

**Minutes of May 9, 2023 – Regular Meeting
Mayor and Board of Selectmen
City of Plaquemine, Louisiana**

The Mayor and Board of Selectmen met for a Regular Meeting at the Plaquemine Community Center, 23245 Short Street, City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, 70764 on Tuesday, May 9, 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., Thomas D. LeBlanc and Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones and Natasha S. Johnson

Absent: Selectman Shannon P. Courtade

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

Item 01. OPENING PRAYER.

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

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

The following addressed the Mayor and Board concerning the following:

Mr. Luke Avants asked about separation of church and state in reference to prayer at meetings, Ms. Les Ann Kirkland asked about update on filming of meetings and Ms. Desdemona Georgetown spoke on her meeting with the Mayor concerning utilities and deposits. City Attorney Joseph B. Dupont, Jr. responded to all questions of concern.

Item 03. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES.

There were no new employees introduced.

Item 04. NUISANCE HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58667 BAYOU ROAD, OWNERS PIERRE & BLANCHARD VENTURES, L.L.C. (DISTRICT 2)

Item tabled until further notice.

Item 05. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58717 ANNEX STREET, OWNERS SAMUEL A. & ALWILLA DORSEY. (DISTRICT 6)

Selectwoman Natasha S. Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. that the City of Plaquemine grant owners of 58717 Annex Street 90 days to comply with city code.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 06. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58723 ANNEX STREET, OWNER CASSANDRA ANN HAYES. (DISTRICT 6)

Selectwoman Natasha S. Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carline, Sr. that the City of Plaquemine grant owner of 58729 Annex Street 90 days to comply with city code.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 07. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF CERTAIN AD VALOREM TAXES IN THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO BE SPREAD UPON THE 2023 ASSESSMENT ROLL OF THE PARISH OF IBERVILLE, STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. offered the following ordinance, seconded by Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc:

ORDINANCE NO. 424

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION
OF CERTAIN AD VALOREM TAXES IN THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO BE SPREAD UPON THE 2023 ASSESSMENT
ROLL OF THE PARISH OF IBERVILLE, STATE OF LOUISIANA

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen of the City of Plaquemine of the Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, in public meeting held on May 9, 2023, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the open meetings law, that the taxing authority voted that the taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2023, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purpose for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

	<u>2023 Levy</u>
General Revenue Purposes	4.85 mills
Improving, maintaining and operating the Police Department of the City	3.10 mills
Improving, maintaining and operating public buildings in the City	3.10 mills

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Assessor of the Parish of Iberville, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2023 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen of the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, Louisiana, that this ordinance shall become effective as provided by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen of the City of Plaquemine, Parish of Iberville, State of 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, Parish of Iberville, State of 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 read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones and Thomas D. LeBlanc

Nays: Natasha S. Johnson

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Abstain: None

Item 08. TO ADOPT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 10 – 14, 2023 AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK FOR THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE.

Item tabled until Committee Meeting of Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

Item 09. TO ADOPT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH FOR THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE.

Item tabled until Committee Meeting of Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

Item 10. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CLINT BARNELL AND CHARLEY ROBINSON TO THE PLAQUEMINE HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD.

Item tabled until the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Item 11. TO APPROVE HIRING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR MAYOR’S OFFICE.

Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. that the City of Plaquemine approve the hiring of Daria Daigle as Executive Assistant for the Mayor’s Office.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

- Item 12. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICES RELATED TO LITIGATION OF LYNN A. RIVET, ET. AL. V. THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE AS FOLLOWS: WILLIAM C. DUPONT TOTALING \$103,794.66 AND JOSEPH B. DUPONT, JR. TOTALING \$10,395.00.

Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones moved, seconded by Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. that the City of Plaquemine approve payment of invoices related to litigation of Lynn A. Rivet, ET. AL. V. The City of Plaquemine as follows: William C. Dupont totaling \$103,794.66 and Joseph B. Dupont, Jr. totaling \$10,395.00.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

- Item 13. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 100 OF 1997 AND TO AMEND SECTION 2-64 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr.:
ORDINANCE NO. 425

Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 100 of 1997 and to amend Section 2-64 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Plaquemine

WHEREAS, the Court of the 18th Judicial District Court has declared Section Paragraph (3) of Section 2-64 of the Code of the City of Plaquemine, amended by Ordinance 100 of 1997, in conflict with its Charter and therefore inoperative and without full force and effect of law, and,

WHEREAS, the City desires to repeal Ordinance 100 of 1997 in its entirety and amend Section 2-64 to comply with the Charter of the City of Plaquemine as is and is to be amended,

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that Ordinance 100 of 1997 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that Section 2-64 of the Code of Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

Section 2-64. Personnel, Mayors and Board of Selectmen Powers

The Mayor and Board of Selectmen shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

- (1) The Mayor shall supervise and direct the administration and operation of all municipal Departments, officers and agencies, except the Plaquemine Police Department and the Plaquemine City Court. All administrative staff shall be subordinate to the Mayor.
- (2) The Mayor may delegate the performance of administrative duties to such municipal officers or employees as he deems necessary and advisable, under the duties and responsibilities of their positions as set forth by the Mayor and the Board of Selectmen.
- (3) Subject to applicable state law, ordinances, charter provisions and civil service rules and regulations, the mayor shall appoint, hire, terminate and remove municipal employees, except employees of the Plaquemine Police Department and the Plaquemine City Court. However, any suspensions or termination of employees will be subject to appeal process to be designated within the City Code as set forth in the Employee Personnel Manual.
- (4) The appointment, hiring, termination and removal of the City Department heads shall be by the Mayor with the approval of the Board of Selectman, however if after (2) attempts of appointment fails, the board may appoint a Department Head of its choice.
- (5) The following are designated as Departments of the City of Plaquemine:
 1. Department of Finance, which shall oversee the City Warehouse and Purchasing.

2. Department of City Light and Water Business Office.
3. Fire Department.
4. Department of Human Resources.
5. Department of Public Works, which shall oversee Vehicle Maintenance and Recreation.
6. Department of City Inspector
7. Department of Utilities.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 14. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 7 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE AND ADD SECTION 10(A) TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr.:
ORDINANCE NO. 426

ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 7 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE AND ADD SECTION 10(a) TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Selectmen/Selectwomen of the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana, in legal session that Sections Seven 7, 7(a) and 10(a) be amended and added to the Charter of the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana, Act 109 of the General Assembly of 1878, to be amended is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Sec. 7. Election of designated city officers; combining offices authorized; terms of office; oath of office; bond requirements; officers subject to authority of mayor and board.

The Board of Selectmen/Selectwomen elect, shall within ten days after being commissioned, assemble, qualify and proceed to the election of suitable persons for the positions of City Collector, Clerk and Treasurer, and City Attorney/Prosecutor. The offices of Collector and Clerk and Treasurer may be combined in one*. The officers elected as herein above provided for shall hold their offices for the same term of the Mayor and Board, and shall take and subscribe an oath for the faithful performance of their duty, and give security in such sum as may be required by the Board, and be at all times subject to the directions of the Mayor and regulations of the Board of Selectmen established for the Government of the same in the performance of their respective duties assigned to them. Such Officers shall be subject to termination by the Board at any time for cause.

Sec. 7(a) Method of appointment of City Collector, Clerk, Treasurer and City Attorney/Prosecutor.

The Mayor shall solicit and receive applications for the positions of City Collector, Clerk, Treasurer and City Attorney/Prosecutor and shall forward them to the Board along with recommendations. The Board will accept or reject the recommendations of the Mayor. If after the failure of an appointment after two recommendations, the Board itself shall thereafter appoint by majority vote the positions from the list of applicants.

Sec. 10(a). - City Attorney/Prosecutor, powers and duties; salary.

The City Attorney/Prosecutor of said Town [City] of Plaquemine, shall act as the chief legal officer of the City of Plaquemine, providing legal consultation and advice to the Mayor and Board, Police Department and all Departments of the City of Plaquemine and shall represent the City in all suits and proceedings before State and Federal Court and administrative agencies. The City Attorney shall also prosecute all traffic, misdemeanor, and Juvenile criminal charges in the City Court of Plaquemine. The City Attorney/ Prosecutor shall receive such salary and benefits as said Board may fix.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Clerk, shall immediately have this Motion and Ordinance published in the official journal for three (3) consecutive weeks, and thereafter forwarded to the Governor for his approval under the provisions of La. R.S. 33:1181.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 15. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 13-7 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones:

ORDINANCE NO. 427

Ordinance to amend Section 13-7 of the Charter of the City of Plaquemine

WHEREAS, the Court of the 18th Judicial District Court has declared Section Paragraph (3) of Section 2-64 of the Code of the City of Plaquemine, amended by Ordinance 100 of 1997, in conflict with Section 13-7 of the Charter and therefore inoperative and without full force and effect of law, and,

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend Section 13-7 and add Section of its Charter to allow the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Mayor to appoint and supervise designated employees and Department Heads under certain terms and conditions.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Section 13-7 of the Charter of the City of Plaquemine be amended to state:

Seventh: The Mayor and Board of Selectmen/Selectwomen shall fix the amount of the bonds to be given by the Town [City] officers and Department Heads from whom bonds are or may be required; to Fix the Salaries or compensation of all officers , persons and Department Heads employed by them; to define the duties and to fix the Term of office of such employees as they may elect, and to remove for cause anyone of the employees appointed by the said Mayor and Board; to fix their own compensation and to impose such fines as they may deem proper upon themselves for nonattendance of the meetings of the Board. The Board may set forth by ordinance the Powers and Duties of the Mayor regarding the supervision, hiring, firing, discipline and termination of City Employees, including Department heads.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Clerk, shall immediately have this Ordinance published in the official journal for three (3) consecutive weeks, and thereafter forwarded to the Governor for his approval under the provisions of La. R.S. 33:1181.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 16. TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 1031 OF 1986 (IN ERROR CITED AS 2-19) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURE.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 428

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 1031 OF 1986 PURPORTING TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTION 18 (IN ERROR CITED AS 2-19) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURE

WHEREAS, the Court of the 18th Judicial District Court has declared Ordinance 1031 of 1986, inoperative and without full force and effect of law for failure to follow the provisions of La. R.S. 33:1181, and

WHEREAS, the City of Plaquemine, desires to accept the ruling of the court and repeal Ordinance 1031's proposal amendment to Section 18 (**in error cited as 2-19**)

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that Ordinance 1031 of 1986 purporting to amend and reenact Section 18 (**in error cited as 2-19**) of Charter of the City of Plaquemine relative to establishing a quorum and voting procedure, is hereby repealed in its entirety returning said section to its original wording, for its failure to comply with La. R.S. 33:1181, as follows:

Sec. 18. – Quorum; when majority required; veto power of Mayor; overriding veto.

The Mayor and three (3) Selectmen shall for a quorum to transact business (or four (4) Selectmen in the absence of the Mayor); but to levy a tax, toll or impost, or to fix the amount of or to pass any appropriation shall be by a vote of the majority of the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Mayor, and such vote shall be duly recorded. The Mayor shall have the right of vetoing any law, ordinance, or resolution of the Board of Selectmen, but when he exercise such right he shall return the law or ordinance vetoed to the Board of Selectmen within three (3) days after its passage, with his reasons, in writing, for such veto, when, if four (4) members of the Board of Selectmen vote to give the same effect, it shall become a law notwithstanding such veto.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: Thomas D. LeBlanc

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 17. 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 not present, no report given.

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 not present. Financial Reports were handed out to the Mayor and Board of Selectmen.

g) CUSTOMER SERVICE DIRECTOR AUDRIANE WILLIAMS

Customer Service Director Audriane Williams not present, no report given.

Item 18. ACKNOWLEDGE POLICE AND FIRE REPORTS FOR APRIL 2023.

So acknowledged.

Item 19. APPROVE PAYROLL VOUCHERS FOR THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE FOR APRIL 2023.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc that the City of Plaquemine approve payroll vouchers for the City of Plaquemine for April 2023.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 20. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2023 (REGULAR MEETING), APRIL 13, 2023 (SPECIAL MEETING) AND APRIL 26, 2023 (SPECIAL MEETING) WITH NECESSARY CORRECTIONS.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, second by Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc that the reading of the minutes of April 11, 2023 (regular meeting), April 13, 2023 (special meeting) and April 26, 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, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 21. DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON CITY HALL BUILDING AND POLICE STATION;
POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. that the City of Plaquemine go into executive session for update on city hall building and police station at 7:10 p.m.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones that the City of Plaquemine come out of executive session at 7:45 p.m.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

Item 22. ADJOURNMENT.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Michael K. Carlin, Sr. that the City of Plaquemine adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Michael K. Carlin, Sr., Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc and
Natasha S. Johnson

Nays: None

Absent: Shannon P. Courtade

CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

/s/Edwin M. “Ed” Reeves, Jr., Mayor

/s/Roxane M. Richard, LCMC