

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2023 HELD AT 705 W. UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LAFAYETTE, LA.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Glenn Lazard (Chair, District 5), Liz Hebert (Vice-Chair, District 3), Patrick "Pat" Lewis (District 1), Andy Naquin (District 2) and Nanette Cook (District 4)

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL STAFF: Veronica L. Arceneaux (Clerk of the Council), Joseph Gordon-Wiltz (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Jeremy J. Swiney (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Cydra Wingerter (Chief Administrative Officer), Lowell Duhon (Interim Chief Financial Officer), Hollis Conway (PARC Director), Warren Abadie (Traffic, Roads and Bridges Director), Chad Nepveaux (Public Works Director), Greg Logan (City-Parish Attorney) and Paul Escott (Assistant City-Parish Attorney)

(5:31:00) **COMMENCEMENT**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order

Chair Lazard called the Regular City Council Meeting of December 19, 2023 to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called upon Councilmember Lewis to site an invocation and upon Councilmember Hebert to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lazard made the following announcements:

- Item #13, JO-080-2023, relative to animal codes, has a requested amendment to clarify the definition of bite;
- Wished Cydra Wingerter, CAO, a Happy Birthday which she celebrates on December 31st;
- Wished Josh Guillory, Mayor-President, a Happy Birthday which he celebrates on January 8th;
- Wished Hollis Conway, PARC Director, a Happy Birthday which he celebrates on January 8th;
- Announced that his birthday will be celebrated on January 8th;
- The Oath of Office Ceremony for the Lafayette Parish Council, Lafayette City Council and Lafayette Mayor-President will be at the Cajundome Convention Center on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 3pm, all are invited to attend.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmembers thanked citizens, staff and the administration for their assistance during their terms of office.

Hebert awarded Lazard with a plaque for his leadership as City Council Chair.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: EXECUTIVE/MAYOR-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wingerter stated that Mayor-President Guillory is home with the flu but expresses his love and appreciation to all and thanked everyone for a great four (4) years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Clifton Dural, Villa Dural and Jejuan Cryer and Catrina Cryer obo their minor child, J. Cryer vs. Lafayette City Parish Consolidated Government and Cody L. Richard
15th Judicial District Court
Docket No. 20183633 Div. B
Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana

Escott explained why an executive session is needed.

(5:51:00) A motion to enter into executive session by Hebert, seconded by Lewis, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
Motion to enter executive session was approved.

(6:01:00) A motion to return from executive session by Cook, seconded by Hebert, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
Motion to return from executive session was approved.

A motion to accept Legal’s recommendation by Hebert, seconded by Naquin, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
Motion to accept Legal’s recommendation was approved.

JOINT RESOLUTION

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: JR-034-2023 A joint resolution of the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council declaring those holidays to be observed by employees of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government for the calendar year 2024, motion to adopt by Cook, seconded by Naquin, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
Motion to adopt was approved.

Wingerter announced that this year includes a floating holiday to allow employees a cultural/religious holiday of their preference.

REPORT AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Update on the design for the new City of Lafayette pickleball facility

Conway stated that the design is for 16 courts and that only the initial drawings are available so far. It is being designed for build out in stages as funding is available. He further noted that the existing six (6) courts at Comeaux are consistently in use.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CO-173-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 capital budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by increasing the use of prior year fund balance in Fund 401 City Sales Tax Capital Improvement in the amount of \$250,000 and appropriating within the Traffic Engineering Division of the Traffic, Roads and Bridges Department for a new traffic signal at Marie Antoinette Street and West Congress Street, motion to adopt by Naquin, seconded by Hebert, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
Motion to adopt was approved.

Edward “Brother” Abdalla signed in and shared his concerns that a light will bring more traffic to a small residential street.

Naquin stated that a light will be on the Lafayette High School side, not the residential side and that it is necessary with the new school being built.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: CO-183-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 capital budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by increasing the use of Prior Year Fund Balance in Fund 401 City Sales Tax Capital Improvement in the amount of \$77,553 and authorizing the Lafayette Mayor-President to enter into a Roadway Betterment Agreement between the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government and Guidry Land Development, LLC relative to the construction of upgraded roadway and other related items in Sonoma Gardens Development, motion to adopt by Hebert, seconded by Lewis, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Naquin, Hebert, Cook

NAYS: Lewis, Lazard

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to adopt was approved.

Councilmembers inquired as to why cement had already been poured, torn up, and poured again.

Abadie stated that the original plan was asphalt and if the developer has poured cement it was at his own risk.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: CO-185-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 operating budget and adjusting manning tables of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by authorizing the Use of City General Fund Balance in the amount of \$96,190 and appropriating within the Lafayette Police Department to promote 12 Police Officers to Police Corporals, motion to adopt by Naquin, seconded by Cook, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to adopt was approved.

Lazard inquired if these promotions were known prior to budget adoption.

Wingerter stated that five (5) were expected and budgeted for but an additional 12 officers tested and passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: CO-187-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 capital budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by transferring \$121,153 in funds from the Castille Avenue Streetscape Activity to the Willow Street Streetscape Activity for additional funding needed within the Community Development and Planning Department, Planning Division, motion to adopt by Cook, seconded by Naquin, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to adopt was approved.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: CO-188-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 operating and capital budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by decreasing the use of fund balance in the Downtown Drainage Project in the amount of \$2,259,741, decreasing the use of fund balance in the Spot Dredging Vermilion Project in the amount of \$730,259, and appropriating said funds to the Lake Farm Road Detention Project, for additional funds to complete the acquisition, by expropriation, of the necessary rights-of-way, immovable property, and other property rights requisite to the construction of the Lake Farm Road Detention Project, motion to adopt by Lewis, seconded by Hebert, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Lazard

NAYS: Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Cook

Motion to adopt was approved.

A motion to defer to January 9 was offered by Hebert. The motion to defer died due to lack of a second.

Hebert stated that with the project so close to completion she could not vote to remove funds from the Vermilion dredging project and place that project at risk.

Logan noted that if the case is not settled that LCG could have to pay an additional \$500,000 in legal fees.

Nepveaux stated that the funds are coming from projects that have excess funds and should not place the projects in jeopardy.

JOINT ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: JO-079-2023 A joint ordinance of the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council authorizing the Lafayette Mayor-President to execute the Right of Way Instrument by and between Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government and Entergy Louisiana, LLC, motion to adopt by Naquin, seconded by Cook, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to adopt was approved.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: JO-080-2023 A joint ordinance of the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council repealing and replacing Chapter 10, entitled “Animals,” of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Code of Ordinances, motion to adopt by Cook, seconded by Lewis.

A motion to amend to clarify the definition of bite and update the Chief of Police’s pronoun to “his/her” by Naquin, seconded by Cook, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to amend was approved.

The Chair then called for the vote to adopt, as amended, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to adopt, as amended, was approved.

INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

A motion to introduce agenda items 15-20, in globo, was offered by Cook, seconded by Naquin.

15. CO-189-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council naming the soccer fields at Moore Park in honor of Deanna Bostic.

16. CO-190-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the Lafayette Development Code and the official map of the City of Lafayette, providing for the annexation of additional land into the corporate limits of the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, Case No. 2023-32-REZ 1700 Block E Broussard Road Annexation, located generally north of Everglades Drive, west of E Broussard Road and south of Rougeau Road; and assigning a zoning classification of RM-1 (Residential Mixed) (District 4).

17. CO-191-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the Lafayette Development Code so as to reclassify the property of Case No. 2023-33-REZ 4800 Block West Congress Street Rezoning, located generally north of Nezida Lane, west of Rue du Belier and south of West Congress Street; being rezoned from RS-1 (Residential Single-Family) to RM-1 (Residential Mixed), with one (1) condition.

18. CO-192-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 operating budget and adjusting the manning tables of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by adding promotion dollars and deleting positions per Civil Service recommendation within the Communications Department.
19. CO-193-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council amending the FY 23/24 operating budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by decreasing anticipated revenues in the amount of \$500,000 in DOTD grant funds for the North Domingue/Dulles Roundabout Project H.006534 within the Traffic, Roads & Bridges Department.
20. CO-194-2023 An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council authorizing the Lafayette Mayor-President to enter into the Temporary Right of Use Agreement between the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for the Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo 2024.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 21: Comments from the public concerning the above introductory ordinances.

#17 CO-191-2023

Nine (9) citizens signed in, in opposition to the ordinance, but did not wish to speak.

Chad Ortte spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that a prior attempt to develop as single family was not approved and that the rezoning would open up other development options.

Daphne Villemarette, Donna Boullion, Elsie Meaux, Matthew Perkins, Angela Breaux and Dona Sonnier all signed in, in opposition to the ordinance, stating concerns regarding flooding, traffic and possible changes to the character of their neighborhood.

A 149-signature petition against the rezoning was submitted to the Council.

The Chair then called for a vote to introduce the ordinances (items 15-20), in globo, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to introduce, in globo, was approved.

JOINT INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES

A motion to introduce agenda items 22-23, in globo, was offered by Lewis, seconded by Naquin.

22. JO-081-2023 A joint ordinance of the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council designating the auditor for the Lafayette Airport Commission. (Legal)

23. JO-082-2023 A joint ordinance of the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council providing for the abandonment of a certain portion of a varying width "Y-Drainage" servitude and the granting of a new drainage servitude on Lot 17 of Ambassador Town Center Phase II Subdivision, located at 301 Lake Farm Road. (CD&P)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 24: Comments from the public concerning the above introductory ordinances.

No one spoke to the above joint introductory ordinances.

The Chair then called for a vote to introduce the ordinances (items 22-23), in globo, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Lewis, Naquin, Hebert, Cook, Lazard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion to introduce, in globo, was approved.

COMMENT(S) FROM THE PUBLIC

AGENDA ITEM NO. 25: Comments from the public on any other matter(s) not on this agenda.

Ella Arsement thanked the Guillory Administration and Council for their service the last four (4) years for the drainage work that has been done.

Anita Begnaud thanked everyone for all of the accomplishments in Lafayette, especially downtown. She shared her excitement for the future of the City of Lafayette and noted that it was her last Council Meeting as CEO of the Downtown Development Authority.

(7:20:00) **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Lazard declared the Regular Meeting adjourned.


VERONICA L. ARCENEUX,
LAFAYETTE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL