

Ville Platte City Council Minutes for January 10, 2023

Meeting held at 5 PM

City of Ville Platte

126 E Main St. Ville Platte, La 70586

Mayor Williams called the council meeting to order at 5:30 PM

City Clerk Bergeron called the roll:

Attendance: Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilman Anna Frank, Councilman Tracie Jagneaux, Councilman Shawn Roy, Councilman Christina Sam, Councilman Bryant Riggs, City Clerk Donald Bergeron, City attorney Chris Ludeau, Fire Chief Chris Soileau and Police Chief Al Perry. A quorum was present.

Mayor Williams called for public comments on agenda items and there were none.

Motion by Councilman Sam, 2nd by Councilman Jagneaux to approve December 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Jagneaux 2nd by Councilman Roy to approve December 30, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Tracey, 2nd by Councilman Sam to approve January 4, 2023 meeting minutes.

Mayor Williams called for council comments:

Councilwoman Lemoine questioned LAMP withdrawals and Mr. Bergeron will get an answer to her after he has time to review the two withdrawals. Another question concerned the insurance claims adjustments. An answer will be delivered after research.

Councilwoman Sam spoke of the abandoned homes needing to be addressed. Mayor Williams stated that after reviewing the process to be sure the law is followed we will be addressing them.

Councilwoman Frank had no comments.

Councilman Roy commented on long grass and cleaning up in his district and cutting long grass.

Councilman Jagneaux commented his main concerns are drainage issues and taking care of the problem areas.

Councilman Riggs had no comments.

First item of business was the election of Christina Sam as Mayor Pro Tem.

Second item of business discussed entering into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Evangeline Parish Police Jury to aid in the cleaning of the city's canals. The police jury is willing to provide dump trucks and an excavator to lift out debris that the city will be responsible for moving to an intersection. The city

will furnish the equipment to move the debris. Motioned be Councilwoman Frank 2nd by councilwoman Sam. Motion carried.

Third item was a discussion on entering into a CEA with the Evangeline Parish Police Jury to build a parish wide animal shelter. After much discussion it was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine to move forward with the contract to rehabilitate the existing animal shelter after a review of the contract by the mayor. Councilman Jagneaux 2nd and the motion passed without opposition. A motion was then made by Councilwoman Frank to enter into a CEA for animal control with the parish. It was 2nd by Councilman Jagneaux. Motion carried.

Item four was a discussion on contracts that were inherited from the previous administration, specifically with Sustainability Partners. Mayor Williams called upon city attorney Ludeau who then reviewed the contract between the city of Ville Platte and Sustainability Partners for refurbishment of the city's sewer plant. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a meeting with Sustainability Partners would be scheduled.

Fifth item on the agenda was to give authorization to Mayor Ryan Williams, city clerk Donald Bergeron and accountant Jennifer Manuel as signers for banking account privileges. Motion by councilwoman Frank and 2nd by Councilman Roy. Motion passed without opposition.

The Sixth item of appointment of a street commissioner was tabled.

Seventh item was an address from Mrs. Jerri Ledoux who invited the mayor and council to call Congressman Mike Johnson's office for any needs the city may have.

Engineer's report Ronnie Landreneau: Recommend we take actions required of Delta Regional Authority for the repairs on sewer lift station grant. Reported the street repairs have been completed and will soon be closed out. There are no additional funds allocated for additional street construction. The park project has been previously reviewed with Mayor Williams and paperwork will soon be sent to the state for approval. Upon questions from Mr. Riggs, Mr. Landreneau affirmed that the project is a reimbursement project, with a 25% match from the city. Mr. Landreneau stated that official notification from the state has not been received for water sector applications as of yet. All cost associated with the park plans are being reviewed by engineers and the mayor.

Fire Chief Chris Soileau updated the mayor and council on fire calls for December and a review of fire calls for 2022.

Chief of Police Al Perry reported 185 calls, 34 arrest, 36 citations 11 felony arrest and 16 accidents. Chief Perry requested the council hire 5 new officers. Motion by councilman Riggs and 2nd by councilwoman Sam. Motion Carried.

Mayor Williams then requested to add City Marshal Nicole Snoddy as an item to the agenda. Councilman Jagneaux motioned and councilman Sam 2nd. Motioned passed unanimously.

City Marshal Nicole Snoddy then explained to the council some of the duties of her office.

Mayor Williams presented a proposal from Mercy Regional Hospital to begin having our employee's physicals and drug screens in Ville Platte. Motion by Councilwoman Sam and 2nd by councilwoman Frank. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The mayor then commented on not being afforded a transition period with the previous administration but that he and staff are working diligently with our auditors to go over every line item of the budget to assure that all expenses are proper. We are working towards streamlining all budget items to come up with real solutions that our City Council Members, City Employees and the Public can rely upon. Our Water, Sewer, And Gas systems all need to be addressed, As mayor I will ensure that our utility systems are all revamped and fully operable, along with our customers being properly billed and etc..., In closing, I'm sure most of the public is aware that the City of Ville Platte, just like every other City in America has DEBT, The City of Ville Platte isn't DEBT FREE, fortunately we have cash reserves, moving forward we just have to live within our budget and prioritize our spending.

City Clerk Bergeron presented the budget to actual comparisons and ask for any comments. Councilwoman Lemoine ask if reports could be presented earlier and Mr. Bergeron stated that once accounts payable moves to bi-monthly reports will be able to be generated in a timely manner.

Approve a resolution authorizing the mayor or clerk to execute any and all documents pertaining to DRA grant for sewer lift stations. Motioned by councilman Jagneaux, 2nd by councilwoman Frank. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve a resolution to engage J Ronald Landreneau & Associates for engineering work related to DRA sewer lift stations grant. Motioned by councilman Roy, 2nd by councilwoman Lemoine. Motion carried.

Introduce an ordinance to combine the offices of the city clerk and city treasurer and change the compensation of treasurer was then read aloud by councilwoman Frank.

Introduce an ordinance to change the compensation of the city attorney.

Introduce and ordinance to change the times of regular meetings. A motion to set a public hearing was set for 4:30 pm on February 7, 2023 was made by councilwoman Frank and 2nd by councilwoman Sam. Motion passed.

Mayor Williams called for a motion to approve payment of bills on file. Motioned by councilman Jagneaux, 2nd by councilwoman Lemoine. Motion carried.

Proclamations: None

Permits: None

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn made by councilwoman Lemoine and 2nd by councilwoman Frank. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Approved by:

Ryan LeDay Williams, Mayor

Attest by:

Donald Bergeron, City Clerk