

City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for December 14, 2021 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, December 14, 2021 5:00 PM. The *The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Vidrine.*

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, Jerry Joseph and Mike Perron, and City Clerk Shountilez L. Williams, Administrative Secretary, Hilda Edwards and Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Soileau, Fire Chief, Neal Lartigue, Police Chief,

Absent were: Donald Sam, Eric Lafleur

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.

Items added to the Agenda:

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Perron to adding the following items to the agenda:

1. Minutes of the Special Meeting held December 2, 2021
2. Dispose of an old TV and purchase a new one.
3. Truck that was purchased
4. Hiring for the Ville Platte Police Dept.

1. Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting November 9, 2021

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021 as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

2. Item added to the agenda: Minutes of December's Special Meeting

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Peron to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021, All in favor, motion carried.

3. Monthly Report for November 2021 (Budget to Actual)

The expenses for the month of October were \$212,014.56 and the expenses for the month of November were \$215,060.19. The expenses were \$3,045.63 more in the month of November than in the month of October. Budget to Actual for all departments included.

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

The LAMP Report was also presented.

Mayor's Comments:

1. Mayor Jennifer announced that she had a Pre-Construction meeting on today with the City Engineers and the Construction Crew, for the Street Project, looking at a possible date of March 31, 2022 to start the repairs.

2. The City's application to apply for a four hundred thousand dollar, LOVE LOUISIANA OUTDOOR GRANT, for park improvements, was approved. The City was approved for a forth thousand dollars, (\$40,000) grant by the Black Caucus, to improve technologies in City Hall.
3. The French Mural was painted on City Hall wall.
4. The Water, Sewer and Street Dept. will be moved the Boys'/Girl Place as soon as the new phone system arrives.
5. Vaccinations will be given on December 30, 2021
6. Several projects are in the works.

Council Comments: No comments

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

Agenda Items:

1. **Fire Chief Report- November --There was 7 calls for the Ville Platte area and a total of 13 calls with the Parish. One fatality in December**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to remove Fire Chief Chris Soileau from probation status to permanent status. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau
Toby Manuel appeared before the Council to give an overview of the upcoming Street Project.**

3. **Dewey A. Guillory-Unauthorized commercial property 228 E. Hickory St.
Mr. Guillory appeared before the board to discuss the opening of a new business on E. Hickory St. and the neighbor's objections to the opening.**

4. **Coach Sweetman- Coach Sweetman appeared before the board to discussion Population Increase, New Employment, Internet**

5. **City Hall Holiday Schedule**

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the holiday schedule as follows:

1. Martin Luther King's Day-January 17, 2022, Monday
2. President's Day-February 15, 2022, Monday
3. Mardi Gras-March 1, 2022, Tuesday
4. Good Friday-April 15, 2022, Friday
5. Memorial Day-May 30st, 2022, Monday
6. Juneteenth Day – June 20, 2022, Monday
7. Independence Day-July 4th, 2022, Monday
8. Labor Day, September 5, 2022, Monday
9. Columbus Day-October 10, 2022, Monday
10. All Saints Day—November 1, 2022, Tuesday
11. Veteran's Day-November 11, 2022, Friday
12. Thanksgiving Day-November 24, 2022, Thursday
13. Day after Thanksgiving Day-November 25, 2021, Friday
14. Christmas Eve Day-December 23, 2022, Friday*(Observance)
15. Christmas Day-December 26, 2022, Monday *(Observance)
16. New Year's Day-January 2, 2023, Monday *(Observance)

***Observance-Holidays that falls on a Saturday or Sunday**

Juneteenth Day – June 19, 2022, Sunday

Christmas Eve Day, December 24, 2022, Saturday
Christmas Day, December 25, 2022, Sunday
New Year's Day, January 1, 2023, Sunday

6. Disposal of City Vehicles

Mayor Vidrine presented as list of Vehicles to the Council asking approval to sell the following vehicles:

1. Dodge Durango----110.00
2. 2500 Dodge Ram—1025.00
3. Chevrolet Pickup Truck---77.00
4. GMC 2500 (sold for scrap) 335.00
5. Pick Up Truck—Scrap—99.00
6. GMC Junked Pickup—212.00

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Council Joseph to approve the sale of the vehicles as scrap. All in favor, motion carried.

#3-Item added to the agenda: Purchase of three trucks from the Carencro Police Department

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Joseph to purchase three trucks from the Carencro Police Department. One truck will be for the Police Department and two will be for City Hall. All in favor motion carried.

#4-Item added to the agenda: Police Department hiring

At the recommendation of the Police Chief and pending that all requirements are meant, it was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the hiring of the following: One full time police officer-Dominique Quezada and two part-time jailers-Rogers Harris and Mason Madrigal. All in favor, motion carried

#2-Item agenda added to the agenda— items to be disposed of by the Police Department

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Jerry to approve the disposal of the old TV and several other items. All in favor, motion carried

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

Resolutions

Ordinances:

1. Introduction

Animal Control-Vicious Dogs-Tabled for December Meeting

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

A Public Hearing will be held on January 11, 2022 at 4:45

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 \$250.00 ~~\$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 animals 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 dangers 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.

2. Adoption

Grease Oil Traps and Sand Trap-Tabled for December Meeting

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the amendment to the Grease Oil Traps and Sand Trap as presented to the Council. All in favor, motion carried.

Proclamation-None

Permits

1. Liquor Permit-A & H Quality Stores, Inc., 702 S. Chataignier

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the liquor permit. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 766 calls for assistance in the month of November 2021---5 citations, 16 arrests of which 13 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 30 automobile accidents.

Mayor's Report:

Adjournment

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk