

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

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**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA**  
**Minutes for August 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, August 11, 2020 5:00 PM. The Meeting was conducted through Zoom due to the Coronavirus pandemic and in compliance to the Governor's stay at home orders, the City Council meeting will be held online.

**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 and Jerry Joseph, Mike Perron, and City Clerk Shountilez L. Williams, Police Chief Neal Lartigue, Fire Chief Fabian Poullard, Administrative Secretary Hilda Edwards and City Attorney Eric Lafleur, Chief Neal Lartigue

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.

Attending in person: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, City Clerk Shountilez Williams, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, Mike Perron, Donald Sam and Lionel Anderson, Admin. Asst. Hilda Edwards, Fire Chief Neal Lartigue

Mayor Vidrine requested two items be added to the agenda:

1. Donation of an old police vehicle
2. Employee salary status

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve Mayor Vidrine's request to add two new items to the agenda. All in favor, Motion carried

- **Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting July 14, 2020**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Anderson to approve the minutes of July 14, 2020 as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

- **Monthly Report for July 2020 (Budget to Actual)**

Mayor Vidrine announced, the expenses for the month of June were \$165,110.80 expenses for the month of July were \$147,847.99; and the expenses for the month July were 17,262.81 less than the month of June.

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

- **Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Vidrine reminded everyone that the curfew is still in effect and asked everyone to adhere to the Governor's mask mandate that is required by Governor Edwards. The number for the COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths continues to rise. The numbers are going up due to community spread. As part of our Capital Outlay, two new trailers were purchased, making a total of four dump trailers for the departments.

Mayor Vidrine also announced that the City received two new traffic lights with walking signals. They are on the corner of Main and Southwest Railroad and Main and Chataignier.

Animal Control has a new Facebook Page, if you are looking for a dog or looking to adopt one please visit our Facebook page at [cityofvilleplatteanimalcontrol.com](https://www.facebook.com/cityofvilleplatteanimalcontrol)

The City is still shopping for a Backhoe and a Track Hoe. Due to COVID-19 the city had suspended cut-offs and late fees, beginning September 1, the City will reinstate the late fees and start disconnecting customers for non-payment.

- **Council Comments:**

Councilman Perron inquired about the upkeep of the City Cemetery and the plans for the Heritage Park. Mayor Vidrine reminded everyone that Evangeline Parish Tourism will partner with the city to help restore the Park.

Councilman Riggs requested a list of the equipment that was ordered for the city. He also asked about the size of the Back Hoe that was ordered, need ways to alleviate the abandoned properties that has plague the city for years. Councilman Riggs suggested giving bonuses to new police hires.

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

No public comments

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Fire Chief Report**

There were 21 calls made in the month of July to the Ville Platte Fire Department, which includes the Fire District, it also included one bee hive on fire.

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the hiring of Daniel Andrus as a Firefighter/Operator, with the Ville Platte Fire department, as recommended by Fire Chief Fabian Poullard. All in favor, motion carried.

**New item added to the agenda:**

Chief Lartigue requested the donation of the 1998 Crown Victoria bearing VIN number 2FAFP71W2WX175884 to a local towing company to avoid the expenses incurred by having the vehicle towed. The Evangeline Parish Sheriff's office requested the removal of the vehicle from their property. The vehicle is not in running condition. It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the donation. All in favor, motion carried.

• **Employee Salary Status:**

The Mayor requested the Council's approval to adjust the salary of some employees. Some of the employees were doing extra duties due to some employees being out or retired. The increase will become effective on the next pay period, (September 10, 2020). The adjustments will include Vickie Alleman (Secretary) to Payroll Clerk, (replacing Donna Guillory), her salary will be adjusted until a Payroll Clerk is hired, her salary will be readjusted to her current salary wants she is replaced. Vickie was offered the position as Payroll Clerk, but declined. Other adjustments will include two employees in administration, the Park's Department, Gas, Water, and Street Department.

There will be a range of increases from .40 to .55 to 1.00, with the exception of Vickie Alleman and two employees in General Administration.

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the adjustment in salaries for the city's employees as present by Mayor Vidrine. All in favor, motion carried.

• **Ville Platte Police- Hiring**

Chief Neal Lartigue recommended the hiring of Gerald Kellar, Daylan Maricle and Sam Stewart as Police Officer with the Ville Platte police department. It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the hiring of the three police officers, pending all of the City's requirements are met. All in favor, motion carried.

Chief Neal Lartigue recommended the hiring of Sid Lafleur, Talya Fruge and Jacoby Brisco, with the Ville Platte police department as police officers. It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the hiring of three police officers, pending all of the City's requirements are met. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Anderson inquired about meeting the new police officers that are being hired.

• **Lisa Derouen- Evangeline Council on Aging**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the city's sponsorship of the transportation program with the Evangeline Council on Aging as requested by Lisa Derouen. All in favor, Motion carried.

**Paul Fuselier –Acadian Ambulance Services**

Mr. Fuselier appeared before the Mayor and Council to discuss the services that Acadian Ambulances provides and the issues with having two ambulances services in Ville Platte.

**Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties**

Mayor announced that we are still sending letters out for overgrown grass and blighted property.

The City Marshal will be serving property owners with Letters of Compliance for abandoned houses and overgrown grass.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the demolition 815 N Soileau-demolition and three lots to clean and 608 S. Soileau abandoned trailer.

All in favor, motion carried.

Resolutions:

Ordinance:

Proclamations

Permits

Reports

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

There were a total of 72 complaints in the month of July-2020 of which 72 required reports. There were 15 citations issued 37 arrests of which 14 were felony arrest and there were 22 accidents reported.

**City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau-**

Mayor has authorized the repair of Well 8 and Well 11.

Mr. Landreneau, City Engineer for the city reported that, the survey for the property on N. Soileau and Reed, between the residential property and the Ville Platte Housing Authority has been completed and it has been determined that there is no alley and the majority of the property is on the Ville Platte Housing Authority property. The Housing authority has been notified of the finding. Mr. Landreneau reported on the gas meters also.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor will report on the new laws that went into effect August 1, 2020 Councilman Riggs asked Mr. Eric about the renewal of the city bonds.

**Adjournment**

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33

Approved By:

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Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

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Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk