

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

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**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA  
Minutes for July 9, 2019 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, July 9, 2019 5:00 PM

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

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

**Absent: Fire Chief Chris Harrison**

Roll called by announced that we have a quorum to proceed with the meeting. Following the Invocation and pledge by everyone, roll call by Shountilez L. Williams, 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.

**Mayor Vidrine requested one item be added to the agenda:**

Cooperative of Endeavor Agreement with the Dept. of Veteran's Affair- It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve adding one item to the agenda.

**In Favor: All      Against: None      Motion carried (see resolutions)**

**Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting of June 17, 2019**

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the minutes of June 17, 2019.    In Favor: All      Against: None      Motion carried

**Minutes-Special Meeting of June 28, 2019 (Budget)**

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the minutes of June 28, 2019.    **In Favor: All      Against: None      Motion carried**

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

Mayor Vidrine announced that the expenses for the month of May was \$216,722.01 and for the month of June the expenses were \$168,486.04 the city spent \$48,235.97 less in the month of June than in the month of May. The increase was due to unexpected expenses. It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the Expense Report for the month of June. Compare for budget to actual as presented year to date.    **In Favor: All      Against: None      Motion carried**

**Council Comments:**

Mayor informed everyone in attendances that they should respect the gavel, after the gavel has been hit, if you don't abide then, you will be asked to leave and no profanity will be used or disrespectful comments will be allowed.

Councilman Perron asked for an update on the equipment. Mayor replied that a new operator has been hired and waiting for the paper worked to be complete.

Councilwoman Lemoine suggested that everyone try to help the city by cleaning and remove all debris from their ditches.

Councilman Anderson inquired about the lights around the Martin Luther King Center, he also asked about the trash and debris around town and who is responsible for picking up the trash.

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

**Joyce Lartigue spoke on the trash around the city.**

**Agenda Items:**

1. Camille Fontenot-Candidate Announcement for Police Juror

Ms. Camille appeared before the Mayor and council to announce her candidacy for Police Juror.

2. **Jamie Fontenot-Candidate announcement for Sheriff**

Mr. Fontenot appeared before the Mayor and Council to announce his candidacy for Evangeline Parish Sheriff.

3. **Fire Chief's Reports-Chris Harrison**

There were a total of 16 calls for the month of June 2019. Ville Platte Fire Dept. responded to 13 calls and Fire District #2 responded to 3 calls. Chief Harrison also requests the hiring of Colby Dupre as a Fire Fighter.

4. Motion was made by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the hiring of Colby Dupre as a Firefighter Operator with the Ville Platte Fire Dept.

**In Favor: All      Against: None      Motion carried**

5. **Neighborhood Store-705 Knotoe Thomas Street., Louisiana Sunshine#4-Mr. Ayoub Ali**

Mayor informed the Council that she and Councilman Anderson spoke with Mr. Ali on the situation concerning the store, he promised to close the store early, and he did for only three days. Councilman Anderson is concerned with all of the activities that are happening at the store.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to send a demand letter to Mr. Ayoub Ali to attend the August meeting, to discuss the issues with the store.

**In Favor: All      Against: None      Motion carried**

6. **Liz Hill-911 Services**

Ms. Hill gave an update on the status of Tropical Barry, aside from updating the Council on the latest tropical activity; Liz Hill went through the services provided at the 911 Office. Councilman Riggs asked Chief Lartigue how he felt about using the 911 office; Chief Lartigue said it would be beneficial as far as budget wise; the money is not in my budget to keep the dispatchers. He said he would like to keep them if had the money, but it's not there, the money was not included in the 2019-2020 budget. Mayor Vidrine then stated, if the Intergovernmental Agreement would happen, it would be a saving of \$110,000 for the department, and the 911 services would cost us \$1,050.00 a year which would be \$87.50 a month. Liz Hill answered questions from the Mayor and Council over the possible agreement. Mayor expressed, she is already working on placing the employees, her concern is for the two misplaced dispatchers and she will be working to make sure they are taking care of. Councilman Bryant Riggs and Councilman Lionel Anderson expressed their reservations on the matter.

7. **Enter into Inter-Governmental Agreement with 911**

After some discussion a motion by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to submit the city's Inter- Governmental Agreement with 911 for approval, pending the logistics are worked out by our legal department by September 1, 2019, if the logistics are not worked out, then it will be extended until it's worked out. Mayor Vidrine will keep everyone informed.

**Votes were as followed: Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, Mike Perron, Donald Sam, Jerry Riggs voted in favor and Councilman Lionel Anderson voted to abstained. Motion carried. Liz Hill will send the Cooperative Agreement to the city attorney for review. An update on the logistics will be reported at the August meeting.**

8. **Employee Status:**

Mayor requested the approval of the Council to move the following employees from part-time to full time with a pay increase from \$8.24 to \$9.00.

1. Robert Lazard and Ricky Moore-----Street Dept.
2. Elliott Bobb-Water Dept.
3. Ted Gaspard and Harold Harrison—Sewer Dept.

4. Curtis Vidrine and Louise Thomas---Parks Dept.

Public Works/Street Commission- approved as of January 2019- salary of \$36,400  
The current City Plumber resigned as of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 and Robert Perron was appointed as the City Plumber and Chris Ardoin as the Asst. City Plumber and Raleigh Arvie as a part- time Equipment Operator. It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the hiring and pay increase for the employees listed above. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion carried**

**9. Ville Platte Police Hiring**

Chief Neal requested the hiring of one full time police officer, Samuel Tezeno, pending he passes all of the city requirements and budget allows the hiring. Motion by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the hiring on Samuel Tezeno. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion carried**

**10. Natalie Maples-AT&T**

Ms. Natalie, an attorney representing AT&T appeared before the Mayor and Council to explain the location and the benefits of having a third tower. Ms. Maples explained that the tower will be 225 ft. in height and a self-support tower. It will be located in the back of a vacant lot located on E. Lasalle between and Hibbet Sports.

If some discussion, it was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the 225 ft. AT&T Tower in Ville Platte. **In Favor: All Against: None Motion carried**

**11. Arthur Sampson-City Council agenda and Public Hearing, City Budget**

The Council heard from Mr. Sampson about the law suit he filed against the city over the meeting held where utility rates were increased. The lawsuit alleges that the city violated three Open Meeting Law: A quorum of the council was present during the public hearing which, constituted a public hearing, the second violation deals with the council not giving the public an opportunity to speak, and the third deals with the council on voting to move the rate increases up in the agenda without comments from the public. The law suit outlines two remedies which can be taken in responses to the violations.

**12. James Bertrand-Side walks**

Mr. Bertrand addressed the Council on the issue of the sidewalk next to his office located on Magnolia St. **Abandoned Property/Blighted/overgrown Properties**

**Resolutions**

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Ville Platte and Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. (See attachment) **In Favor: All Against: None Motion carried**

**Ordinances**

**Proclamation**

**Permits**

**1. Liquor Permit- Chef Terry Jackson/Girl-Boys Place**

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the Liquor Permit for the Girl-Boys Place annual banquet held on July 27, 2019

**In Favor: All Against: None Motion carried**

**2. Liquor Permit-Evangeline Chamber of Commerce**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the liquor permit for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet held on August 27, 2019.

**In Favor: All Against: None Motion carried**

**New Business**

**Reports**

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

For the month of June 2019 there were a total of 369 calls for assistance in which 350 required reports. There were a total of (48) arrests include (19) felony arrests (29) motor vehicle accidents and wrote (14) citations. No fatalities

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

Ronnie appeared before the board, he did not have any business to report.

He reported that Union Tank is very pleased with the help that the Mayor has provided them.

**Mayor's Report-Jennifer Vidrine**

Mayor reported that she is in talks with Charter Cable Company to provide cable service in our area.

**Adjournment**

With there being no other business, Mayor Vidrine called for a motion to adjourn.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Joseph to adjourn.

**In Favor: All          Against: None          Motion carried**

Time: 6:01

**Approved:**

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**Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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**Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk**