

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF AUGUST 2024.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 5th day of August 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 Janis Anthony and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held July 15, 2024 and special meeting held July 24, 2024 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Upon motion of Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that the bills to be paid by the City Finance Committee hereby be approved for payment.

Upon request of William Perkins, owner of the house located at 515 Bridge Street, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that 30 days be granted to allow Mr. Perkins time to determine his plans for the structure, at which time this matter will be revisited.

Mayor Willis read an update on the following from La Louisianne Consulting:

Guidance and Collaboration

Facilitate communication with UL and City of SM regarding Masterplan

Press Release for Masterplan

Prepare for Town Hall meeting-waiting on confirmation of date

Community Engagement

Sponsored Hall of Flame Back to School Party

Grant Application

Recently hired grant writer

DRA Commission Grant for Masterplan will be submitted tomorrow

ORDINANCE NO. 24-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST MARTINVILLE TO PROVIDE STANDARDS OF ELECTRIC SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville, that:
City of St. Martinville is hereby enacted, to read as follows:

Section _20.21

Section 1: Standards of Electric Service

The City of St. Martinville will strive to supply its customers with a steady and reliable supply of alternating current electricity at 60 Hertz but does not warrant or guarantee the service against failure, interruption, reduction, abnormality, reversal or irregularities. The City of St. Martinville shall use reasonable diligence to provide safe, adequate and continuous electric service but shall not be liable to a customer for any direct or consequential damage or loss by reason of:

- a) the failure of the City of St. Martinville to supply or the customer to receive electricity, or for any interruption, voltage reductions or abnormalities, reversal of the supply or other irregularity, in the supply of electricity to the customer.
- b) fire, strike, riot, explosion, storm, hurricane wind, lightning, flood, accident, breakdown, material shortage, delay in delivery, governmental or regulatory action or inaction, acts of God, acts of any public enemy, civil disturbance, sabotage, delay or failure of performance by a third party, war, national emergency, or any other event beyond the control of the City of St. Martinville.
- c) the City of St. Martinville making repairs, making changes to, replacing, testing, or inspecting its equipment or facilities.
- d) interruption or curtailment of electric service by manual or automatic load shedding in an emergency declared by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") or its successor organization.

Customers should consider the installation of surge arrester protection and/or voltage stabilizer equipment to further prevent damage or loss to customer's property. Such installation shall be installed behind the meter, past the disconnect. Customers installing surge arresters or voltage stabilizer equipment should consult a licensed, professional engineer or electrician.

SECTION 2: EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE:

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon return of the ordinance to the City Clerk (after execution by the Mayor), on the tenth (10th) day after receipt of the ordinance by the Mayor without signature or veto, or upon an override of a veto, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 3: REPEALER:

Any City of St. Martinville Ordinance or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Carol Fuselier, duly seconded by Mike Fuselier, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick, J.Fontenette, J.Anthony and F. Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the 5th day of August, 2024

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

ORDINANCE 24-09

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville is authorized by La. R.S. 33:5062 to enact an Ordinance providing for the cutting of grass or weeds on any lot, place, or area within the City; and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that the previous Ordinances should be updated and clarified to provide more specificity in the Ordinance,

THEREFORE be it ordained that Section 14.53(a) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same are hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

Sec. 14-53. Abatement by city.

(a) The city is hereby authorized to cut, destroy or remove any noxious weeds or grass or deleterious, unhealthful or noxious growth growing or standing on any sidewalk or banquette, or on any lot, place or area, provided no such work shall be undertaken by the city until the owner of said lot, place or area or the owner of the property abutting the sidewalk or banquette shall have had the opportunity to do the work himself within at least ten (10) days after notice has been given him by advertisement in the official journal of the city or by registered mail, **or by personal delivery**. The owner of said lot, place or area shall be charged a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the cost of notification to cut grass and weeds.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick, J.Fontenette, J.Anthony and F.Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the 5th day of August, 2024.

Jason Willis, Mayor

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that permission be granted for St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office to hold National Day Out in Magnolia Park on Tuesday, October 1st. This event is open to the public at no cost.

It was moved by Janise Anthony duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that the following representatives be appointed to the City's employee Civil Service Board.

Monica Charles	Replace LeRoy Banks Jr as City Council Representative
Brian Francis	Replace Avis Gutekunst as Employee Representative
Becky Patin	Replace Ronald Chevalier as Chamber Representative

It was moved by Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted for SMP SO to install a camera pole at the corner of St. Martin Street and Clairborne Street to enhance security of the transporting of prisoners between the jail and the courthouse.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Coquina Mitchell be hired as a full time Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$18.90 per hour.

Upon recommendation of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette to hire Assistant Utility Clerk Otis Chatman as Planning & Zoning Coordinator with a paygrade of 110 + 8% (\$18.00/hr)

Ms. Chatman's motion being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was:

Yeas: J.Fontenette and F.Chatman

Nays: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick and J.Anthony

It was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette that Candy Bertrand be hired as Office Manager for City Hall.

A substitute motion was made by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony to table the hiring of a Office Manager for City Hall due to current budgetary issues and duplication of duties.

Mr Fuselier's motion being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was:

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick and J.Anthony

Nays: J.Fontenette and F.Chatman

Following discussion of the proposed Fraternization Policy, it was decided to have City Attorney Allan Durand review the policy and present for approval at the next council meeting.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick that the discussion of background checks for City employees be tabled until a recommendation for outsourcing can be provided by Chief Martin and HR Constance Boudreaux at the next meeting.

Mr Fuselier's motion being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was:

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick and J.Anthony

Nays: J.Fontenette and F.Chatman

Councilwoman Carol Frederick addressed Utility Supervisor Shika Hector regarding the ongoing issues with the utility billing. Ms. Hector informed the council that cross training is taking place for all employees in the department, complimented employees in her department and that she feels the department still has some issues but is moving in the right direction. She also stated that she and Mayor meet with the La Legislative Auditor and was advised that new software should be obtained.

IT Coordinator Lynn Leger reported that the requested video camera records have been pulled and ready for viewing with the exception of the recording of the March recording, due to the time frame of the machine overwriting. Mayor stated that he would call a special meeting next week for the council to view the recordings.

Mayor Willis informed the council that all credentials for the City website have been transferred to Sides & Associates.

It was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded that Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that a private area without recording or videoing be established anytime HR needs to meet with employees regarding personnel matters and that HR be present when an employee is disciplined.

It was moved by Janise Anthony duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that the City Public Works Department demolish and remove dilapidated structure by Mr Aaron Alexander, located at 309 Honore Street owned by Mrs Rita Lewis. Mr. Durand will research if lien can be placed on the property and added to property taxes of the property owner in the amount of expense for demolition and debris removal.

Councilwoman Janise Anthony spoke of the following:

- Late charges for utility bills due to bills getting out late
- Rumors that she is against the Mardi Gras Parade is not true
- Thanked everyone that contributed to the Back to School Swim Party
- Thanked everyone that assisted with the Cultural Summer Camp
- Researched and learned who paid for the recall flyer that went out to District 1,2,&3

Councilman Mike Fuselier exited the meeting.

Janise Anthony tabled her item to discuss and amend City Hall hours of operation.

CRT Director Danielle Fontenette gave an update from the Festival Grounds Committee and informed the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 8th at the Acadian Memorial.

Mayor Willis informed the council that FPC has approved the purchase of AMI Meters through the Electrical Upgrade Grant. Additional equipment to be placed on the water towers and billing software to be interfaced will be purchased. The City will not have a match for this Electrical Upgrade Grant.

Councilman Mike Fuselier reentered the meeting.

Mayor Willis updated on the Water Consolidation project. Negotiations are underway for the purchase of property to install for a new water well. The next Water District No 4 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7th at 6:00pm.

Mayor Willis informed the council that City Attorney Allan Durand is working on a new agreement with Mr. Foco for the road to the City Sewer Pond. Mayor advised that he will bring agreement to the council for approval.

It was moved by Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis and City Attorney Allan Durand prepare renewal of agreement with SMPSB for the use of the baseball field in Magnolia Park that includes maintenance fees and present to the council for approval.

Mayor Willis discussed preparing an agreement between the City and Workforce Development for the use of the building next to City Hall at a cost of \$1,500.00 per month with utilities beginning September 1st.

Mayor Willis informed the council that SMPSB would like to donate the old Tiny Tot Park on Main Street to the City. Mayor will present the agreement to the council at a later date.

Upon recommendation of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to hire a temporary Meter Reader with a pay rate of \$10.00/hr.

It was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the resignation of Eugene Champagne be accepted.

Mayor Willis reported on the following:

- Billing Department
- Kutts for Kids
- Hall of Fame Swim Party
- Pavilion by the swimming pool
- Bids for pavilion in Adam Carlson Park
- Fans under pavilion in Magnolia Park
- Football field in Adam Carlson Park
- Lights on track in Magnolia Park
- Smoke Testing
- Homicide that occurred in City

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

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK