

**Minutes of April 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting
Mayor and Board of Selectmen
City of Plaquemine, Louisiana**

The Mayor and Board of Selectmen met for a Regular Meeting at Plaquemine City Hall, second floor courtroom, 23640 Railroad Avenue, City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, 70764 on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Edwin M. Reeves, Jr. and Selectmen Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Shannon P. Courtade and Selectwomen Wanda B. Jones and Natasha S. Johnson

Absent: Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the Clerk's evidence of proper notice for the calling of the meeting.

Mayor Edwin M. Reeves, Jr. recognized Mr. Luke Avants who asked about the legality of open prayer at a governmental meeting. City Attorney Joseph B. Dupont, Jr. advised he will research Mr. Avants questions.

Item 01. OPENING PRAYER.

Pastor Butch LaBauve, of River Ministries International, gave an opening prayer.

Item 02. PUBLIC COMMENTS (MUST REGISTER WITH THE CLERK).

Mr. Bert Callais addressed Mayor and Board on election system/censorship. Ms. Robin Bates addressed the Mayor and Board concerning light bill at her home.

Item 03. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES.

There were no new employees introduced.

Item 04. DEMOLITION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58311 LONG STREET, OWNER MERIDIAN HOLDINGS, L.L.C., C/O MELISSA T. CASTILLE. (DISTRICT 2)

Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine demolish and advertise to receive bids on property located at 58311 Long Street.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 05. TO APPROVE A 2023 CLASS A ALCOHOL BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR JA'EL'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, LLC, 22325 HWY. 1, OWNER JENNIFER LEBLANC.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine approve a 2023 Class A Alcohol Beverage Permit for Ja'el's Restaurant & Lounge, LLC, 22325 Hwy. 1, owner Jennifer LeBlanc.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 06. TO APPROVE A 2023 CLASS B ALCOHOL BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR MULBERRY DELIGHT GIFT SHOP, 58725 BELLEVIEW ROAD, SUITE B-2, OWNER LISA C. VERRETT.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. that the City of Plaquemine approve a 2023 Class B Alcohol Beverage Permit for Mulberry Delight Gift Shop, 58725 Belleview Road, Suite B02, owner Lisa C. Verrett.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 07. TO HEAR FROM JOHN WILBERT ON BEHALF OF ENVIRONMENTAL LIQUID SOLUTIONS, LLC REGARDING HIS PROPOSAL TO BECOME A COMMERCIAL

SEWER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE MAYOR EDWIN M. REEVES, JR. TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT ACKNOWLEDGING ENVIRONMENTAL LIQUID SOLUTIONS, LLC HAS BEEN GRANTED APPROVAL TO BECOME A COMMERCIAL SEWER CUSTOMER AND CONNECT TO THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE SEWER SYSTEM.

Mr. John W. Wilbert, IV addressed the Mayor and Board regarding his proposal for becoming a commercial sewer customer. Item tabled until Special Meeting of Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Item 08. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT BID RECEIVED FOR THE NORTH WASTEWATER PLANT DECOMMISSIONING PUMP STATION MODIFICATIONS, PEC PROJECT NO. 11469.06.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. offered the following resolution, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, through its Mayor and Board of Selectmen, received bids for the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning Pump Station Modifications, PEC Project No. 11469.06 and

WHEREAS, the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, through its Mayor and Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of PEC and contingent of LDEQ approval, accept the low bid from Tullier Services, LLC, 58195 Homestead Drive, Plaquemine, LA 70764, License No. 31671, with a total bid of \$380,500.00 for North Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning Pump Station Modifications, PEC Project No. 11469.06.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana and contingent of LDEQ approval, accept the low bid from Tullier Services, LLC, 58195 Homestead Drive, Plaquemine, LA 70764, License No. 31671, with a total bid of \$380,500.00 for North Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning Pump Station Modifications, PEC Project No. 11469.06.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones and Shannon P. Courtade

Nays: Natasha S. Johnson

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 09. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT BID RECEIVED FOR THE PLAQUEMINE PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS, PEC PROJECT NO. 11663.06.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. offered the following resolution, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, through its Mayor and Board of Selectmen, received bids for the Plaquemine Pump Station Improvements, PEC Project No. 11663.06 and

WHEREAS, the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, through its Mayor and Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of PEC, accept the low bid from Tullier Services, LLC, 58195 Homestead Drive, Plaquemine, LA 70764, License No. 31671, with a total bid of \$372,565.00 for Plaquemine Pump Station Improvements, PEC Project No. 11663.06.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, accept the low bid from Tullier Services, LLC, 58195 Homestead Drive, Plaquemine, LA 70764, License No. 31671, with a total bid of \$372,565.00 for Plaquemine Pump Station Improvements, PEC Project No. 11663.06.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones and Shannon P. Courtade

Nays: Natasha S. Johnson

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 10. TO CANCEL AMI PURCHASE FOR CITY LIGHT AND WATER PLANT.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine amend item to proceed with collecting bids for AMI purchase for City Light and Water Plant until Thursday, April 13, 2023 and setting a meeting to discuss the contents of each bid.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Wanda B. Jones and Shannon P. Courtade

Nays: Natasha S. Johnson

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 11. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND ESTABLISH UTILITY RATES IN REFERENCE TO SEWERAGE UTILITIES AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 21, SECTION 68(A) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. moved, seconded by Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr.:

ORDINANCE NUMBER: 423

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND ESTABLISH UTILITY RATES AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 21, SECTION 68(a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Selectmen have reviewed, deliberated and considered the City of Plaquemine’s current sewerage rates for sewerage services charged to customers inside and outside the City’s Corporate Limits as provided in the Sewerage Rates as of November 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Selectmen, pursuant to the authority set forth in Chapter 21, Section 68(a) believe and have decided it is in the best interest for the citizens of the City of Plaquemine that it amend and establish sewerage rates, that it charges its customers inside and outside the City’s Corporate Limits as follows, to-wit:

Sewerage Rates

Commodity Charge:	Effective 05/01/2023 \$5.50 per 1000 gallons actual water usage (Inside City, District 1) Effective 05/01/2023 \$6.00 per 1000 gallons actual water usage (Outside City, District 2 & 3)
Res Customer Charge:	\$5.00 per month (Inside City – Residential) \$7.00 per month (Outside City – Residential)
Com Customer Charge:	\$11.00 per month (Inside City – Commercial) \$13.00 per month (Outside City – Commercial)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectman of the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana, in legal session, that pursuant to the authority set forth in Chapter 21, Section 68(a), it hereby amends and establishes the Sewerage Rates for sewerage services that it charges its customers inside and outside the City’s Corporate Limits as follows:

Sewerage Rates

Commodity Charge:	Effective 05/01/2023 5.50 per 1000 gallons actual water usage (Inside City, District 1) Effective 05/01/2023 \$6.00 per 1000 gallons actual water usage (Outside City, District 2 & 3)
Res Customer Charge:	\$5.00 per month (Inside City – Residential) \$7.00 per month (Outside City – Residential)
Com Customer Charge:	\$11.00 per month (Inside City – Commercial) \$13.00 per month (Outside City – Commercial)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen of the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana, that this ordinance shall become effective May 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen of the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana, that all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed in their entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen of the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 12. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PLAQUEMINE POLICE DEPARTMENT BEING PUT ON A WAITING LIST FOR THREE NEW POLICE UNITS TO BE ALLOCATED IN THE 2023-2024 FISCAL BUDGET.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones that the City of Plaquemine acknowledge the Plaquemine Police Department being put on a waiting list for three new police units to be allocated in the 2023-2024 fiscal budget.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 13. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a) PEC

Tony Arikol of PEC provided status of ongoing projects.

b) UTILITY DIRECTOR TRAVIS BOURGOYNE

Utility Director Travis Bourgoyne provided status on ongoing projects.

c) PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR IVORY PAINIA, III

Public Works Supervisor Ivory Painia, III provided status on ongoing projects.

d) FIRE CHIEF DARREN RAMIREZ

Fire Chief Darren Ramirez briefed Mayor and Board regarding his department and related matters.

e) POLICE CHIEF ROBERT J. JOHNSON, III

Police Chief Robert J. Johnson, III briefed Mayor and Board regarding his department and related matters.

f) FINANCE DIRECTOR LAUREN BERTHELOT

Finance Director Lauren Berthelot provided monthly budget to actual financial update.

g) CUSTOMER SERVICE DIRECTOR AUDRIANE WILLIAMS

Customer Service Director Audriane Williams briefed Mayor and Board regarding her department and related matters.

Item 14. ACKNOWLEDGE POLICE AND FIRE REPORTS FOR MARCH 2023.

So acknowledged.

Item 15. APPROVE PAYROLL VOUCHERS FOR THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE FOR MARCH 2023.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. that the City of Plaquemine approve payroll vouchers for the City of Plaquemine for March 2023.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 16. APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2023 (REGULAR MEETING), MARCH 28, 2023

(COMMITTEE MEETING) AND APRIL 3, 2023 (SPECIAL MEETING) WITH
NECESSARY CORRECTIONS.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, second by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the reading of the minutes of March 14, 2023 (regular meeting), March 28, 2023 (committee meeting) and April 3, 2023 (special meeting) were waived and approved as accepted with necessary corrections.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Item 17. ADJOURNMENT.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Shannon P. Courtade and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Thomas D. LeBlanc

CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

/s/Edwin M. "Ed" Reeves, Jr., Mayor

/s/Roxane M. Richard, LCMC