

Minutes Of The

May 23, 2006

Broussard City Council Meeting

Present: Mayor Charles Langlinais
Tina G. Denais, City Clerk
Councilman Terry Guilbeau, District I
Councilman David Bonin, District II
Councilman Keith Rousseau, District III
Councilman Harold Johnson, District IV
Councilman Kenny Higginbotham, District V
Councilman Albert Romero, District VI
Councilman Johnnie Foco, At Large
Chief Brannon Decou, Chief of Police
Gene Chiarulli, City Auditor
Don Landry, Attorney At Law
Al Reaux, City Engineer
Jerry Grooms, City Engineer
Larry Champagne, City Supervisor
Mel Bertrand, City Foreman
Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor
Bryan Champagne, Asst. Fire Chief
Mr. Gene Wakefield, Billeaud Companies
Ms. Amanda Harris, The Advertiser
Brian Guilbeau, Resident
Gerard Cane Farmers
Mr. Dwight Dehart, Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Councilman Foco called the meeting to order and Attorney Landry lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer for our boys that are still overseas.

Adopt minutes of the May 23, 2006 City Council Meeting = Councilman Guilbeau stated in reference to the minutes the committee the Mayor appointed for the sidewalks on Highway 182 is himself and Councilman Higginbotham, but if Councilman Rousseau wants to be on the committee he is more than welcome to help. Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Romero to adopt the minutes of the April 25, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting. Roll call:

District I = Yea
 District II= Yea
 District III= Yea
 At Large = Yea

District IV = Yea
 District V = Yea
 District VI = Yea

Auditor's Report:

Introduce Ordinance #06-298/Approving the amended budget for fiscal year 7-1-05 to 6-30-06 and approving the proposed budget for 7-1-06 to 6-30-07 = Gene gave a copy of the proposed budget and the amended budget to everyone. Gene stated that there is nothing in there for capital improvements, except for what Chief Decou and the Fire Department wants for capital improvements. There is also money in there for the position for paid Fire Chief. There are no raises, except for in the police department. Gene stated that there is a mistake, because page 9 and page 10 are identical, so one page can be deleted. Moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman to Johnson to introduce Ordinance #06-298, which amends the budget for fiscal year 7-1-05 to 6-30-06 and approve the proposed budget for 7-1-06 to 6-30-07. Roll call:

District I = Yea
 District II= Yea
 District III= Yea
 At Large = Yea

District IV = Yea
 District V = Yea
 District VI = Yea

The council would also like to have a meeting Monday prior to the regular meeting, therefore a special meeting will be held on June 26th for the budget only. It will be a public meeting.

Monthly Report = Gene also gave the council a copy of the monthly report. Gene stated that our sales tax revenues have gone up significantly and he is not really sure why. We are looking at 1 ½ additional sales tax revenues. Also the road overlay and the La Neuville expense in this report. We have spent over 1 million in overlay and we will still be in the black. Councilman Guilbeau stated so the excess revenue paid for overlay? Gene stated yes, we didn't have to dip into the savings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rob Guidry re: Lafayette Chamber of Commerce = Mr. Rob Guidry was not present; therefore Mr. Dwight Dehart introduced himself to the council. He lives off of Highway 96. He also has served on the Chamber Board of Directors, which is now the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. They now they have a new logo. They are trying to reach out and let the town's know what they are and what they do. They are continuing to take stances to promote businesses in the area. The purpose to home our direction and affect the areas of greater well being. Mr. Dehart stated that they just wanted the council to know their position on this and any help they can get from the town's will be appreciated.

Approval of bid for Electrical Wiring for Lift Stations for Emergency Generators = Mayor Langlinois stated that we talked about doing this next year, but we do have enough money in t his year's budget. Mayor Langlinois stated this is an emergency preparation for the

hurricane. Mayor Langlinais stated his original concept is if we go out of electricity, you can go about 3-days without electricity for lift stations. Mayor Langlinais explained how the generators would be connected. Councilman Guilbeau stated if we have money in the budget, he feels we should do approve the bid. Councilman Bonin questioned about the lift station across Highway 90 on Eola Road. Jerry stated Eola Road will be put out for bid first and then Regal Drive. Jerry stated what Mr. Manuel doing is doing a betterment of Eola, but we would still need Regal lift station redone also. Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Guilbeau

to approve the bid for electrical wiring for lift stations for emergency generators from the only bidder, G & L Electric, LLC for \$2,392.66 per lift station for 18 lift stations and \$2,621.34 for 1 lift station totaling \$45,689.22 Roll call:

District I = Yea
 District II = Yea
 District III = Yea
 At Large = Yea

District IV = Yea
 District V = Yea
 District VI = Yea

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Jerry's Report:

Sewage Pond = Jerry stated that they are working on the influent and effluent for the new sewage pond.

Storm Water Retention on Eola Road = Councilman Bonin questioned wasn't one of the requirements for the storm water retention in that subdivision on Eola Road? Mayor Langlinais stated no, it was built into the subdivision and in the deed restrictions, he asked him to put in there that we are not allowing the ditches to be closed in.

Waterford Ridge Subdivision = Councilman Bonin questioned about the subdivision by Huval Holiday, the slopes of the lots? Jerry stated the engineer hadn't looked at it yet, but he did call him today. Mayor Langlinais stated he did go ride after lunch and he will call Greg and ask him to cut some swales along the property lines. Mayor Langlinais stated he is sure he won't have a problem complying with this.

Al's Report:

St. Nazairre Road = Al stated that in reference to the widening of St. Nazairre road on the Billeaud Companies side they will start with about 30 additional feet of right of way. The right of way will be 120 or 124 feet of right of way. Southside of their office they will also give them some right of way ending at FMC. We will not be requiring property from the homeowners. From FMC we are looking about 18 feet of right of way. Councilman Foco asked if there is any other way it can be done. Al stated no. Councilman Higginbotham questioned if we have to buy that right of way from FMC? Mayor Langlinais stated he hopes not. Councilman Foco stated his position still hasn't changed from taking right of way across the street from anyone; he is against it.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Fire Chief Ordinance = Attorney Landry stated that he gave the council the ordinance he was asked to prepared regarding the Fire Chief's position. If this ordinance is amended an introductory ordinance will be introduce and then the ordinance will adopted next month. Councilman Higginbotham questioned if the Lawrson Act doesn't require them to go out for a candidate for Fire Chief? Don stated no doesn't limit to just Broussard candidates.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Appointment = Asst. Chief Champagne introduced himself to the council. He stated Chief Lopez was unable to attend, due to work. Champagne stated their goal is to put a paid fire chief in place. They feel it is needed with the growth of Broussard and with the demands of the fire chief's position. Champagne explained the reasons, why a fulltime chief is needed: example applying for grants, meeting with people, inputting fire reports, handling truck repairs, and returning calls to residents. In reference to the training, it takes someone to put the plans together in order to train each week. There are a lot of things that go on within the fire chief's office that he feels can be done with a paid fire chief. Their goal is to maintain the highest service they can, and get the lowest insurance rating they can get. The Chief will oversee everything that goes on in the department; that is their objective. Champagne explained everything they do, including training and they do have someone who does the pre-fire planning. Champagne stated the pre-fire planning has to be updated once a year. The fire chief will help the person who is currently doing the pre-fire planning. Councilman Guilbeau questioned if the two guys that are hired don't know when there is something wrong with the truck? Champagne stated they bring it to an officer's attention and the officer will decide to bring to the shop first. Councilman Johnson questioned the fire chief's hours, 40 hours a week? Champagne stated the recommendation was for him to take the position. The chief would make his 40 hours within a full week's time. Champagne stated he works for City of Lafayette as a fireman and he works for Academy Sports. Champagne stated he can make 40 hours a week, within a given pay period and right now he can be reached anytime, but the current Chief cannot be reached all of the time. Champagne stated he will give up his job at Academy Sports. This will also help with having a supervisor there all of the time. Champagne stated the recuirement and retention efforts are a constant battle. Champagne stated also he can handle the budget and problems with any insurance issues as he had to do in the past, when the insurance coverage was let lapsed by the current Chief. Councilman Guilbeau questioned if they didn't know about insurance coming due? Councilman Guilbeau stated he also doesn't appreciate him down grading the Chief Lopez, because that is basically all he has done in the last couple of minutes. Mr. Champagne stated that is not what he intended to do, he is very sorry if that is what is sounded like. Mr. Champagne stated he is very nervous and he is definitely not a public speaker. Mayor Langlinois asked if group met and presented 3 names. Champagne stated no, because they thought they didn't need to do that being a paid Fire Chief was being presented tonight. Mayor Langlinois stated by ordinance it still has to be done that way. Councilman Higginbotham stated that he personally met with Chief and he said he can't handle the magnitude of the job and we need to address this, because of the growth. Councilman Guilbeau stated he feels the Chief

needs to address the entire council on this. Councilman Foco stated that they just received this information 3 days ago. Chief Decou stated that is not true, because they have already met with some of the councilmen. Mayor Langlinais stated he thought they were going to present the 3 names tonight. Chief Decou stated they can give the council the names tonight. Mayor Langlinais questioned if the firefighters voted on the names? Chief Decou stated no. Mayor Langlinais stated then the names cannot be presented. Mayor Langlinais stated he doesn't have a problem if the council feels it needs to be done. Mayor Langlinais stated he not against it and he not for it; the question is do they need fulltime chief or fulltime clerk. The last fire review the problem was the paperwork. Mayor Langlinais stated it is non stressful, and he feels that we could get someone to do the paperwork and he suggested that Lois could get with Jason on this.

Councilman Guilbeau stated he thought the 2 full timers would also do the paperwork.

Councilman Foco stated he has no problem with the chief and an assistant as a secretary.

Champagne explained what the full timers do. Councilman Guilbeau questioned if they check the hydrants and maintaining the hydrants? Elmo stated yes they are. Mayor Langlinais stated he put Mel in charge of the firemen of what they do. Mel stated yes they do call him if any problems. Councilman Rousseau questioned how many firemen do they have? Champagne stated we have 38, but they have cap on 40. Councilman Bonin questioned how many people do they have to have, to have a fulltime fire department? Mayor Langlinais stated he feels we need to set-up a committee to look into all of this. Councilman Foco questioned what about the other towns, regarding fire chief's paid in other areas? There are no other towns around here that have paid fire chiefs, explained Champagne, and only paid firefighters. Chief Decou stated he previously met with the council, why didn't they say that this needs to be done then? Mayor Langlinais stated we want to answer all of the questions. Zac they do the nominations for Chief at their meeting in June. Chief Decou stated they can give the 3 names tonight for the chief's nomination, which are qualified. Mayor Langlinais stated the body needs to vote on that.

Attorney Landry stated our chief carried over and May is the actual date for the nomination.

Don stated that the ordinance is already prepared, and we can do both and we can also make it retroactive to June. The appointed committee to study the need for a fulltime fire chief will be Councilman Foco, Councilman Johnson and Councilman Rousseau. Mayor Langlinais stated he we will pull up the database to see what information is there. Attorney Landry stated we will introduce the ordinance at the first meeting in June or in July or it can be introduced tonight.

Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Johnson to introduce an ordinance which amends ordinance # 99-212, which provides for the appointment of a fire chief by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the city council. Roll call:

District I = Yea

District IV = Yea

District II= Yea

District V = Yea

District III= Yea

District VI = Yea

At Large = Yea

Attorney Landry stated if they choose this ordinance will be adopted at the June 27th meeting.

Mayor Langlinais stated he will check the LMA database for the information the committee needs. Councilman Rousseau stated he wants to leave this on the right note that, Mr.

Champagne's credentials are impeccable and they appreciate everything the fire department does. Champagne stated if he came across negative, he didn't mean to come across negative.

Mayor Langlinais stated he is comfortable with hiring asst chief and keeping Chief Lopez on.

Chief Decou stated so you are going to keep someone on, who doesn't show up? Mayor

Langlinais stated yes he very comfortable and most comfortable with Chief Lopez. Councilman Higginbotham added that Chief Lopez has assured him that doesn't have the time for the job.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Decou had nothing to present.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Tom Carroll w/Lafayette Parish Government = Mr. Tom Carroll with Lafayette Parish Government addressed the council. Mayor Langlinais questioned Mr. Carroll on the status of Cypress Bayou? Carroll stated it has taken a lot of time, more than what he anticipated. He feels within 2 months the plans will be completed and all of the details finalized and ready for bid. Mayor Langlinais questioned the crossings, which is the physical part, how much money is in the budget for that? Carroll stated that there is money in the budget for the engineering services and also 1.9 million dollars for 3 or 4 projects, including this one. Mayor Langlinais stated he will be holding a special meeting in reference to FEMA flood maps. His position is if we have to spend money, we will spend money and have to get it done before May 2007. Mayor Langlinais instructed the council to figure how much will be allocated for bridges and crossings. Mel stated we need 4 crossings, excluding the state highways and 5 field crossings. Mayor Langlinais stated he is planning on putting money in the budget July 1st, but he needs to know how much money he has to put in. Carroll stated he has no problem with setting up a meeting with Marc Mouton, Randy Menard, Councilman Bonin, Councilman Foco, Mayor Langlinais and himself. The mayor and council thanked Mr. Carroll for coming.

La Neuville Road = Mayor Langlinais stated that Brian Guilbeau has talked to some of the property owners and he has asked them to come forward on this. Brian Guilbeau stated he feels he can work with these people; but there only one corner not inside the city limits for the proposed roundabout. Brian Guilbeau stated he also is here about the removal of the weight limitations of the signs on La Neuville. Mayor Langlinais stated we have a problem with the weight standards on roadways. Mayor Langlinais stated he has asked Attorney Landry to prepare and ordinance to do this town wide. Andy Gerard, a farmer, stated just like Albertsons Parkway there is a sign for no trucks, but he sees trucks there all of the time. Mayor Langlinais stated we can't patrol it all of the time. In reference to the no agriculture/cane trucks, we will get some ordinance done in reference to the weight issue on the roads. Gerard stated he sees trucks running down that road all of the time. Mayor Langlinais stated we will do this as a street by street basis. Brian Guilbeau argued about how he also pays taxes and now the road is finally fixed and he doesn't see the road being detirated again by the cane farmers. Mayor Langlinais stated La Neuville was only overlaid 10 years ago. Mayor Langlinais stated it will be done on a permit basis. A question was raised by another farmer, perhaps Pinhook being 4-laned will help ease the traffic off of LaNeuville? Mayor Langlinais stated he hopes it does, but we have to be more efficient. Now we have to do a lot of work in the drainage areas. Mayor Langlinais stated he feels some agreement can be reached with Gerard and other farmers. Councilman Bonin thanked Mr. Carroll for being patient with him in the last 4 years.

District V/Councilman Higginbotham:

Sidewalk to Arceneaux Park = Councilman Higginbotham questioned Attorney Landry what is the legal ratification if someone gives an easement for the sidewalk and someone gets hurt on the sidewalk? Attorney Landry stated we will have to address the problem if there is a problem, but the property owner will be held harmless. We deal with it.

District III/Councilman Rousseau:

Ditch Enclosures = Councilman Rousseau questioned if there is a process we can put into the permitting, when the builder comes in, he signs off knowing about the open ditch ordinance for drainage. Mayor Langlinais stated we have an ordinance to that effect. Councilman Rousseau questioned if it is worth our while, to give to the builder of that the subdivision a letter stating if it is open ditch, then it will remain open ditch? Mayor Langlinais stated he had dealing yesterday with a property owner about that same issue and the property owner stated he would have never purchased that piece of property if he would have known that. Councilman Bonin stated noticed in Joey's subdivision that there are swale pipe. Mayor Langlinais stated that Joey's engineer did design it with the swale pipe. Councilman Bonin stated in that subdivision there is 300 feet of no cut outs. Mel stated that he did take that up with Joey and he said that he said he would take care of that once it has been completed.

District II/Councilman Bonin:

Drainage = Councilman Bonin stated that he wants to make sure that money is put in the budget for Cypress Bayou; therefore he is asking not to leave out the laterals in the budget. Mayor Langlinais stated the question is the money and what will we address. There are some areas without laterals. We will address the areas that impede the drainage areas. Councilman Bonin stated he asked Mr. Grooms about how much will it cost to look at all of the laterals. Mayor Langlinais stated that he has no issue there. Mayor Langlinais questioned if we could technically use Mr. Carroll's plans to bid out the crossings? Mr. Carroll stated he feels that could be worked out. Councilman Bonin stated some these laterals are some old ditches. Mayor Langlinais stated we can always get easements.

District I/Councilman Guilbeau:

Sidewalks to Arceneaux Park = Councilman Guilbeau stated the sidewalk will start on Highway 182 from St. Des Porres to the park. Larry has figures and we may want to look at a different route. The estimated cost of 158 yards of concrete is about \$37,280. He feels this is for the safety of our kids. Larry stated we rather them cross at the tracks instead of by Arceneaux Park. Mayor Langlinais stated we are also talking about going on the north side of Highway 182 where there is a utility easement on the Langlinais property. If we can go down that route it would be better and the sidewalk would go into the back of the park. The other way it would go into the entrance to the park. If we can go with the other route we can go on the backside of the park and get them off of highway 182. We would only need easements from St. Des Porres up to

that point.

Request from BYYA = Councilman Guilbeau stated Mr. Richard Chalmers asked him if we can put up \$15,000 for a new bronco field. The lights would be about \$60,000. Don stated we have to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the parish. BYYA will put up some money and they will also contact the parish for the remaining funds. The council had no problem with putting up \$15,000; therefore he will contact Mr. Chalmers about this and have him contact the parish for the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Budget = Councilman Guilbeau stated he will get his ideas to Gene about the money he needs to put in the budget, which are 2 vehicles for maintenance and the replacement of a case front end loader and backhoe, sewer department will replace 2 vehicles. Don recommended he call Gene about this prior to the June 26th meeting.

At Large/Councilman Foco:

Councilman Foco stated he appreciates the input from everyone about what they discussed.

Councilman Foco stated that they received a letter from Mayor Langlinais about ditches that were cleaned in the Teche News. A large congregation showed up at the St. Martin meeting, because they feel that they are too deep and too wide. Councilman Foco stated that it we always wanted to do drainage work, but get ready for the heat.

AUDIENCE:

Elmer stated on the electrical that was approved for the lift stations, the new lift stations are being built with throw switches, so this won't have to be changed in the future.

Brian Guilbeau thanked everyone for the work that was done on La Neuville.

ADJOURN:

Adjourn the meeting = Moved by Councilman Johnson and second by Councilman Higginbotham to adjourn the meeting. Roll call:

District I = Yea
 District II = Yea
 District III = Yea
 At Large = Yea

District IV = Yea
 District V = Yea
 District VI = Yea

S/Charles E. Langlinais, MAYOR

S/Tina G. Denais, City Clerk

