

MUNICIPAL MINUTES, TOWN OF CHURCH POINT, STATE OF LOUISIANA

REGULAR MEETING MARCH 11TH, 2019

ATTENDANCE

MAYOR: Ryan “Spanky” Meche

ALDERMEN: Christine Semien (Ward 1), Kim Cormier (Ward 2), Pat O’Pry (Ward 3), Chris Lebas (Ward 4),
Errol “Slu” Comeaux (Ward 5)

CHIEF OF POLICE: Dale Thibodeaux

TOWN ATTORNEY: Brad Andrus

MUNICIPAL CLERK: Rowdy Latiolais

ABSENT: None

COMMENCEMENT

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Meche called the Regular Council Meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Prayer lead by Berl Adams / Pledge led by Phillip Devillier

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

It was moved by LeBas, seconded by Comeaux to amend the agenda to include the following: Resolution re-naming Church Point Community Center to Gertrude Wimberly Broach Community Center.

Vote: All in favor

Agenda unanimously amended.

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O’Pry to accept the minutes as written under the provision that the Dream Declaration mission statement text be added.

Vote: All in favor

Minutes unanimously accepted.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by O’Pry to accept the January 2019 financial report.

Vote: All in favor

Financial report unanimously accepted.

MAYORAL ADDRESS

Mayor Meche informed the public of the current enhancements to the town, including park renovations, baseball recreation, and new businesses.

PROPERTY CONDEMNATION AND DEMOLITION

The order of agenda item property condemnation and demolition was moved to the beginning of new business to allow for discussion participants to attend previously scheduled commitments.

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to condemn and demolish building at 329 North Main St. Mr. AJ Broussard was in attendance and advised council on relationship of property to Acadia Parish. Mr. Broussard offered no plan of action in regards to parish's plans for the building. Town attorney Brad Andrus advised that town was within its legal right to condemn and demolish building.

Vote: All in favor

Unanimous vote in favor of condemnation and demolition of building located at 329 North Main

It was moved by Comeaux and seconded by O'Pry to table discussion of condemnation and demolition of building located at 238 East Minnix due to not receiving confirmation of certified letter to owner.

Vote: All in favor

Vote unanimously tabled

It was moved by Semien, seconded by Cormier to condemn and demolish building at 115 Green Alley. Property owner Darryl Brasseur was not present.

Vote: All in favor

Unanimous vote in favor of condemnation and demolition of 115 Green Alley building

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Meche updated the public on the recent purchase of property at sale barn. Mr. Andrus informed that it will be approximately another two weeks before closing of purchase is complete.

ENGINEERING BUDGET

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Cormier to amend the budget to reflect \$10,000 for town engineering fees.

Vote: All in favor

Budget unanimously amended

BUGGYTOWN PLAYGROUND BUDGET ADOPTION

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by Comeaux to adopt a budget of \$10,000 for Buggytown Playground due to previous contract between the town and Church Point Community Development.

Vote: All in favor

Budget unanimously adopted

RECOVERED INSURANCE MONIES

Mayor Meche informed the public of the monies that were recovered from insurances, phone, cell phone, and internet bills.

OPENING OF PUBLISHED SEALED BIDS

Mayor Meche opened the sealed bids for items previously declared surplus property. Snapper zero-turn mower model# 992133 serial# 000540 received one bid and was awarded to Steve Carriere with a bid of \$200.00.

2001 Crown Vic vin# 2FAFP74WX1X105702 and 2007 Ford 500 vin# 1FAHP24177G151180 received one bid totaling \$500.00 for both vehicles and was awarded to Herbert Mouton.

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Comeaux to accept the bids as offered. Vote: All in favor

Surplus property declared sold.

POLICE CHIEF STAT REPORT

Police Chief Dale Thibodeaux issued his stat report for the month of February by the Church Point Police Department.

POLICE CHIEF PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/REMOVALS

Police Chief Dale Thibodeaux offered the following resignations:

Reserve officer Lynsey Thibodeaux

Reserve officer Hunter Hare

Part-time dispatcher Keysuana Senegal

Police Chief Dale Thibodeaux offered the following hires:

Gregory Mouton Jr. from reserve officer to full time officer with a motion by O'pry and seconded by Semien. Vote: all in favor.

Jessica Sonnier part-time dispatch with a motion by Comeaux and seconded by Semien. Vote: all in favor.

Shane Higginbotham from reserve dispatch to part-time dispatch with a motion by Semien and seconded by Cormier. Vote: all in favor.

Officers unanimously hired.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT

It was motioned by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to amend the police department budget by \$4,442 for vehicular repairs to two police units.

Vote: All in favor

Budget unanimously amended

POLICE CHIEF ADDRESS

Police Chief Thibodeaux informed the public about a new three-person civilian panel he has formed to help with officer involved disputes. The panel will review video footage of the incident and give an informal opinion as to whether officer in question acted accordingly.

RESOLUTION TO ADD MUNICIPAL CLERK TO LIST OF APPROVED SIGNATURES

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to add municipal clerk Rowdy Latiolais to the list of authorized signers on all financial accounts at all financial institutions.

Vote: All in favor

Municipal clerk Rowdy Latiolais unanimously added to list of authorized signatures

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FOR FRED'S INC.

It was motioned by O'Pry and seconded by Semien to table the decision regarding a liquor license request by Fred's Inc. for the next regular council meeting. Chief Dale Thibodeaux recommended request not be approved at this time due to recent safety concerns and issues involving the Fred's location on Main Street. Discussion about proximity to nearby church was also brought up, and decision will also be made pending attorney's opinion on distance from said church.

The vote was as follows:

YEAS: Semien, Cormier, O'Pry, Comeaux

ABSTAIN: Chris Lebas

Liquor license request for Fred's Inc. tabled for next regular council meeting

RED-LIGHT DRIVE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

It was unanimously agreed to by the council to work on an introduction to an ordinance stating terms for the allowance of red-light drives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harold Fonte informed the public about the successful tour bus of visitors to Le Vieux Presbytere from Mardi Gras, and of future visiting tour buses.

Mayor Meche publically thanked all who were involved in making Mardi Gras a success.

Berl Adams thanked Mayor Meche for staging extra ambulances for Mardi Gras.

Business owners of Mandi's Krafti Kreations thanked Mayor and Chief for support.

RESOLUTION GRANTING MAYORAL AUTHORITY TO SIGN NECESSARY 2020-2021 LCDBG DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O'Pry granting Mayor Ryan "Spanky" Meche the authority to sign and submit all necessary documents, appoint an administrative consultant and engineer and to commit costs for the FY 2020-2021 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program.

Vote: All in favor

Resolution unanimously adopted

Mayor then asked town engineer Pamela Granger for engineering update, to which Mrs. Pam informed that McBade Engineers and Consultants is currently in the process of putting together a CDBG grant for town sewer systems. They're also meeting with USDA for a possible grant to fix the remainder of town water and sewer systems. They're also working towards more money and funding for various projects, in addition to talking about future roads packages for the town.

INTRODUCTION TO ORDINANCES

1. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance to asses a collection fee on debts owed to the town of Church Point that are referred to any and all collection agencies.
2. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance to increase the speed limit on Wimberly Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH.
3. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance to increase the speed limit on Leonie Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH.
4. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance to increase the speed limit on North Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH.
5. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance to place a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Shawn Street and North Street.
6. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance to place a three-way stop sign at the intersection of West MLK Street and Meche Street.
7. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance stating that a resident within the city limits of town of Church Point must have water and electricity connected (functioning) to one's residence in order for it to be considered habitable and not a health hazard.
8. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance stating that all fences shall have a setback requirement of being at least a certain number of feet from a public right of way (sidewalks).
9. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance disallowing franchises and big box retailers from operating within the city limits of the town of Church Point with exceptions granted for local representation.

10. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance in order to separate and designate which holidays are official holidays in regards to town employees and police personnel and to separate, designate, and specify the terms, standards and conditions in regards to holiday pay for police personnel and town personnel.
11. Councilman Errol "Slu" Comeaux introduced an ordinance requiring that one must have a valid driver's license or any valid form of identification such as a military ID or an ID issued by the state of Louisiana with current address prior to allowing one to connect to the town water system.
12. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance amendment to Section 2.1 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances stating that the town council meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 PM at Church Point City Hall located at 102 Church Blvd., Church Point, Louisiana.
13. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 2.17 of the Church Point code of ordinances regarding annual leave and holidays.
14. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 2.24 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances regarding resident requirement.
15. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced on ordinance to repeal Section 3.2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances regarding the levying of a gallonage tax.
16. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 3.5 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances regarding the sales of alcohol to minors and replace with state statute regarding the sale of alcohol to minors.
17. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to amend Section 3.8 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances regarding open containers of alcoholic beverages prohibited in public places, definition and penalty section C to state that the penalty is amended from \$5.00 to \$200.00.
18. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to amend a portion of Section 5.2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances to change the penalty to a fine of a new amount to be determined by the council.
19. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to amend Section 5.2 (page 222-11 lines down) of the Church Point Code of Ordinances regarding unlawful ownership of livestock and domestic fowl to state that the penalty is amended from \$5.00 - \$100.00 to strictly \$100.00.
20. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 5.38-C of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Prohibited at Large and replace with reasonable statutes and fines.
21. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 5.39 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Impoundment of Dogs at Large-Conditions For Redemption, Fines, Sale Upon Owners Failure to Redeem and replace with ordinance containing updated fines.
22. Councilman Pat O'Pry introduced an ordinance to amend Section 5.43 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Restrictions on Numbers Which May be Penned Up Near Residence to reflect a reasonable number of dogs and/or distance.

23. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance numbered Section 6.2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances to allow and create bicycle paths in the city limits of Church Point.
24. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 7.41 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Police Escort Required; Charges.
25. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to amend Section 7.40 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Permit Fee to reflect an updated/reasonable permit fee.
26. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to amend Section 7.44 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Bond Required to reflect an updated/reasonable bond.
27. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to amend Section 7.45 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Mobile Home and Permit Fee to update fee from \$10.00 to a reasonable permit fee.
28. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 9 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Electricity in lieu of the International Building Code.
29. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 11.4 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Containers Required Specifications Use due to the current contract superceding its place.
30. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to amend Section 11.10-B of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled No Dumping in Private BFI Dumpsters to remove \$25.00 penalty and replace with a reasonable fine.
31. Councilman Pat O’Pry introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 11 Article 2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Lot Cleanliness and replace with a new and updated grass ordinance.
32. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 13 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Health and Sanitation in lieu of state statute RS 40:4.
33. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 14 Division of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Tree Board due to no such organization currently being in existence.
34. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 14.5-46 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Topping Unlawful due to outdated nature of law.
35. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 14.5-51 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Tree Service Business License Required Exceptions due to nonexistence of such organization.
36. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 15 Article 2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Insurance License Tax and replace with state statutes RS 22:833 and RS 22:834.
37. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 15 Section 3-B of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Peddlers/Street Vendors-Special Events in favor of Chapter 15 Section 3-A entitled General Peddlers/Street Vendors.

38. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to amend section 16.36-B of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Parking in Violation of Signs and Penalty to update restricted parking and increase fine of \$1.00.

39. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to amend Sections 16.37 and 16.38 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Parking Restricted-Prohibited at All Times / Same-One Hour for the purpose of replacing with updated and correct information.

40. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 16 Division 2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Parking Meters due to the town not having any parking meters on its streets.

41. Councilman Kim Cormier introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 16 Article 4 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Abandoned Vehicles due to updated ordinance Section 16.71 entitled Sale or Other Disposal of Junked Motor Vehicles.

42. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 17.58 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Fortune Telling, Etc., Prohibited due to profession being out of date.

43. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 17.63 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Issuing Worthless Checks due to worthless checks going to parish.

44. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 17.64 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Unlawful Sales to Purchases by Minors and replace it with state statute.

45. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 17.5-12 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Fees and update the \$125.00 fee to a reasonable fee.

46. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 17.5-16 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Curfew and replace with Dawn to Dusk hours/ordinance.

47. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 17.5-14 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Frequency of Tournaments.

48. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 17.5-19 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Closing Time for Parks on Weekends and replace with Dawn to Dusk hours/ordinance.

49. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 19 Article 3 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Advisory Council on Aging People due to no such council in existence.

50. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 20.47 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Fees to revert to new permit checklist.

51. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 21.2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Hours Per Workweek Duration of Shift.

52. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 40:2402 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Police Training Cost and add police chief training recommendations.

53. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 22 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Railroads due to none existing in the town.
54. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 23.9 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Fee for Work Performed on Private Property by Town Patrol.
55. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 23.34-D of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Assignment of Numbers as to relieve the town of duty of providing address numerals to be placed on homes and/or buildings.
56. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 23-35 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Administration of System as to relieve the town of duties of providing address numerals to be placed on homes and/or buildings.
57. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Chapter 26 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Vehicles for Hire as there are no taxes due to no operational taxicab services in town.
58. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 27.21 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Tap Charge to increase tap charge of \$100.00 to a current rate.
59. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 27.41.1 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Penalties to reflect reasonable violation penalties other than the current \$200.00 violation penalty.
60. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 27.45 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Shut-Off of Water Upon Owners' Failure to Repair Leaks to increase charge of \$1.00 for turning off and on the water to a reasonable charge.
61. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 27.51 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Interference Tampering with System Prohibited to include specific penalties for violations including but not limited to permanent disqualification of water.
62. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 27.52 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Gate Type Valves to update to a new pay scale in place of the current \$15.00 charge.
63. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 27.67 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Tap Charge to increase charge from the current listed rate of \$100.00.
64. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 27.68 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Cutoff for Failure to Pay; Reconnection Fee and to replace with ordinance increasing water cut-off days from 45 to 60 and to increase reconnection fee from \$15.00 to \$50.00.
65. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 27.69 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Delinquency Charges and Interest and to replace with updated terms and penalties, specifically removing interest penalty and/or fines.

66. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to repeal Section 27.70 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances entitled Renters Deposit and replace with ordinance requiring a \$300.00 deposit for renters and a \$150.00 deposit for landowners.

67. Councilwoman Christine Semien introduced an ordinance to amend Section 080408 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances to ensure fairness and legality.

68. Councilman Chris Lebas introduced an ordinance to increase the speed limit on Happy Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH.

Motion for all introductions to set for public hearing was made by O’Pry, seconded by Cormier.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance introductions/amendments unanimously accepted

RESOLUTION RENAMING CHURCH POINT COMMUNITY CENTER

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to rename the Church Point Community Center to the Gertrude Wimberly Broach Community Center.

Vote: All in favor

Resolution unanimously adopted

CLOSING

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by O’Pry to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned

APPROVED AS TO AUTHENTICITY:

RYAN MECHE, MAYOR

DATE

ROWDY LATIOLAIS, CLERK

DATE