

CITY COUNCIL

**July 12, 2021
DeQuincy, LA**

The city council of the city of DeQuincy met in regular session on the above date in the city hall council chambers located at 300 Holly Street, DeQuincy, Louisiana, with the following members present: Judy Landry, Mark Peloquin, and Ronda Jacobs. Absent: Daisy Cole and Denise Maddox

Council Vice-Chairman Mark Peloquin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Smith gave the invocation and Casey Whitehead led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to approve the June 14, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion was made by Ronda Jacobs and seconded by Judy Landry to approve the June 21, 2021 special meeting minutes. Without objection, the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Valecia Royer read the financial report. As of June 30, 2021, the overall total revenue, actual year to date is \$4,462,412.28 with the FYE 9/30/2021 budget being \$4,471,100.00 and a remaining budget of \$8,687.72. The total expenses, as of June 30, 2021, actual year to date totals are \$4,236,625.24, with the FYE 9/30/2021 budget total expenses being \$5,604,970.00, and the remaining budget of \$1,368,344.76.

FIRE REPORT

Chief Johnny Copeland read the fire report. There were eight (8) calls for June 2021.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Casey Whitehead gave the police report for June 2021. There were 80 violations, 13 arrests, 273 complaints filed, and 38 warnings given. The fines and bonds collected for the month of June totaled approximately \$11,431.86. There were 56 calls for service in District 1, 38 in District 2, 45 in District 3 and 69 in District 4. The PD Officers patrolled approx. 3739 miles during the month of June 2021.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mr. Carroll gave the council a brief run down on all of the violations issued in June 2021. He issued 20 violations and of those 20, 5 have been brought into compliance and 4 have been turned over to the city to contract out and bill the property owner.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Eddy Dahlquist, our Public Works Director, was absent. Hank Frazier included the Public Works report in his report.

SEWER PLANT REPORT

Hank Frazier gave the public works and sewer reports. He mentioned the street crew had been filling pot holes, cleaning ditches and mowing grass around town as the weather permitted. The gas crew killed one gas service, installed one new gas service and repaired two gas leaks. Mr. Frazier reported a lightning strike damaged the Edgewood Lift Station. It struck a transformer on the pole and destroyed the voltage monitor system in the plant. This has been repaired and everything is back on line. The west side lift station also had damage to a circuit board and pump. The board has been replaced but the motor had to be sent off for the motor to be rewound. He also mentioned they had cleaned the sewer mains from Pine Street east to Velmer Street, underneath the railroad track and over to Front Street.

CITY REPORT GIVEN BY MAYOR SMITH

- The city will be receiving approximately \$1.1 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan and we are in the process of setting everything up now so we can receive the funds. The payment will be made in two disbursements, one year apart and we will seek council approval prior to spending any of the funds.

- The CrowderGulf contract will end on September 27, 2021 unless we formally cancel the contract by notifying them by mail prior to the 27th. If they do not receive anything from us, the contract will automatically renew for another year.
- The \$90,000, donated to us by the CPPJ, has been received and, as agreed in the Cooperate Endeavor Agreement, will be put toward payment of the CrowderGulf invoices.

A motion was made Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs approve the July 12, 2021 agenda. Without objection, the motion carried.

Public Input

Items Not on the Agenda:

- Dennis McNamara, 507 3rd Street, informed the council he needed help with a school bus that has been parked in front of his house for over three weeks. He feels the bus is a public nuisance and wants it moved. Mr. Peloquin said the School Board has been contacted and they said the bus was on School Board property. Unfortunately, because it is on school property, the city can't do anything about it but will continue to followup with the School Board to try to have it moved.
- Arnold Blagrove, 212 Gordon Street, informed the council there was a drainage problem on Gordon Street to the railroad track. The cement ditch is stopped up and needs to be cleaned out.
- James Ducote, 301 LeBlanc Street advised the council in depth of the drainage problems he is having on the corner of Page Street and LeBlanc Street. Since the Hurricane, when the manhole overflows it causes the sewer to overflow into his bathrooms and also causes a nauseous odor. He explained several other issues with drainage in his area that need to be addressed. Further, Mr. Ducote asked that the overgrown property at 307 and 305 LeBlanc Street be addressed. Lastly, there was a wreck at the corner of LeBlanc Street and Page Street that knocked down a light pole and that pole needs to be replaced.
- David Brawner asked if the city was picking up limbs again. If so he would appreciate a pass through Amber Circle.
- Joshua Thrash, 210 E. LeBlanc Street spoke to the council about the pump station beside his property on the Page Street side. Years ago the property around it was sinking so dirt was hauled in to build it up. It looks like the ground around the pump station is sinking again which is causing his property to hold water. He asked if something could be done to build the property back up again.

Items on the Agenda:

- Arnold Blagrove, 212 Gordon Street, speaking as Chairman of the Zoning Board, advised the council that the Board has decided they were going to follow the city ordinance with reference to the age of mobile homes being put on city property. The ordinance says no older than 10 years so no variance would be granted by the Board if the mobile home was over 10 years old. He asked that the council would consider changing their ordinance so these variances for mobile homes could go directly to the council rather than going before the Zoning Board.
- Josh Brown, 510 E. Harrison Street, spoke on behalf of the Bushnell family regarding the mobile home variance for 128 Yoakum Street. Mr. Brown asked that the council consider allowing the mobile home to be placed on the property to keep the Bushnell family from being homeless.
- Paul and Dale Lagrosse, 222 Yoakum Street, also asked the council to consider granting the variance to the Bushnell family.

A motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to approve going out for quotes on tearing down the structure located at 331 Hal Street. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Mark Peloquin, and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: Daisy Cole and Denise Maddox. Abstain: None.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to grant a variance filed by Tesha Brown on behalf of Anita Bushnell regarding putting a mobile home on the property located at 128 Yoakum Street. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Mark Peloquin, and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: Daisy Cole and Denise Maddox. Abstain: None.

A motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to adopt a resolution adopting the Calcasieu Parish Mitigation Plan. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Mark Peloquin, and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: Daisy Cole and Denise Maddox. Abstain: None.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Judy Landry has no concerns.

Ronda Jacobs asked if the city crew had started back weed eating the Districts. The response was they have and they will be one week in each District.

Mark Peloquin mentioned how much he appreciated the crew cleaning the ditches in District 1. It really does help the drainage.

Ronda Jacobs made a motion to adjourn and Judy Landry seconded the motion.

ATTEST: _____
Pat Brummett City Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Riley Smith Mayor

COUNCIL VICE - CHAIRMAN: _____
Mark Peloquin