

MUNICIPAL MINUTES, TOWN OF CHURCH POINT, STATE OF LOUISIANA

REGULAR MEETING MAY 6TH, 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 led by Alderman Chris Lebas / Pledge led by Alderman Pat O'Pry

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Cormier to amend the agenda to include the following: allowance of Town Attorney Brad Andrus to work on Municode ordinance submission, emergency expenditure for twelve inch water line on Olivier Road, and introduction of an ordinance adopting state statute on temporary signs and fliers.

Vote: All in favor

Agenda unanimously amended

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Comeaux to allow Town Attorney Brad Andrus to work on Municode ordinance submission.

Vote: All in favor

Motion unanimously carried

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Cormier to approve an emergency expenditure amending the Utility Fund in the amount of \$12,572.00 for an insertion valve in order to repair a twelve-inch water line on Olivier Road.

Vote: All in favor

Expenditure unanimously approved

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O'Pry to introduce an ordinance adopting State Statute 30:2544 entitled *LITTER-FREE ZONES; TEMPORARY SIGNS, HANDBILLS, FLYERS AND NOTICES; NOTICE TO REMOVE; PENALTIES.*

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance introduced

READING AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to accept the minutes as written.

Vote: All in favor

Minutes unanimously accepted.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Comeaux to accept the March 2019 financial report.

Vote: All in favor

Financial report unanimously accepted.

MAYORAL ADDRESS

Mayor Meche updated the public on the Parks and Rec success with Little League thus far; advised of the continuing construction at MLK Park; also informed the public about upcoming changes to the city dump, including a new building to be located on the side of the water plant, along with additional open days and along with a residence requirement for usage.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MILLAGE RATE

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Cormier to adopt the adjusted millage rate for 2019 at 7.010 mills.

Vote: All in favor

Millage rate unanimously adopted

PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to approve a budget amendment for the purchase of four police vehicles with payment terms of four annual payments of \$30,278.86 to be taken out of the police and/or court fund(s).

Vote: All in favor

Purchase unanimously approved

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE STREET BOND CHECKING ACCOUNT

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O’Pry to approve a resolution to close 2007 Street Bond checking account #0216022 and transfer balance of \$32,102.49 to sales tax fund.

Vote: All in favor

Resolution approved

CORONER FEES

Councilmembers were made aware that that the police department pays the coroner fees if an autopsies deemed necessary for deaths inside the city limits.

COMMUNITY CENTER/PAVILION RATES

Decision on community center and park pavilion rates and regulations was tabled to allow time for town attorney to research the legalities regarding non-profit organizations’ free usage of said center and pavilion.

EMPLOYEE COMP TIME

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Semien to cash out all of stored employee comp time of approximately \$20,000.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chief Thibodeaux delivered his monthly stat report.

POLICE BUDGET AMENDMENT

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O’Pry to amend the police budget by \$1,000 for unit maintenance and repairs.

Vote: All in favor

Budget unanimously amended

PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENTS/REMOVALS

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to approve Chief Thibodeaux’s recommendations for removal of the following reserves: Terry Foti, Lawrence Villerman, Forrest Sullivan, Ricky Gibson and Shane Higginbotham.

Vote: All in favor

Reserve removals unanimously approved

It was moved by Semien, seconded by Comeaux to approve Chief Thibodeaux’s recommendations for the appointments of the following reserves: Bryan Vidrine, John Leger, Philip Landry, and Brady Trahan.

Vote: All in favor

Reserve appointments unanimously approved

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to go into executive session to discuss disciplinary action by Chief Thibodeaux.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting suspended

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to resume the regular meeting.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting resumed

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by O'Pry to accept Chief Thibodeaux's executive session recommendations for disciplinary action.

Vote: All in favor

Disciplinary action unanimously approved

PUBLIC WORKS

Water Superintendent Jonathon Murphy delivered his monthly stat report.

Engineer Pam Granger delivered her monthly report and advised of new grant applications that are soon to begin, including road funding grants. Also advised of a tentative start time of June 2019 for CDBG grant sewer line rehab to begin.

LEGAL

It was moved by Semien, seconded by O'Pry to approve an ordinance designating a formal process used to determine whether speed limits on town streets will be increased or decreased, with permission for town attorney to research legalities of said proposal.

Vote: All in favor

Motion unanimously approved

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to adopt an ordinance increasing the speed limit on Leonie Street to from 15 MPH to 25 MPH. Alderman Cormier suggested the addition of speed bumps; council agreed to increase speed limit and add speed bumps at a later date.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously adopted

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by O’Pry to adopt an ordinance increasing the speed limit on North Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH with the addition of stop signs at the intersection of Shawn Street and North Street.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously adopted

It was moved by Semien, seconded by Cormier to introduce an ordinance adding a three-way stop sign at MLK and Wilson (at Centennial Village).

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously introduced

Addition of speed bumps on West Point Drive was discussed; no action was taken due to street being a dead end. It was instead agreed upon to add speed safety signs down said street.

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Lebas to introduce a proposed ordinance repealing section 219-C.2 of the Church Point Code of Ordinances in regards to sick leave.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously introduced

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O’Pry to introduce a proposed ordinance repealing section 219-H of the Church Point Code of Ordinances and replacing with a one-year accumulation statute.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously introduced

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Cormier to introduce an ordinance amending the occupational license ordinance for the Town of Church Point.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously introduced

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to introduce an ordinance amending the alcohol ordinance for the Town of Church Point.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously introduced

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by O’Pry to introduce an ordinance amending the animal control ordinance for the Town of Church Point.

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance unanimously introduced

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Semien to approve a liquor license exemption for Church Point Volunteer Fire Department for auto show to be held on Saturday, June 1st at Church Point Park Pavilion.

YEAS: LEBAS, CORMIER

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: COMEAUX

Liquor license exemption approved

Berl Adams presented to the council a proposal for the Town of Church Point to allow and then reimburse the Volunteer Fire Department for the cost of fire rating testing. It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Semien to table the matter for the following council meeting.

YEAS: LEBAS, CORMIER

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: COMEAUX

Commander Frank Richard of American Legion Post 225 presented to the council a proposal to designate the front grassy portion of the depot park for veteran flags and to remove bushes and install flagpoles and flags on both sides of said portion. It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Semien to approve proposal.

Vote: All in favor

Proposal approved

The issue of long grass and stray dog enforcement was discussed. Public was advised that a notification in the form of the town’s ordinance attached to a stake will be placed on property with grass in excess of twelve inches in the event the owner cannot be contacted. Owner will have ten days to comply with the ordinance before action by the town is taken. Town attorney Brad Andrus also advised that he is currently working on the animal control ordinance to better address the issue of stay dogs in the town.

PROPERTY CONDEMNATION

It was moved O’Pry, seconded by Semien to condemn structure in order to be demolished and removed at 238 Minnix Alley. Owner was not present and did not previously offer a plan of action to the council.

Vote: All in favor

Property unanimously condemned in order to be demolished and removed

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Semien to accept property owner’s plan of action at 118 Green Alley. Owner stated that 50% and/or adequate repairs would be completed by July 31st 2019.

Vote: All in favor

Plan of action accepted

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to accept property owner's plan of action for demolition for parcel #0320075700 - Green Alley/Main St. intersection. Owner was given a deadline of August 15th 2019 for demolition to be completed.

Vote: All in favor

Plan of action accepted

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Cormier to condemn structure in order to be demolished and removed at 126 South Main. Owner was not present and did not previously offer a plan of action to the council.

Vote: All in favor

Property unanimously condemned in order to be demolished and removed

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Lebas to condemn structure in order to be demolished and removed at 633 North Main. Owner offered a plan of action of seven to ten days in order for demolition to begin. It was stated that if said demolition has not begun in a three week period that town will begin and complete demolition.

Vote: All in favor

Property unanimously condemned in order to be demolished and removed

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Cormier to accept property owner's plan of action for demolition of structure at 629 North Moss. Owner stated demolition to be completed by August 31st 2019.

Vote: All in favor

Plan of action accepted

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to condemn structure in order to be demolished and removed at 649 North Moss. Property owner was not present and did not previously offer a plan of action to the council.

Vote: All in favor

Property unanimously condemned in order to be demolished and removed

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O'Pry to accept property owner's plan of action for structure at 823 West Canal. Owner gave a written deadline of October 1st 2019 to have structure demolished and removed.

Vote: All in favor

Property unanimously condemned in order to be demolished and removed

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Cormier to table decision regarding property at 459 East Plaquemine.

Vote: All in favor

Decision unanimously tabled

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to condemn structure in order to be demolished and removed at 346 North Barousse. Property owner was not present and did not previously offer a plan of action to the council.

Vote: All in favor

Property unanimously condemned in order to be demolished and removed

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by Comeaux to approve a liquor license request for 205 Sports Bar and Grill, contingent upon approval of all necessary state requirements.

Vote: All in favor

Liquor license request unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were offered. Chief Thibodeaux was recognized by Mandi's Krafti Kreations for outstanding work with the police department; Leander Daigle informed the public on the meaning of Memorial Day Weekend; Harold Fonte issued tourism updates on Le Vieux Presbytere.

CLOSING

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned

APPROVED AS TO AUTHENTICITY:

RYAN MECHE, MAYOR

DATE

ROWDY LATIOLAIS, CLERK

DATE

APPENDIX

ORDINANCE # 050619-1

**AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SPEED LIMIT ON LEONIE STREET
FROM 15 MPH TO 25 MPH.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE TOWN OF CHURCH POINT, proceeding under its legal authority to perform certain actions that are in the best interest of the town of Church Point and further pursuant to the laws of the State of Louisiana hereby state the following:

WHEREAS, the Church Point Board of Alderman hereby desires to increase the speed limit from 15 MPH to 25 MPH on Leonie Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority thereof, that the speed limit is hereby increased on Leonie Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, that any provisions or items of the Ordinance or the application thereof if held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith and hereby repealed.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote in regular session assembled of the Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOTION: CORMIER

SECOND: SEMIEN

YEAS: COMEAUX, LEBAS, O'PRY

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

This ordinance was introduced on the 1st day of April, 2019 and declared adopted on this 6th day of May, 2019.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON THE MAYOR'S SIGNING SUCH AND PUBLISHING OF SUCH IN THE CHURCH POINT NEWS.

RYAN MECHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ROWDY LATIOLAIS, TOWN CLERK

ORDINANCE # 050619-2

**AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SPEED LIMIT ON NORTH STREET
FROM 15 MPH TO 25 MPH WITH THE ADDITION OF STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION
OF SHAWN STREET AND NORTH STREET.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF THE TOWN OF CHURCH POINT, proceeding under its legal authority to perform certain actions that are in the best interest of the town of Church Point and further pursuant to the laws of the State of Louisiana hereby state the following:

WHEREAS, the Church Point Board of Alderman hereby desires to increase the speed limit from 15 MPH to 25 MPH on North Street with the addition of stop signs at the intersection of Shawn Street and North Street in Church Point, Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority thereof, that the speed limit is hereby increased on North Street from 15 MPH to 25 MPH and stop signs are placed at the intersection of Shawn Street and North Street.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, that any provisions or items of the Ordinance or the application thereof if held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith and hereby repealed.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote in regular session assembled of the Mayor and Alderman of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOTION: LEBAS

SECOND: O'PRY

YEAS: COMEAUX, CORMIER, SEMIEN

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

This ordinance was introduced on the 1st day of April, 2019 and declared adopted on this 6th day of May, 2019.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON THE MAYOR'S SIGNING SUCH AND PUBLISHING OF SUCH IN THE CHURCH POINT NEWS.

RYAN MECHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ROWDY LATIOLAIS, TOWN CLERK

