

THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN, THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF EUNICE, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY/ACADIA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at six-thirty (6:30) o'clock p.m., at their regular meeting place, the Eunice City Hall.

6:15 pm Public Hearing was opened to hear views/comments on following proposed Ordinances:

1. Ordinance 0523(A) – to amend Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023.
2. Ordinance 0523(B) – proposed new Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.
3. Ordinance 0523(C) – Amend 17:101, changing number of Library Board Members from 7 to 5.
4. Ordinance 0523(D) – Amend 18:133, Storage of House Trailers to Storage of Campers
5. Ordinance 0534(E) – Amend 18:253, restrictions for Moving Permits for Mobile Homes/Trailers

There were no public comments during the Public Hearing.

6:30 pm The Mayor called the Regular meeting of the City of Eunice Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen to order.

There were present: Mayor Scott A. Fontenot, Alderman at Large Marion “Nootsie” Sattler, Alderman Chad Andrepont, Alderwoman Germaine Simpson and Alderman Randall Reed.

There were absent: Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux

The Mayor announced that a quorum was present and ready to transact business.

There was one (1) request for Public Comment, Item “G-1” Mayor’s Business, Appointment of Fire Chief. Request made by Garrett Daville. The Mayor advised that he would call for Mr. Daville’s comments once the Board had reached the item on the Agenda.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Marion “Nootsie” Sattler, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to adopt the Minutes of the May 9, 2023 Regular Council meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: SHOW CAUSE HEARING: 1621 West Magnolia Avenue

Code Enforcement Officer Judson Venezia presented current photographs of the structure located at 1621 West Magnolia Avenue and advised the Board that the structure was unsafe and recommended that it be condemned.

The Mayor called for the owner, Valeri Dianne Marcantel, or any one present to represent the structure located at 1621 West Magnolia Avenue. There was no response from any member of the audience to speak on behalf of the structure located at 1621 West Magnolia Avenue.

It was moved by Alderman Randall Reed, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to issue an Order of Condemnation on the structure located at 1621 West Magnolia Avenue.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING: 501 South Mallet Street

Code Enforcement Officer Judson Venezia presented current photographs of the structure located at 501 South Mallet Street and advised the Board that the structure was unsafe and recommended that it be condemned.

The Mayor called for the owner, Danielle Gallow, or any one present to represent the structure located at 501 South Mallet Street. There was no response from any member of the audience to speak on behalf of the structure located at 501 South Mallet Street.

It was moved by Alderwoman Germaine Simpson, seconded by Alderman at Large Marion “Nootsie” Sattler and carried to issue an Order of Condemnation on the structure located at 501 South Mallet Street.

Code Enforcement Officer Judson Venezia gave an update on the following structures:
410 Pierotti Street – structure has been demolished and lot cleared of debris

241 East Oak Avenue – structure has been demolished and lot cleared of debris
720 Carron Street – structure has been demolished and lot cleared of debris

Code Enforcement Officer Judson Venezia advised that the City had hired local contractors, after receiving multiple quotes, to demolish the condemned structures and clean the lots of all debris.

MAYOR’S RECOMMENDATION AND/OR BUSINESS:

The Mayor announced that after receiving passing scores of the Civil Service test for Fire Chief of the Eunice Fire Department and interviewing the qualified candidates he wished to appoint Captain Chase Brown, of the Eunice Fire Department, to the position of Fire Chief.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman Reed and carried to concur with the Mayor’s recommendation that Captain Chase Brown be appointed and promoted to the position of Fire Chief of the Eunice Fire Department.

Garrett Daville, member of the Eunice Fire Department who had requested to make a public comment on the appointment, spoke on his time working alongside Captain Brown and that he, and other members of the Eunice Fire Department, support the appointment of Captain Brown to the position of Fire Chief of the Eunice Fire Department.

Captain Chase Brown’s brother, Firefighter Ben Brown who is also employed with the Eunice Fire Department, pinned the Fire Chief badge on his brother, the newly appointed Fire Chief, Chase Brown.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Steve Moose of Darnall, Sikes and Fredricks CPA firm, financial consultant for the City of Eunice, addressed the Board on the amendments made to the current year’s budget whose fiscal year ends June 30, 2023.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to adopt Ordinance 0523(A), amending the City of Eunice budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023.

Mr. Moosa gave the Board an overview of the new proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year which will end June 30, 2034. Mr. Moosa addressed the increase to the hourly rate of Police Officers and the Police Department’s supporting staff which has been added to the budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1, 2023. Hourly increases are:

Police Officer:	\$3.25 an hour increase
Sergeant:	\$3.58 an hour increase
Lieutenant:	\$3.74 an hour increase
Deputy Chief:	\$4.55 an hour increase
Jailer:	\$1.00 an hour increase
Dispatcher:	\$1.00 an hour increase
Chief Secretary:	\$1.00 an hour increase
Records Clerk:	\$1.00 an hour increase

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to adopt Ordinance 0523(B), the proposed 2023-2024 budget for the City of Eunice with the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to adopt Ordinance 0523(C), amending current Ordinance 17:101 “Establishment of Eunice Public Library Board” and amending the maximum number of board members from seven (7) to five (5).

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to adopt Ordinance 0523(D), amending current Ordinance 18:133 “Storage of House Trailers” to read “Storage of Campers,” removing permission for House Trailers or Mobile Homes to be used for storage or to store empty House Trailers or Mobile Homes on property in any designated zone.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to adopt 0523(E), amending current Ordinance 18:253 “Building Permits,” adding requirements to Mobile Homes and/or House Trailers to meet before being issued a moving permit to move within or into the city limits.

NEW BUSINESS:

David Hidalgo with Aucoin & Associates addressed the Board on the Eunice Municipal Airport's Obstruction Removal Project.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of Mr. Hidalgo and award the project's contract to the lowest bidder, E.B. Feucht & Sons in the amount of \$320,000.00.

The Mayor gave an update on the ongoing project of improvements at the Nature Trail and Walking Park on West Maple Avenue.

Alderwoman Germaine Simpson addressed the sign erected at the Nature Trail and Walking Park, requirement of the State of Louisiana grant funds used for the project, which originally listed all the Board Members except Alderwoman Simpson, and once error was realized the contractor, responsible for printing and erecting the sign, had the sign corrected and reprinted. Alderwoman Simpson commented on negative posts to social media after the mistake was corrected.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to introduce for consideration Ordinance 0623(A), requirement and limitations of Licenses for Ambulance Servers to operate in the city limits of Eunice.

Alderwoman Simpson spoke about visiting Limo, Ohio and projects that their city conducts annually and how the City of Eunice could implement these projects in order to help clean-up the City of Eunice, such as, a "Mayor and Council Clean-up Day" targeting different areas of the City on specific days and residents can put out trash to be picked up by the City or use City provided dumpsters. "Ward Walk Through" consists of board members walking throughout their Wards to get a different perspective on the needs of the neighborhood.

Alderwoman Simpson announced that the Summer Feeding program at the Southeast Community Center has begun and it is sponsored by the Daisy Mae Foundation and the State of Louisiana Department Education. Children up to 18 years old can receive free breakfast Monday through Friday from 9 am to 11 am and free lunch from 12 noon to 2 pm. The City's Recreation Department and its director, Robert Johnson, will be providing some activities for the children during these times, such as kickball, horse shoes and other similar recreational activities. Alderwoman Simpson encouraged members of the Police and Fire Departments to stop by and meet the children.

Alderwoman Simpson announced that with the purchase of new kitchen equipment the renovations to the Southeast Community Center are complete. She stated that within the next few months the current rental fees may be increased because of the upgrades that the Center has received.

Alderman Chad Andrepont commented on the Summer Feeding Program and its benefit to the children of Eunice.

Chief of Police Kyle LeBouef recommended the provisional hiring of N'Dreaka Vallaire for the position of Police Communications Officer.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to concur with Chief LeBouef's recommendation and hire N'Dreaka Vallaire provisionally in the position of Police Communications Officer.

Chief of Police Kyle LeBouef recommended the hiring of Bryan Wiles for the position of a probational Police Officer.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to concur with Chief LeBouef's recommendation and hire Bryan Wiles in the position of probational Police Officer.

MONTHLY REPOTS

Police Chief Kyle LeBouef gave a report of the Eunice Police Department's activities for the month of May, 2023.

Newly appointed Fire Chief Chase Brown thanked the Mayor and Board Members for the promotion to Fire Chief of the Eunice Fire Department and the opportunity to lead the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Chase Brown gave a report of the Eunice Fire Department's activities for the month of May, 2023.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to approve payment of the City's bills for the month of May, 2023 and acknowledged that the Board has received the City's financial reports.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the City of Eunice's Annual July 4th Fireworks Display will be on Tuesday, July 4 at 9:00 PM at the Eunice Recreation Complex on Sittig Road and thanked former Mayor Kenneth Peart for putting on the annual display, which he makes bigger and better every year.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to adjourn.

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor