST Certified from Texas
4. Chad Romero-----Take the Louisiana POST Certification-(not the full academy)
5. Ramone West-----Provisional

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to hire the following with the Ville Platte police department as police officers, as recommended by Police Chief Lartigue. They must meet all of the City's requirements to be hired. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

2016 Standard Mileage Rate Change

It was moved by Councilman Dardeau and seconded by Councilman Joseph to reduce the business mileage rates from 57.5 to 54 cents as recommended by the IRS.

In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

Cell Phone Allowance

Mayor Vidrine asked the Council to approve an increase in the cell phone allowance for her and Police Chief Neal Lartigue, as well as new allowances for two city employees. Mayor Vidrine said that the allowance would enable her and the chief to monitor the cameras when necessary.

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to increase Mayor Vidrine and Chief Lartigue phone allowance to \$125.00 and the new phone allowance of 60.00 for Vicki Alleman and Rod Lafleur.

In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

It was moved by Councilman Dardeau and seconded by Councilman Sam to allow the auction of the following vehicles: In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

City Vehicles Auction;
Vin#7986 –street dept.

Vin#1512—gas dept.

The police units will be approve for auction date at a later date, pending approval from the USDA.

Item added: Cooperative Endeavor Agreement—Gilbert Aucoin

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Riggs to approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Prairie Heritage, Inc. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

City Councilmen agreed to move the regular council meeting from February 9th to February 11, 2016 due to Mardi Gras.

Abandoned Property

Resolution

Proclamation

Permits

Liquor Permit-Swamp Pop Museum Dance

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the Liquor Permit for the **Swamp Pop Museum Dance**. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

Liquor Permit-Main Street Pizza Pub & Grill, Adam Salam, owner

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the Liquor Permit for the **Main Street Pizza Pub & Grill** **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

New Item: Gras Inc. -2 Liquor Permit (former Angel's Foods)

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the Liquor Permit for the **Gras Inc. -2** **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

New Business Fire Dept Grant-new item added

Mayor Vidrine reported that the City is in the process of applying for a fire fighter's grant in the amount of \$199,755.00 for equipment. The grant is due, January 15, 2016, Friday. With this grant the city's portion will be 5% of the grant if approved. The grant will be used to purchase a new ladder truck, fire equipment and upgrade the fire dept.

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded Joseph to allow Mayor Jennifer to apply for the Firefighter Grant in the amount of \$199,755.00 with the city paying five percent if approved.

In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried

Reports:

• **Fire Chief's Report—Chris Harrison**

There were a total of 20 calls for the month of December, were Ville Platte had 11 calls, Fire District #2 has 8 calls for a total of 19 calls.

Calls for the year 2015

Structure Fire--54, Grass Fires--47, Trash—16, Medical calls---02, Alarm Activation.—65,

Extrication -13, Vehicles—28, Gas Spills---02, Service Calls—72, Dive Calls, Search/Rescue and Bomb Threats-02

Total calls for 2015 was 301

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

For the month of December there were a total of 591 complaints in which 103 required reports. There were a total of 21 felony arrest, 48 Misdemeanor, 12 Drug charges, 25 motoer vehicle accidents and wrote 22 citations and no fatalities.

The citations were down by 9, calls down by 49, arrest (misdemeanor) up by 28, accidents down by 18, reports up down by 90 and felony arrest up by 15.

• **City Engineer's Report—Ronnie Landreneau**

Ronnie Landreneau reported that city workers will be replacing the new meters; some of the meters installed had a defect and a recall. The company selling the Iperl meters will be replacing all of the meters with the next generation model at no cost to the city.

Phase Three of the Water Project to replace worn water meter will continue. Currently the work is being done at the wood section of Ville Platte. The next Phase will be to replace the lines along Main and LaSalle St.

Mayor’s Report-Jennifer Vidrine

- According to Mayor Jennifer the Boys and Girls Club will open as scheduled on June 1. One of the programs that will be offered is VITA. This program will help adults learn to read.
- The City is still looking for grants to upgrade or rebuild a fire station on Magnolia St.
- Reminded, the public that the city will be replacing current water meters with new Iperl meters. Phase Three on the Southside of town is going well. The next phase will be to replace the lines along Main and LaSalle St.
- Representatives from the hotel contacted the Mayor and they will be coming back to Ville Platte to possibly do Market Study. There are currently 25 property owner that are on the list for possible sites for the hotel.

Councilman Perron inquired about a grant to improve the appearance of Main St., Mayor reported that she is currently looking into getting a Façade Grant.

- Mayor is still looking into Planning and Zoning for the city.

Adjournment

With their being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 PM. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion Carried**

Attest:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk

Approved:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor