

**MUNICIPAL MINUTES, TOWN OF CHURCH POINT, STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing was called in order to hear comment on the following: potential adoption of an ordinance regulating the height of signs for businesses, potential adoption of an ordinance strengthening state ordinance of no advertising or political sign placement on town poles or right of way, potential adoption of an ordinance backing dumpsters 25 feet from town-maintained asphalt, and potential adoption of an ordinance setting the mayor's annual salary.

No comments were offered.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**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:** Lucas Colligan

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:** Rowdy Latiolais

**ABSENT:** None

**COMMENCEMENT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Meche called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Prayer led by Councilwoman Semien / Pledge led by Councilman Lebas

**AMENDMENT TO AGENDA**

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O'Pry to amend the agenda to include a liquor license approval for Pizzaville, USA.

Vote: All in favor

*Agenda amended*

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by Semien to amend the agenda to include a budget amendment/ match of 30,000 with Community Development for town entrance and park signs.

Vote: All in favor

*Agenda amended*

## **MINUTES**

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Cormier to approve the previous minutes.

Vote: All in favor

*Minutes approved*

## **FINANCIALS**

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Semien to approve the December 2021 financials.

Vote: All in favor

*Financials approved*

## **FINANCE**

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Cormier to approve the high bid of \$1,792.92 for the surplus bucket truck.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by O'Pry to approve a low bid of \$440,220.00 by Construction Pro for the 2021 LCDBG Sewer Improvements Project.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Semien to approve a budget amendment of \$12,000 for Mardi Gras cleanup.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

It was moved by O'Pry, seconded by Comeaux to approve a liquor license for Pizzaville, USA.

Vote: All in favor

*Liquor license approved*

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by O’Pry to approve a budget amendment/match of \$30,000 with Community Development for town entrance and park signs.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

It was moved by Cormier, seconded by Semien to approve Kaitlyn Higginbotham as full-time Communications Officer.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by Comeaux to approve the full-time hire of Officer Hunter Hare.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Semien to approve a budget amendment of \$12,000 for additional officer manpower and supplies for Mardi Gras.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

#### **LEGAL**

It was moved by Lebas, seconded by O’Pry to adopt an ordinance regulating the height of signs for businesses.

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance adopted; posted in appendix*

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Cormier to adopt an ordinance strengthening the state ordinance of no advertising or political sign placement on town poles or right of way.

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance adopted; posted in appendix*

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Lebas to adopt an ordinance backing dumpsters twenty feet from town-maintained asphalt.

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance adopted; posted in appendix*

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Lebas to adopt an ordinance setting the mayor’s annual salary.

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance adopted; posted in appendix*

**MISC/DISCUSSION**

It was moved by O’Pry, seconded by Comeaux to approve a liquor license exemption for the Saddle Tramp’s annual Mardi Gras.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

It was moved by Comeaux, seconded by Lebas to approve a liquor license exemption for OMP’S 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Auction.

Vote: All in favor

*Motion approved*

**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**

## APPENDIX

### ORDINANCE #02072022-1

#### AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE PLACEMENT AND DISPLAY OF COMMERCIAL SIGNS

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Church Point recognizes that the proper placement, construction, and design of commercial signs enhances the aesthetic value of the town.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Church Point recognizes that “sign pollution” where numerous and large signs in commercially zoned areas detract from the aesthetic value of the town and should hereby be regulated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, that only monument style and/or signs attached to a business building will be permitted on commercially zoned properties. Monument style signs may be brick, stucco, or surrounded by greenery or landscaping. No non-permanent signs will be permitted. Exemptions are permitted for any existing businesses, and/or any businesses that filed for occupational licenses as of February 7, 2022. Existing signs as of that date may be upgraded with new skin and/or artwork, but may not be physically renovated. No occupational license shall be given until sign requirements are approved and/or brought into compliance with this ordinance.

**Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances:** All ordinances and laws or parts of ordinances and laws not specifically noted above which conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Severability:** In the event any section, part or portion of this ordinance shall be found to be unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining portion shall be valid and in full force and effect.

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

MOTION: Lebas  
SECOND: O’Pry  
YEAS: Comeaux, Cormier, Semien  
NEAS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

This ordinance was introduced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2022, and declared adopted on The 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**ORDINANCE #02072022-2**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS, TEMPORARY SIGNS AND BANNERS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Church Point recognizes state law that prohibits the placement of political signs on certain properties.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Church Point recognizes that placement of political signs, banners, or temporary signs adjacent to a roadway or servitude poses a risk to motorists, pedestrians, or individuals who need to access the servitude.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, no political or advertising sign will be allowed to be placed on town or state property, or at a distance of ten feet from a town or state roadway, or between a town sidewalk and the town or state roadway. No signs will be allowed to be placed upon an electric pole or town pole at any time. Signs in violation of this ordinance will be removed and discarded three days after notice of violation has been given.

**Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances:** All ordinances and laws or parts of ordinances and laws not specifically noted above which conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Severability:** In the event any section, part or portion of this ordinance shall be found to be unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining portion shall be valid and in full force and effect.

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

MOTION: O’Pry  
SECOND: Cormier  
YEAS: Comeaux, Lebas, Semien

NEAS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

This ordinance was introduced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2022, and declared adopted on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**ORDINANCE #02072022-3**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE POSITION, PLACEMENT, AND DISPLAY OF DUMPSTERS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Church Point recognizes that dumpsters placed too close to a roadway and/or upon the servitude poses a risk for motorists and/or individuals who need to access the servitude.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Church Point recognizes that dumpsters that are visible near a roadway are inconsistent with the aesthetic goals of the town.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, that no dumpster shall be closer than twenty feet from a town roadway. Subject to the following exceptions, all dumpsters must be enclosed in a wooden or similar fence so as to prevent it from being visible from the roadway. Existing businesses and/or businesses permitted to build as of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, must have dumpsters that are closer than fifty feet from the roadway enclosed in a wooden fence or similar enclosed area as to where it is not visible from the roadway. Any dumpster that is beyond fifty feet from the roadway is considered grand-fathered, and does not have to be enclosed. The grandfather clause expires when the business is sold or falls under new ownership. Penalty after a ten-day warning or tagging will be subject to a twenty-five dollar per day fine which may be added to a tax bill and/or may result in the occupational license being revoked.

**Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances:** All ordinances and laws or parts of ordinances and laws not specifically noted above which conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Severability:** In the event any section, part or portion of this ordinance shall be found to be unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining portion shall be valid and in full force and effect.

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

MOTION: Comeaux

SECOND: Lebas  
YEAS: O’Pry, Cormier, Semien  
NEAS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

This ordinance was introduced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2022, and declared adopted on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**ORDINANCE # 02072022-4**

**AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF CHURCH POINT**

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

**WHEREAS**, the town of Church Point passed Ordinance #030920-6 on March 02, 2020 setting the formula for calculating the Mayor’s annual salary.

**WHEREAS**, the town of Church Point set the Mayor’s salary as \$1.00 an hour higher than the highest paid employee of the town (not including any employee of the police department), which then is calculated on a 40 hour work week, and annualized for a total yearly salary.

**WHEREAS**, the town of Church Point recognizes that the highest paid employee has retired and/or no longer works for the Town of Church Point.

**WHEREAS**, the Church Point Board of Alderman desires to terminate the previously used formula for calculating the Mayor’s salary and declares that the Mayor’s salary shall now be at a fixed annual rate that is equal to \$30.11 per hour over a 40 hour work week. This formula shall now represent the Mayor’s base annual salary.

**WHEREAS**, the Church Point Board of Alderman may from time to time grant cost of living raises which will increase the Mayor’s Salary

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority thereof, that the salary of the Mayor shall be at a fixed annual rate that is equal to \$30.11 per hour over a 40-hour work week. This formula shall now represent the Mayor’s base annual salary. In addition, the Town of Church Point will provide a vehicle to the Mayor at no cost to the Mayor, in order for the Mayor to conduct the business of the town. The Church Point Board of Alderman may from time-to-time grant cost of living raises which will increase the Mayor’s Salary.

**Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances:** All ordinances and laws or parts of ordinances and laws not specifically noted above which conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Severability:** In the event any section, part or portion of this ordinance shall be found to be unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining portion shall be valid and in full force and effect.

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

MOTION: O'Pry

SECOND: Lebas

YEAS: Comeaux, Cormier, Semien

NEAS: None

ABSTAIN: None

This ordinance was introduced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2022, and declared adopted on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.