

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Regular Session
Monday, November 14, 2016

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 14 2016, in the Council Room at City Hall, 419 Avenue A, Westwego, Louisiana.

There were present:

Mayor John I. Shaddinger, Jr.
District 1 Councilman Glenn Green, Sr.
District 2 Councilman Johnny S. Nobles, Jr.
District 3 Councilman Norman J. Fonseca
District 5 Councilman Larry J. Warino, Sr.
City Clerk Maurice T. Bourgeois, Jr.
City Attorney Joel A. Levy
Police Chief Dwayne J. Munch, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shaddinger called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the invocation.

INVOCATION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Father Buddy, from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and Holy Garden Angels Church, led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence in honor of the deceased members of our community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Madeline Ockman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

NATALIE NEWTON DEPUTY COO – TIM PALMATIER FIANCE DIRECTOR – JOSE GONZALES PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – LINDA DALY SEWERAGE DIRECTOR – MARK DREWES ENGINEERING DIRECTOR – DWAYNE MUNCH – JEFFERSON PARICH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Natalie Newton addressed the City Council to discuss the importance of the election on December 10th to maintain the quality of life for Jefferson Parish residents. Mrs. Newton discussed the two items on the ballot for the Westwego residents the drainage millage renewal and a one percent sales tax renewal. These are not new taxes but a continuation of existing taxes.

HENRY QUINTANILLA – 258 AVENUE B

Henry Quintanilla addressed the City Council to thank Councilman Green for the great job on the sidewalk that they did also thank Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca for the great job he does with the seniors. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the sidewalk can be repaired at his property located at 570 Victory Dr. Mr. Quintanilla also discussed Loop Linen blocking the sidewalk at the new ramp.

Mayor Shaddinger stated that the sidewalk is not supposed to be blocked and will address the owner of the business.

A discussion followed.

JAMES SCHILLIGO – MORGAN BUILDING & SYSTEMS

James Schilligo addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate Morgan Building & Systems located at 600 Westbank Expressway.

Councilman Nobles spoke on behalf of Councilman Toups stating Councilman Toups is in favor of granting occupational license as long as they abide by the rules and regulations.

Mayor Shaddinger stated they will not be able to exit on Tenth Street.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Warino, to approve Occupational License to operate Morgan Building Systems located at 600 Westbank Expressway, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

HENRY "JERRY" GILL, SR. – 915 AVENUE A

Henry Gill addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for mail and telephone use purposes only for property located at 112 Pleasant Street.

Councilman Nobles spoke on behalf of Councilman Toups stating Councilman Toups is in favor of granting the Home Occupational License for mail and telephone use purposes only.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Warino, to approve Home Occupational License for mail and telephone use purposes only for property located at 112 Pleasant Street, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

MADLINE OCKMAN – 1063 AVENUE C

Madeline Ockman addressed the City Council in regards to the voting poll on Tuesday Election Day on Avenue C stating it is not being maintenance like it should be. Mrs. Ockman stated the station is open by a separate guy in the morning and he was wonderful and we called for assistance because of the lighting. The people were coming in to vote and couldn't see so we called someone out and he came out and provided a light on a stand and he did not try to change any of the several light bulbs that were out and he did not have a nice attitude.

A discussion followed.

JUSTIN OLWELL – 109 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY

Justin Olwell addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to take over Wego Carwash located at 109 Westbank Expressway.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to approve Occupational License to take over Wego Carwash located at 109 Westbank Expressway, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

WESTWEGO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BETTY G. LANDRY

Westwego Historic District Commission Chairman Betty G. Landry addressed the City Council to thank Councilman Warino for putting the strip on the walking track also thanked City Superintendent Robert J. Utley crew for taking care of the garden behind the Art Center and cleaning the up the cat mess.

SHANE DOWNY – 501 LOUISIANA STREET

Shane Downy addressed the City Council to request a re-approval for Occupational License for Daily Growth Seafood located at 501 Louisiana Street.

Councilman Nobles stated Councilman Toups did not speak with him in regards to this request.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to re-approve Occupational License to Dailey Growth Seafood located at 501 Louisiana Street, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

Councilman Warino asked what kind of business it will be.

Mr. Downey stated they are a frozen seafood distributor.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

TRINA S. MITCHELL – 570 AVENUE A

Trina S. Mitchell addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License for Westwego Angels Academy located at 570 Avenue A.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to approve Occupational License to Trina S. Mitchell for Westwego Angels Academy located at 570 Avenue A, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(JIS) Lighting of Christmas Under the Trees – 6:00 p.m. December 4, 2016 – Catfish Bourgeois Park

Mayor Shaddinger wished Ally Watts a Happy Birthday.

HEAR ALL REPORTS

Chief Building Official Leslie “Skip” Lombas, Jr. submitted his written report.

Chief of Police Dwayne J. Munch, Sr. submitted his written report and stated he will stay on top of Loop Linen regarding the sidewalk.

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his written report.

Mayor Shaddinger stated Wednesday, November 9th was the ground breaking ceremony for Fire Station 91 and the EMS Building. Jack Julius will be the contractor and Hamid Alizadeh will be the Engineer. The project is moving toward thanks to State Representative Billiot and Senator Alario.

EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr. submitted his written report.

City Superintendent Robert J. Utley nothing to report at this time.

Superintendent of Water & Waste Water Treatment Paul J. Bernard nothing to report at this time.

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca submitted his written report.

Councilman Warino asked if the seniors took their Christmas group picture yet.

Senior Center Coordinator Brant Fonseca stated they have not taken it yet.

Mayor Shaddinger recognized Mechanical Inspector Tommy Baxter and Plumber Inspector Earl Dufrene thanked them.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, October 10, 2016

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of Monday, October 10, 2016.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

Councilman Warino thanked Lisa Tapia for having the minutes in early.

BUDGET HEARING

2017 Budget & the Amendment to the 2016 Budget

AMEND THE AGENDA

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to amend the agenda to discuss Resolution for Lapalco Blvd.

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to amend the agenda to discuss Resolution for Lapalco Blvd.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

CPA, Jim Butler stated last month he handed out the numbers for the budget that was advertised and it resulted in almost a break even from the unreserved surplus at the end of 2017. The numbers received today were updated because we have two more months of history to work with and unfortunately the last couple of months the bigger revenue items had decreased and the sales tax and gaming so we had adjusted for those and we have cut some other things and we have it back to where it's about to break even again so that's what these numbers show. The bigger items that are on here that are kind of different from the norm of just operating the city is having a fire engine budget to be paid for with the proceeds of the millages that was passed a couple of years ago. We have an ambulance budgeted but that's in the event that the revenues EMS service fees increase to a point where we can pay the amount of money for the lease purchase or finance but it is not automatic if you pass the budget we go out and buy an ambulance, it's available in the budget if the revenue is increased. We have a big senior center bus that we pay for mostly through a grant about forty thousand dollars by the grant and the total was forty-six thousand of the grant money and we are asking for eight thousand from the councils funds to pay the match for the grant totaling fifty-four thousand nine hundred for the cost of the bus. We also have two senior vans budgeted but again we are budgeting grant revenue for those vans so the point here is if we can solicit a grant that will pay for the van the budget will allow us to receive those grant funds and pay for them if the grant is not here then the city is not anticipated on buying the vans.

CPA, Jim Butler stated when all this is said and done we end up with an unreserved fund balance of about four thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight dollars and we still preserve the BP settlement funds of six hundred and fourteen thousand that is not being touched in this budget.

Councilman Nobles asked CPA, Jim Butler if he added five percent to the health insurance on this budget.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to approve the Amendment to the 2016 Budget and the adoption of 2017 Budget.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to approve the Amendment to the 2016 Budget and the adoption of 2017 Budget.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to amend the agenda.

Item 5, 6, 7 and 9 under Old Business.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to amend the agenda

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

5. (JIS) Martin House
6. (JIS) Westwego Art Center
7. (GG) District 1 Playground
9. (GJT) Funding for Gym

(JIS) Martin House

Mayor Shaddinger discussed the estimate on the cost to have the roof repaired. Mayor Shaddinger also stated he spoke with Historical Society and Commissioner Betty Landry.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion for approval from the council to allow an estimate from the engineer to secure three bids to repair the roof.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to allow an estimate from the engineer to secure three bids to repair the roof.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

(JIS) Westwego Art Center

Mayor Shaddinger stated the Westwego Art Center was damaged after Hurricane Isaac and finally got a decision from Baton Rouge to allow me to entertain a contract with Lee Michael Studio an architect for the renovation of the building.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion for approval from the council to allow me to sign the contract so it can be forwarded to Facility Planning.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to allow Mayor Shaddinger to sign the contract so it can be forwarded to Facility Planning.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

(GG) District 1 Playground

Councilman Green stated it is obvious the state is renegeing on the money that we were supposed to get for the playground. Councilman Green also stated he has fifty thousand dollars in his discretionary account and would like use the money for District 1 playground equipment so the kids can at least use the playground next year.

CPA, Jim Butler stated it was no problem and the state is not funding those projects at this time and it will not be considered soon. Mr. Butler also stated if the city wants to use its own discretionary funds to make some improvements then we are pretty much a free hand as to what we put there. If the equipment will be installed by contracts then the bid limit is one hundred and fifty thousand so if you are going to use fifty thousand you can pretty much order it but if you are going to buy the equipment and the city will install it then it is a lower bid limit, it is only twenty thousand. But if you get the provider of the playset to install it then you can use the fifty thousand without a bid and just get estimate and choose which fits best.

A discussion followed.

(GJT) Funding for Gym

CPA, Jim Butler stated we have the drawings and the specs written and are ready to be sent to Baton Rouge for the approval but at this point we are waiting for the funds for construction to be approved by the state. We will submit it again next year when they meet for session but right now we will probably will not get it between now and the new session.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following resolutions for adoption:

Offered by Councilman Green:

RESOLUTION 2016-11(A)

A resolution authorizing the City of Westwego to transfer and assign to the Parish of Jefferson a portion of a land located adjacent to Lapalco Blvd., being a portion of Lot 4, Harang Plantation, which is necessary for Roadway Improvements to Lapalco Boulevard (Victory-Westwood) pursuant to Jefferson Parish Public Works Project No. 96-019D-RBI, and to provide for related matters.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to adopt Resolution 2016-11(A).

A discussion followed.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

ORDINANCES FOR CONSIDERATION

The Deputy City Clerk read aloud the following ordinances for consideration:

Offered by Councilman Warino:

An ordinance authorizing the City of Westwego to dispose of, in accordance with Louisiana law, certain property that is no longer needed for public use.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinance for adoption:

Offered by Councilman Nobles:

ORDINANCE 1533

An ordinance amending and readopting the 2016 Budget for the City of Westwego.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to open for public hearing for the 2016 Amendment.

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to open for public hearing for the 2016 Amendment.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

Mayor Shaddinger entertained public comment.

No one spoke in favor of the ordinance; no spoke in opposition.

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Warino, to close the public hearing.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to adopt Ordinance 1533.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

ORDINANCE 1534

An ordinance approving the 2017 Budget for the City of Westwego.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to open for public hearing for the 2017 Budget.

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to open for public hearing for the 2017 Budget.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

Mayor Shaddinger entertained public comment.

No one spoke in favor of the ordinance; no spoke in opposition.

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to close the public hearing.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to adopt Ordinance 1534.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

OLD BUSINESS

1. (JIS) Utility Bill Adjustments

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Green, to approve the Utility Billing Adjustments as recommended.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

2. (JIS) Water Storage Tank

Mayor Shaddinger stated every councilman should have a copy of the request from the contractor for the Water Storage Tank. This is the recommendation by the engineer for a change order for sixteen days, nine days for weather and seven days for redesigning of the electrical footprint.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to approve the change order for the sixteen days.

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Fonseca, to approve the change order for the sixteen days.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

3. (JIS) Food Bank

Mayor Shaddinger stated today at three o'clock I did receive an email from Frank Moracco and it was forwarded to Jim Butler and also to City Attorney Levy. Mayor Shaddinger also stated this is the third revised lease agreement for the Food Bank.

A discussion followed.

4. (JIS) City Hall

Mayor Shaddinger stated there has been a request for three additional television outlets for the new city hall and the estimated cost is five hundred and eighty dollars and two days to complete the work.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to approve the change order of three additional television outlets and two days to complete the work.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to approve the change order of three additional television outlets and two days to complete the work.

Councilman Warino asked if the cost was sixteen hundred or twelve hundred dollars.

Mayor Shaddinger replied for this change order its five hundred and eighty dollars.

A discussion followed.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

Mayor Shaddinger stated the second request for a change order is to add one camera and a monitor for the DMV Department in the amount of sixteen hundred and eighty-two dollars with five days to complete the work.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to open for discussion.

Councilman Nobles stated if he is not mistaking this is requested by the DMV Department for safety issues because the testing area is in the back room where the kitchen is located for the employees.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Green, to approve the change order to add one camera and a monitor for the DMV Department in the amount of sixteen hundred and eighty-two dollars with five days to complete the work.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino ABSENT: Toups

5. (JIS) Martin House

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

6. (JIS) Westwego Art Center

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

7. (GG) District 1 Playgrounds

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

8. (JSN) Update on Nuisance Animal Control

Councilman Nobles spoke in regards to residence calling about catching possums and different wild animals with the traps and there is no one to call to dispose of them. I received a letter in my box with the phone numbers but never had the chance to call if they have a charge and additional information to dispose of the animals.

A discussion followed.

9. (GJT) Funding for Gym

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

10. (LJW) Street Resurfacing

Councilman Warino stated the resurfacing on Avenue H from Fourth Street to Westbank Expressway is complete and there was a little more work involved including a sewer line that was damaged and needed repairs on Seventh Street and Avenue H. Also, stated there was a hump in the road by Piggly Wiggly and the contractors had to take out about five inches and tried to get majority of it and I thought they did a fairly good job. Last week I knocked on all the residence in that area to notify them of the repairs.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger stated the funding for the street overlays and the fire hydrant has not been approved but it is still in Priority 2 it just has not been funded through the Bond Commissioner so therefore the funds are not lost.

11. (LJW) Zoning Board and Board of Adjustments

Councilman Warino stated it was brought to his attention that we have two new members on the Board of Adjustments and I would like to see if City Attorney Levy can call a meeting with Lisa and the members of the Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustments to a general information meeting to discuss their speciations.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (JSN) Health Insurance

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Councilman Nobles added that it may not happen this year but maybe next year and I spoke the Jefferson Parish to see if there is a possibility that the City of Westwego can piggy back off of the parish contract with their insurance carrier.

2. (NJF) Vans for Senior Center

Councilman Fonseca discussed a new van for the Senior Center.

A discussion followed.

3. (NJF) Building Inspector

Councilman Fonseca discussed giving all the inspectors a raise.

Mayor Shaddinger asked how much of an increase would you like to see?

Councilman Fonseca stated he would like to see a fifty dollar increase for the time being.

Councilman Nobles asked if they had received an increase when the city employees received a 6% increase last year.

Mayor Shaddinger replied stating the inspectors did not receive an increase at the time the city employees did.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Councilmen, present to adjourn at 7:37 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2016.

APPROVED: Yeas: Green, Nobles, Fonseca, Warino

ABSENT: Toups

John I. Shaddinger, Jr., Mayor

Maurice T. Bourgeois, Jr., City Clerk

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego will meet in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 12, 2016 in the Council Room at City Hall, 419 Avenue A, Westwego, Louisiana.
