

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 7th day of April 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 Fontenette duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held March 17, 2025 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Mayor Willis presented Financial Report prepared by CFO Katy Bujard.

Ms Cynthia Smithies was not present to discuss her agenda item requesting an adjustment to her mother's water bill.

A motion was made by Councilman Fuselier, and duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman, and duly adopted:

RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN ACT OF ACCEPTANCE FROM CONSTRUCTION PRO, INC. PERTAINING TO THE COMPLETION OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE “CONTRACT 3- SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION” FOR THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE.

WHEREAS, CONSTRUCTION PRO, INC., as Contractor, has substantially completed the “CONTRACT 3- SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION” FOR THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE in accordance with the plans and specifications contained in the contract documents pertaining thereto; and

WHEREAS the CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE desires to accept the completed work, subject to the completion of any punch list items;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE that the Mayor of said CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE be, and is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to execute a Notice of Acceptance for and on behalf of the CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, accepting the work as being substantially completed, and that he is authorized and directed to have a copy of said acceptance recorded in the Conveyance Records of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LORRIE M. POIRIER, Clerk of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville in Regular Session convened this 7th day of April, 2025, at which time a quorum was present and voting.

LORRIE M. POIRIER
CLERK
CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN and especially all subcontractors, architects, engineers, master mechanics, mechanics, workmen, laborers, and furnishers of materials, machinery, and fixtures:

Public notice is hereby given, according to law, that the undersigned Owner has accepted as substantially complete the work done by Construction Pro, Inc., “CONTRACT 3- SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION”.

All subcontractors, architects, engineers, master mechanics, mechanics, workmen, laborers, and furnishers of materials, machinery, fixtures and supplies must assert whatever claims they have against the said Contractors or against the property growing out of the execution of the contract according to law, within forty-five (45) days from registration hereof.

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR
CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Fontenette , seconded by Councilwoman Frederick, and duly adopted:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (MWPP) ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT, REQUIRED FOR LOUISIANA POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (LPDES) PERMIT NUMBER LA0040941

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville owns and operates a wastewater collection and treatment system; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) requires that the City of St. Martinville complete an annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report (MWPP) for the City’s wastewater collection and treatment system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Martinville informs LDEQ that the following actions were taken by the City Council:

1. Reviewed the City’s MWPP Environmental Audit Report for the period of January, 2024 through December, 2024, which is attached to this resolution.
2. Set forth the following actions necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the City’s LPDES Permit (Number LA0040941):
 - a. Continue the City’s current program of inspecting and repairing components of the City’s wastewater collection system, to reduce storm water inflow and infiltration;
 - b. Continue to operate and maintain the City’s existing treatment facility and make repairs thereto as may be necessary, so as to meet effluent limitations in accordance with the City’s LPDES Permit.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LORRIE M. POIRIER, City Clerk of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville in Regular Session convened this 7th day of April, 2025, at which time a quorum was present and voting.

LORRIE M. POIRIER
CITY CLERK
CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Fuselier , seconded by Councilwoman Frederick, and duly adopted:

**ST. MARTIN PARISH, LOUISIANA
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LEGAL SERVICES' AGREEMENT
RELATED TO AFFF/PFAS LITIGATION SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the City of **St. Martinville** (“the City”) is committed to delivering clean drinking water to its customers; and

WHEREAS, the City is also committed to identifying parties and taking reasonable steps to avoid passing on the costs to its consumers for the treatment and remediation of contamination; and

WHEREAS, STAG LIUZZA, L.L.C. has put together a team of uniquely qualified and experienced attorneys (the “Firm”) who have joined together to assist public entities facing the challenges posed by contamination with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”); and

WHEREAS, the Firm is comprised of experienced attorneys in both in PFAS litigation and in the representation of public entities and water suppliers in cases involving groundwater contamination; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined it to be in the City’s best interest to enter into the Agreement with the Firm and pursue any claims it may have related to PFAS; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to authorize the execution of the as Contract; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Legal Services’ Agreement with the Firm based upon the terms and conditions set forth herein and, in a manner, substantially similar to the Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

JASON WILLIS
Mayor

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Frederick and unanimously carried that the property owned by Burton Willis c/o Marilyn Hogan located on Parcel # 17201C2112 of Cemetery Hwy be declared a dilapidated trailer and a nuisance based on the report provided by City Inspector Rodney Richard.

The dilapidated/adjudicated property located at 130 Labbe and 211 E. Hyacinth was discussed. The general consensus was to consider using the services of E&P Consulting Services, LLC to sell property that has been adjudicated to the City.

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to execute Cooperative Agreement with Wesly Johnson of E&P Consulting Services, LLC for the sale of adjudicated property.

No action was taken regarding outdoor recreational events on City property. CRT Director Danielle Fontenette will continue to research how other communities handle events.

It was moved by Councilwoman Flo Chatman duly seconded by Councilman Fontenette and unanimously carried that permission be hereby granted to close Evangeline Blvd and South New Market Street to hold the Annual Acadian Memorial Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2025 as a result of the cancellation for March 15th festival due to weather. Permission was also granted for the sale of alcohol.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Councilman Fontenette duly seconded by Councilwoman Flo Chatman and unanimously carried that Jackilyn Lee be hired as full-time Post-Certified Police Officer, with a pay rate of \$18.22/hr.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Fuselier , duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony, and unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION REGARDING SEWER RATE STUDY

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville received grant funding from the Louisiana Office of Community Development to upgrade the city's sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the grant required that the city have a current rate study performed and requested that the city work with EAG Public Sector, LLP to complete a sewer rate study; and

WHEREAS, EAG Public Sector, LLP submitted Sewer Rate Study Final Report and the Rate Study Forecast Model for St. Martinville to the City of St. Martinville on March 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the rate study reflects no rate increase is required for FY 2025, however, the study does recommend that the sewer rates be reevaluated for a possible increase in 2027

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor and Council accept the rate study and will reevaluate the rates in 2027.

Jason Willis, Mayor
City of St. Martinville

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and fully correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the St. Martinville City Council on the date shown above.

Lorrie M. Poirier, City Clerk

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilman Chatman and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis be authorized to execute a lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management for two pickup trucks for the Public Works Department.

ORDINANCE 25-05

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville with regard to the office of Deputy Chief of Police

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of St. Martinville has previously determined that the creation of the office of Deputy Chief of Police, pursuant to the authority of the Louisiana Legislature in Title 33, Section 2541, has determined that it is in the best interest of the City in the efficiency of the Police Department to create the office of Deputy Chief of Police of the St. Martinville Police Department, and

WHEREAS the Council previously voted July 21, 2014 to create the office of Deputy Chief upon motion of Craig Prosper with unanimous second of all Council members, a quorum being present, and unanimously passed, and

WHEREAS the Council desires to make certain modifications and improvements with regard to the position of Deputy Chief of Police,

THEREFORE be it ordained that the action of the City Council taken by lawful vote at its regular meeting of July 21, 2014, is hereby ratified and confirmed, and Section 16.5-53 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby added and supplemented, as follows:

Section 16.5-53. **DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE.** Pursuant to the authority of Louisiana R.S. 33:2541.1, the position of Deputy Chief of Police is hereby created, to be administered in accordance with the provisions of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. If the City Council determines there is a need for a Deputy Chief prior to the filling of the position according to law, the Council may appoint an Interim Deputy Chief of Police.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Councilmember Fuselier, duly seconded by Councilmember 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 7th day of April, 2025.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

Councilman Fontenette tabled his agenda item to discuss repairs of Seiber Rd.

It was moved by Councilwoman Frederick duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried that any information requested by any councilmember be provided the same day requested or be provided a reason why it can not be provided that day along with an expected date available with a maximum of 5 days or notify the Mayor.

Following the discussion of defunding all vacant positions no action was taken.

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony and unanimously carried that Mayor Willis’s signature on the contract with Cuzan Services, LLC for Phase I of Festival Ground Improvements Project be ratified and the following resolution be adopted.

RESOLUTION
A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE AUTHORITY
TO THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND
SUBMIT ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS
FOR THE FY 2022-2023 LOUISIANA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
LOVE LOUISIANA OUTDOORS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville submitted an application for funding under the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Love Louisiana Outdoors for a public facilities project; and

WHEREAS, Paul Allain, Architect APAC was retained to provide professional architectural design and McBade Engineers and Consultants was retained to provide engineering services that was necessary in connection with the preparation of the application; and

WHEREAS, the City of St, Martinville was awarded funds to improve the Festival Grounds located at the corner of Madison Street and Old Marke Streed; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of City of St. Martinville that Mayor Jason Willis is hereby authorized to sign all the necessary documents in connection with the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Love Louisiana Outdoors Program.

Jason Willis, Mayor
City of St Martinville

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and fully correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the St. Martinville City Council on the date shown above.

Lorrie M. Poirier, City Clerk

RESOLUTION

A Resolution by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville supporting legislation to create an Economic District within the City of St. Martinville

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of St. Martinville believes that the creation of a separate economic and development district within the city limits of the City of St. Martinville will increase the ability of the City to attract and support businesses and industry within the City of St. Martinville, and

WHEREAS Representative Marcus Bryant has introduced House Bill 107 in the 2025 Session of the Louisiana Legislature to create such an economic district,

THEREFORE be it resolved that: the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville support the creation of a Greater St. Martinville Economic Development District within the City of St. Martinville, said District to include all blocks fronting on Main Street within the city limits of the City of St. Martinville, as currently existing or as hereafter expanded, together with the Adam Carlson/Southside City Park and all lands fronting on the boundaries of said Park, the Historic City Square, including Evangeline Boulevard, Catfish Alley, and South New Market Street, all blocks fronting on East Bridge Street from Main Street to the eastern city limits of the City, and Port Street from Main Street continuing westerly to the westerly city limits.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Fuselier, duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Resolution above was thereon declared adopted on the 7th day of April, 2025.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and fully correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the St. Martinville City Council on the date shown above.

Lorrie M. Poirier, City Clerk

Mayor Willis gave an update on the Utility Department. He reported that utility bills went on the 27th of the month, utility meter readings are more accurate, 100 water meters have been replaced, fines for tampering of utilities are being enforced, and there are no bills 30 days late/cutoffs are up to date.

Mayor Willis informed the Council and community that CenterPoint Entergy has sold its operations to Delta Utilities.

Mayor Willis gave a report on the following:

- Love the Boot Trash Bash will be held Saturday, April 12th @ 8:00am – 12 noon
- Autism Walk was a success – great turn out
- DJ Pug’s Easter Egg Hunt was a success - over 200 kids participated
- Vision Plan presentation at Opera House on Tuesday, April 15th @ 6:00pm

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 Councilman Chatman.

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK