

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, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 at six-thirty (6:30) o'clock p.m., at their regular meeting place, the Eunice City Hall.

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 Chad Andrepont, Alderwoman Germaine Simpson, Alderman Randall Reed and Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux

There were absent: Alderman at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler

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

There were no requests for Public Comments.

It was moved by Alderman Chad Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Germaine Simpson and carried to adopt the Minutes of the AUGUST 8, 2023 Regular Council meeting.

Alderman at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler arrived at the meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Code Enforcement Officer Judson Venezia presented the following structures and requested that they be scheduled for "Notice to Show Cause" Hearings:

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to schedule a "**Notice to Show Cause**" Hearing for structure located at **230 East Ash Avenue**.

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Randall Reed and carried to schedule a "**Notice to Show Cause**" Hearing for structure located at **641 Halsey Street**.

MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION AND/OR BUSINESS:

Donna Baltakis, chairperson of Keep Eunice Beautiful Committee, announced that a Clean-Up day would be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Individuals or groups should come to the Eunice City Hall on Saturday, September 30th at 8:30 AM. They will be given supplies, such as trash bags, and can clean any area of town they wish, or, chose a location from a list provided by the Keep Eunice Beautiful group. From 9 am to 11 am groups will pick up litter throughout town and then return to Eunice City Hall to drop off their bags of trash. This clean-up day is being sponsored by KEUN Radio.

Mr. Ernest Blanchard, candidate for the position of District 13 representative to the St. Landry Parish Council addressed the Board.

Mr. Leward Lafleur, candidate for the position of District 13 representative to the St. Landry Parish Council addressed the Board.

Mr. Donnie Fontenot, candidate for the position of District 13 representative to the St. Landry Parish Council addressed the Board.

Mr. Jan Deville, candidate for the position of Clerk of Court of St. Landry Parish addressed the Board.

Mr. Charles Jagneaux, candidate for re-election to the position of Clerk of Court of St. Landry Parish addressed the Board.

The Mayor announced that early voting for the October 14, 2023 election would begin on Saturday, September 30, 2023 thru Saturday October 7, 2023 (excluding Sunday) from 8 AM to 6 PM in the lobby of the Eunice City Hall.

Mr. Jagneaux, Clerk of Court, also commented on the Early Voting location being held in Eunice in addition to the St. Landry Parish Voter Registrar's office in Opelousas.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business on Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux and carried to introduce subject matter not on the Agenda, an agreement between the City of Eunice and the St. Landry Parish School Board for the Eunice Police Department to provide a School Resource Officer to Eunice public schools and the School Board's agreement to pay the City of Eunice \$2,500 a month (\$30,000 annually) for this Officer.

The Mayor discussed the proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Eunice and the St. Landry Parish School Board for a School Recourse Officer being assigned to Eunice schools and the School Board reimbursing the City for the cost of the Officer.

Ms. Mary Ellen Donatto, St. Landry Parish School Board District 13 representative and Vice-President of the St. Landry Parish School Board addressed the Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen. Ms. Donatto stated that this Agreement and the purpose of the School Resource Officer is to provide safety for our children. Ms. Donatto stressed the importance of keeping our children safe.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman Reed and carried to authorize the Mayor and Chief of Police to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the St. Landry Parish School Board for a School Resource Officer for Eunice schools.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to accept the Love Louisiana Outdoors project at the Nature Trail and Walking Park as being substantially complete.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the Chief of Police and declare the following vehicles to be surplus:

- 2014 Chevrolet Impala ID # 3463
- 2014 Chevrolet Impala ID # 4427
- 2015 Ford Taurus ID # 0179
- 2015 Ford Taurus ID # 4234
- 2014 Chevrolet Impala ID # 4399
- Eighteen (18) backseats of 2022 Ford Explorers
- Three (3) center consoles of 2019 Chevrolet Tahoes

The Mayor advised that the Town of Mamou and the Village of Chataignier were both in need of Police vehicles and that the Town of Mamou had recently given the Eunice Police Department a surplus K-9 drug detection dog.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Town of Mamou for four (4) surplus Eunice Police Department police Units and with the Village of Chataignier for one (1) surplus Eunice Police Department police Unit.

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to adopt Resolution 0923(A), authorizing the Mayor to act on behalf of the City of Eunice and allow for Expedited Temporary Housing Assistance when State requirements have been met and the St. Landry Parish Government has submitted a certification to GOHSEP.

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman Reed and carried to adopt Resolution 0923(B), adopting policies and plans for the LCDBG 2023 Street Improvement Grant application.

Alderwoman Simpson spoke about children waiting at school bus stops on East Maple Avenue and concerns of vehicles speeding on East Maple Avenue between South Vivian Street and Martin Luther King Drive (Central Middle School). Alderwoman requested a traffic study of speeds during the week between the hours of 7:30 am and 8:30 am.

Alderwoman Simpson stated that East Ardoin Street (Highway 3116, Old Crowley Road) and College Road (Highway Spur 755) are still State Highways and the City cannot overlay State Highways.

The Mayor gave an update on the Road Transfer with the State of Louisiana for East Ardoin Street and College Road and advised that he has been in communication with DOTD and the transfer will take place after the College Road bridge replacement and final overlay of the Highways, estimated to begin in 2025.

Alderwoman Simpson asked Pastor John to give an update on this Summer's Feeding Program sponsored by the Daisy Mae Foundation.

Pastor John gave an update on sponsorships and partners of the Daisy Mae Foundation's summer program and the progress of the After School Program with registration beginning within a week and the program set to start at the beginning of October and will be held from 3 pm to 6 pm. For information on the After School Program, parents can email the Foundation at: daisiemaefoundation@yahoo.com or contact the Eunice Mayor's Office.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to introduce for consideration Ordinance 0923(A), prohibiting the act of Loitering.

Deputy Police Chief Jeremy Ivory presented employee recommendations to the Board.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and hire James Bell as a Provisional Police Officer.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and hire John Medlin, Jr. as a Provisional Police Officer.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and accept the resignation of Richard David, Police Jailer.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and accept the resignation of N'Dreka Vallaire, Police Dispatcher.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and promote Officer Jessica Tezeno to the rank of Probational Sergeant.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and promote Officer Trace Tilbury to the rank of Probational Sergeant.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Chief of Police and withdraw Officer Corina Schexneider's Provisional Sergeant appointment and return her to her position of Permanent Police Officer.

MONTHLY REPOTS

Deputy Police Chief Jeremy Ivory gave a report of the Eunice Police Department's activities for the month of August, 2023.

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

Fire Chief Chaise Brown announced the following certifications obtained by personnel:

1. Captain Jeremy Faulkner has been certified as a Chaplain and is serving in that capacity.
2. Firefighter Gaige Miller has received his Firefighter 1 certification.
3. Operator Christian Walker has received certifications as a Public Educator and Fire Prevention Officer.

Alderwoman Simpson asked Fire Chief Brown if Eunice was still subject to a burn ban.

Fire Chief Brown advised that there is still a State-wide burn ban, prohibiting any outside burning. Fire Chief Brown added that barbequing is allowed but if its fire gets out of hand the owner will be liable.

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

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to adjourn.

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor