

**City of Ville Platte
Regular Monthly City Council Meeting**

**126 E. Main Street, Ville Platte, LA
Minutes for January 12, 2021 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 12, 2021 5:00 PM. The Meeting was conducted through Zoom due to the Coronavirus pandemic and in compliance to the Governor's stay at home orders, the City Council meeting will be held online.

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, Administrative Secretary Hilda Edward.

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. Councilwoman Faye Lemoine, Admin. Asst. Hilda Edwards, Fire Chief Neal Lartigue. Dirk Deville, Chief Administrative Officer.

- **Minutes-Regular Monthly Meeting December 8, 2020**

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Lemoine to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020 as presented. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

- **Monthly Report for December 2020 (Budget to Actual)**

Mayor Vidrine announced, the expenses for the month of November were \$155,682.04 expenses for the month of December were \$203,806.72; and the expenses for the month of December were \$48,124.68 more than the month of November 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**

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Vidrine announced that COVID Testing is being administered every Tuesday and Thursday at the Evangeline Medical Clinic. She is currently working on the planning stage for the vaccine when it will be available and ready to be administered.

Free tax service will be offered again this year on February 6th and 13th and 27th 2021 in city Hall. Please call to make an appointment.

Councilwoman Lemoine announced that the Evangeline Parish Library has chosen the Ville Platte Dog pound as their charitable contribution. Councilman Perron said the Evangeline Parish Police Jury is going to help by grading the badly damaged road to the Dog Pound.

Councilman Anderson complained about the old L&V Superette in his district, saying the owner does not comply with anything that he is asked to do.

Councilman Riggs inquired about the LACE Program. Councilman Riggs also inquired about the fence on Derouen St. Mayor Vidrine said she is still waiting on the bids for the fence, he also inquired about the drainage on Jefferson and Reed St. Councilman Riggs also suggested looking into the possibility of giving the city employees a pay increase in the new budget.

Council's Comments:

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

No public comments

Agenda Items:

1. **Fireman's Annual Mandatory 2% increase**

It was moved Councilwoman Lemoine and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the Fireman's Annual Mandatory 2% increase. All in in favor, motion carried.

2. **City's Longevity pay**

It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to approve the Longevity Pay for the 43 qualified employees at a cost of \$13,416.00. **All in favor, motion carried.**

3. **Fire Chief Report**

There were 18 calls made in the month of December to the Ville Platte Fire Department, which includes 10 for Fire District #2 and 8 for the Ville Platte Fire District.

Fire Chief Chris Soileau announced that Daniel Andrus has successfully completed the Firefighter 1 Training as required to become a Firefighter with the Ville Platte Fire Dept. He was sworn in by Fire Chief Chris Soileau and was pinned by his mother.

4. City Marshal Department hiring-no action taken

5. Ville Platte Fire Department hiring

Mr. Dennis Scott was interviewed and vetted by the Ville Platte Fire Dept. and at the recommendation of the Fire Chief; it was moved by Councilman Perron and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the hiring of Mr. Dennis Scott as a Fire Fighter 1 with the Ville Platte Fire Dept.

All in favor, motion carried.

Item number:1 added to the Agenda: Father Mitch Guidry- Pro-Life March

Father Mitch appeared before the Council to discuss the Pro-Life March. The city and the Organization have reached an agreement, the march will be held on January 24th on the Sacred Heart Church grounds.

Item Number 2 added to the agenda: Purchase of a Backhoe:

Mayor Vidrine announced that the bids for the purchase of a backhoe have been received and the purchase price is \$99,136.74 (state contract price) with a lease purchased of 60 months at \$1,824.68 per month. This is LA-CAT brand with plenty of features. After some discussion, it was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilman Joseph to allow the purchase of a backhoe as recommended by the Mayor. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously**

Item Number 3 & 4 added to the agenda: Street Repairs and Street Zones

Mayor Vidrine provided a list of the streets that will be repair, overlay, rebuilt or patch within each district. The funds for the construction of the streets will be provided by a grant and some city funds. This is list of approximately 18 to 20 streets. The City will be divided into zones. City crews will be assigned to a zone, making it their responsibility for the maintenance all of the streets in that zone.

- St. Maria –Rebuilt District D & A
- McArthur –Rebuilt-District A
- Hickory St. -Rebuilt(from park to Chataignier_ District D
- Edward Knott Thomas-Rebuilt-District D & E
- Demourelle St. Rebuilt-District. D
- Dr. Carver-Rebuilt-District A, D & E
- MLK -Rebuilt -District D & E
- North East railroad- Patch and overlay-District B
- South East Railroad Patch and overlay District B & F
- Jack Miller- rebuilt- District C
- Demoncherveaux- Rebuilt—C & F
- Hickory—Rebuilt- District D—from Chataignier St. to Jack Miller Road
- Hickory-Patch and overlay from Jack Miller to Lithcote Road
- Fusilier St.—Patch and overlay—District C
- Reed St. -Patch and overlay-District F
- East Washington-Patch and overlay District B
- West Desota-Patch and Overlay—Dist. B
- Magnolia St. –Patch and Overlay- Dist. A & F

6. Ville Platte Police Department hiring

Zackery Keller- full time police officer

Joshua Estes----full Time police officer

Ashley Smith--- part-time jailer

Councilman Riggs suggested that once an officer leaves the department more than one time, they should not be rehired. It was moved by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Perron to hire the two police officers and the part-time jailer as recommended by Police Chief Neal Lartigue, providing they meet all of the city requirements. All in favor, Motion carried.

7. Phillip Faulkenberry-Liquor Permit-submitting documents in support

Mr. Faulkenberry did not attend the Council meeting.

Abandoned Property/Blighted/Overgrown Properties

Mr. Bob McDaniel appeared before the Council to discuss the property located at 827 West Hickory and 829 West Hickory St. and 733 S. Dupre St., Ville Platte. Mr. McDaniel confirmed that he doesn't own the property at that location and the property was sold to Mr. Russell. The property is scheduled for demolition by the city for none compliance of the city's ordinance.

RESOLUTION—Local Government Assistance Program

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Ville Platte, parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, acting as governing body of said City do hereby enact the following resolution on this day the 12th of January 2021

WHEREAS: The city of Ville Platte is applying for funding through the Local Government Assistance Program, a grant program that has been made available by the Louisiana office of Community Development; and,

WHEREAS: The City proposes to use the grant to remake the welcome entrance to Ville Platte.

WHEREAS: The City of Ville Platte has no funds available at this time to cover the cost for this project, this application would provide \$50, 000 for this project; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the City of Ville Platte by way of this resolution does hereby approve to submit an application to the Office of Community Development for grant funding for these demolition improvements to the city. It was moved by Councilman Sam and seconded by Councilwoman Lemoine to approve the LGAP grant.

Water Enrichment Fund 2020-2021 Grant RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Ville Platte, parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, acting as governing body of said City do hereby enact the following resolution on this day the 12th of January 2021

WHEREAS: The city of Ville Platte is applying for funding through the Community Water Enrichment Fund 2021-2022 a grant program that has been made available by the Louisiana office of Community Development; and,

WHEREAS: The City proposes to use the grant to clean three elevated tanks and ground storage.

WHEREAS: The City of Ville Platte has no funds available at this time to cover the cost for this project, this application would provide \$50, 000 for this project; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the City of Ville Platte by way of this resolution does hereby approve to submit an application to the Office of Community Development for grant funding in the amount of 50,000 for these improvements and repairs. It was moved by Councilman Riggs and seconded by Councilman Perron to approve the Community Water Enrichment Fund 2021-22 grant. All in favor, motion carried.

Ordinance:

1. Introduction
- Ordinance Imposing tax for the Ville Platte Fire and Police propositions

**CITY OF VILLE PLATTE PARISH OF EVANGELINE,
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PROPOSITION 1**

The following was introduced by councilman Lionel Anderson on **January 12, 2021** and after a public hearing held on **February 9, 2021 at 4:45 PM.**

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY WITHIN THE CITY OF VILLE PLATTE, PARISH OF EVANGELINE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, EFFECTIVE 2024, OF ONE (1) AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX (THE “TAX”), MORE SPECIFICALLY A 10 YEAR/4.0 MILL PROPERTY TAX RENEWAL, IN SAID CITY, LEVYING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION, PAYMENT AND DEDICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX MAY BE EXPENDED, SUCH TAX HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED AT A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN THE CITY ON JULY 11, 2020.

A Public Hearing will be held on February 9, 2021 at 4:45 PM for the approval of the ordinance Imposing tax for the Ville Platte and Police propositions.

Permits--

Reports

Chief of Police's Report-Neal Lartigue

There were a total of 615 complaints for assistance in the month of December-2020. 24 citations, 54 arrests of which 20 were felony arrest. Officers responded to 25 automobile accidents.

Total calls for the year 2020-3,745, total arrests—1,788, felony arrests-172, citations issued 250 and vehicle accidents—329

City Engineer's Report-Ronnie Landreneau-

Councilman Riggs asked about the drainage issues on Reed and Jefferson. He asked City Engineer Ronnie Landreneau to get three bids to start a drainage project going.

Mr. Mr. Landreneau will prepare a detail report of recommendations of the gas meters, on the loss and the cost saving at a later date.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Vidrine is currently interviewing for the position for Payroll Clerk and Bookkeeping. 75 applications were received for the payroll clerk position and 22 applications were received for the bookkeeping position.

DOTD will be doing some signage on East Hickory St. at no cost to the city. Ten city employees will be attending a Drainage Training in March. This will be sponsored by DOTD. Mayor Vidrine introduced Mr. Dirk Deville as the new Chief Administrative Officer for the City.

Adjournment

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

All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45

Approved By:

Jennifer Vidrine, Mayor

Attest By:

Shountilez L. Williams, City Clerk

Approved 02/09/2021