

City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for April 12, 2021 held at 5:00 PM

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

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

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.

Attending in person: Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, City Clerk Shountilez Williams, Councilmen Bryant Riggs, Lionel Anderson and Mike Perron, Donald Sam, Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Admin. Asst. Hilda Edwards, Fire Chief Neal Lartigue. Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer

- 1. Mayor requested an item be added to the agenda: the item will be to start the process of taking bids and quotes to purchase the following equipment:**
2. Backhoe
3. Tractor with a side shedder and a back shedder
4. Roller for asphalt
5. Company to clean the canals on an annual basis
6. Two small excavators(one for loading coal mix and one for digging ditches
7. Bucket truck for cutting trees and branches above 15 ft.
8. Skidd Steer Culvert Cleaner

The approval is not to purchase the equipment only to approve taking bids and quotes. It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve adding the item to the agenda.

All in favor, motion carried.

- **Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting March 9, 2021**

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

- **Monthly Report for March 2021 (Budget to Actual)**

It was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the monthly report for the month of March. All in favor motion carried. .

For the month of February, the city's expenses were \$198,798.74 and for the month of March the expenses were \$224,839.37. The city's expenses were \$26,040.63 more in the month of March than in the month February due to some unexpected expenses.

- Purchase a new Base Station
- Remove and install a new Base Station at the West Tower.
- Purchase a new camera for the Police Dept.
- Annual premium for the City's Property Insurance
- Repair the women and men inmates' shower.

The reports also include the budget to actual, the year to date balance and each department remaining budget balance.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Vidrine announced that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was administered on April 09, to the community. On April 22, the first dose of Moderna vaccine was administered and the seconded vaccine will be administered on May 20, 2021.

2. New Item added to the agenda: Street Supervisor

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Sam to add the new item to the agenda. All in Favor motion passed.

Council Comments

Councilman Anderson complimented the Police Chief about the changes at the local store on Edward Knotoe St.

Councilwoman Lemoine commented on the Dog Pound.

Councilman Perron asked the Mayor to clarify the purchase of the Backhoe; Mayor Vidrine said the City will be purchasing another backhoe in conjunction with the one that was that was previously purchased. Mr. Perron also asked about the reopening of the Civic Center.

Mr. Riggs asked about the resolution for the refinancing of the Utility Revenue Bonds.

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

Agenda Items:

1. Sarah Dake-Senator John Kennedy's Office

Ms. Dake attended the meeting to introduce herself to the Mayor and Council as the new contact person for Senator's Kennedy's office.

2. Fire Chief Report

There were 10 calls made in the month of March to the Ville Platte Fire Department, which includes 7 for Fire District #2 and 3 for the Ville Platte Fire District.

3. Brian Ardoin-Sales Tax opposition

Mr. Ardoin appeared before the Mayor and Council to inform the public of the proposed tax on the ballot for April 24, 2021

4. VP police disposal of inmates' uniforms

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Anderson to allow Chief Lartigue to dispose of the old inmates' uniforms. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Vidrine discussed the new item added to the agenda to purchase new equipment.

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Anderson to allow Mayor Vidrine to start taking bids for the purchase of the new equipment. All in favor, motion carried.

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Riggs to approve the recommendation of transferring an employee from the gas department to the street department as the Street Supervisor, with that promotion he will receive a \$3.00 pay increase, beginning with the next pay period. All in favor, motion carried.

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

After some discussion it was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Sam to approve the demolition and cleaning of the property located at 608 N. Chataignier and the trailer on the corner of Laran and West Jefferson. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolutions

Mayor Vidrine was advised by the City Attorney, Eric Lafleur that this is the time for municipalities to refinance

bonds; the interest rates are very low. The City will be refinancing their current indebtedness and refinancing Phase IV Water Project. Phase IV consists of a complete change and repair of the water lines on Lasalle and Main St.

RESOLUTION

A resolution granting authority to seek preliminary approval relative to the issuance, sale and delivery of not exceeding sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000) Utility Revenue refunding bonds, in one or more series, City of Ville Platte, Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, all in the manner provided by law; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval; providing for the employment of Bond Counsel and Municipal Advisor; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the refinancing of the Utility Revenue Bonds and Phase IV Water Project. All in favor, motion carried.

Proclamations

Permits—

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 825 complaints for assistance in the month of March 2021---21 citations, 25 arrests of which 14 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 37 automobile accidents.

Mayor Vidrine informed the Council that a camera has been installed in the park and the owner of the property installed a fence and a no trespassing signs.

Councilman recognized the loss of two friend and employee.

City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau-

It was moved by Councilwoman and seconded by Councilman Perron to authorize Ronnie and Landreneau and Associates to start the field work and the research to resolve the issues in Shady Acres.

All in favor, motion carried

Councilman Riggs inquired about revisiting the drainage problem on Reed and Jefferson. Mr. Landreneau will get the cost and present it at the May meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Announced, she is waiting for the proper guidelines for the American Rescue Funds that the City will be receiving. The funds will be allocated in two phases, half of the money in 2021 and the other half in 2022.

Adjournment

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:48

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk

final copy 5.21.2021

