

# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR REEVES:



## Projects in the works for 2021

The year 2020 presented many difficulties that slowed, and in some cases, stopped projects. Besides the COVID pandemic, we faced a record number of hurricanes headed for Louisiana, and other issues. But we have started off 2021 with a push to get a number of projects rolling throughout our city.

### Among my priorities for 2021 are:

- **Begin construction of the Riverfront Levee Trail**, the walking and biking trail on the Mississippi River levee. We had hoped to go out for bid on the project in October, but delays at the State level have stopped us. Because we have \$139,000 in state grants involved, we have had to wait. I am now optimistic that we can go out for bid on Phases 1 & 2 of the project by March.
- **Complete design of the old Kyle's Express site and begin construction.** We are on track to meet this goal.
- **Complete additional improvements to parks** across the city. We are on track for this goal also.
- **Continue strong enforcement of city codes on maintaining private property** (see front page article). We have stepped up this enforcement.
- **Work with the Board of Selectmen to address some infrastructure issues and to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of city operations.**

I am excited about these projects and Plaquemine's future. As always, my door is open should you have suggestions/concerns for our city.

*Ed*

Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr.

## What is not allowed on private property

See related article on front page.

**INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLES** – A vehicle is considered inoperable/derelict if a current inspection tag isn't displayed and/or it is not fully equipped to legally and safely operate on public streets. These vehicles are not permitted to stay on residential property.

**JUNK, TRASH, AND DEBRIS** – Junk, auto parts, furniture, trash, tires, building materials, tree trimmings, and other debris cannot be left in the yard.

**PARKING & COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT** – Parking for passenger cars and other vehicles on residential properties is permitted only on a legal driveway or in a garage. Commercial equipment and vehicles cannot be parked or stored in a residential area.

**HOUSES/STRUCTURES** – Exterior structures and houses must be maintained in a secure and attractive manner. Walls, roof, railings, fences, porches, doors, windows, and other exterior parts of a structure must be maintained in weather tight, rodent proof, sound condition and in good repair.



City of Plaquemine  
23640 Railroad Ave.  
Plaquemine, LA 70764

### City of Plaquemine

Plaquemine City Hall • 23640 Railroad Ave.

Plaquemine, Louisiana • 225-687-3116

HOURS: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Thursday,

7:30 am – 11:30 am Friday

Emergency After-Hours Phone 225-687-4796

[www.plaquemine.org](http://www.plaquemine.org)

[facebook.com/the City of Plaquemine](https://www.facebook.com/theCityofPlaquemine)



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## Edwin M. "Ed" Reeves, Jr., Mayor

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Mayor Pro Tem

Lindon A. "Lin" Rivet, Jr. – Selectman, District 1

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february 2021



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Mayor's Office	687-3116
City Light & Water	687-3725
City Clerk	687-3661
City Inspector	687-2208
Warehouse	687-2036
City Finance	687-3725
Human Resources	687-3725
Utilites	687-2461
Fire Department	687-7335
Police Department	687-9273

For city department info go to [www.plaquemine.org](http://www.plaquemine.org)

## City ramps up clean-up enforcement again, clears out junk vehicles, property

The city has either tagged or sent letters for property owners to move more than 50 derelict vehicles and to repair 34 blighted houses/buildings as it again ramps up efforts to remove blight from the city.

"It has been a continual struggle to keep our city clean," said Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. "We began 2021 with another clean-up push that includes requiring property owners to get rid of the junk vehicles and to repair and clean up their property. I commend the new Board of Selectmen for being willing to hold special meetings to speed up the process of enforcing city codes on blighted houses and structures."

Reeves said many property owners are adhering to city orders to remove junk vehicles and make repairs once the city notifies them that action is required. The City's Public Works crew is also cleaning up overgrown brush and trash on abandoned properties, as the city takes legal action to have the houses demolished. The legal process for demolition is cumbersome and require precise legal notification, which is often time consuming.

"This is something all residents should care about," said Mayor Reeves. "It not only reflects poorly on the city, it also increases crime as these abandoned houses are used for drug deals and other illegal activity, and it reduces property values."

See inside for list of what is prohibited on private properties in the city. Anyone wanting to make a complaint about a property or vehicle should call the City Inspector's Office at 225.687. 2208.



Shown at top is a vehicle that was tagged by the City, and above is the tag posted on derelict vehicles.

## Preliminary plans for old Kyle's Express site expected by March

Plans are presently being developed for the beautification of the old Kyle's Express site off La. Hwy. 1 next to the Depot Market. Mayor Ed Reeves, Jr. met with architect Brad Guerin and the landscape architect to develop design features for the site.

Mayor Reeves presented them with the suggestions and comments obtained from well over 100 local residents, listed by popularity of the idea. The city had obtained that information by holding a public meeting to get input, and also asking for input on the city's facebook page last fall. Some ideas presented by residents are not feasible for the site. The most popular ideas included a farmer's market area, coffee shop, covered outdoor seating area, and landscaping.

The architects were instructed to include a covered area for farmer's markets/ vendor booths, outdoor seating, an art piece or water feature to reflect Plaquemine's dependence on the Mississippi River and Bayou Plaquemine for its development, landscaping, and some parking. A shade canopy will extend from the railroad side of the Depot building into the property as a major feature of the design. Watch for more on this in the coming months!

## City water line relocation required as part of Intracoastal Bridge upgrade

The City of Plaquemine went out for bids in January for a project to move the water line from its well in Port Allen to accommodate the new Intracoastal Bridge that will be constructed beginning later this year.



The City was required by the La. Department of Transportation and Development to move the line out of the way of the construction and to make sure it was not running under turning lanes adjacent to the bridge. The city project is expected to get underway by April and is expected to cost approximately \$600,000.

The project includes changing out the old 16-inch cast iron line to an 18-inch HDPE pipe for approximately 2,000 feet. The City will also be adding valves at strategic locations along the 10-mile pipeline to Plaquemine to make cut-off easier when there are issues with the water line.

The \$50 to \$70 million LDOTD bridge upgrade will double the size and traffic capacity of the existing bridge. The bridge currently has two 14-foot lanes with no shoulder in either direction. The new bridge will have three 12-foot lanes with 10-foot shoulders going in both directions. Construction is expected to begin by the summer or fall of this year and will be phased to reduce the impact on traffic.



## Work underway on park improvements

Improvements are underway at most of the city parks this Spring, with covered pavilions, barbeque pits and walking trails being installed. "We are continuing to upgrade Herman Graham, North Plaquemine and the new Fort Area Parks," said Mayor Ed Reeves, Jr. "The upgrades, which are now underway, include a covered pavilion and barbeque pits at each park, which provide family-friendly elements. We are adding the walking trails in response to residents requests for more places to walk in the community." New signage is also coming for the parks. The improvements are expected to be completed before summer.

## La. Hwy. 1 reconstruction begins soon

The state will begin reconstruction of La. Hwy. 1 from the Intracoastal Bridge to Belleview Road in Plaquemine sometime in February. The project is expected to take about one year.

State Rep. Chad Brown said the south-bound lane of La. Hwy. 1 will be completely re-built, with the current road being removed and a new sub-base and overlay being constructed. "The road is in very poor condition so a complete re-do is necessary, and that is what will take so long," said Brown. "The north bound lane is concrete. Only repairs of certain areas will be necessary on the north bound lanes."

Brown said the contractor will try to do as much of the work at night as possible, but there will be traffic disruptions while the work is underway. Mayor Reeves said the city has been requesting the road project for years, and officials are glad to see that it will be underway.

## State delays hinder levee trail project

Phases 1 & 2 of the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail project have been ready to go out for bid since October, but have been held up by the State for another environmental review required for the \$149,000 in grants the city has received for the project from the La. Office of State Parks. The city has been working for over 3 years to get all the federal, state and levee board approvals necessary for the 1.3 mile walking and biking trail on the Mississippi River levee through Plaquemine.

Mayor Reeves has reached out to state officials to get the project pushed through the state process, and is now optimistic that Phases 1 & 2 will go out for bid in March. Meanwhile, the City is working with the La. Department of Transportation and Development to provide the documents, drawings and plans for the \$1 million grant to complete the project. It is hoped that those phases can go out for bid by November.

## City officials sworn in for 2021-24 term



Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. is sworn in as his grandson, Jaxon, looks on, and his wife, Anne, holds the Bible. City Judge Mike Distefano administered the oath to all officials on January 4.



Police Chief Kenny Payne with his wife, Tisha, and his son, Clay.



Selectman Oscan Mellion (Dist. 2) with his wife, Geraldine. Mellion was selected as Mayor Pro Tem.



Selectman Lin Rivet (Dist. 1) with his wife, Liz, and his mother, "Fannie" Rivet.



Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones (Dist. 3) with her husband, Eric.



Selectman Tommy LeBlanc (Dist. 4) with his wife, Joey, and his mother, Betty LeBlanc.



Selectman Shannon Courtade (Dist. 5) with his wife, Joni.



Selectman Jimmie Randle (Dist. 6) with his wife, Margaret; and his daughter, Aleisha.