

City of Ville Platte

Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for January 21, 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, January 21, 2020 5:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Donald Sam, Bryant Riggs, Lionel Anderson and Jerry Joseph, Mike Perron, and City Clerk Shountilez L. Williams, Police Chief Neal Lartigue, Fire Chief Chris Harrison, Administrative Secretary Hilda Edwards and City Attorney Eric Lafleur

Absent: None

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.

Mayor Vidrine requested that the following items be added to the agenda:

1. Presentation of the City's Audit by Vic Slaven
2. Employees' Longevity Pay
3. Section 8 Corrective Action
4. Chamber of Commerce Director
5. LACDA Resolution

It was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve adding the items to agenda. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously**

Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting of December 10, 2019

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the minutes. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting of December 23, 2019

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

Monthly Report for December 2019 (Budget to Actual)

Mayor Vidrine announced, the expenses for the month of November were \$212,474.07; and the expenses for December were \$269,884.80. The month of December had an increase in expenses by \$57,410.73 due to some unexpected expenses.

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

LAMP financial statement was presented to the City Council.

The Utility Revenue Statement was presented to the Council for comparison from 2018-2019 for each department.

Council Comments:

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

Councilman Perron inquired about the procedure for making repairs on Main St. (State Hwy).

Councilman Riggs inquired about the repairs of the fence on Derouren St. Mayor Jennifer instructed Don White get a Work Order and have the fence replaced.

Councilman Riggs also inquired about the condition of the street sweeper. Councilman Riggs recommended that the Mayor look into repairing the Street Sweeper or sell it.

Don White, Street Commissioner recommended that the sweeper be repaired. He was given permission to look into having the Street Sweeper repaired.

After some discussion, it was suggested that the Council look into increasing the starting pay for police officers to \$15.00 an hour with increments of a \$1.00 increase yearly.

. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

- **Councilman Anderson commented on the loitering at the store on Edward “Knotoe” Thomas St.**
- **Councilman Anderson expressed concerns about the condition of the Martin Luther King Center.**
- **Councilmen Sam express some concerns about the Renaissance Place**
- **Councilman Joseph reiterated that the Chief should issue loitering tickets without any warning.**
- **Councilman Riggs also inquired about the LACE Program.**

1. Item Added to the agenda:

Presentation of the City’s Audit by Vic Slaven

Vic Slaven, CPA presented the City of Ville Platte’s audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, during the City Council meeting Tuesday. He said there was \$1,378,000 in the General Fund, to spend at their discretion, and \$2,117,000 to spend on Street and Drainage. The General Fund took in a total revenue \$2,806,000 and expenditure of \$5,614,000, with overspending of \$2,807,000. Transfers in of \$2,764,000 and transfer out of \$100.00, there was an actual loss of \$43,000 for the fiscal year. Mr. Slaven then presented the Utility Funds; He said the Gas Department made a profit of \$107,000. The Water Department lost \$733,000, which is why the rates had to be raised. The Sewerage Department lost \$142,000. This fiscal year ended before the new rates took place. Total Assets \$21, 668,000, Total Liability \$1,319,000 and the Total Non-Current Liability \$10,845,000. Total Liabilities \$12,165,000.

2. New Item added to the agenda: Longevity Pay

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the Longevity Pay for city employees that has employed with the city more than 5 years.

All in favor, motion carried

3. New Item added to the agenda: New Chamber of Commerce Director

Ms. Erin Hoffpauir appeared before the Council to introduce herself as the new Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.

4. New Item added to the agenda Section 8 Corrective Action

It was moved Councilman Sam and seconded Councilman Joseph to approve the Section 8 Corrective Action, submitted by Fred Freeman, Section 8 Director.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously

1. Fire Chief Report:

There were 27 calls for the Ville Platte Fire Department for the Ville Platte Fire District.

2. Ville Platte police hiring:

Chief Lartigue recommended the hiring of Darrien Guillory and Mack Thomas as full time police officers with the Ville Platte Police Department. It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the hiring. All in favor, motion carried.

Darrien Guillory is POST certified and Mack Guillory will be attending the academy later.

3. Cody Vidrine-Crime

Cody Vidrine, owner of ACE Hardware and other business owners appeared before the board to voice their concerns with the increase in crimes and the shortage of police officers in Ville Platte. There were a lengthy discussion on the loitering and shooting in the city and what can be done to resolve the situation. Councilman Riggs inquired about the status of the salary increase for the police officers. Chief Lartigue and Council discussed hiring police officers. He requested that the Council look into changing the hiring policy.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to allow Chief Lartigue the authority to hire Post Certified police officers without prior approval of the Council, pending the applicants meet all city requirements. This is effective, immediately. The hiring will be approved at the following meeting. **All in favor, Motion carried unanimously**

5. Lisa T. Doucet- Candidate for City Marshal

Ms. Doucet appeared before the Council to announce her candidacy for City Marshal.

6. Adam Toussaint- Candidate for City Marshal

Mr. Toussaint appeared before the Council to announce his candidacy for City Marshal.

7. George Morgan-Abandoned Property, Housing, Police Training

Mr. Morgan appeared before the Council to discuss issues in the city.

Abandoned Property/Blighted

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded Councilman Anderson to approve the advertisement for the demolition. **All in favor, Motion carried unanimously**

914 and 916 Stagg Street, Ville Platte

401 Laran St., Ville Platte

614 E. Wilson St., Ville Platte

616 E. Wilson St., Ville Platte

518 E. Wilson St., Ville Platte

Ms. Linda Lavergne appeared before the Council to request an extension to demolish the building at 412 N. Chataignier St., She has hired someone to demolish the building. The Mayor allowed her until February 11, 2020 to have it demolished.

Resolutions:

New item added to the agenda:

It was moved by Councilman Joseph and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the LACDA Resolution. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously

Louisiana Community Development Authority

Ordinance:

Proclamations

Permits

1. Liquor Permit-Sharon Fontenot, Swamp Pop Reunion

It was moved by Councilman Perron and Councilman Sam to approve the Liquor Permit for the Swamp Pop Reunion. All in favor, Motion carried unanimously

New Business: John Deville-Chicken Coup

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 360 complaints in the month of December-2019 of which 327 required reports. There were 19 citations issued 32 arrests of which 11 were felony arrest and there were 38 accidents reported.

City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau- No report

Mayor's Report

- 1. Mayor reminded everyone that the city will provide free tax service to the citizens of Ville Platte**
- 2. Remind everyone that the deadline to pay your property tax is January 31, 2020.**

Adjournment

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk