

Ville Platte City Council Minutes for November 7, 2022
Meeting held at 5:00 PM
City of Ville Platte
126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA

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, November 7, 2022 5:00 PM.

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

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Councilmen Jerry Joseph, Mike Perron, Jordan Anderson, Councilwoman Christina Sam, Councilman Bryant Riggs, City Clerk Hilda Edwards and Fire Chief Chris Soileau.

Absent was: City Attorney Eric Lafleur and Police Chief Neil Lartigue.

Following the Invocation and Pledge, roll called by Hilda Edwards, City Clerk and Mayor Vidrine 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.

1. Minutes-Regular Meeting of October 11, 2022

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilwoman Sam to approve the minutes of October 11, 2022 meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

2. Monthly Report for September/October 2022 (Budget to Actual)

The expenses for the month of September 2022 were \$216,521.89 and the expenses for the month of October were \$1,138,299.37. The expenses were \$78,222.52 more in the month of September than in the month of October. The mayor advised that there were no annual expenses during that month. She congratulated all the departments. She advised that the lamp report was included in the binder as well and advise that there was 3,565,775.16 in lamp.

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

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Vidrine advised that we would be having a career fair here in City Hall on November 10, which is Thursday, from 9 AM to 3 PM. The career fair is sponsored by juvenile justice and it would include a juvenile justice professional, recreational specialists, nutritionist specialist, security guards, along with court officers information on these and others. Mayor Vidrine also advised the council that the city's pocket park plan had been awarded an excellence award by the Louisiana planning chapter of the American planning Association.

Council Comments:

Lemoine: Councilwoman Lemoine had no comments.

Sam: Councilwoman Sam had no comments.

Joseph: Councilman Joseph had no comments.

Anderson: Councilman Anderson had no comments.

Perron: Councilman Perron asked about the pocket parks and how would that start and when will it start. Mayor Vidrine advised that we had gotten the awards letter in the amount of \$400,000 and that it would start any time. She advised that there would be a webinar on Thursday and then after that it would be ready to start.

Riggs: Councilman Riggs had no comments.

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

The mayor then call for public comments on agenda items. Mr. Rufus Serialle got up and asked what was pocket parks and when would the citizens of Ville Platte know about these and asked several questions. The mayor and council attempted to satisfy Mr.Serialle and eventually Mr.Serialle concluded his comments and wish the counsel a good day.

The mayor then called for any other public comments which there were none.

Agenda Items:

The mayor then proceeded with the Agenda Items:

- 1. Gold Standard Community Centers, Mr. Tony Crawford.** – The mayor then advised that the Gold Standard Community Centers had a new rural health education program and they would like to lease office space in the Girls-Boys Place to provide services to the community from 8 to 4:30. Mr. Tony Crawford then address to counsel to provide information concerning what services would be available through the program. Mr. Crawford advised that their company would provide community assessments, Community resources and healthcare education, all at no cost to the city. After some discussion with the council of the services the mayor advised that a market rent study was conducted and that for 1200 square feet of space in the Girls-Boys Place, the market rent would be \$1200 a month plus the Crawford group would be paying a \$300 a month for utilities making that \$1500 a month and so Mayor Vidrine asked for a motion to approve the lease from November 7, 2022 through November 6, 2023, with an option to extend the lease at that time. The motion was made by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine and without objection was approved.
- 2. Fire Chief Report-** Fire Chief Chris Soileau made the following report for October – 38 calls for the Ville Platte area, including 6 structure fire calls, 0 vehicle fire calls, 14 grass fire calls, 2 trash fires, 4 alarm activation calls, 0 medical assistance call and 12 service calls. He advised we still have a burn ban in effect for the parish and municipalities haven't revisited that yet. He advised that Fire prevention for the year had a chance to speak to 861 children in the city of Ville Platte covering from pre-K to third grade. The fire chief also took the opportunity to promote a fundraiser they would be having this Saturday at the Lincoln Road fire station selling a shrimp and a gumbo for \$10 per serving.
- 3. Engineer's Report** – Mr. Ronnie Landreneau. Mr. Landreneau addressed the council. He brought up the L-gap application for this year which Mayor Vidrine advised we would be applying for another basketball court for Northside Park. The mayor also advised the CWEP (community water enrichment program) grant would be for another mobile generator for water wells. The mayor further advised that we have two resolutions to approve for the L-gap and CWEP funds.

And it was explained that the L-gap is for \$15,000. So the mayor then called for the motion to approve the resolution for the L-gap, it was move by Councilman Riggs and second by Councilman Joseph, and after initially announcing no opposition Mayor Vidrine then acknowledge that Councilwoman Lemoine was not in favor of the funds being used for another basketball court and asked that such objection be recorded.

The mayor then advises the resolution was for the water enrichment grant was to apply for a mobile generator, a motion was made by Councilwoman Sam second by Councilman Joseph and without opposition that motion carried.

Mr. Landreneau then advised that our street project has come to completion and they would be meeting with the contracts either Thursday or Friday of this week to go over a few items that needed corrective action. He asked for council input. The mayor then inserted that the contractors had told her they would be back in January to work on the concrete streets. Mr. Landreneau did say that yes there was a round two and the Mayor was correct in there would be a round two in the streets. Mr. Landreneau then talked about the parks project and advised that there was still a lot of going back-and-forth and discussion about the items that would be included in the projects including the type of a splash pad and the cost being different based on the type and he did say they had to have further discussions about the playground equipment that would be included as well. He also talked about utilizing existing facilities at the Hargrove Park to make sure everything was ADA compliant. Mr. Landreneau suggested that by the end of this week he can have a plan to give to Mayor Vidrine so that the council could give them a final go and they could submit that to Mr. Lee with the state for final approval.

Mr. Landreneau advised that the monies prepared for expensing on the parks has accumulated to \$2 million.

Mayor asked for a projected time for completion once construction starts and Mr. Landreneau advised that he would estimates about 120 days.

4. **Aaron Baughman, Jill Stephens & Sonya Christopher/Dog Pound** –Mr. Erin Baughman told the council that right now we have an average of 12 to 15 dogs and a lot of those being puppies and they were working on moving those puppies along. Either Mrs. Stephens or Ms. Sonia then acknowledged that they had gotten bids for the improvements for the shelters. The mayor then said she had not opened them because she wanted to know exactly what the process was for getting the bids. Either Mrs. Stephens or Ms. Sonia said she contracted the contractors that she works with on a regular basis and these three accepted the calls and the three bids were submitted with the three that wanted to submit. The mayor said she would check with the auditors to make sure that the bid process was followed correctly before opening the bids. The committee did propose doing a new website and linking it to the cities website so that it would be more user-friendly and informative.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by councilman Joseph and second in by councilman Anderson that once the auditor have reviewed the procedure by which the bids were obtained, the mayor would be authorized to move forward with the process. Without objection the motion was approved.

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

The mayor advised that with regard to blighted properties the city was continuing to work on the list that had previously been discussed.

Resolutions:

None

Ordinances:

None

Proclamations:

None

Permits:

None

New Business

None

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

In Chief Lartigue's absence, Mayor Vidrine reported there were a total of 952 calls for assistance in the month of October 2022---50 citations, 32 misdemeanor arrests, 7 felony arrests, officers responded to 6 automobile accidents with 0 fatalities.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine reminded everyone that city hall would be closed for election day.

Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 5:46 PM

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Hilda Edwards, City Clerk