

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF BROUSSARD, LA HELD ON  
TUESDAY, March 23, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Mayor Ray Bourque, Councilwoman Angel Racca (District 1), Councilman David Bonin (District 2), Councilman Jesse Regan (District 3), Councilman Michael Rabon (District 4), Councilman Kenny Higginbotham (District 5) and Councilman Ray Gary (District 6), Councilman Jeff Delahoussaye (At Large)

**Staff:** Tina Emert (City Clerk), Callie Laviolette (Executive Assistant), Karen Fontenot (CFO), Gerald de Launay (City Attorney), Holly Cope-Lynn (Director of Tourism and Communications), Andrea Fontenot (Community & Business Development Coordinator), Mel Bertrand (City Manager), Walter Comeaux V (City Engineer), Brannon Decou (Chief of Police) Bryan Champagne (Fire Chief)

**1. OPENING**

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Invocation

Councilman Gary asked everyone to keep Chris Miller in their prayers. He is a resident of Broussard who was tragically killed in a car accident this weekend.

**2. MINUTES**

2.1 Acceptance of Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Meeting

Motion by Councilman Gary

Second by Councilman Rabon

Discussion: No public comments

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS:           Angel Racca  
                  David Bonin  
                  Jesse Regan  
                  Michael Rabon  
                  Kenny Higginbotham  
                  Ray Gary  
                  Jeff Delahoussaye

**3. KAREN FONTENOT, FINANCIAL OFFICER**

3.1 Approval of February 2021 Financial Report

Motion by Councilman Regan

Second by Councilwoman Racca

Discussion: Karen stated we received the first FEMA reimbursement from Hurricane Laura. We claimed about a half of million dollars' worth of losses. Also, in the meantime the America Rescue Plan has been signed. The City of Broussard should be getting about 4.68 million dollars from this plan. It will be divided into 2 payments. We can use it on water and sewer infrastructure and loss of revenues. Mayor Bourque stated that we have projects, this money will be allowed to be used on.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

- YEAS: Angel Racca
- David Bonin
- Jesse Regan
- Michael Rabon
- Kenny Higginbotham
- Ray Gary
- Jeff Delahoussaye

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Acadian & Indigenous Association of Louisiana

Proclamation recognizing the French Language

Mr. Calvin Leger addressed the council. He thanked the Mayor and Council for approving a Proclamation recognizing the French Language. Members also associated with his group read the proclamation. This proclamation is to acknowledge the bilingual accessibility and to encourage our local businesses to do business in French and English.

4.2 Daniel Hutchinson

Proposed J-Turn for S. Bernard Road

Daniel gave all of the council the plan the traffic engineer and their personnel came up with. They are proposing a J-turn #1 on the southside of Heart D Farm. Also, J-Turn #2 is proposed further down near the day care. In the section of Albertson Parkway and Ambassador, it is narrow to put J-turns. #4 and #5 are planned for across Albertson Parkway for single unit trucks. Mayor Bourque stated at Ambassador Caffery and South Bernard there is a medical facility coming behind Hebert's. J-turn #3 is incorporated to access the driveway in that area. This is merely for discussion tonight. We are not voting to fund anything. Current estimated costs of J-Turns are: J-turn #1 \$165,000 for passenger car; J-turn #2

\$165,000 for passenger car; J-turn #3 \$230,000 for passenger car; J-turn #4 \$165,000 for passenger car and J-Turn #5 \$235,000 for single unit truck. Councilman Delahoussaye questioned about J-turns 2 and 3 and 1 and 2, you have a business and #2 you have nothing, so is #3 to get people off the road? Daniel stated it will allow you to access the daycare and other one is the opposite. Councilman Higginbotham questioned if this will be soil cement? Daniel stated it will be a base and asphalt. Councilman Bonin questioned Karen if we can afford to do all 3? Karen stated it would be easier to break it into chunks. Walter stated the bigger the project, the better the unit price. Mayor Bourque asked Daniel if the J-turns need to pair together? Daniel stated yes 2 and 3 first and 1 is stand-alone. Walter stated they looked at the section of Albertson Parkway and Ambassador too, but it is too short and not practical. Mayor Bourque state the council has funded the waterline there, but we still need to do the lights and fund the sewer. Councilman Higginbotham questioned if this would go into the next budget year? Mayor Bourque stated he is not asking the council to amend the budget now. This is for their information only and they can decide what they want to do. Councilman Gary stated he feels J-turn #2 and #3 are the most important. Councilman Delahoussaye, questioned if we are getting the 4 million dollars, what is the time frame we are looking at? Karen stated we cannot use that money for roads. Councilman Delahoussaye stated we can perhaps use it for the water and sewer. Karen stated after the bill is passed then we should get the money 60 days later. Mayor Bourque stated as we fund the projects, we can see as the money is coming in. Councilman Regan questioned, if we will also permanently address the in and out of Sable Palms 3 where the gravel is now? Walter stated that was put there only for the construction, it was not put there for everyone to cross. When the J-turn is built they will have enough j-turns to use to make the roadway safer. Mayor Bourque stated he would request the council consider funding J-turn #3 in the future. The entire council stated they would like to fund #2 and #3. At the next meeting, Comeaux Engineering will have the figures so an ordinance can be introduced to amend the budget to get this project rolling.

## **5. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

### **5.1 Ordinance #21-686**

An ordinance amending the 2020/2021 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for \$14,000 in the General Fund Capital Outlay to purchase a Kubota Lawn Mower for the Maintenance Department

Motion by Councilman Gary

Second by Councilman Rabon

Discussion: Mel stated he is requesting a lawn mower for the maintenance department with rear discharge. This will replace a lawn mower they currently

have in the maintenance department. They will still keep the old one until it is no longer usable. This is also being bought off of state contract.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS:           Angel Racca  
                  David Bonin  
                  Jesse Regan  
                  Michael Rabon  
                  Kenny Higginbotham  
                  Ray Gary  
                  Jeff Delahoussaye

## 6. ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

### 6.1 Ordinance #21-683

An ordinance amending the 202/2021 Operating Budget of Revenues for \$12,000.00 extend a waterline on Albertson Parkway from the Toy Box Storage across BNSF Railroad to PSC Supply

Motion by Councilman Bonin

Second by Councilman Delahoussaye

Discussion: No public comments

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS:           Angel Racca  
                  David Bonin  
                  Jesse Regan  
                  Michael Rabon  
                  Kenny Higginbotham  
                  Ray Gary  
                  Jeff Delahoussaye

### 6.2 Ordinance #21-684

An ordinance amending the 2020/2021 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures up to \$ 48,000 for the Fire Department Used Office Building Project

Motion by Councilwoman Racca

Second by Councilman Higginbotham

Discussion: Councilman Regan questioned what is the ETA on getting this building? Chief Champagne stated if it is approved, sometimes next week. Then it will take Cox 6 weeks to come in and do their part. Then Mel and his crew will have to do the sewer and water. So, they are looking at about 1 month to 6 weeks.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS:           Angel Racca  
                  David Bonin

Jesse Regan  
Michael Rabon  
Kenny Higginbotham  
Ray Gary  
Jeff Delahoussaye

6.3. Ordinance #21-685

An ordinance amending the 2020/2021 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for \$29,134.00 in the Fire Dept. Payroll Expense to add a Training Coordinator funded thru Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government

Firefighting Services Contract

Motion by Councilman Gary

Second by Councilman Regan

Discussion: Chief Champagne stated this is all part of the parish contract. They should be able to proceed soon. Councilman Bonin questioned; we if use to get more funding? Chief Champagne stated yes, we did in the past. Now it is a dedicated funding process.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

YEAS: Angel Racca  
David Bonin  
Jesse Regan  
Michael Rabon  
Kenny Higginbotham  
Ray Gary  
Jeff Delahoussaye

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1 Motion to adjourn meeting.

Mayor Bourque adjourned the meeting.

  
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Mayor Ray Bourque

  
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Tina Emert, City Clerk