

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 7th day of October 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 Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held September 16, 2024 and special meeting held September 30, 2024 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Mayor Willis presented a Proclamation to Kelli Cantu with Chez Hope proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

ORDINANCE 24-13

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

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville has previously adopted rules and regulations by ordinance relating to the Historic District of the City, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that certain amendments are appropriate to accommodate the efficient administration of the Historic District,

THEREFORE be it ordained that the following Miscellaneous Ordinance is adopted, amending and replacing the original provisions of the first paragraph of Section 10.5-6 as follows:

Section 10.5-.6. Approval and Appointment of the St. Martinville Historic District Regulatory Commission.

- The bylaws of the St. Martinville Historic District Commission will require approval of the **City Council**. Once approvals have been met by the city council, the St. Martinville Historic District Commission will operate as a division of the St. Martinville city government at the pleasure of the **City Council**, with all members of the commission providing services on a voluntary basis, with no expectation of salary or benefits. The commission shall consist of **seven members** all of which reside within the St. Martinville city limits, and if possible and available **with at least one member coming from each of the following organizations, if available and willing to serve: St. Martinville Main Street Association, St. Martinville Chamber of Commerce, and the St. Martinville City Zoning Commission. Commission members must reside within the city limits of St. Martinville, Louisiana, or own immovable property or businesses within the defined boundaries of the National Historic District.**

To maintain consistency within commission processes, members of the commission will serve staggering terms with two members serving a two-year term, three members will serve a three-year term, with the remaining two members serving a four-year term. Terms will be determined by the drawing of lots. Re-appointments or replacement commission members will serve a four-year term. All members shall be appointed by the mayor and approved by the **City Council**.

Further, Section 10.5-7 is amended and restated to read as follows:

Qualifications to become members of the St. Martinville Historic District Regulatory Commission are as follows:

- a) Members shall reside within the city limits of St. Martinville, or own immovable property or businesses within the defined boundaries of the National Historic District **with at least one member coming from each of the following organizations: St. Martinville Main Street Association, St. Martinville Chamber of Commerce, and St. Martinville City Zoning Commission.**
- b) Members shall have an interest, passion, competence, or knowledge in historic preservation.
- c) Members should include, to the extent by which such professionals are available, commercial business owners, architects, historians, government planning, and legal.

- d) All members shall be formally appointed by the City Council prior to the conducting of officer elections.
- e) Commission members shall report any possible violations or transgressions within the boundaries of the St. Martinville Historic District as they pertain to the historic district commission ordinances that have been passed by the city council that they may be addressed in the normal course of commission meetings.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Carol Frederick, 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 7th day of October, 2024.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

Due to the absence of Angela Jean Batiste, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried to table Ms Batiste's request for a variance to obtain a liquor license for her business located at 113B Bridge Street which is in the vicinity of the church.

Upon request of Ms Alberta Charles with Gladys Hall, it was moved by Janise Anthony duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that a variance be granted for Ms Charles to obtain a liquor license in the vicinity of a church. Ms. Charles explained to the council that her business located at 706 S Main Street has operated as a club for over 30 years and closed due to Covid. A church opened next door while the business was closed and she would like to reopen the business.

Mayor Willis stated that the request of Dwayne Williams with Magnolia Springs for a variance is not needed, his business is an event center and is working with the State to obtain an alcohol permit.

Upon request of Michael Bourda with Lainey's Sports Bar & Grill located at 206 S Main, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Mr Bourda be allowed to apply for a liquor license in the vicinity of a church and school for his restaurant.

Upon request of Cornell Zeno of SSMH Alumni Association, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted to hold the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 20th at the Magnolia Park Pavilion from 2:00pm – 6:00pm. There will be vendor booths, a gumbo cookoff and a DJ. Permission is also approved to sell alcohol at the event. Chief Martin will handle the insurance and the security.

Upon request of George Choplin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Jansie Anthony and unanimously carried that he be granted permission to hold a Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 15th beginning at 2:00pm. It was requested that a notice be given to all participants stipulating that the only music allowed is Christmas music.

ORDINANCE 24-12

**TO AMEND ORIGINAL ORDINANCE 24-02 AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE-
CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE
TO CHANGE THE DATE FOR SETTING SALARIES FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville Amending the City Charter with respect to salaries of the Mayor and Council Members

WHEREAS the City Charter for the City of St. Martinville contains an antiquated provision regarding both the maximum salaries and the deadline to set the salary for the Mayor and Council for the ensuing year, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it would be more effective to coordinate the date for setting of such salaries with the dates in place for establishing and approving the City Budget, and allowing the Council to set salaries without the necessity of amending this Charter,

THEREFORE be it ordained that the following Ordinance amending City Charter for the City of St. Martinville is adopted:

Article II(9.) is amended to read as follows:

“[2] [*Salaries of Council Members and Mayor.*] The Mayor and Council Members shall receive such salaries as the majority of the Council may determine.”

Article IV(2.) is amended to read as follows:

“[2] [*Salaries.*] The town council shall fix the salaries and fees of the mayor, **Council Members**, and other elective officers, and shall at that time establish the compensation or salary to be paid to the officers appointed by the town council.”

This amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Martinville shall become effective as amendments to the Charter upon approval by the Governor under La. RS 33:1181 and recording in the office of the Louisiana Secretary of State.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Janise Anthony, duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette, 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 and Charter Amendment was thereon declared adopted on the 7th day of October, 2024.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Indea Kately be hired as a full-time Non-post Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$15.51/hr.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Kylee Richard be hired as a full-time Non-post Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$15.51/hr.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Christian Moreno be hired as a full-time Non-post Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$15.51/hr.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Buddy Rumble be hired as a full-time Non-post Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$15.51/hr.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that Odis Ledet be hired as a full-time Post Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$18.22/hr.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that the hiring of Deontray Casimere be added to this agenda.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that Deontray Casimere be hired as a full-time Non-post Certified Police Officer with a pay rate of \$15.51/hr.

The hiring of a full-time CRT Administrative Assistant was tabled due to the proposed museum employee declining the position and remaining as a docent.

The hiring of a part-time Docent for the Acadian Memorial Museum was tabled due to the individual declining the position.

Upon recommendation of CRT Director Danielle Fontenette, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Ryan Williams be hired as a part-time CRT Office Manager with a pay grade of 108 + 6% (\$15.00/hr)

The approving and awarding of a Lawn Maintenance Contract for the Recreation Parks was tabled until next meeting. A letter will be sent to SMPSO informing that a grass cutting crew is no longer needed on a daily basis.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to execute the renewal contract with DVL for the service of reading of the City's demand meters.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that the possibility of adjusting district lines for council districts 1 & 2 be pursued with Mr. Mike Hefner.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette and unanimously carried that Mayor be authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with St Martin Parish Sheriff's Office regarding Use of Public Safety Software Systems and pay invoices in the amount of \$11,750.00 to date that covers dispatch software and access & maintenance.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that payment be made to St. Martin Parish Government in the amount of \$2,861.83, which is the City's 25% cost share for debris removal following severe storms in May 2024.

Councilwoman Carol Frederick spoke of ditch behind Ms. Delores Boudreaux's home on Aline Street that has been blocked by her neighbor. City Attorney Allan Durand stated that the ditch is not a City drainage and would need to be handled as a Civil Matter.

City Attorney exited the meeting.

Following discussion of utility billing, it was moved Carol Frederick duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried the due date for the next three months for utility bills be changed to the 18th and the disconnect date be changed to the 28th of the month.

Otis Chatman, Planning & Zoning Administrator, informed the council that he has recorded liens for grass cutting accounts, added amounts due to tax roll with SMP SO and invoices have gone out.

Office Manager Candy Bertrand stated that utility customers who have security spotlights on their property are set up to receive bills monthly. Mrs Bertrand further stated that Mayor signed the agreement with La Department of Revenue for collection of delinquent accounts. Letters are going out to delinquent customers informing notifying that accounts are being turned over for collections. Mrs Bertrand will also research and report back on previously submitted questions to the utility department regarding the gone list and payment plans.

The following resolution was introduced by Mike Fuselier, duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville intends to submit budget requests to the Division of Administration for Capital Outlay Funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville does not have the financial resources necessary to fund projects of this size; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville has selected and authorized the submission of the following State Capital Budget Requests for year 2025-2026.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Priority #1 | |
| St. Martinville Electrical System Improvements | \$1,066,667 |
| Priority #2 | |
| St. Martinville Main Street Enhancement | \$1,680,000 |
| Priority #3 | |
| St. Martinville Public Works Building Renovations | \$ 500,000 |
| Priority #4 | |
| St. Martinville Water Drainage New Durand Subdivision | \$1,200,000 |
| Priority #5 | |
| St. Martinville Water Drainage Old Durand Subdivision | \$ 300,000 |
| Priority #6 | |
| St. Martinville City Wide Sidewalk Project | \$2,400,000 |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Martinville, in regular session convened this 7th day of October, 2024, does hereby certify to the Division of Administration, Facility Planning and Control, that it does not have cash or bond funding available to fund these projects.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote, thereon was as follows:

YEAS: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick, J.Fontenette, J.Anthony F.Chatman
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 7th day of October, 2024

Jason Willis, Mayor
City of St. Martinville

Mayor Willis mentioned the importance of physical addresses being displayed on each home in the corporate limits, especially for emergency situations. Mayor will get this City Attorney Allan Durand to determine if anything can be done to enforce placement of the addresses on homes.

Mayor Willis reported on the following:

Hometown Halloween to be held Sunday, October 27th from 4:00pm-8:00pm

Grants funds will be used to upgrade streetlights to LED

Lights have been installed around the walking tract in Magnolia Park

Clearance Grant will cover 23 properties - asbestos testing is taking place

CFO Avis Gutekunst has given two-week resignation

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

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK