

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 3rd DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 3rd day of March 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 Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Frederick and unanimously carried to add the discussion of the format for Town Hall meetings (regarding Lawrason Act Election) to the agenda of this meeting.

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held February 17, 2025 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Mayor Willis presented a financial update for January and February. Councilwoman Frederick requested CFO Katy Bujard attend council meetings to present budget to actuals on monthly financial reports.

Upon request of Corey Miles of Future is You, it was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted to hold adult co-ed baseball tournament on May 31st, June 1st, and June 8th with the championship game being played on June 15th. Teams will pay an entry fee to participate in the tournament; however, there will be no admission fee to watch the games All profit will go towards the Jr Citizen Program that helps employ youth during the summer. Permission was also granted to sell alcohol on all 4 dates of the tournament.

Comments were heard regarding the nuisance property located at 950 Seiber Rd. Planning & Zoning Coordinator Otis Chatman reported that letters were sent to David Daspit, the owner of the property, requesting they contact his officer; however, no response was received. Mr. Chatman further stated the safety issues that exist pertaining to electrical utilities. It was moved by Councilman Jonas Fontenette duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried that proof of progress be presented at the next council meeting with a timeline of clean up.

It was moved by Councilman Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Frederick and unanimously carried that Jason Boudreaux be appointed as employee representative of the St. Martinville Police Department Civil Service Board.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Chatman duly second
by Councilwoman Anthony:

RESOLUTION

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana, to authorize adoption of the Lawrason Act form of government; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana (the "City"), that the original resolution of February 3, 2025 calling for a special election is restated and reconfirmed in its entirety as follows:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Under the authority conferred by Section 322 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the City on SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION

Shall the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana, (the "City"), adopt the Lawrason Act form of government and be governed by a Mayor and Board of Aldermen, all in accordance with Part I, Chapter 2, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, including but not limited to La. R.S. 33:321, et seq.?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the City once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by referenced the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Mayor is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the City Hall, 120 S. New Market Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana, on MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M., and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts set forth in the aforesaid Notice of Special Election are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for

the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the City will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the City Council is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Mayor and/or Clerk of the City are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of St. Martin Parish and the Registrar of Voters of St. Martin Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. If required, application will be made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided and a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was a follows:

| MEMBERS: | YEAS: | NAYS: | ABSENT: | ABSTAINING: |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Flo Chatman | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Jonas Fontenette | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Mike Fuselier | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Carol Frederick | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Janise Anthony | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

And the resolution was declared adopted on the 3rd day of February 2025, and restated in its entirety on the 3rd day of March 2025.

Lorrie M. Poirier, Council Clerk

Jason Willis, Mayor

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana (the “Governing Authority”), acting as the governing authority of the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana (the “City”), on February 3, 2025 and restated on March 3, 2025, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the City on SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the City qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION

Shall the City of St. Martinville, State of Louisiana, (the “City”), adopt the Lawrason Act form of government and be governed by a Mayor and Board of Aldermen, all in accordance with Part I, Chapter 2, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, including but not limited to La. R.S. 33:321, et seq.?

The said special election shall be held at the polling places for the following precincts, which polls will open at seven o’clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o’clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, to wit:

PRECINCTS

St. Martin Parish voting precincts within the City of St. Martinville, being Precincts numbers 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 23.

The polling places for the precincts set forth above are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18, and actual costs of similar elections, is \$23,100.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5, Chapter 6-A and Chapter 6-B of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the City Hall 120 S. New Market Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana, on MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025 at SIX O’CLOCK (6:00) P.M., and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the City are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at St. Martinville, Louisiana, on this 3rd day of March, 2025.

ATTEST:

Mayor

Clerk

Upon request of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Councilwoman Chatman duly seconded by Councilman Fontenette that a full-time Meter Reader position be created with a pay grade of 107 (\$14.02/hr)

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

Yeas: J.Fontenette, J.Anthony and F.Chatman

Nays: M.Fuselier and C.Frederick

Absent: None

Upon recommendation of Chief Martin, it was moved by Councilwoman Chatman duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony and unanimously carried that the employment status of Letroy Johnson be changed from Police Officer (\$20.75/hr) to Detective (\$21.79/hr), effective March 3, 2025.

Street Repairs throughout the City was discussed.

It was moved by Councilman Frederick duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to sign contract renewal with Compliance Envirosystems.

ORDINANCE 25-03

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville to Require the Installation of Water Cut Off Valves on All Buildings in the City

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of St. Martinville finds that the installation of water cut off vales easily accessible on the outside of all buildings located within the City Limits is a safety feature which would be most helpful in the prevention of water damage to buildings, and

WHEREAS the installation of such cut off values would likewise prevent the wasting of large amounts of water and the dangerous lowering of water pressure throughout the City during certain weather events, and

WHEREAS the City Council finds that the mandatory installation of water cut off valves is a public health and safety issue,

THEREFORE be it ordained that Section 7.66 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby added to supplement the City Plumbing Code, as it may exist from time to time, as follows:

“7.66 Water Cut Off Valves.

(a) The installation of an easily accessible above ground cut off valve is required between the City’s water meter and any building receiving water through such meter in the following instances: whenever the ownership of a building is transferred on the public records, other than by inheritance, and/or before water service can be re-connected to a building when the service has been disconnected for at least 6 months.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Councilman Fuselier, duly seconded by Councilman 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 3rd day of March, 2025.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

The adoption of ordinance requiring installation of visible building addresses on all buildings within the City Limits was tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor reported the following format will be followed for the Town Hall meetings regarding the Lawrason Act Election scheduled for March 6th and March 11th at 6:00pm.

Candy Bertrand Introduction

Karen White of Karen White Consultant will speak

Mayor Bourque and Councilman Jeff Delahoussaye of Broussard

Councilman Neil Melancon of Breaux Bridge

Mr Chester Cedars will be at March 11th meeting

Questions from Audience

Councilmembers and elected officials will be allowed 5 minutes to speak

FB live will be streamed

Mayor did not give 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 Councilman Fuselier and duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman.

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK