

City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting

126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for March 9, 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

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

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

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

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Riggs to approve the Monthly report for the month of February. All in favor motion carried. .

For the month of December the city's expenses were \$217,499.99 and for the month of January the expenses were 203,008.72. The city's expenses were 13,693.72 more in the month of January then in the month of December due to some unexpected expenses. ..

The expenses for the month of February were \$198,798.74, the expenses for the month of was January \$203,008.72 the City spent \$4,209.98 less in the month of February.

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

It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the monthly reports for the month of January and February. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Vidrine announced that the city sponsored its first massive COVID-19 vaccine with the Evangeline Parish Health Unit. Mayor Vidrine encouraged the residents to please continue to utilize the Health Unit. The Evangeline Parish Health Unit offers a majority of programs to the public.

Mayor Vidrine announced that Governor Edwards has expanded the age group for vaccine eligibility to ages 16-64.

Mayor Vidrine also announced the new Louisiana Rental Assistance Program is currently taking applications. This program is for the renters and landlords. Evangeline Parish allocated for over \$2.2 million through the Louisiana Housing Corporation. The website is lastaterent.com. You can also call 1-877.459.6555 for any questions.

Council Comments

Councilman Anderson complained about the littering in his District and asked the police dept. to monitor the street cameras, to catch the litterers and further complained about the abandoned cars.

Councilwoman Lemoine discussed the issues with the Dog Pound; she requested that the city look into purchasing a portable building and look into purchasing a new washer and dryer also. The Pound is in needs of two large kennels.

Councilman Riggs

Councilman Riggs is requesting the list of workers for his district. He would like to increase the Street Department workers hourly pay to \$11.00.

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

Mr. Sampson requested help with three abandoned houses on Edward Knotoe St.

Agenda Items:

1. Fire Chief Report

There were 23 calls made in the month of February to the Ville Platte Fire Department, which includes 13 for Fire District #2 and 10 for the Ville Platte Fire District.

The Fire Chief Chris Soileau said the department's staff members have a combined service of fire experience of over 125 years. He commended his staff for their dedication to the community.

2. Ville Platte Police Hiring -----no action taken
3. Creole House
Mayor and Council address the issue of loud music at the Creole House, which violates the City's noise ordinance.
4. Backhoe:
5. Mayor Vidrine said the backhoe that was approved at last month's meeting at a cost of \$99,136.74 will take 6 months to make. The Mayor presented another backhoe at a higher cost of \$103,169.67 which will be ready for delivery, immediately. The monthly payment would be \$1,888.00 instead of \$1,811.00 a month.
After some discussion it was moved by Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Anderson to allow Mayor Vidrine to sign the resolution to purchase the 2020 backhoe, model 420 XE, at a cost of \$103, 169.67. All in favor, motion carried

RESOLUTION #03092021-1

A RESOLUTION REGARDING A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING A BACKHOE LOADER

Whereas; Upon approval of the City attorney, the City of Ville Platte desires to enter into that certain Lease-Purchase Agreement by and between Government Capital Corporation and the City of Ville Platte, for the purpose of procuring a "backhoe loader". The City desires to designate this agreement as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" of the city for the purpose of Section 265 (b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The City of Ville Platte desires to designate Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor as a authorize signer of the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE:

Section 1. That the City enters into a Lease Purchase Agreement with Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of procuring a "backhoe loader"

Section 2. That the lease Purchase Agreement by and between the City and Government Capital Corporation is designated by the City as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" for the purposes of Section 265 (b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 3. That the City of Ville Platte designates Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor, as an authorized signer of the Lease Purchase Agreement by and between the City of Ville Platte and Government Capital Corporation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Ville Platte in a meeting held on the 9th day of March 2021.

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

Ms. Joyce thanked the Mayor for cleaning the property on Hickory St.

Proclamations

Permits—

Liquor permit-Joseph Alfred--The Whistle Stop-3rd West Lasalle St.

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Anderson to approve the permit for the Whistle Stop 3rd-West Lasalle St. All in favor motion carried

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 522 complaints for assistance in the month of February 2021---29 citations, 19 arrests of which 19 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 9 automobile accidents.

City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau- Todd Deville

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 Councilwoman Sam to adjourn.

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk