

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 6th day of January 2025 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 Jonas Fontenette and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 26, 2024, December 2, 2024 and December 12, 2024 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Councilwoman Janise Anthony entered the meeting.

Mayor Willis gave an update on financials with comparative of actual to budget. Mayor stated cash flow is good. Councilwoman Carol Frederick asked if the money that was taken out of saving to pay bills had been replaced. Mayor stated he would research her question. Opinions were voiced that the CFO be present at the meeting as in the past to answer questions.

It was moved by Janise Anthony duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that the City Council go into executive session to discuss Duchamp City Dump litigation.

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

City Attorney Allan Durand stated that executive session was to discuss the possibility of Mr. Barry Salinger representing the City in the threatened litigation against the City regarding the Old City Dump Site on Duchamp Road and in addition Mr Durand recommends the City re-train Mr. Salinger to represent in litigation by the City with regards to clean up an old oil well on City property near Isadore Drive without any fee or cost (except in the event of recovery against the polluters) to the City and presented a contingent fee contract. It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that City Attorney Allan Durand's recommendation to retain Mr. Salinger for both cases be accepted.

Mayor Willis provided a written update from Consultant Billy Guidry on accounting services provided from December 2nd thru 31st and additional services he wishes to provide.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick and unanimously carried that a Public Hearing be called for Tuesday, January 21st at the next council meeting to amend the boundaries between Election District #1 and District #2 of St. Martinville City Council.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Cuzan Services, LLC be awarded the bid for Phase I of the Festival Ground Improvements Project in the amount of \$330,000.00. The playground is included but the splash pad is not included. A letter is being submitted to the State to waive penalties that were incurred on the grant.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Carol Frederick, with Flo Chatman opposed, to table the item to discuss the dilapidated structure located at 112 Labbe Street in order to allow time for Planning & Zoning Coordinator Otis Chatman to get with Chief Ricky Martin to hand deliver a letter to property owner Wilfred Batiste, informing to appear at the next council meeting to discuss his intention.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that 60 days be given to Burton Willis c/o Marlyn Hogan to remove the dilapidated structure located in the 300 block of Cemetery Street or possible action will be taken.

ORDINANCE 25-01

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville to provide for installation of Cross Connection Devices

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville has had a “Cross Connection Control Ordinance” for many years providing for and requiring installation of backflow preventers on water lines for certain commercial establishments, and

WHEREAS the Ordinance does not provide sufficient mechanisms for the City to force the installation of such devices when the building owner fails, after reasonable notice, to install such cross connection devices;

THEREFORE be it ordained that Section 16 of the CROSS CONNECTION Ordinance contained in Appendix A to the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby amended to add the following new paragraph “(b)” to read as follows:

“(b) Remedies in the event of non-compliance.

(1) In the event that a City water customer who is required by this Ordinance to have a backflow preventer installed in the plumbing system of his building fails to install a backflow preventer within ninety (90) days after written demand by the City for the installation of such a device, the City shall have the option to contract with an independent plumber for the installation of such a device in the customer’s plumbing system. Should the City elect to have such a device installed after consideration of all factors, then all direct costs related to the contract for the installation of the device shall be charged to the City customer.

(2) If the customer fails to reimburse the City for the cost of installation and testing of the backflow preventer, then that debt shall be considered a lien against the property, and the City is authorized to take all enforcement action that may be taken by the City under any law or ordinance with respect to liens against the property for debts to the City.”

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Mike Fuselier, duly seconded by Janise Anthony, 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 6th day of January, 2024.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that the following resolution for Community First Bank 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 January 6, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the checking account for this corporation, entitled City of St. Martinville, Community Events, at Community First Bank and that checks of this corporation drawn on Community First Bank and orders for transfers or withdrawal of funds of this corporation on deposit in said Bank, in whatever form, shall be signed one of the following:

Jason Willis, Mayor
Katy 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 January 6, 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 of City of St. Martinville

Councilman Mike Fuselier exited the meeting.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Andrew Broussard be promoted from Lieutenant (\$22.47/hr) to Deputy Chief with a pay rate of \$22.82/hr, effective January 6, 2025.

Councilman Mike Fuselier reentered the meeting.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Jansie Anthony and unanimously carried that Ursula Lewis be promoted from part-time Police Officer to Lieutenant with a pay rate of \$22.47/hr, effective January 6, 2025. Ms. Lewis needs to successfully pass the Lieutenant within one year.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Odis Ledet be promoted from Patrol Officer (\$18.81/hr) to K9/CID with a pay rate of \$19.13/hr, effective January 6, 2025.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to terminate the City's existing Canine Handler Agreement with L. Johnson and sign new Canine Handler Agreement with Odis Ledet.

It was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that penalties be waived for utility customers on payment plans for leveled billing that is being phased out and water leaks in excess of \$300.00.

Councilman Mike Fuselier requested that daily work logs for Public Works employees be provided at every council meeting. Mayor Willis said he would take care of it.

Councilwoman Carol Frederick tabled her item to discuss existing job descriptions.

Mayor Willis tabled his item to speak on duties and responsibilities.

Mayor Willis reported that a rate study was performed, and sewer rates do not need to be increased at this time.

Councilwoman Janise Anthony tabled her item to discuss Boys & Girls Club.

Upon recommendation of CRT Director Danielle Fontenette, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that approval be granted for Bask Pools to plaster the middle section of the pool, (\$44,000.00) which is the final section to be plaster and advertise to hire Pool Staff for the summer of 2025.

Upon recommendation of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried to allow renters of City Buildings to use Merchant Services Security Company to provide security for their events.

Upon request of Tiffany Brown with Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, it was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the City co-sponsor the Annual Health Community Fair to be held on Saturday, March 22nd from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the old Fred's Building and grounds. The City Logo will be on all flyers for the event.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that approval be granted to advertise for bids for a new pavilion in Adam Carlson Park. The proposed budget for the project is \$150,000.00 and funds will be used from Recreation Bond Funds.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that bids be obtained for a new basketball court in Adam Carlson Park. Mayor Willis will present proposals to the council once obtained.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that permission be granted to obtain bids for the installation of large fans under Magnolia Park Pavillion. Mayor will present bids once obtained.

Councilwoman Carol Frederick exited the meeting.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously that permission be granted for Mayor Willis to begin working with engineers for road repair and overlay project with the City.

Councilwoman Carol Frederick reentered the meeting.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted to contact local attorney Michael Daspit to represent the Police Civil Service Board. If Mr. Daspit is not available, then Mr. Lee Durio will be contacted. Mayor has approval to enter into agreement with either for services.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried to transfer the Section 8 Program for the City of St. Martinville to St. Martin Parish Government, effective July 1, 2025.

It was moved by Carol Frederick duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that the position of Section 8 Administrator be terminated effective immediately.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to enter into agreement with Jennifer Tyler for consulting services for Section 8 Program until July 1, 2025, at a rate of \$25.00/hr.

It was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Janise Anthony and unanimously carried that Constance Boudreaux be allowed to work with the Section 8 Program at a rate of \$25.00/hr following her existing 80hr work week, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm until July 1, 2025. Compensation for additional hours will come from Section 8 funds.

It was moved by Flo Chatman duly seconded by Jonas Fontenette and unanimously carried to hire Dennis Menard as Concrete Finisher at pay grade 107 (\$14.00/hr)

Richard Simon was not present at the meeting to discuss a personnel matter regarding his employment. Based on Mayor Willis's testimony, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Richard Simon be terminated for continual failing to follow directions.

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 Janise Anthony.

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK