

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

**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for June 13, 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 Monday, June 13, 2022 5:00 PM.

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, Councilwoman Christina Sam, Bryant Riggs, City Clerk Hilda Edwards, Chief Administrative Officer Dirk Deville, Fire Chief Chris Soileau and Police Chief Neil Lartigue.

Absent was: City Attorney 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.

Mayor Vidrine asked the council to add the presentation of next year's budget to the agenda which she announced had been inadvertently left off of the agenda. Councilman Joseph so moved, the motion was seconded by Councilman Anderson and without objection the motion was adopted.

Mayor Vidrine also asked for a motion to allow an individual to address the council regarding the animal shelter. Councilman Anderson so moved, the motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph and without objection the motion was adopted.

1. Minutes-Regular Meeting of May 10, 2022 & Special Meeting of May 27, 2022

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022 and May 27, 2022 meetings as presented.

Mr. Ryan Leday Williams asked if he could comment on the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting before the council would take action, Mayor Vidrine invited him to the podium as such.

Mr. Williams offered comments regarding the approval of the construction of a new waste water facility and the approval to pay off the city's bonded indebtedness.

The Mayor then accepted a motion to to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022 and May 27, 2022 by Councilman Riggs, the motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph, and without objection the motion was adopted.

Mayor Vidrine then reassured Mr. Williams that the Council was made well aware of the construction of the sewer plant and she advised that the efforts to stop companies from providing this type of acquisition died in the State Senate. She also advised that the Council had been reviewing this process since February.

Councilman Riggs then commented on the action the City is taking to address the sewer problems of the City.

Councilman Perron then commented on the action the City is taking to address the sewer problems of the City.

Mayor Vidrine then thanked all for their comments.

2. Monthly Report for March/April 2022 (Budget to Actual)

The expenses for the month of April 2022 were \$208,669.41 and the expenses for the month of May were \$194,580.00. The expenses were \$14,089.33 less in the month of May than in the month of April. The city did have additional expenses for maintenance of the city generator and for 2 new pumps for lift stations. The Budget to Actuals for all departments and the **LAMP Report** were discussed as well.

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

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Vidrine commented on the progress of the Girls –Boys Place summer program and thanked all the parents. She also advised that the 4th of July Fireworks display was in the planning process.

Council Comments:

Lemoine: Councilwoman Lemoine expressed concern about adopting a budget on short notice, Mayor Vidrine advised that the budget was simply being introduced at this meeting and would not be adopted until later. Councilwoman Lemoine questioned as to whether or not the city would have any bond outstanding once the authorized payoff takes place and the mayor advised that all bonded indebtedness would be paid off. Councilwoman Lemoine questioned the Phase 4 Water project being tied to those bonds and her concern for the affect the payoff might have on the completion of the Phase 4 Water project. Mayor Vidrine insisted that the Phase 4 Water project remains “on the books to do” and advised hopefully new infrastructure monies would be available as such. Councilwoman Lemoine asked about the progress of the street overlay project and Mayor Vidrine asserted that City Engineer Ronnie Landreneau would update in accordance with the agenda.

Sam: Councilwoman Sam discussed abandoned properties in her district. Mayor Vidrine advised the City Clerk would review those properties to insure they were on our abandoned property list. The Mayor also advised that street lights Councilwoman Sam had asked about earlier were being worked on.

Joseph: Councilman Joseph had no comments.

Anderson: Advised he was reviewing street information and would get with Mayor Vidrine later.

Perron: Reiterated concrete that have been satisfactorily repaired would not be overlaid. Mayor advised as well that project is not complete and other streets will be added to the list as monies become available. Councilwoman Lemoine asked specifically about Magnolia Street and it was emphasized that Magnolia would be overlaid. Mayor Vidrine reiterated that Covid had delayed the project and that the project was planned all along and was not being done just because it is an election year.

Riggs: Commented on street lights and complimented Cleco on their response time. He further commented on the lights effect on crime. Mayor Vidrine also advised that street cameras remain a process in work.

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

The mayor then proceeded with the Agenda Items:

1. **Fire Chief Report-** Fire Chief Chris Soileau made the following report for April – 14 calls for the Ville Platte area, including 4 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 5 grass fire calls, 14 alarm activation calls, and numerous service calls.
2. **Engineer’s Report – Ronnie Landreneau.** Mr. Landreneau commented on the street repair and overlay project stating that the project is about 70% complete. Councilwoman Lemoine questioned the process continuing to upgrade other streets. It was emphasized that upgrades would be added. Councilman Riggs asked about Laran Street and Mr. Landreneau advised that Laran may need to come out of the project and dealt with individually and assured Councilman Riggs that a cost determination would be completed. Councilman Riggs also asked about Reed Street at Jefferson Street issues. Mr. Landreneau recommended it be handled the same way as Laran Street. Councilwoman Sam then asked about various streets and Mr. Landreneau advised that those streets were on a list to be addressed.
3. **Charles Tate – Indoor Pool** – Mayor advised the item would be tabled awaiting more information.

The council then proceeded to added Agenda Item No. 4(Animal Control).

4. **Animal Control** – Sonia Christopher of the Advisory Committee addressed the council and advised that they had met on May 25 . They decided to make a list of volunteers to help at the pound. They decided they would maintain a visitation log. Mr. Holmes (first name inaudible) will maintain log. She asked about Policies and Procedures. She asked about handling donations and commented on a tie down they had recently received. She again asked about policies to help get animals in and out of the pound. Mayor Vidrine asked how often the group was meeting and suggested that they advise Councilwoman Lemoine so she could have an opportunity to attend. Mayor Vidrine also asked that the advisory group give the council a list of their proposals. Mrs. Christopher gave the council members the state’s guidelines of minimum standards for a shelter. Mayor asked Don White to give brief update on actions recently taken at the pound. Mayor Vidrine also advised that she had been in touch with the Humane Society. Don White discussed fencing and bathing pool issues. Mayor asked that individuals be more accurate with their Facebook posts. Mrs. Christopher concluded by stating that she saw positive developments recently.
5. **Presentation of Budget** – After presentation of the amended budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and the proposed budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 by Chief Administrative Officer Dirk Deville, the Council, on motion by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine, and without opposition, set a public hearing of the proposed amended operating budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and the proposed operating budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 to be held at 11:45 AM June 27, 2022 followed by a special meeting at 12:00 Noon, June 27, 2022 to adopt the amended operating budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and the proposed operating budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

The Council then allowed Mr. Ricky Thomas to address the council concerning abandoned properties. – After his comments Mayor Vidrine thanked his for his input and assured the public that the council has addressed over 225 properties and will continue to do so.

Ordinances:

Mayor called on Councilman Perron and he introduced the following proposed ordinances:

- 1- An ordinance amending the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022;
- 2- An ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023; and
- 3- An ordinance amending the Ordinance Rate Table to accommodate entities recently defined as Industrial-Wholesale both inside and outside the City Limits of Ville Platte as established in Ordinance 030822-1.

Reports

Chief of Police’s Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 726 calls for assistance in the month of April 2022---14 citations, 13 misdemeanor arrests, 10 felony arrests, officers responded to 17 automobile accidents with 0 fatalities. Calls were up 6, citations down 1, misdemeanor arrests were up 1, felony arrests were up 1, accidents down 1.

Adjournment

With there being no other business, Mayor Vidrine called for a motion to adjourn. A motion by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Perron to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Hilda Edwards, City Clerk