

**Minutes of May 10, 2022 – 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, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Edwin M. Reeves, Jr. and Selectmen Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Selectwomen Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones and Margaret R. Randle

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

Item 01. PUBLIC COMMENTS (MUST REGISTER WITH THE CLERK).

There were no public comments at this time.

Item 02. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES.

There were no new employees introduced.

Item 03. PRESENTATION – 2020-2021 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT BY MARGARET PRITCHARD WITH HUGH BAXLEY AND ASSOCIATES.

Ms. Margaret Pritchard, of Hugh Baxley and Associates, presented the 2020-2021 City of Plaquemine Annual Financial Report.

At this time, Ms. Les Ann Kirkland addressed the Mayor and Board concerning the minutes of the Mayor and Board.

Item 04. PUBLIC HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE MINOR SUBDIVISION CORRECTION AT 59820 AVERY JAMES DRIVE; PERSON APPLYING: CHARLES ARTHUR & ELIZABETH D. ROUSSELL.

No action taken, item tabled until further notice.

Item 05. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23465 MARSHALL STREET (DISTRICT 2), OWNER CHARLES E. LEAGARD, C/O MONIQUE H. FIELDS.

Selectwoman Geraldine H. Mellion moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones that the City of Plaquemine grant owner of 23465 Marshall Street 30 days to bring property into compliance with city code.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 06. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58679 MERIAM STREET (DISTRICT 2), OWNER: STERLING CHRISTY, JR., ET AL, C/O ISSAC CHRISTY.

Selectwoman Geraldine H. Mellion moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine grant owner of 58679 Meriam Street 60 days to bring property into compliance with city code.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 07. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58501 NATS ALLEY (DISTRICT 2), OWNER: LAOMI CHRISTY, ET AL, C/O ISSAC CHRISTY.

Selectwoman Geraldine H. Mellion moved, seconded by Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc that the City of Plaquemine grant owner of 58501 Nats Alley 30 days to demolish property.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 08. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23511 LIBERTY STREET (DISTRICT 3), OWNER JOHN HERNANDEZ.

Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones moved, seconded by Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. that the City of Plaquemine grant owner of 23511 Liberty Street 30 days to bring property into compliance with city code.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 09. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58412 ALLEN STREET (DISTRICT 3), OWNERS WILBERT JR. & ELAINE MCCLAY.

Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones moved, seconded by Selectman Thomas D. LeBlanc that the City of Plaquemine condemn property located at 58412 Allen Street.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 10. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 58444 ALLEN STREET (DISTRICT 6), OWNER DR. WILBERT MCCLAY, C/O MERCHELE R. MCCLAY.

Selectwoman Margaret R. Randle moved, seconded by Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. that the City of Plaquemine begin condemnation proceedings at 58444 Allen Street.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 11. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23923 TAYLOR STREET (DISTRICT 6), OWNERS CLARENCE & ASALEE, C/O FREDDIE JEFFERSON, JR.

Selectwoman Margaret R. Randle moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine grant owners of 23923 Taylor Street 30 days to remove tenant from property.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 12. CONDEMNATION HEARING – TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23955 JACKSON STREET (DISTRICT 6), OWNER WALTER L. VARGAS.

Selectwoman Margaret R. Randle moved, seconded by Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. that the City of Plaquemine start condemnation proceeding at 23955 Jackson Street.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 13. 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 2022 ASSESSMENT ROLL OF THE PARISH OF IBERVILLE, STATE OF LOUISIANA.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 414

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 2022 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 10, 2022, 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 2022, 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>2022 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 2022 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., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc,
Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Item 14. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE NO. 1031, ADOPTED MAY 13, 1986, WHICH AMENDED AND REENACTED SECTION 2-19 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE, LOUISIANA, TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER VOTING TO OVERRIDE THE MAYOR'S VETO OR VOTE TO MAINTAIN THE MAYOR VETO, DATED APRIL 6, 2022, RELATED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE DESIGNATED AS ITEMS 31 AND 32 ON THE APRIL 5, 2022 AGENDA AND WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT SAID APRIL 5, 2022 MEETING.

Mr. Luke Avants, Mr. William Dupont and F. Barry Marionneaux addressed the Mayor and Board.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones:
MOTION TO OVERRIDE MAYOR'S VETO OF THE MOTION MADE ON
APRIL 5, 2022 ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE CITY ATTORNEY HAS
HISTORICALLY AND IS NOW CONSIDERED A CITY OFFICER AND
DEPARTMENT HEAD

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has historically been considered a City Officer and Department Head, and

WHEREAS, prior to the Mayor's unilateral appointment of the City Attorney for the City of Plaquemine the web site of the City of Plaquemine listed the City Attorney as a department of the City, with the City Attorney as its head, and

WHEREAS, prior to the Mayor's unilateral appointment of the City Attorney for the City of Plaquemine, the Mayor requested an opinion from the Attorney General as to who has the authority to appoint the City Attorney, wherein he acknowledged that the City Attorney was in fact a Department Head, where he stated: "there are several department head positions which include but are not limited to, city clerk, city finance director, director of utilities and **city attorney/prosecutor**", and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2022, at item 31 and 32, a motion was made and seconded at the meeting acknowledging the historical and factual position of City Attorney of the City of Plaquemine as the head of the legal department of the City of Plaquemine and confirmed as it has been and still is a Department Head of the City of Plaquemine.

WHEREAS, the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 1, and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2022, the Mayor issued a veto of this motion.

IT IS NOW THEREFORE MOVED, that the veto of the Mayor be hereby overridden and the previous motion acknowledging the historical and factual position of City Attorney of the City of Plaquemine as the head of the legal department of the City of Plaquemine and confirmed as it has been and still is a Department Head of the City of Plaquemine be confirmed as passed.

The foregoing **failed** by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: Thomas D. LeBlanc and Shannon P. Courtade

Absent: None

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones:
MOTION TO OVERRIDE MAYOR'S VETO OF THE MOTION MADE ON APRIL
5, 2022 REJECTING HIS UNILATERAL APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS DELAHAYE
AS CITY ATTORNEY IN ACCORDANCE OF CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION
2-64 (3)

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2022, the Mayor of the City of Plaquemine advised the Board of Selectmen that he had unilaterally appointed Louis Delahaye as City Attorney, and

WHEREAS, Section 2-64 (3), specifically states that "the appointment, hiring, termination and removal of the department heads, supervisors and any assistant supervisors shall be subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen", and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney of Plaquemine has always been considered a department head and a City Officer, and

WHEREAS, the prior City Attorney Phil Canova has previously informed the Mayor that the Board had to vote to ratify that appointment, and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2022, at item 31, a motion was made and seconded at the meeting pursuant to Section 2-64 (3) to accept and confirm the Mayor's appointment or to reject his appointment, and

WHEREAS, the motion to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Louis Delahaye was rejected by a vote of 3 to 1, and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2022, the Mayor issued a veto of this motion.

IT IS NOW THEREFORE MOVED, that the veto of the Mayor be hereby overridden and the previous motion rejecting the Mayor's appointment of Louis Delahaye be confirmed as passed.

The foregoing **failed** by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: Thomas D. LeBlanc and Shannon P. Courtade

Absent: None

Item 15. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

a) PEC

Tony Arikol of PEC not present, no report given.

b) UTILITY DIRECTOR TRAVIS BOURGOYNE

Utility Director Travis Bourgoyne provided status of ongoing projects.

c) PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR RICHARD ALLEMAN

Public Works Director Richard Alleman provided status of ongoing projects.

d) FIRE CHIEF DARREN RAMIREZ

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

e) POLICE CHIEF KENNETH PAYNE

Police Chief Kenneth Payne briefed Mayor and Board regarding his department and related matters.

f) FINANCE DIRECTOR LAUREN BERTHELOT

Finance Director Lauren Berthelot not present, Mayor Reeves provided monthly budget to actual financial update.

g) CUSTOMER SERVICE DIRECTOR AUDRIANE WILLIAMS

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

Item 16. ACKNOWLEDGE POLICE AND FIRE REPORTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2022.

So acknowledged.

Item 17. APPROVE PAYROLL VOUCHES FOR THE CITY OF PLAQUEMINE FOR APRIL 2022.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectwoman Wanda B. Jones that the City of Plaquemine approve payroll vouchers for April 2022 with the exception of City Attorney and any other legal counsel hired by the Mayor without the Council's approval.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 18. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2022 (SPECIAL MEETING), APRIL 19, 2022 (SPECIAL MEETING) AND APRIL 26, 2022 (SPECIAL MEETING) WITH NECESSARY CORRECTIONS.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, second by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the reading of the minutes of April 5, 2022 (special meeting) were waived and approved as accepted with necessary corrections.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the reading of the minutes of April 19, 20200 (special meeting) were waived and approved as accepted with necessary corrections.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the reading of the minutes of April 26, 2022 (special meeting) were waived and approved with the correction

to the motion for item two to include Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. in any discussion with Bultra Island, LLC.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

Item 19. ADJOURNMENT.

Selectman Lindon A. Rivet, Jr. moved, seconded by Selectman Shannon P. Courtade that the City of Plaquemine adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

The foregoing was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Lindon A. Rivet, Jr., Geraldine H. Mellion, Wanda B. Jones, Thomas D. LeBlanc, Shannon P. Courtade and Margaret R. Randle

Nays: None

Absent: None

CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

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

/s/Roxane M. Richard, LCMC