

City Hall
Westwego, Louisiana
Monday, December 12, 2016

Regular Session

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Westwego met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Monday, December 12 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 4 Councilman Garrison J. Toups
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

Pastor Leander Johnson, from True Vine Baptist Church, led the assembly in prayer, followed by a moment of silence in honor of the deceased members of our community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ronnie Harrison led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Shaddinger introduced the new Park Director, Tiffany Jones-Joseph to the council and the general public.

TIFFANY JONES-JOSEPH – PARK DIRECTOR

Mrs. Jones-Joseph addressed the council to discuss her background and her inspiration. Mrs. Jones-Joseph also stated her concern is the lights at the park during the off seasonal sports.

A discussion followed.

ROBERT BILLIOT – STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Billiot stated a couple of years ago we were in the process to trying to get the plans done pertaining to the fire hydrants, streets, parks and playgrounds. Mr. Billiot also stated the Emergency Board will hold a meeting to discuss moving the funds because they felt the projects that were taking long were impossible and probably could not be completed within a certain amount of time, so they are taking that money out of those particular projects and put them on the side as they were doing the meeting. When the meeting was completed they stated we are no longer in Priority 1 but in Priority 5 so that means the process starts over.

A discussion followed.

MARGARET HARRISON

Mrs. Harrison addressed the City Council to thank Police Chief Munch along with the Police Department, Fire Department, Boy Scouts and all the Auxiliary staff for the wonderful luncheon that was held last Sunday.

VICKIELYNN DRURY – 385 LOUISIANA STREET

Vickielynn Drury addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License and Alcohol Permit to operate the Poor House Saloon West located at 385 Louisiana Street.

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to approve Occupational License and Alcohol Permit to operate the Poor House Saloon West located at 385 Louisiana Street, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

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

DUSTIN ARABIE – 822 EAST CRYSTAL COURT

Dustin Arabie addressed the City Council to request a Home Occupational License for mail and telephone use purposes only, to renovate and sell homes located at 822 East Crystal Court.

MOVED by Councilman Fonseca, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to approve Home Occupational License for mail and telephone use purposes only, to renovate and sell homes located at 822 East Crystal Court, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

JOHN NGUYEN – 639 AVENUE B

John Nguyen addressed the City Council to discuss his client Thank Vo's property located at 639 Ave B. Mr. Nguyen is the architect for the renovations of this property. Mr. Vo wants to convert this two apartment complex into a single dwelling family house and is requesting a permit for the renovations of the second floor.

Councilman Warino stated this property is an eye sore and it's been an apartment complex for a long time and Mr. Vo purchased the home and were doing the renovations but the renovations were not in line with the permit that was applied for.

A discussion followed.

HENRY GILL, SR. – 138 WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY, SUITE B

Henry Gill, Sr. addressed the City Council to request an Occupational License to operate a showroom at 138 Westbank Expressway, Suite B.

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Green, to approve Occupational License to operate a showroom at 138 Westbank Expressway, Suite B, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

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

LEONARD WAGUESPACK – 800 SEVENTH STREET

Leonard Waguespack addressed the City Council to discuss the fishermen are looking for a place to fish from the bank and offered to lease the WHARF property and he would clean it and sell the bait so the fishermen can have a place to fish.

A discussion followed.

RODNEY BREAUX – 1219 AVENUE H

Rodney Breaux addressed the City Council to request a second Occupational License to include Wholesale/Retail for Pro Plus, LLC located at 1219 Avenue H.

MOVED by Councilman Toups, and seconded by Councilman Warino, to approve a second Occupational License to include Wholesale/Retail for Pro Plus, LLC located at 1219 Avenue H. subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

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

STEVE BRIGHTBILL – 104 FOURTH STREET – TIPS BAR

Steve Brightbill addressed the City Council to discuss the renovation plans for Tips Bar and the building next door. Mr. Brightbill stated the bar business is down so therefore his funds are limited and will have a crew working on the siding but needs to hold off on the roof in order to stay below the fifty percent (50%) FEMA regulations.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger stated he will meet with the Westwego Historic District Commission (WHDC) to discuss opening his Campaign Headquarters at 272 Sala Avenue.

MARGARET HARRISON

Margaret Harrison stated she understands the frustration regarding Tips Bar because it is on the main drag, but you have to understand where I live. Mrs. Harrison also stated down the street from me at Clem's old house there is a big fishing boat with the butterfly rigging on it inside the yard and when I complained Code Enforcer Chad had the owner move it and now the boat is back.

Mayor Shaddinger stated we care about all the streets not just anyone in particular.

Councilman Warino stated I was not addressing the property on Fourth Street because it is on Fourth Street, I was addressing it because it is in my district and I addressed it before and nothing was done so I am simply doing a follow up on the property.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Shaddinger asked City Attorney Levy to look into the ordinance regarding any boats parked in the front yard.

City Attorney Levy stated he will look into it and provide the information at the next meeting.

CAROL and MYRON LEBRANE – 137 SALA AVENUE

Mayor Shaddinger spoke on behalf of Carol LeBrane to reapprove her Occupational License and Alcohol Beverage Permit to operate LeBrane's Creole Cuisine & Catering Restaurant located at 137 Sala Ave.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to reapprove Occupational License and Alcohol Beverage Permit to operate LeBrane's Creole Cuisine & Catering Restaurant located at 137 Sala Ave, subject to all state, parish, and city requirements for such.

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

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(LJW) District 5 Town Hall Meeting

Councilman Warino announced he is having a District 5 Town Hall Meeting. Councilman Warino also stated he will not be seeking a Fourth term as Councilman for District 5. After the holidays I will be putting out door hangers to let everyone in District 5 know that I will be here till the end of June and if there is anything they need to speak with me about.

Mayor Shaddinger stated we are in the process of advertising for the bids for the new Emergency Management Building. The tentative date will be January 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. and the pre-bid will be January 10th at the Westwego Police Department for 10:00 a.m. and it will also be advertised in the Times Picayune on December 21st and 28th 2016 and January 4, 2017.

Mayor Shaddinger discussed the Performing Arts stating that TUNA Construction has been working on the building and it looks like they will finish soon. TUNA Construction is trying to finish by the end of the year.

Mayor Shaddinger wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

Fire Chief Ryan P. Guidroz submitted his written report and thanked everyone regarding the Christmas parade.

EMS Director Joseph J. Aldor, Jr. was not present but had submitted his written report earlier.

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.

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Regular Session of Monday, November 14, 2016

Tabled by Councilman Warino.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

There were no resolutions for adoption.

ORDINANCES FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no ordinance for consideration.

ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

The City Clerk read aloud the following ordinance for adoption:

Offered by Councilman Warino

ORDINANCE 1535

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.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to open for public hearing for authorizing the City of Westwego to dispose of, in accordance with Louisiana law, certain property that is no longer needed for public use.

MOVED, and seconded, by All Councilmen, present to open a public hearing for this resolution.

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

Mayor Shaddinger entertained public comment.

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

MOVED, and seconded, by All Councilmen, present to close the public hearing.

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

MOVED by Councilman Warino, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to adopt Ordinance 1535.

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

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, Toups, Warino

2. (JIS) Food Bank

Mayor Shaddinger discussed amendments proposed by "People Helping Hand in Hand".

Councilman Nobles stated he has spoken with City Attorney Levy regarding the contract and he suggested instead of a five year lease agreement to change it into a yearly lease agreement and I would like to go with his recommendations.

Mayor Shaddinger stated if they can consider a two year lease agreement.

A discussion followed.

Councilman Green, Councilman Fonseca and Councilman Nobles like the two year lease agreement.

City Attorney Levy stated he would like with the permission of the Council to read and approve the agreement.

Councilman Green entertained a motion to accept the two year lease agreement with the concurrence of the City Attorney Levy.

MOVED by Councilman Green, and seconded by Councilman Nobles, to accept the two year lease agreement with the concurrence of the City Attorney Levy.

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

3. (JIS) City Hall

Mayor Shaddinger discussed the progress of the new City Hall and will be moving in the furniture soon. Mayor Shaddinger asked the Council to approve the ribbon cutting ceremony to be held December 28th assuming Meyer Engineer approves substantial completion. The permanent temporary doors are installed until such time that the permanent doors will be in January. The Driver's License Department requested to install a new wall and a swinging door and the cost is about forty-two hundred dollars along with adding one data outlet and two duplex outlets with the cost of sixty-five hundred dollars.

Mayor Shaddinger entertained a motion to install a new wall and a swinging door and the cost is about forty-two hundred dollars along with adding one data outlet and two duplex outlets with the cost of sixty-five hundred dollars per Driver's License request.

MOVED by Councilman Nobles, and seconded by Councilman Toups, to approve a new wall and a swinging door and the cost is about forty-two hundred dollars along with adding one data outlet and two duplex outlets with the cost of sixty-five hundred dollars per Driver's License request with no days.

YEAS: Nobles, Fonseca, Toups, Warino

NAYS: Green

4. (GG) Farmers Market

Tabled by Councilman Green.

5. (GG) Update Railroad Crossing

Tabled by Councilman Green.

Mayor Shaddinger stated he received an email from DOTD stating it has been brought up for discussion and the project will start in the next thirty to sixty days. The funding is limited so it will be paid through the state and Union Pacific Railroad.

Councilman Green withdrew his tabled and opened for discussion.

Mayor Shaddinger discussed rugs in front of the new City Hall building and landscaping. Mayor Shaddinger provided the Council members with proposals from Loop Linen for the rugs. Jefferson Parish Councilman Paul Johnston will provide twenty thousand dollars for the landscaping and irrigation.

6. (JSN) Health Insurance

Councilman Nobles asked for an update on the insurance rates.

Mayor Shaddinger stated he has not received any rates as of yet but Daul Insurance are reaching out to other carriers.

A discussion followed.

7. (JSN) Update – IT Support for New City Hall Move-In

Councilman Nobles asked if we have hired a company.

Mayor Shaddinger stated we hired New Era IT in assisting our staff to move the computers. We are also seeking prices to move the file cabinets, records and furniture and I will be asking FEMA for consideration for the cost.

8. (GJT) Update Water Plant

Mayor Shaddinger stated thirty minutes after the BIDS came in the estimated cost was about two point two million and the alternates came in where they needed to be but the low BID was about two point nine million, however we received a call from Oscar Boudreaux the engineer and reached out to the contractors and he is in the process of going back to the drawing board as we did the City Hall and checking what can be done in house in an effort to get the cost to our target.

A discussion followed.

9. (GJT) Update Water Storage Tank

Superintendent Utley stated the contractors repaired the cement that collapsed after their equipment rolled on it. The contractors may have hired someone to do the blacktop and they would like to go ten foot more into the old blacktop but only go three inches thick.

A discussion followed.

10. (LJW) Sewer System Test

Tabled by Councilman Warino.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (LJW) 104 Fourth Street

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. (LJW) Myrtle C. Thibodeaux Elementary

Councilman Warino announced the sidewalk from Avenue E to Avenue D along with Fourth Street on Myrtle C. Thibodeaux side. The repairs will start this week and will be finished by the time kids go back to school.

The Council wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURN

MOVED, and seconded, by All Councilmen, present to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., Monday, December 12, 2016.

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

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.
