

CITY OF OPELOUSAS
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2011

The Council of the City of Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 10th of May 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

With Mayor Donald R. Cravins, Sr. presiding, the meeting was called to order.

The Mayor requested the City Clerk to call the roll and the following Council members were PRESENT: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin. ABSENT: None.

A moment of silent meditation was observed and Alderman Joseph Charles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Alderman Louis Butler, Jr., seconded by Aldermen Julius Alsandor and Joseph Charles and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 04/12/2011.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Mr. Darryl Wagley for Employee of the Month. Mr. Wagley was not in attendance; therefore this item was handled by Ms. Laura Balthazar. The Employee of the Month chosen for April 2011 is Mr. Dan Hardy who has been employed with the Executive Department for 5 years. Mr. Hardy has been married to Ms. Linda Gail Hardy for 15 years.

Presentation of Historic District Award by Historic District Commission. Dr. Rosemary St. Clergy presented the Historic District Award to Teche Bank. Teche Bank purchased the old Jarrell home from the Jarrell family and donated it to Le Vieux Village which is part of the Historic District. The house will be restored and will be one of the buildings at Le Vieux Village. The house was built in 1898 and is an example of the Queen Anne style. It was also the home of the present bishop in Lafayette, Bishop Jarrell.

Presentation regarding mobile concession stand for South City Park. City Clerk Karen Frank stated that this item was been discussed at last month's meeting and had been taken under advisement to make a decision at this month's meeting. Alderman Joseph Charles was in favor of having the mobile concession stand since there is not one in that area. On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was resolved to grant permission to have a mobile concession stand at South City Park. Ms. Frank asked if there was going to be a charge for the stand. Alderman Charles asked Mr. Ken Vidrine, Parks Superintendent, if he wanted to charge them for having the stand at the South Park. Mr. Vidrine stated that it would be nice for the City to get a commission on this. Ms. Frank inquired as to whether they should have a peddler's license or an occupational license. Attorney Doran wanted to know if this was something they had looked at as to whether their business would fit under the definition in terms of a peddler's license being required. Mr. Vidrine wanted to know if they would need electricity and water services. Attorney Doran requested further information regarding whether the fees for utilities would be in lieu of an actual charge or in addition to an actual charge. Mr. Vidrine stated that the electricity and water charges should be in addition to whatever else the Council decides to charge. He stated that the people who used to rent the concession stand in South Park paid rent for the building and paid for utilities. Ms. Frank stated that the rent was about \$225.00 a month. Attorney Doran stated that since the mobile concession stand was not actually using the building, then the charge could be less than if someone were actually using the City's building. Ms. Frank also inquired as to the length of time the concession stand would be set up for. Mr. Vidrine stated that it was up to the concession stand owner. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin stated that they have to be fair on both ends and that they should wait to see what the bids were going to be for the North Park Concession Stand. Attorney Doran asked when the mobile concession stand would start. Mr. Oliver Thierry, owner of the mobile concession stand, stated that whatever the Council decided and as soon as they give him the okay, he could order his supplies to open up. Alderwoman Martin stated that after the City Clerk reads bids for the North Park, then they should be able to make their decision. Attorney Doran wanted to know if this was going to be an exclusive franchise to Mr. Thierry and if so, that was going to raise a bid issue. Mr. Thierry stated he was supposed to bid if they had the concession stand at the South Park but he was told that the building was not in operable condition. Mayor Cravins deferred this matter until the opening of bids for the Lease of North Park Concession Stand. The motion made by Alderman Charles was withdrawn.

Discussion of Mr. Ron Turner's employment status. Attorney Doran stated that back in January there was a vote by the Council to acknowledge and accept several recommendations by the Mayor with respect to certain positions. One of those was the Mayor's attempt to remove Mr. Ron Turner from the position of Public Works Director and replace him with an interim director, Mr. Kim Fontenot. Once that vote was taken (a 6-0 vote) and Mr. Turner received notice that he was not expected by this administration to be the Public Works Director any more, he initiated legal action. There was hearing on April 14th before the Municipal Civil Service Commission which based on the assumption that Mr. Turner was classified as a Civil Service employee, made its decision to reverse the action of the Appointing Authority. The following week there was a hearing before Judge Alonzo Harris where Mr. Doran on behalf of the administration made the argument that the department heads including Mr. Turner could not by virtue of certain provisions of the Constitution enjoy Civil Service protection. There was testimony by three of the Council members that it was not their specific intent to remove Mr. Turner from that position when they voted to accept the Mayor's recommendations for certain positions. The judge did grant the City's exception that Mr. Turner could not be protected under Civil Service rules as in the Frances Carron case. Judge Harris found that there was no need to litigate this issue again because it had already been resolved on that particular point. The City is still awaiting a final ruling from the judge on just how that 6-0 vote should be interpreted—whether it should be interpreted as an understanding and ratification of the Mayor's intent to recommend a replacement for Mr. Turner among other things. Attorney Doran recommended that today the Council vote one way or the other

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specific to the issue of whether they ratify the Mayor's attempt to replace Mr. Turner as Public Works Director. He then stated that he could move to supplement the record with that information and the judge can have that information handy when he decides what he is going to do on that point. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin spoke briefly on this matter stating that there was a meeting with herself, Mr. Turner, his attorney, Mr. Pefferkorn, and the Mayor. In that meeting, she and Mr. Pefferkorn wanted to give Mr. Turner another chance and they discussed giving him an amount he was asking for and a position at the Sewer Plant. Alderwoman Martin stated that instead of proving himself, Mr. Turner chose to walk around mocking the City with his stick and his vest and she felt that this was a slap in her face after she and Mr. Pefferkorn fought hard to give Mr. Turner a second chance. Alderwoman Martin stated that she feels Mr. Turner did not prove himself and she is for the appointment that she voted for and she stands firm on it because she is for the people of Opelousas. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to ratify that vote that took place on January 11, 2011, in regards to the replacement of the Public Works Director. Attorney Doran stated that the motion should be clear of what the Council intent is. Alderman Tatum stated that before any motion is made that everyone should be given a chance to talk. The motion was withdrawn for further discussion. Attorney Phil Roberts stated that he would rather discuss a motion because he doesn't know what to say if there is no motion. Mayor Cravins commented that he thinks Mr. Turner's attorney knows what the motion and what the intended action of Council is going to be. Attorney Roberts responded to Ms. Martin's comments regarding her belief that Mr. Turner was given a second chance. He stated that he was at that meeting as well and the decision was that Mr. Pefferkorn and the Mayor were going to get together and within 30 days of that meeting provide Mr. Turner not with a job at the Sewer Plant but a revised or amended job description and that was several years ago. Attorney Roberts stated that as of January when the Mayor told Mr. Turner he was fired, he was never given an amended job description and that's why he was walking around the streets. He stated that Mr. Turner sued to get a job description and he was not doing anything because he was told by the Mayor to stop doing the Public Works Director's job and then he was told he was going to get another job description which he never received. Mayor Cravins inquired if Attorney Roberts had asked Mr. Turner about something called "Cross Connection" and that maybe Mr. Turner would like to address that particular job function in the plan that he was supposed to help develop. Attorney Roberts again asked the Mayor if he had a job description for Mr. Turner. Mayor Cravins responded that he did not. Attorney Doran asked if in the two years since that discussion was had that Mr. Turner has not been able to do anything because nobody from the administration gave him a job description. Attorney Roberts responded that this told Mr. Turner to stop doing what he was doing. He then addressed Alderwoman Martin and asked her if she wouldn't like to see a job description for Mr. Turner after she was supposed to get together with the Mayor and Mr. Pefferkorn. Attorney Doran commented that he talked with several of the Council members individually and if you have a Public Works Director—the head of an Executive Department—who is satisfied to not do anything for two years under the supposition that he was waiting for an additional job description from the Mayor's office, then that person might have a problem when it comes time to replacement time—when it comes time to reconsider whether they are going to have their term extended. Attorney Roberts stated that he sent a letter to Attorney Doran—with a copy to every member of the Board of Aldermen—requesting that they honor the agreement with Mr. Turner or he would have no choice but to file a lawsuit. He stated that he got no response so they filed a lawsuit. Mayor Cravins pointed out that Attorney Roberts and his client had their day in court and lost. Attorney Roberts pointed out that they were told that Mr. Turner was still the Public Works Director. Attorney Doran stated that the judgment didn't say anything about ordering the City of Opelousas to provide Mr. Turner with a job description because the issue had been resolved by a judge. Attorney Doran further stated that Attorney Roberts had provided him with the Public Works Director's job description on several occasions so Mr. Turner can't say that he didn't do anything because he didn't know what a Public Works Director was supposed to do. At this time, Mayor Cravins invited Mr. Turner to give the results of what the City incurred as a result of his work on the Cross Connection issue. Mr. Turner addressed Alderwoman Martin regarding his being sent to the Sewer Plant by the Mayor in September 2007. He stated that following year he received a letter stating that he was to have nothing to do with the Water Department or the Street Department—just the Sewer Plant and in February 2008, he was called into a meeting with Elaine Hudspeth and Margaret Doucet where he was told to report to the Hargroder Building and report to Margaret Doucet. Mr. Turner stated that there was no work she assigned him that he didn't do. He stated that he even tried to do some extra work and was told to stop because he was not authorized to do that. He further stated that he went walking around town looking for water leaks and sewer problems and the records at the Water Plant will show that he did have some activity. Alderman Tatum stated that he did receive emails from Mr. Turner regarding the various projects he was working on and that the City should be concerned with having someone who is qualified and knowledgeable of the job. Mr. Turner stated that he corrected several problems with the Water and Sewer Plants and Lift Stations. Mr. Turner stated that he submitted the information for the Cross Connection Ordinance in September 2009 but it was not implemented by the Council and in April 2010 the City received a letter from the DHH with a fine of \$28,000. He stated that the Board then passed an amendment to an ordinance that wasn't in existence. He was told by Margaret Doucet that he was to submit his draft of the ordinance but this was rejected by the DHH. Mr. Turner summarized that he was terminated in January 2011 before the ordinance could be implemented. Alderman Tatum stated that it was noted in the January meeting that the Street Department was deplorable and he asked Mr. Turner if he had anything to do with the Street Department. Mr. Turner replied that he had not had anything to do with the Street Department for 3 ½ years. He stated that the only thing he had to do was report to Margaret Doucet and do whatever she assigned him to do. He stated that he made sure he did everything she instructed him to do and he can prove that with documents. Mayor Cravins asked Mr. Turner if he was paid a salary during that time. Mr. Turner replied that he was. Attorney Roberts commented that the City had the Public Works Director reporting to and getting direction from the person who is supposed to be in charge of a whole different department so it was no wonder that the City might have had complaints or problems with Public Works when the Public Works Director was subordinated to the person in a whole different department and not allowed to take any initiative on his own. Attorney Roberts stated that the Council never voted to do that and that it was only one person who made the decision to take away the Public Works Director and make him a subordinate to someone else in a different department. Mr. Turner stated that he was discriminated against

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because the Mayor had pointed out that other departments were having performance problems but he was the only person terminated after he took the City to court to find out what his performance problems were. He stated that he has a letter from Ms. Frank that says she can't find anything in his personnel file or the Mayor file on poor performance on his part. He stated that he has been discriminated against and he would appreciate being reinstated. Alderman Tatum commented that he was at a Civil Service board meeting and they voted as a board to reinstate Mr. Turner. Mayor Cravins stated that they have no jurisdiction. Mayor Cravins further stated that this is not personal and he feels that every administration ought to be allowed to pick the captains of the team. He commented that he thinks Mr. Turner has a lot of capabilities but he doesn't think that they can work together based on his observations when he came in office. Attorney Roberts stated that they do have a favorable ruling from the Civil Service Board. As of yet, the City has not appealed it so unless that is done in the next few days, that is going to be a final judgment. Attorney Doran stated that the City has sent Civil Service a letter asking that it reconsider its decision, but the City also notified them of their intent to appeal if they did not reconsider. Attorney Doran has also filed a petition for judicial review on that point. Mr. Turner and Alderman Tatum requested that the Mayor enlighten them on what Mr. Turner's poor job performance was. Alderman Tatum stated that this was going to help him make his decision or his vote. Mayor Cravins stated that he was displeased with Mr. Turner's work from the time that he took office in 2007. Mayor Cravins cited one issue at the City barn where the roof had not been replaced on one of the buildings and he also said that it was a lack of communication. He stated that he saw a department in chaos. Mayor Cravins commented that he was led to believe that his administration couldn't select the team because of Civil Service and if he would have had that choice that day, he would have made a different choice a month after he came in because he felt he could find somebody for the team that would be a better fit for what they were trying to do in the City. As to Mr. Turner's abilities, certifications, and character, Mayor Cravins stated that they were unquestionable but he didn't feel that Mr. Turner was the person that he wanted in that particular position. Mayor Cravins stated that they have battled this issue in court and in the Council meetings and it's time to move forward. Alderman Butler pointed out to Mr. Turner that he had made it possible for Mr. Turner to meet with the Mayor because of statements that people were making about his job performance. Mr. Turner stated that he did not recall this meeting. Alderman Butler stated that he specifically recalls it and that Mr. Turner had a chance to have his say in front of the Mayor and when the Mayor addressed the issues, all Mr. Turner did was hunch his shoulders. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to confirm the Mayor's recommendation to terminate Mr. Ron Turner's employment with the City and confirm Mr. Kim Fontenot as his replacement in the position of Interim Public Works Director, effective 01/11/2011. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Joseph Charles, Blair Briggs, and Reginald Tatum.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Donald Cravins broke the tie with a YEA vote. The motion was passed.

After the vote Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that he thinks Mr. Turner has a lot of capabilities and all of the certifications and he thinks that the City needs someone with those certifications as a Public Works Director because he thinks that the City is treading in dangerous ground if they don't have someone with those certifications and that knowledge.

Discussion regarding the CLECO contract. Mayor Cravins stated that this item can be removed from the discussion. He stated that there is language in the contract that needs to be changed and that they will need to have a special meeting within the next couple of weeks to address that issue. No action needed at this time.

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU Zone located at 1203 S. Union Street to open an insurance office (Lance Ned). On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU Zone located at 1203 S. Union Street to open an insurance office (Lance Ned).

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU Zone located at 1102 S. Union Street, Suite #5 to open a finance office (Kenneth FaKouri/Sunbelt Credit). On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU Zone located at 1102 S. Union Street, Suite #5 to open a finance office (Kenneth FaKouri/Sunbelt Credit).

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU Zone located at 232 E. Leonard Street to open a flower shop (Alicia Bowman). On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in NMU Zone located at 232 E. Leonard Street to open a flower shop (Alicia Bowman).

Discuss request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in R1 Zone located at Lot 4 on W. South Street to build a Chapel (Opelousas Lighthouse Mission). On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the request for CONDITIONAL USE of property in R1 Zone located at Lot 4 on W. South Street to build a Chapel (Opelousas Lighthouse Mission).

At this time, Ms. Margaret Doucet discussed the matter concerning the building located at 727 Perry Lane that was recommended for condemnation. She stated that at last month's meeting the Council had requested that a member of that family be present today to give an update on the status of this property. Mr. Vincent Thomas was in attendance on behalf of the family. Mr. Thomas stated that he has been waiting on funds to finish the repairs and he will be living at the residence. He stated that he will receive his first check in June and will start getting materials to do the house. Alderman Julius Alsandor asked Ms. Doucet if any improvements had been made since the last time they met. Ms. Doucet stated

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that no improvements had been made. Alderman Alsandor informed Mr. Thomas that they would be back out to check next month to see if any improvements had been made.

Presentation by Attorney Pride Doran. Attorney Doran spoke regarding the lawsuit filed in 2009 by Mr. Richard Hollier naming Mr. Wilbert Levier, Mr. Michael Landry, and the Municipal Civil Service Board as defendants essentially taking the position that a statute (R.S. 33:2587) that had been passed was unconstitutional. That statute reads, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the City of Opelousas Municipal Civil Service Board shall have two members who shall be selected by the classified employees of the City of Opelousas. These two members shall be in addition to the membership of such board on June 25, 2001." The City intervened as an interested party in that litigation and, at the lower court level, lost. The trial judge basically ruled that he agreed that the statute that had been passed by the legislature was unconstitutional and he rendered reasons for judgment on January 3rd of this year. Attorney Doran summarized the reasons as follows: the Constitution of 1974 required that there be five members of all city Civil Service commissions and that those five members be selected in a manner that is laid out in Article 10 Section 4C of the 1974 Constitution which says, "In each other city subject to this Section, the presidents of any five institutions of higher education in the state, selected by the governing authority of the respective city, each shall nominate three persons, after giving consideration to representation of all groups. The municipal governing authority shall appoint one member of the commission from the three persons nominated by each." With the exception of Mr. Levier and Mr. Landry, that of the three other members of the Board, two of them were chosen in the previously described method. The third, Mr. Lewis, was just appointed by the Governing Authority. In an effort to smooth relations between the Civil Service Commission and the City and also to do away with the cost and the uncertainty that go along with this appeal (which was taken directly to the Louisiana Supreme Court by the City), Attorney Doran suggested that the City withdraw the appeal and fall back on Judge Daigle's decision. A motion was made by Alderman Blair Briggs to dismiss the appeal. Alderman Reginald Tatum wanted to know what would happen once the appeal is withdrawn. Attorney Doran stated that if it is withdrawn, then Judge Daigle's decision stands and which means that essentially there has to be five members and those five have to be chosen from nominations submitted by universities. Mr. Wilbert Levier wanted to know about the employees' decision to select two persons to be on that Board. Attorney Doran stated that Judge Daigle disagreed and thus the way it had been done was unconstitutional. Attorney Doran stated that the Attorney General did not participate in this decision but the State Civil Service Commission did. Mr. Levier wanted clarification on the fact that with that decision, the employees of the City do not have a choice to select anyone unless they submit their names to the universities. Alderman Tatum stated that he thinks Mr. Levier wanted to know if an employee's name could be submitted to the higher education institution. Attorney Doran stated that he did not know because he had not looked at that issue. Mr. Levier wanted to know if the Civil Service Commission could still function until a decision is made. Attorney Doran stated that Judge Daigle has already made a decision and by withdrawing the appeal, the City would no longer be questioning the decision and Judge Daigle's ruling would be the law. Mr. Levier wanted to know if he and Mr. Landry were still active on the Commission. Attorney Doran stated that if the vote is in favor of the motion, then the answer would be no. Dr. St. Clergy wanted to know how this would affect the decision made by the Civil Service Board regarding Mr. Turner. Attorney Doran stated that his position is that not only were they without jurisdiction but the decision would have been made by an improperly-constituted commission. He stated that he had suggested that the Commission wait until the Supreme Court rendered a ruling on the Hollier case; but the decision of the trial judge was that it needed to be five members chosen through the method that was described. Even though the position of the Commission was that they had three members there and they constitute a quorum, it was Attorney Doran's position that they did not. Mr. Levier wanted to know who would submit the names. Mayor Cravins stated that it would be the Council members and almost anybody in the terms of nominees. Attorney Doran stated that the Governing Authority says to the Universities that they need some names and then the Universities submit three names that the Governing Authority picks from. Alderman Tatum asked if Mr. Levier could submit his own name. Attorney Doran stated that according to the language of the ordinance, it would seem so. On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to withdraw the appeal that was submitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court in regards to the Municipal Civil Service Board Commission. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: Reginald Tatum

ABSTAINED: Joseph Charles.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was passed.

Engineer's Monthly Status Report. Mr. William Jarrell stated that the engineers are waiting on the geotechnical soil report to start the foundation design on the pavilion at North Park. It should be about 2 or 3 weeks before they receive this information. Next, the engineers are working on a layout for the turn lane on Oakleaf Boulevard for Tony Chachere's, Sterling Motors, and Dixie Storage. Mr. Jarrell informed Alderman Tatum that he has prepared the cost estimate for Moresi Street and he recommended that Alderman Tatum and he get together regarding Franklin Street. Alderman Alsandor asked if the discussion of the pavilion was in accordance with the Master Plan. Mr. Jarrell stated that the engineers would do the foundation and the building and the City would do the site improvements, sidewalks, etc., as funds become available.

BIDS

Accept bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #07-11).

Pursuant to an advertisement in the Daily World for bids for Lease of North Park Concession Stand (Bid #07-11), one (1) bid was received:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BID</u>
Rodney Lazard	\$200.00 per month for 1 year lease

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On a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, seconded by Aldermen Louis Butler, Jr., and Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the bid from Mr. Rodney Lazard for the North Park Concession Stand for a one (1) year lease at \$200.00 per month.

At this time, the matter involving the mobile concession stand was revisited. Attorney Doran asked if this was going to be an exclusive contract. Mr. Ken Vidrine suggested that they have an exclusive contract with the exception of Donald Gardiner Stadium. Attorney Doran stated that if it is to be an exclusive contract, then it would have to be bid on. Mayor Cravins suggested that Attorney Doran, Mr. Vidrine, and Mr. Thierry get together to work out the details and then ratify the details at next month's meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution to Adopt the Millage Rate.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:
RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE FOR 2011

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied for the 2011 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the City of Opelousas:

GENERAL ALIMONY

MILLAGE
7.03 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2011, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

A Resolution Adopting the City-Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan.

On a motion by Alderman Joseph Charles and seconded by Alderman Reginald Tatum, the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2011
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
CITY-WIDE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas has received grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, for the update of a hazard mitigation plan and;

WHEREAS our community has participated in the process to update a DMA compliant Hazard Mitigation Plan based on the FEMA guidance available in the How to Guides;

WHEREAS our community wishes to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update prepared by the City of Opelousas government under the oversight of a Steering Committee comprised of City- wide representatives;

WHEREAS, City of Opelousas and local representatives have participated in the mitigation planning process;

WHEREAS appropriate opportunity for input by public and community officials has been provided through press releases, open meetings and availability of draft documents;

WHEREAS the updated Plan has been recommended for adoption by the Steering Committee;

WHEREAS adoption of the updated Plan is required prior to further consideration for FEMA funding under the following programs:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

Therefore, the City of Opelousas hereby adopts the City of Opelousas Hazard Mitigation Plan Update on 10th day of May, 2011.

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

A Resolution of Support for the J.S. Clark Leadership Academy (Charter School).

Alderman Reginald Tatum stated that the School Board denied the Charter School and he feels that if the resolution is adopted it make it look like the City is going against the School Board. City Clerk Karen Frank stated that the resolution was requested prior to the School Board's denial and could be removed from the agenda. Mayor Cravins stated that he

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disagrees and that this matter will go before the BESE Board and that Board is going to make a decision. He stated that no one is against the School Board.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Aldermen Blair Briggs and Louis Butler, Jr., the following Resolution was offered for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2011

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE J.S. CLARK LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the J. S. Clark Leadership Academy Charter School is an Outreach Community Development Corporation that offers a new way of learning that can be applied to every area of life; and

WHEREAS, the school's mission is to provide a unique, rigorous, inclusive academic program open to all and at no cost that will educate at-risk students within the City of Opelousas; and

WHEREAS, the teachers are experts in their perspective fields and the school is monitored by a Board of Directors and is subject to frequent monitoring by the local School Board or the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, the J. S. Clark Leadership Academy Charter School is relevant to the City in striving to lower the Louisiana High School dropout cost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Opelousas do hereby express their support for the J. S. Clark Leadership Academy Charter School.

The above resolution, having been submitted to a vote, was adopted on this 10th day of May 2011 as follows:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

CONSENTS

The request to advertise for bids for Feeding of Prisoners was withdrawn because the City of Opelousas has entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Parish to provide meals for the prisoners.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the recommendation for suspension of Police Sergeant Kenneth Edwards for thirty-two (32) hours without pay for violation of the Opelousas Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual: General Order 14 Conduct - 14.3.9 - Unauthorized Use of Time: *Inattentiveness/excessive breaks while on duty shall not be tolerated.*

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Joseph LaDay to the Opelousas Municipal Fire & Police Civil Service Board. Term of office expires 04/25/2014.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs and seconded by Alderman Julius Alsandor, it was resolved to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Walter J. Amling to the Opelousas-Eunice Public Library Board of Commissioners. Term of office expires 05/15/2016.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

YEAS: Joseph Charles, Julius Alsandor, Louis Butler, Jr., Blair Briggs, Reginald Tatum, and Jacqueline Martin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, on a motion by Alderman Reginald Tatum, unanimously seconded and carried, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK


MAYOR