

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, February 14, 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 at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler, Alderman Chad Andrepont, Alderwoman Germaine Simpson, Alderman Randall Reed and Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux.

There were absent: None

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

There were no requests for Public Comment.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Maion "Nootsie" Sattler, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to adopt the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle gave an update on the following properties, on behalf of Code Enforcement Judson Venezia. Officer Daigle advised that all three (3) properties have been taken care of:

230 East Street

241 Evelyn Street

310 Kyries Hebert Road

Show Cause Hearing: 221 South St. George Street (owner Kimoras Investment)

City Attorney Stan Feucht asked if there was anyone present in the audience representing 221 South St. George Street. Melissa Richard came to the podium and advised that she was the owner of the property. Ms. Richard advised the Board that her husband has boarded up the structure several times and someone continues to remove the boards and enter the structure without their permission.

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 at 221 South St. George Street but advise the City Attorney to not file the Order for thirty (30) days, to give Ms. Richard time to secure the home.

Show Cause Hearing: 640 North 2nd Street (owner Jesus Cortez)

City Attorney Stan asked if there was anyone present in the audience representing 640 North 2nd Street. Mr. Jesus Cortez, owner, was present. Mr. Cortez advised that he had cleaned up the property and that he was trying to sell the house since he could not afford to fix it.

It was moved by Alderman Randell Reed, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to issue an **Order of Condemnation** on the structure at 640 North 2nd Street but asked the City Attorney to not file the Order for thirty (30) days, to give Mr. Cortez time to sell the property or board it up completely.

1621 West Magnolia Avenue

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle presented the structure located at 1621 West Magnolia Avenue, advised that he had gotten in touch with the owner and nothing had been done to fix the property and he asked that the Board schedule a Show Cause Hearing for the Property.

It was moved by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to **schedule a Show Cause Hearing for the structure at 1621 West Magnolia Avenue.**

501 South Mallet Street

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle presented the structure at 501 South Mallet Street and requested that the Board schedule a Show Cause Hearing.

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to **schedule a Show Cause Hearing for 501 South Mallet Street.**

Mayor Scott Fontenot recognized the members of Boy Scout Troop 425 and their Scoutmasters for the community service they performed by cleaning and sealing the porch and ramps of the historic Depot Museum.

Ms. Jeanne Solis, Executive Director of Louisiana Folkroots, Inc., addressed the Mayor and Board about the 20th annual Dewey Balfa Cajun & Creole Heritage camp that is to be held the week of March 20 thru 26, 2023 at the Lakeview Park and Campgrounds North of Eunice. Ms. Solis and Amelia Vidrine Smith of Eunice unveiled the poster for the Dewey Balfa Cajun & Creole Heritage camp created by Mrs. Smith. The goal of the camp is cultural immersion focused on Cajun and Creole music heritage and folklore, intensive classes for music instruments, band labs, vocal and dance, lagniappe workshops of cooking and folklife demonstrations, nightly dances, daily jam sessions, local culture and heritage excursions and Louisiana food.

Mayor Scott Fontenot presented Ms. Solis a Proclamation, proclaiming the week of March 20 thru the 26, 2023 to be the “Dewey Balfa Cajun & Heritage Week” in honor of Mr. Balfa and his cultural and musical contribution to Cajun culture.

The Mayor announced activities and music scheduled during Mardi Gras in Eunice, beginning with the Eunice Community Health Center’s annual fundraiser, “Taster’s Choice” Wednesday, February 15, then beginning Friday night, February 17 thru February 21st (Mardi Gras Day), downtown will host music, food, parades, arts and crafts, entertainment and more.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the recommendation of the City’s Engineer and project manager to accept as complete the Eunice Municipal Airport’s Runway, Taxiway and North Taxilane Rehabilitation project. The project was completed by Ameriseal of Ohio, Inc.

It was moved by Alderman Randell Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Marion “Nootsie” Sattler and carried to award the contract for the Nature Trail and Walking Park Improvements project through the Love Louisiana Outdoors grant CDBG-CV FY 2021 to the low bidder, Guillotte Brothers LLC, for the base bid plus additive alternates 1, 2 and 3 with a total contract price of \$537,664.00 contingent on verification of wage decision and contractor eligibility by the Office of Community Development.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to adopt Resolution 0223(A), adopting the 2023 St. Landry Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan.

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman Reed and carried to declare the following vehicles to be surplus:

- 2001 Ford Pickup Truck ID # 3774
- 2010 Ford Crown Victoria ID # 5825
- 2011 Ford Crown Victoria ID # 6492
- 2016 Chevrolet Caprice ID # 5149

City Engineer Karl Aucoin, of Aucoin & Associates, addressed the Board as to the condition of the two (2) Wastewater plants operated by the City of Eunice, Plant #1 built in the 1950’s and Plant # 2, built in 1988. Mr. Aucoin advised that the plan is to replace the oldest Plant, #1, by building a new plant within the next 5 years.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to table the next agenda item, introduction of an Ordinance by Title only allowing golf carts on city streets, until further information can be gathered.

Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux addressed her request to suspend the selling of permits for moving trailers inside the city limits.

Alderwoman Simpson questioned whether suspension of the Ordinance 18:253 prevents the city from enforcing sanctions against owners who move trailers in the city limits without proper permits.

City Attorney Stan Feucht discussed the suspension of Ordinance 18:253 in its entirety or, suspension of paragraph (B) of Ordinance 18:253, leaving the rest of the Ordinance to be active and enforceable.

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to introduce for consideration of adoption Resolution 0223(B), declaring Notice of Intent to Suspend City of Eunice Ordinance 18:253, paragraph (B) from date of final Adoption, March 14, 2023, to June 13, 2023.

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to adopt Resolution 0223(A), requesting the State of Louisiana allow the City of Eunice to levy and collect a two percent (2%) tax on the paid occupancy of hotel/motel rooms located within the City of Eunice's city limits. Monies derived from this additional tax would be used to promote tourism, recreation and culture, financing and to conduct and hold events, fairs and festivals for the promotion of tourism.

Alderwoman Germaine Simpson announced that the Eunice Library Board has submitted policies of the library to the Mayor for him to accept them under his direction until the Library Board can elect its own officers who will implement and direct the policies.

Alderwoman Simpson spoke about the possibility of modifying our current Ordinances that address dilapidated properties and the current situation of allowing owners to leave abandoned properties boarded up indefinitely.

The Daisy Andrus Foundation is a non-profit organization that wishes to begin programs in Eunice to mentor and assist the youth.

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by and carried to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with the Daisy Andrus Foundation to develop After School and Mentoring programs to benefit our youth.

Interim Fire Chief Chase Brown recommended the hiring of Gage Miller as a Firefighter with the Eunice Fire Department.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of Interim Fire Chief Brown and approve the hiring of Gage Miller as a Firefighter.

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

Police Chief Kyle LeBouef recommended the promotion of Lt. Jeremy Ivory to the position of Deputy Chief of the Eunice Police Department.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to concur with the recommendation of Chief LeBouef and approve the promotion of Lt. Jeremy Ivory to Deputy Chief of the Eunice Police Department.

Police Chief Kyle LeBouef recommended the appointment of Joey Fontenot to the position of Sergeant with the Eunice Police Reserves.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the recommendation of Police Chief LeBouef and approve the appointment of Joey Fontenot to the Eunice Police Reserves in the position of Sergeant.

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

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

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to add new subject matter to the agenda, specifically the recommendation of Chief LeBouef to terminate the employment of provisional jailer.

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to terminate the employment of provisional jailer Kortez Jackson.

It was moved by Alderman Chad Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to adjourn.

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor