

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, March 14, 2023 at six-thirty (6:30) o'clock p.m., at their regular meeting place, the Eunice City Hall.

6:15 pm The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to hear views on the proposed Resolution 0223(b), suspending City of Eunice Ordinance 18:253, paragraph "b" from March 14, 2023 to no later than June 13, 2023.

There were no public comments.

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 February 14, 2023 Regular meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle presented an update on property at **221 South St. George Street**. At the February 14, 2023 meeting, a Motion was passed to condemn the structure but to hold the filing of the Order of Condemnation for thirty (30) days in order to give the property owner time to secure, repair or demolish the house. Officer Daigle advised the Council that the property owners had begun the process to obtain a demolition permit in order to demolish the structure.

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle presented an update on property at **640 North 2nd Street**. At the February 14, 2023 meeting, a Motion was passed to condemn the structure but to hold the filing of the Order of Condemnation for thirty (30) days in order to give the property owner time to secure, demolish or sell the house. Officer Daigle advised that the property owner had contacted him and asked for an additional thirty (30) days to sell the house.

It was moved by Alderwoman Germaine Simpson, seconded by Alderman Randy Reed and carried to hold the filing of the Order of Condemnation of **221 South St. George Street** for thirty (30) more days in order to give the property owner time to obtain a demolition permit and demolish the structure.

It was moved by moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to file the Order of Condemnation on **640 North 2nd Street**.

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle advised the Board that the structure on the property located at **610 Halsey Street** which was scheduled for a Show Cause Hearing this evening has been torn down by the property owners and all that was left to do was for the owners to finish clearing the property of debris.

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Daigle advised the Board that the following properties are adjudicated to the St. Landry Parish government and that he had informed the Parish's Code Enforcement Officer that these properties needed to be cleaned up and the structures needed to be secured or demolished:

241 East Dean Street	123 College Road
351 Fuselier Street	460 North Mallet Street
141 Mamie Street	

It was moved by Alderwoman Simpson, seconded by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux and carried to re-issue a Notice to Show Cause to the owners of the property at **610 Halsey Street**.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS/RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Donna Baltakis, chairperson of the "Keep Eunice Beautiful" committee, announced to the Board that the State of Louisiana had declared the week of April 16 through April 22 to be the "Love the Boot" week and that the City of Eunice would hold its annual clean-up day on Saturday, April 22nd from 9am to 11 am. Any individual or group wishing to participate in either event can contact Mrs. Baltakis or the Mayor's Office.

Mrs. Baltakis also announced that the "Keep Eunice Beautiful" committee had obtained a grant to replace the Welcome Sign on LA Highway 13 North and that along with Eunice Bulb & Blossom Club they will be taking care of the landscaping around the new sign. They have received In-Kind donations from the Eunice Chamber of Commerce and the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District and invite any other groups that wish to contribute through in-kind or cash donations to this project.

The Mayor announced that Sunday, March 26th the Eunice Chamber of Commerce will host the 36th Annual World Championship Crawfish Etouffee Cookoff at the Northwest Center Pavilion on Samuel Drive from 10 AM to 4PM with live performance by Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, Jason Frey and Lagniappe and more.

OLD BUSINESS

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman Reed and carried to adopt Resolution 0223(B), suspending City of Eunice Ordinance 18:253, paragraph "b" from March 14, 2023 to no later than June 13, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Architects Alliance of Acadiana and award the contract of replacement of the City Hall Municipal building's roof to Partin Roofing of Baton Rouge who submitted a low base bid of \$427,000.00 after meeting all requirements of bidders.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to adopt Resolution 0323(A), setting the property tax millages for 2023 as follows:

General Alimony	6.77
Street Maintenance	5.00

It was moved by Alderman Reed, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to adopt Resolution 0323(B), adopting the annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Audit Report.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to adopt Resolution 0323(C), requesting the Louisiana Legislature to designate the Liberty Theatre to be known as "The Center for Culture and Folklife."

Alderwoman Germaine Simpson spoke about current Ordinance 14:105 which establishes Curfew for minors (16 years old and younger) and asked that the Board members examine the current Ordinance and, with input from the Police Chief, possibly improving the Ordinance at a later date.

Alderwoman Simpson explained the procedures to bid on adjudicated property through Civic Source.

Alderwoman Simpson introduced Pastor John Kenney who addressed the Board on the After School and Mentoring program that he is in the process of organizing through the Daisy Mae Foundation. Pastor Kenney advised the Board of his future plans with the program to benefit the children of Eunice. Pastor Kenney advised that the program will be throughout the year, only the hours will change from during the summer (9 am to 2 pm) and during the school year (3 pm to 6 pm). Pastor Kenney advised the Board that he is planning to start the program at the Southeast Center within the next two (2) weeks.

Alderwoman Simpson spoke about dual enrollment internships available through Acadiana Workforce and employment for high school students through the Workforce and training opportunities for fiber optics, HAVAC and other opportunities.

Interim Fire Chief Chase Brown advised the Board that the roof of the Central Fire Station is mostly complete and should be finished by the end of this week. During the changing of the roof, the Central Station sustained water damage inside the building and until this damage is repaired the operations of Central Fire Station has been moved to Fire Station #3 on Sittig Road without any interruption.

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

Police Chief Kyle LeBouef recommended the appointment of former Police Officer Victor Fontenot to the Eunice Police Reserves Association.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman Reed and carried to concur with the recommendation of the Police Chief and approve the appointment of Victor Fontenot to the Eunice Police Reserves Association.

Chief LeBouef updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen on the research into purchasing body cameras for the Eunice Police Department. A vendor has offered to assist in the purchase of the cameras by allowing the Police Department to "piggy-back" off of the contract the vendor has with another Agency which will result in a substantial savings for the City. Also, a donation has been received from New Hope Fellowship Church to be put toward the cost. The Chief advised that currently the Police Department does have a few body cameras but they are old and malfunction. The Chief advised that he will be ordering twenty (20) new body cameras for his Department.

City Attorney Stan Feucht advised that Ms. Mary Guillory wished to address the Board.

Ms. Guillory spoke of her continued sick leave from the Police Department after an injury to her ankle which resulted in surgery. In July of 2022 an MRI showed irreversible damage to her ankle. She stated that in January 2023 she knew she was going to run out of her one-year of paid Sick Leave and the Chief advised he did not know the next course of action and he was waiting to hear from the Civil Service attorney. He suggested she contact the City's payroll clerk concerning her paid Leave. Ms. Guillory advised that she did so and was under the impression that once her Sick Leave was exhausted she could use her Vacation Leave. Ms. Guillory stated that she had a doctor's appointment on January 11, 2023 which was within the time that she would be on Vacation Leave. On January 13, 2023, the Chief gave her a Notice of Investigation and a Notice of Pre-Disciplinary Hearing as a result of her being Absent without Leave. Ms. Guillory stated that she did not return to work once she exhausted her Sick Leave since she did not have a release from her doctor. Ms. Guillory asked the Board that should they terminate her employment with the Police Department, to do so for the correct reason which is that she is unable to work due to a work-related injury, not because she did not want to work.

Chief LeBouef had presented to the City Attorney, the Mayor and each member of the Board his report and documentation that Ms. Guillory had begun her sick leave on January 7, 2022 and that her sick leave expired on January 6, 2023. On January 20, 2023 a pre-termination hearing was held with Ms. Guillory where she acknowledged that she was aware that she had no more sick leave as of January 6, 2023.

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to concur with the recommendation of Police Chief Kyle LeBouef and terminate Ms. Mary F. Guillory's employment with the Eunice Police Department as she is physically unfit to perform her duties as a Police Officer. A roll call was taken with the following results:

Alderman Chad Andrepont:	Yes
Alderwoman Germaine Simpson:	Yes
Alderman at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler:	Yes
Alderman Randy Reed	Yes
Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux:	Yes

Alderman Andrepont, Alderwoman Thibodeaux and Alderman Reed thanked Ms. Guillory for her service to the community.

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

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

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

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor