

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BROUSSARD, LA
ON Tuesday, January 23, 2024
AT 6:00 P.M. AT 414 EAST MAIN STREET, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Mayor Ray Bourque, Councilwoman Angel Racca (District 1), Councilman David Bonin (District 2), Councilman Jesse Regan (District 3), Councilwoman Heather Girouard (District 4), Councilman David Forbes (District 5), Councilman Kody Allen (District 6), Councilman Jeff Delahoussaye (At Large)

Staff: Tina Emert (City Clerk/Director of Administrative Services), Cristen Thibodeaux (Finance Manager), Callie Laviolette (Chief Administrative Officer), Millicent Norbert (Director of Tourism), Ben Theriot (Code Enforcement Officer), Jamison Abshire (Director of Parks and Recreation), Gerald deLaunay (Attorney at Law), Chief Vance Olivier (Police Chief), Tony Ashy (Assistant Police Chief), Walter Comeaux (City Engineer), Daniel Hutchinson (City Engineer), Justin Denais (Deputy Fire Chief)

Absent: Súsie Richard (Executive Assistant to the Mayor), Mel Bertrand (City Manager/Director of Public Works), Bryan Champagne (Fire Chief)

1. OPENING

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Invocation done by Deacon David Tilley with First Baptist Church

2. MINUTES

2.1 Acceptance of Minutes of the January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

Motion by Councilman Delahoussaye

Second by Councilman Regan

Discussion: No public comments.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS: District 2 - David Bonin
 District 3 - Jesse Regan
 District 4 - Heather Girouard
 District 5 - David Forbes
 District 6 - Kody Allen
 At Large - Jeff Delahoussaye

ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

3.1 Approval of the November and December 2023 Financial Reports

Motion by Councilman Forbes

Second by Councilman Allen

Discussion: Mayor Bourque stated all departments are within budget. For the month of December, the Sales Tax revenues were up 7%. Year to date they are up 3%. We are trending in the correct direction.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS: District 2 - David Bonin
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 At Large - Jeff Delahoussaye

ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Randy McCarthy

Request variance for fence permit located at 109 Channel Drive

Motion by Councilman Bonin

Second by Councilman Regan

Discussion: Ben Theriot stated Mr. McCarthy wants a variance to put his fence in the drainage easement. This would put his fence in line with his neighbors' fences. Mr. McCarthy has agreed to sign a hold harmless agreement knowing that if the fence must come down in the future it would be at his own expense.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS: District 2 - David Bonin
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 At Large - Jeff Delahoussaye

ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

4.2 Discussion only regarding the Albertson Villas

Cliff Guidry requesting changed to agreement with the City of Broussard concerning The Alberson Villas

Cliff Guidry addressed the council. Mr. Guidry stated he did sign an agreement in the past agreeing to the requirements of the city for his development. Now he is asking for

assistance from the city, maybe reducing the cost or perhaps allowing him to put a right in and right-out driveways. He is open to suggestions for any kind of assistance the city will give him. Mayor Bourque stated that Mr. Guidry did sign the agreement because he needed the plat recorded to start building, usually the plat is not recorded until the roads are completed. Mr. Guidry hired Dean Tekell to do a traffic study for him. Cliff submitted his study to the city traffic engineer Bob Schmidt. Bob stated the study has a left turn lane from Albertson to turn into the development. That plan created a section between Morgan and St. Des Porres for the turn lane. It would 3 lanes, then down to 2 lanes and then back up to 3 lanes. His recommendation is to put in a turn lane and additional small pavement to do an extra lane from Morgan to St. Des. Porres. The cost would be \$650,000 - \$700,000. Just the additional overlay is \$200,000. Walter stated that we would have to widen both sides of the road. If it has seam them water will get to it. Cliff questioned what about the cost of closing in the ditches for the drainage? Walter stated we don't want to create another Larrivierre Road. The drainage improvements are a necessity. Cliff stated he is asking for consideration from the council for the cost he is being asked to pay. His development will only use the road 5% of the time. Councilman Regan questioned if the traffic study is correct stating there are 7,000 cars a day on that road? Walter stated we are growing so fast, at what point is a developer responsible and the city. Bob stated the traffic study does not have a cost on what the turning lanes will cost. Cliff stated right now there is a lot of activity on that roadway because of the construction and there is no problem. Councilman Regan stated we do have to set a precedence. Cliff mentioned in Bossier City he has a similar development, and he is only required to pay 10% of the road improvement, how did they come up with that amount he is not sure. Mayor Bourque stated each place is different and Councilman Regan stated we do have a precedence to set. He cannot remember contributing to any improvement made for a residential developer with the city's money. The widening of the road would not have been necessary without this development. Bob Schmidt stated that is correct. Mayor Bourque stated he feels the turn lane would be the best option, but we need to be fair to the developer. Mayor Bourque clarified a statement that Bob made. The traffic engineer working for Mr. Guidry suggested that a turn lane be installed, and the traffic engineer for the city agreed, but added 30% to the length to keep the lanes the same width for the entire span. The city does not collect property taxes, so this is not an income we can look at. Cliff stated, but look at the roof tops he will bring, that needs to be considered. Councilman Regan asked if it is possible to give the developer the okay and monitor it after to see if the turn lane is needed. Walter stated we can hold an irrevocable letter of credit, like Lafayette does, which we have never done before. Gerald stated there are Letters of Credit that can be done under certain conditions. If the developer does not complete the job as agreed, then we can call upon the bank to pay the monies from whom the Letter of Credit was issued for. Cliff stated he would like to work with the council before having to go through this process. Mayor Bourque stated we can't do

anything about this tonight. This was only to discuss this matter and the council can review it and it can come back to the council for action.

5. RESOLUTIONS

5.1 Resolution #774-24

A resolution approving and awarding the bid for Garber Road Outfall Channel Maintenance

Motion by Councilman Delahoussaye

Second by Councilman Allen

Discussion: Daniel stated the low bidder was Merrick, LLC for \$1,219,657.

His recommendation is that the council accept this low bid. LCG will participate with a value of \$500,000

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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 District 6 - Kody Allen
 At Large - Jeff Delahoussaye

ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

5.2 Resolution #775-24

A resolution authorizing execution of a contingency agreement with Stag Liussa and Client First Legal, PLLC for prosecution of claims related to water contamination

Motion by Councilman Delahoussaye

Second by Councilman Bonin

Discussion: Gerald stated he was recently contacted about a National Class Action lawsuit with 3M Corporation and Dupont regarding water contamination. This class action suit is estimated to be over 20 billion to compensate the operator of some water systems. Right now, they are gathering information to present claims to the court. He feels this is something to have an outside council handle, that is why he is recommending this firm. They will represent the city. Councilman Regan, questioned if there is a retainer cost? Gerald stated there is no cost at all unless they recover funds, which their fees will come from there.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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At Large - Jeff Delahoussaye
ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

6. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

6.1 Ordinance #24-789

An ordinance amending the 2023/2024 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the purchase of police equipment in the amount of \$40,000 for the Police Building at 5801 Highway 90 East

Motion by Councilman Bonin

Second by Councilman Allen

Discussion: Chief Olivier stated the amendment is for the following items that need to be put in during construction. 1) Evidence Room Cage, 2) Axon Interview Room Camera System and 3) Evidence/Interview Room pass through system with cameras. Mayor Bourque stated they did contact the auditor and he had no problem with this if there are 3 bids, or the items are on state contract.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

7. ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

7.1 Ordinance #24-788

An ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance by adding the following maps:

- a) MAP E-5...Portions of Garber Rd;
- b) MAP E-13...Areas known as Cypress Meadows Ph. III-C-1 & Cypress Meadows Phase III-C-2;
- c) MAP F-13....Areas known as Cypress Meadows Ph. III-C-1;
- d) MAP D-9.....Areas known as The Sanctuary;
- e) MAP E-8.....Areas known as The Sanctuary;
- f) MAP E-9.....Areas known as The Sanctuary;

Motion by Councilman Allen

Second by Councilwoman Girouard

Discussion: The maps have been supplied in everyone's packets.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS: District 2 - David Bonin
District 3 - Jesse Regan


District 4 - Heather Girouard
District 5 - David Forbes
District 6 - Kody Allen
At Large - Jeff Delahoussaye
ABSENT: District 1 - Angel Racca

Mayor Bourque gave two announcements:

- 1) Baseball Registration is currently going on at St. Julien Sports Complex
- 2) Coffee in Broussard will be held this Friday from 7:30 am – 8:30 am at The Best Stop.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.1 Adjourn Meeting



MAYOR RAY BOURQUE



TINA EMERT, CITY CLERK