

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE 2024.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 17th day of June 2024 at City Hall, their regular meeting place, pursuant to the call of the Mayor.

THERE were present: Jason Willis, Mayor

Mike Fuselier, Councilman

Carol Frederick, Councilman

Jonas Fontenette, Councilman

Janise Anthony, Councilman

Flo Chatman, Councilman

Allan L. Durand, City Attorney

THERE were absent: None

Mayor Jason Willis presiding called the meeting to order.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held June 3, 2024 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Upon recommendation of Pamela Granger of McBade Engineering, Inc, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette and unanimously carried that Contract No 1 for Pump Station Rehabilitation be awarded to the low bidder, CO-D Construction of La, LLC in the amount of \$2,432,255.01.

Upon recommendation of Pamela Granger of McBade Engineering, Inc, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Contract No 3 for Sewer System Rehabilitation be awarded to the low bidder, Construction Pro, Inc in the amount of \$609,870.00.

It was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that the request by Omega Psi Phi for waiver of fees for the use the Magnolia Recreation Center be added to the agenda of this meeting.

Upon recommendation of Richard Lanthier, of Historic District Commission it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that property deemed non-compliant as per C.O.A. be charged a penalty fee of \$500.00 on the 1st of each consecutive month after 90-day notification is presented to said property owners. City Attorney Allan Durand will review the current ordinance to verify the wording concurs with this penalty or if an amendment to the ordinance needs to be prepared.

Dustin Cravins of La Louisianne, presented the Mayor and Council an update of the work performed by the firm. Six applications were submitted for funding under the FY 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Program, letters of support from local legislatures were obtained and funds were received for the SM Main Steet Enhancement Project in the amount of \$1,400,000.00 and additional funding submitted last year for the Water Drainage Project in the amount of \$200,000.00. La Louisianne has met with UL and Mayor Willis regarding Master/Vision Plan. The firm meets regularly with Mayor Willis and Coo Kimya Cruz regarding other grant opportunities and applications. Mr. Cravins further stated that they have been involved with community outreach by contributing to the promotion and media coverage of city-sponsored and community events, facilitating increased visibility and public engagement such as Christmas on the Bayou Parade and Festival, Juneteenth and Golf Tournament through press releases and live radio programming. The written update that was presented was taken under advisement.

The item to discuss and possible action regarding Vision/Masterplan with La Lousianne and UL was tabled following the written update provided by La Louisianne being taken under advisement.

Following discussion of abandoned vehicles, City Attorney Allan Durand will pull the latest ordinance regarding abandoned vehicles and advise of his findings.

Mayor updated the council on the procedure for branch pick up following recent weather events.

It was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried to waive the late reception of notice from Old Evangeline Downs, LLC and exercise the first Renewal Option, for an additional two years for the former Wal-Mart facility. The Renewal period will begin July 1, 2024, and continue to June 30, 2026, with a monthly rental rate of \$2,000.00.

It was moved by Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to sign Host Agency Agreement for Senior Community Service Employment Program.

It was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to sign Intergovernmental Agreement with St. Martin Parish Government for installation of mural at the Acadian Memorial Building.

Utility Billing Supervisor Shika Hector updated the Mayor and Council of the issues and resolutions in the Utility Department. Ms. Hector informed the council that there are 50 properties that have utility service with no active billing accounts. Letters were sent to property owners and 15 have come in to connect utility accounts. It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that utilities be immediately disconnected for addresses that do not have active billing accounts.

Mayor Willis read a resignation letter from COO Kimya Cruz dated May 29, 2024 stating she was not renewing her contract with the City of St. Martinville; therefore, the contract for her services will terminate June 30, 2024.

Mayor Willis opened the floor for nominations of Mayor ProTem.

Mike Fuselier nominated Janise Anthony. There were no other nominations.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick, with Jonas Fontenette opposed, that Janise Anthony be appointed as Mayor ProTem for one year.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that the Council interprets the Charter of the City of St. Martinville with respect to the authority of the City Attorney to provide that the City Attorney has the authority to accept offers of resignation in lieu of disciplinary action when dealing with employees of the City who are facing disciplinary action.

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that the following Corporate Authorization Resolution hereby be adopted:

Corporate Authorization Resolution

This is to certify: That a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, LA, duly called and held on June 17, 2024, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that Kimya Cruz be removed from all accounts drawn on _____ and that checks of this corporation drawn on said bank and orders for transfers or withdrawal of funds of this corporation on deposit in said Bank, in whatever form, shall be signed by two of the following:

Jason Willis, Mayor

Avis Gutekunst, Chief Financial Officer

Kathryn Bujard, Accounting Specialist

Lorrie M Poirier, Executive Administrative Assistant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Bank is hereby authorized and directed to honor and pay any checks so drawn as above set forth, whether or not such checks be payable to the order of one of the foregoing persons either in his individual or official capacity or deposited to his individual credit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed by name as Clerk and have caused the corporate seal of said corporation to be hereto affixed this 20th day of June, 2024.

I, Lorrie M Poirier, Clerk of said corporation, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a copy of the resolution passed as therein set forth.

Clerk

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette and unanimously carried that the rental fee for Omega Psi Phi to hold an awards banquet at the Magnola Recreation Center be waived.

Mayor Willis gave Mayor’s report on the following: debris pickup, City website, swimming pool, City basketball and summer cultural camps.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, Mayor Willis adjourned the meeting upon motion of Carol Frederick and duly seconded by Mike Fuselier.

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK