

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Port Allen, Louisiana, met in Regular Session at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, in the Council Chambers at Port Allen City Hall.

Mayor Lee called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked Elliott Dogan to lead the pledge of allegiance. A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Present: Ray Helen Lawrence, Garry Hubble, Brandon Brown, Hugh Riviere and Carey Williams

Absent: None

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2020. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none and the motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present.

Mayor Lee read aloud the procedure for public participation at the Regular Meetings of the Port Allen City Council in accordance with state statutes and local ordinances.

Mr. Hugh Riviere moved to approve Chief Esdron Brown's recommendation to hire Hector Echegoyen to fill the temporary position currently held by Justin Smith, who is away on military leave, at Grade 110, Step A; Shawn Williams at Grade 110, Step A; and Matthew Ravencraft pending him successfully passing the Matrix test at Grade 112, Step since he already P.O.S.T. certified. Ravencraft will be filling a vacancy which occurred when Chassity Journet declined employment after it was offered. Chief Brown stated that each of these individuals meets all requirements of hiring. Mr. Carey Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mayor Lee explained the necessity of correcting some language in the rate structure of the City's sewer usage fees and stated that an ordinance would be necessary to clarify the average water usage in each classification. Mr. Hugh Riviere moved to introduce an ordinance to clarify the classifications in reference to determining the average amount of water usage in light commercial, medium commercial and heavy commercial for sewer customers. Mr. Carey Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to authorize the administration to spend up to \$1,000 on an advertisement in the Westside Journal in celebration of Juneteenth 2020. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mayor Lee recognized Monica and Phil Padgett to explain the reason they are requesting to have two (2) lots they currently own on Jefferson Avenue re-surveyed and joined into one single lot. City Attorney Alvarez explained why this was coming directly to the City Council instead of as a recommendation from the Port Allen Planning and Zoning Commission because of a lack of a quorum at their last meeting. Mr. Hugh Riviere moved to approve the Padgetts' request to join their two lots on Jefferson Avenue into a single lot subject to the map being signed by the surveyor. Mr. Garry Hubble seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to approve the promotion of Shanessa Deloch to Class I Operator at the wastewater treatment plant and to change her pay to Grade 110, Step A based on her successful completion of the Class I Operator Certification Program. Mr. Hugh Riviere stated that he wanted to publicly commend Ms. Deloch on working so hard to advance herself in her training. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Carey Williams moved to introduce an ordinance to amend the current FY 2019-2020 General Fund Budget to authorize continuing the pay salaries for the City's school crossing guards for the month of June, 2020 to compensate them for additional duties of monitoring access to City Hall during the COVID-19 pandemic including taking temperatures and mandating masks. Mr. Brandon Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Carey Williams moved to introduce an ordinance to amend the current FY 2019-2020 budget in the Sewer Fund to fund the purchase of a wall-mount ultrasonic open channel effluent flowmeter for the Wastewater Treatment Facility at a cost of \$2,860 from Municipal and Industrial Chlorination, LLC. Mr. Brandon Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Carey Williams moved to introduce an ordinance to amend the current FY 2019-2020 budget in the Sewer Fund to fund the repair and replacement of a check valve for #3 effluent flowmeter for the Wastewater Treatment Facility at a cost of \$10,800 from Tullier Services for a 1-2 week delivery. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Carey Williams moved to introduce an ordinance to amend the current FY 2019-2020 budget in the Water and Gas Fund to fund the purchase of a new water meter for the 6th Street Water Well at a cost of \$3,600. Mr. Brandon Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Hugh Riviere moved to authorize amending the current contract with the City's I.T. company by increasing the monthly amount to \$3,000 per month beginning July 1, 2020.

Mr. Carey Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mayor Lee opened the public hearing to obtain views regarding the adoption of an ordinance to provide for revenues and expenditures for all City of Port Allen's budgetary funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. Several members of the audience addressed the City Council and expressed their concerns over the proposed budgets. Mayor Lee then asked if anyone else in the audience wished to be heard prior to the City Council taking the matter up for a vote. No one answered. Mayor Lee then closed the public hearing.

After Mayor Lee read the Agenda item regarding the budget adoption, the City Clerk read the title of the ordinance. Mayor Lee recognized Mr. Garry Hubble for an amendment to the proposed budget. Mr. Hubble handed a written copy to Mayor Lee and all City Council members his proposed Amendment No. 1 to remove funding for Community Events in the amount of \$30,000, for Community Promotion for \$10,000, and for miscellaneous expenses for \$5,000 for a total reduction of \$45,000. Mr. Hubble explained his concerns about the uncertainty of revenues at this time and his reasons for bringing the amendment and answered questions of the members from the City Council and Mayor Lee. Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if anyone from the audience wished to be heard. No one answered. Mayor Lee asked if there were any other objections. Councilman Brown had the only objection. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Hubble, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: Brown, Lawrence. The motion carried and Amendment No. 1 was adopted.

Mr. Garry Hubble stated he had a second amendment to propose to the budget. Mr. Hubble handed a written copy to Mayor Lee and all City Council members his proposed Amendment No. 2 to remove funding for the purchase of Christmas Decorations in the amount of \$12,000 in the Community Development section of the General Fund Budget for a total reduction in the Community Development Department expenses by \$12,000. Mr. Hubble explained his concerns about the uncertainty of revenues at this time and his reasons for bringing the amendment and answered questions of the members from the City Council and Mayor Lee. Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if anyone from the audience wished to be heard. No one answered. Mayor Lee asked if there were any other objections. There were none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Hubble, Riviere. NAYS: Brown, Lawrence, Williams. The motion to adopt Amendment No. 2 failed.

Mr. Garry Hubble stated he had a third amendment to propose to the budget. Mr. Hubble handed a written copy to Mayor Lee and all City Council members his proposed Amendment No. 3 to remove funding for the expenditure for fitness equipment at Centennial Park in the amount of \$75,000 in the Community Development section of the General Fund for a total reduction in the Community Development Department expenses by \$75,000. Mr. Hubble explained his concerns about the uncertainty of revenues at this time and his reasons for bringing the amendment and answered questions of the members from the City Council and Mayor Lee. Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if anyone from the audience wished to be heard. No one answered. Mayor Lee asked if there were any other objections. There were none. A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Hubble, Riviere. NAYS: Brown, Lawrence, Williams. The motion to adopt Amendment No. 3 failed.

Mr. Garry Hubble stated he had a fourth amendment to propose to the budget. Mr. Hubble handed a written copy to Mayor Lee and all City Council members his proposed Amendment No. 4 to remove funding for the expenditure for playground equipment at Cohn Park in the amount of \$100,000 in the Community Development section of the General Fund for a total reduction in the Community Development Department expenses by \$100,000. Mr. Hubble explained his concerns about the uncertainty of revenues at this time and his reasons for bringing the amendment and answered questions of the members from the City Council and Mayor Lee. Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if anyone from the audience wished to be heard. No one answered. Mayor Lee asked if there were any other objections. There were none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Hubble, Riviere. NAYS: Brown, Lawrence, Williams. The motion to adopt Amendment No. 4 failed.

Mr. Garry Hubble stated he had a fifth amendment to propose on the budget. Mr. Hubble handed a written copy to Mayor Lee and all City Council members his proposed Amendment No. 5 to removing funding for the purchase of classroom furniture at the public works maintenance barn in the amount of \$3,000 in the Roads and Drainage Department of the General Fund Budget for a total reduction in the Roads and Drainage Department expenses by \$3,000. After some discussion among the members of the City Council and Mayor Lee, Mr. Garry Hubble withdrew the amendment for consideration.

Mr. Garry Hubble stated he had a sixth amendment to propose to the budget. Mr. Hubble handed a written copy to Mayor Lee and all City Council members his proposed Amendment No. 6 to remove funding for the expenditure for the Road Enhancement Program in the amount of \$375,000 until we have more information on how revenues are meeting budgeted expectations for a total reduction in the Roads and Drainage Department expenses by \$375,000. Mr. Hugh Riviere offered a substitute motion that we reduce the budgeted amount for the Road Enhancement Program by \$187,500 and allow spending \$187,500 for FY 20-21 and increase it if we meet revenue projections. Mr. Garry Hubble seconded the substitute motion. Mayor Lee asked if anyone else wished to be heard. No one answered. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Hubble, Riviere. NAYS: Brown, Lawrence, Williams. The substitute motion failed. On the original motion to adopt Amendment No. 6, Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if anyone from the audience wished to be heard. No one answered. Mayor Lee asked if there were any other objections. There were none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Hubble, Riviere. NAYS: Brown, Lawrence, Williams. The motion to adopt Amendment No. 6 failed.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3 of 2020, as amended, to provide for revenues and expenditures for the City of Port Allen's budgetary funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 for all City of Port Allen's Funds beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 which was introduced on May 13, 2020. Mr. Carey Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked the Chief Financial Officer to present the proposed budgets for fiscal year 2020-2021 beginning on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021 for all City of Port Allen funds. City Council members asked questions and no further action was taken.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to introduce an ordinance to provide for the adoption of the budgets for the City of Port Allen for all funds for fiscal year 2020-2021. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Hubble moved to introduce an ordinance to further define a nuisance in the City of Port Allen in reference to leaving garbage cans out at the road for extended periods of time. City Attorney Alvarez explained the details of his draft of a proposed ordinance. Mayor Lee asked if anyone would second the motion. No one did and the motion failed for lack of a second.

Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence moved to accept the bid from The Westside Journal to be the City of Port Allen's official journal for FY 2020-2021 beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Brandon Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to approve Mayor Lee's recommendation to re-appoint Gary Joseph to the City of Port Allen Board of Adjustments to complete the unexpired term that commenced on January 1, 2015 due to the December 31, 2014 conclusion of his prior term. Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Garry Hubble moved to approve Mayor Lee's recommendation to appoint Charlene Gordon to the City of Port Allen Board of Adjustments to complete the unexpired term of the seat previously held by Christopher Guerin that commenced on January 1, 2019. Mr. Hugh Riviere seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to authorize Mayor Lee to advertise, interview and make a recommendation to hire two (2) temporary part-time Laborer I positions in the Roads and Drainage Department for service through December 31, 2020 at the rate of \$11.00 per hour for 25-30 hours per week. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Brandon Brown moved to authorize Mayor Lee to advertise, interview and make a recommendation to hire a part-time office clerk in the utility department due to a vacancy in the office at the rate of \$17.00 per hour for up to 30 hours per week. Mr. Carey Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Lee asked if there was any opposition. There was none. A roll call vote resulted as follows: YEAS: Brown, Hubble, Lawrence, Riviere, Williams. NAYS: None. The motion carried.

City Attorney stated that there were no condemnations pending at this time.

Lance Joseph stated that there were no alcoholic beverage permits pending at this time.

Mayor Lee announced that the parish would not be having their annual July 4th celebration on the levee this year. He also stated that he read in the paper that WBRZ would still be having the fireworks on the river in Baton Rouge. Mayor Lee announced that construction of the bathroom facility at Cohn Park had begun and that due to the water levels of the Mississippi River, we would delay construction of the bathroom facility at Centennial Park. Mayor Lee announced that Phase 8 of the Road Enhancement Program had begun. He stated that we would continue to require masks and temperature checks for anyone entering City Hall until Governor Edwards authorized us moving to Phase 3 opening. Mrs. Ray Helen Lawrence stated that there was a graveyard in her district that she hoped to get cleaned up and painted and asked for assistance from anyone who would volunteer to assist with that project.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Hugh Riviere moved to adjourn. Mr. Brandon Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried without objection and the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

s/ Richard N. Lee, III
Richard N. Lee, III, Mayor

s/ Audrey A. McCain
Audrey A. McCain, City Clerk