

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 18th day of November 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 Flo Chatman duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 4, 2024 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

It was moved by Janise Anthony duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that the City Council go into executive session to discuss promotion of Kathryn Bujard to CFO and the hiring of an Account Specialist.

The City Council reconvened after executive session upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony.

It was moved by Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that Kathryn Bujard be promoted to CFO with a pay grade of 119+1% exempt (\$65,000.00 salary), effective November 27, 2024.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that Carolyn Comeaux be hired as Accounting Specialist with a pay grade of 109 + 8% (\$16.00/hr) and at completion of 6 month probationary period, pay rate will increase to 110 + 1% (\$17.00/hr), effective beginning of next pay period.

Burton Kolder of Kolder, Slaven & Company LLC, presented the Mayor and Council the audit report for FYE June 30, 2024.

Councilwoman Frederick requested an explanation from Mr. Kolder regarding invoice received from Kolder, Slaven & Company LLC without specific number of hours or explanation of work performed. Mr. Kolder explained there were 3 allegations related to the Utility Department and 1 related to payment on contract services made to La Legislative Auditors that needed to be investigated and documented. The allegations did result in findings that were included in the audit report.

Pam Granger with McBade Engineering provided Mayor and Council an update on the current City grants.

Mr. George Choplin presented a personal invitation to Mayor and Council for the 2024 Christmas Parade.

Upon recommendation of Planning & Zoning Commission, it was moved by Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that final approval be granted for the zoning variance requested by Shane Wiggins for rezoning 250 feet of the northern corner of property located at 1131 Seiber Rd from R-1 to M-1. This rezoning variance is only granted for the present property owner.

ORDINANCE 24-14

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville to establish a penalty for failure to Abate a Nuisance After Notice and Opportunity to Cure

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville has issued Notices to residents with regard to nuisance matters which have been ignored, and

WHEREAS the City Council believes that it is in the best interest of the City to have enact an administrative penalty for such failures to respond, and

THEREFORE be it ordained that Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby partially amended as follows:

1. Section 14 of the Code of Ordinances is amended add a new subsection (f) as follows:

“(f) A failure to, within ten (10) days of the date of the notice, either abate the nuisance or to request a hearing before the City Council to contest the finding of the existence of a nuisance, or to seek additional time to abate, shall result in an administrative penalty of \$50, in addition to any other fines or penalties provided by law.”

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Mike Fuselier and 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 was thereon declared adopted on the 18th day of November 2024.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

It was moved by Janise Anthony duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the City Council go into executive session to discuss Old City Dump on Duchamp Road, possible litigation.

The City Council reconvened after executive session upon motion of Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Carol Frederick.

Following executive session, City Attorney Allan Durand reported that the Council authorized Mr. Durand to meeting with all property owners of the old City Dump located on Duchamp Road to work out a lease for a significant period of time.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Cavan Zacharie be demoted from Sergeant (\$20.79/hr) to Police Officer First Class (\$18.90/hr), effective November 18, 2024.

In July of 2023, previous K9 Ranger was swapped with LA-K9 with no payment required. Paperwork that was submitted indicated the swap was for K9 Mason; however, the dog obtained was K9 Loki. It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that documentation from LA-K9 be accepted to clarify that K9 Ranger was swapped for K9 Loki.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick that City Attorney Allan Durand prepare a payment plan contract to allow customers that have a remaining balance after the termination of the utility levelized program and customers with a water leak resulting in a bill over \$300.00 be allowed to take part in. The council shall be provided with a monthly report of all outstanding payment plans.

Flo Chatman made a substitute motion to allow payment plans for all customers. Ms. Chatman's motion failed due to a lack of a second.

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

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

Nays: F.Chatman

Absent: None

Upon request of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that permission be granted for donations to be solicited on behalf of the City for the Christmas Parade and the Employee Christmas Party.

Mayor did not provide a Mayor's report.

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

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK