

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 16th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 16th day of December, 2019 at City Hall, their regular meeting place, pursuant to the call of the Mayor.

THERE were present: Melinda Mitchell, Mayor

Mike Fuselier, Councilman

Dennis Williams, Councilman

Juma Johnson, Councilman

Edmond Joseph, Councilman

Allan L. Durand, City Attorney

THERE were absent: Craig Prosper, Councilman

Mayor Melinda Mitchell presiding, called the meeting to order.

Upon request of Chief Martin, it was moved by Dennis Williams duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the hiring of three full-time dispatchers and one part-time dispatcher be added to the agenda of this meeting.

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that a zoning variance requested by Kim Porter to place a mobile home at 215 Resweber Hwy be added to the agenda of this meeting.

Upon motion of Dennis Williams duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the minutes of the special meeting held November 27, 2019 hereby be approved as written and prepared for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville. Mayor further clarified that the motion made at the November 27, 2019 meeting by Councilman Prosper regarding Mike Douet's vacation, to state that the City will reinstate his seniority without any lapse of service.

Upon motion of Dennis Williams duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the minutes of the special meeting held December 3, 2019 hereby be approved as written and prepared for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that the bills to be paid by the City Finance Committee hereby be approved for payment.

Arborist Jim Foret and Stuart Gauthier of LSU Ag spoke about the health of the Evangeline Oak. They recommended removing the fig leaf vine attached to the Evangeline Oak and evaluate the branch forks. Superintendent Brian Touchet will arrange for Mr. Foret and Mr. Gauthier to meet with City employees to remove the fig leaf vine.

Upon recommendation of City Attorney Allan Durand, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that the request by Section 8 Administrator Larry Duplantis II to be granted signatory status for Section 8 checking account be tabled in order for Mr. Durand to contact the bank for further information.

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that 30 days be granted for Kelly Bourque to make repairs to the dilapidated structure located at 222 N. Pinaud Street, pending inspection by City electricians thru Building Code Inspector Rodney Richard. Planning and Zoning Administrator Danielle Fontenette will contact Mr. Richard regarding electrical information he provided in recent inspection report.

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that Building Code Inspector Rodney Richard be contacted to conduct an inspection of the dilapidated structure located at 6365 Main Hwy owned by Darrell Matthews and present report to council at a later meeting.

ORDINANCE 19-09

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville Amending section 14-7.1 of the Code of Ordinances

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville has determined that the cost charged by the City of St. Martinville for grass cutting or debris removal on private property under the City Nuisance Ordinances previously being charged do not cover the costs of the City in performing such nuisance abatement, and that therefore may be in violation of the Constitutional prohibition against expending public funds for the improvement of private property, and

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville has determined to increase its charges to a charge which the City believes is equivalent to the actual cost of the City for such nuisance abatement,

THEREFORE be it ordained that Section 14-7.1(a) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

The costs of the City to perform grass cutting or debris removal on private property shall be \$175 per hour when performed by the City, with the cost to be pro rated for all work performed in less than an hour. When the nuisance abatement is provided by private contractors via lowest acceptable bid, the costs shall be equal to the contract price.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Mr. Fuselier, duly seconded by Mr. Williams, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was:

Yeas: Fuselier, Williams

Nays: Johnson, Joseph

Absent: Prosper

The vote being tied, Mayor Mitchell voted "Yea."

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the 16th day of December, 2019.

MELINDA MITCHELL, Mayor

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that a 30 day extension be granted to remove the dilapidated structure located at 124 Cemetery Street owned by Burton Willis.

Upon request of Public Works Superintendent Brian Touchet, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried to table the hiring of a Heavy Equipment Mechanic.

Upon motion of Juma Johnson duly seconded by Edmond Joseph and unanimously carried that Clara Tyler Jean Batiste and Jimmy Charles be hired as part-time docents for the museum. Their pay rate will be \$8.00 per hour and they will work 27.5 hours every 2 weeks.

Upon motion of Dennis Williams duly seconded by Mike Fuselier and unanimously carried that the approval of the Employee Handbook be tabled for further review.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Juma Johnson and unanimously carried that Samarian Lively be hired as part-time dispatcher with a rate of pay of \$9.75 per hour.

Upon recommendation of Chief Ricky Martin, it was moved by Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Dennis Williams and unanimously carried that Skylar Batiste, Victoria Louviere and Simone Narcisse be hired as full-time dispatcher with a rate of pay of \$9.75 per hour.

Upon motion of Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Juma Johnson and unanimously carried that the variance requested by Kim Porter to located a mobile home at 215 Resweber in a R-1 Residential zone be hereby approved.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, Mayor Mitchell adjourned the meeting upon motion of Dennis Williams duly seconded by Juma Johnson.

MELINDA MITCHELL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, SECRETARY