

Minutes Of The

March 28, 2007

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
Councilwoman Gertrude Batiste, District IV
Councilman Kenny Higginbotham, District V
Councilman Albert Romero, District VI
Councilman Johnnie Foco, At Large
Don Landry, Attorney At Law
Jerry Grooms, City Engineer
Al Reaux, City Engineer
Larry Champagne, City Supervisor
Mel Bertrand, City Foremen
Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor
Gene Chiarulli, Accountant
Mr. Adam Mouton, Citizen
Mr. Mike Skinner, Attorney for Cox Communications
Sharon Klinepeter, Representative for Cox Communications
Melissa Blake, Representative for Cox Communications

Councilman Foco called the meeting to order and Mr. Mike Skinner lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer was done for our boys that are still overseas and Dr. David Thibodeaux that was recently killed in a motorcycle accident.

Adopt minutes of the March 14, 2007 Regular Meeting = Moved by Councilwoman Batiste and second by Councilman Romero to adopt the minutes of the March 14, 2007 City Council Meeting. Roll call:

District I = Yea	District IV = Yea
District II= Yea	District V = Yea
District III= Yea	District VI = Yea
At Large = Yea	

NEW BUSINESS:

Cox Communication Franchise Agreement = Attorney Landry recommended that a proposed ordinance for the franchise agreement be introduced tonight and perhaps at the next meeting if everything is okay it can be adopted. It was moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman Romero to introduce Ordinance #07-314 entering into a Franchise Agreement with Cox Communications for a term of 10 years. Roll call:

District I = Yea	District IV = Yea
District II = Yea	District V = Yea
District III = Yea	District VI = Yea
At Large = Yea	

Mr. Skinner addressed the council. He said the franchise agreement is basically the same as the existing agreement with a few changes. Changes are the extension of the cable agreement. Services for new customers will be extended as long as it is beneficial for Cox. Ms. Kleinpeter stated they would extend the service for every liner mile if there are 30 customers. Councilman Guilbeau stated he feels that is unfair. The current standard Cox agreement is 40 customers per mile and they changed that. Councilman Higginbotham stated this will help him, because before they were unable to get service. This is a non-exclusive agreement. Mayor Langlinais stated the intent is to help people also that need internet service. Skinner stated the current Franchise Agreement expires the day after the next council meeting, so that is why they would like to get it adopted at the next meeting. Attorney Landry will study this prior to the next meeting.

Upcoming Bond Issue re: Trip to New York = Mayor Langlinais stated he sent the council information regarding the upcoming bond issue. The investment bankers that the City may qualify for an investment grade rating, bond insurance and a surety bond to replace a cash reserve fund, which would very beneficial to the city. An investment banker, Mr. J. Richard Williams has scheduled a meeting in New York City on May 8th with AMBAC, a bond insurance company and also with Standard & poor's, an AAA rated bond rating company. He believes the city may qualify for a surety bond to replace a cash reserve fund that is needed for the upcoming bond. They like to see you up front. They encouraged him to bring along another council member. Mayor Langlinais asked for any volunteers that would like to go with him. No one volunteered. Mayor Langlinais stated the idea is to bull corn them the best he can to get the best rate we can. Gene stated when all bonds are issued a certain amount has to be put in a reserve fund as long as the bonds are outstanding. Getting the surety allows the money to be freed up that would normally be in reserves. This is the bonds for the TIF match to build Ambassador Caffery. Councilman Foco stated just ride around Broussard and take a video of the help wanted signs and that is a good sign that he can bring to them.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Jerry's Report:

New Sewer Pond = Jerry stated the last word on the sewer pond is it is in the process with DEQ. He hasn't heard from Bob yet.

North Girouard Road Bridge = Councilman Guilbeau questioned Jerry about the price on the North Girouard Road Bridge repairs? Jerry stated they did get some prices, but he thought the council had received them. He will check with Mark on that. Councilman Foco questioned how much trouble is it to de-annex the bridge property? The council requested that Attorney Landry research this. Councilman Bonin stated he feels we need to go to the Parish meeting for and address this issue. Al stated he remembers that we changed the date of our meeting to invite our representatives to come to the meeting. Mayor Langlinais requested Jerry start working on the maps that Larry looked at and get with Attorney Landry on this and then he is sure they will take notice.

Al's Report:

St. Nazairre Road = Al stated the contract for the St. Nazairre was picked up by H & S on Monday. Hopefully by the next meeting the contract will be signed. Mayor Langlinais requested he contact Home Depot and let them know when they will be moving dirt. Al stated road construction might start within the next 3 days. Mayor Langlinais requested that he set-up a ground breaking before a meeting for this project.

Walmart = Councilman Rousseau questioned if everything is on track with Walmart signing? Al stated they signed last week and the paperwork was done and H & S was awarded the contract. Home Depot should be opened by the beginning of the year along with Walgreens. It is definitely moving forward. He is questioning where are we for the engineering for St. Nazairre? Al stated we are ahead of the game. We had a design 2 months ahead. It was a push to try and make these guys come to the table.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:

Monthly Report = Gene gave the council their monthly report. The report for March goes down. We are still well ahead of where we expected to be. The St. Nazairre project is not on this report although

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Bell Lawsuit = Attorney Landry stated the hearing was held for the injunction and the judge agreed with us for the injunction. The city did the right thing. The injunction was not issued granted to the Bell's.

Naming of the Martin Luther King Drive Street = Attorney Landry stated he had a meeting with the Mayor, Councilwoman Batiste and Bill Vincent in reference to re-naming Eola Road to Martin Luther King Drive. Mr. Vincent discussed the liabilities and problems that could occur. He explained all of the reasons and he thinks Mr. Brown will come up with some other proposal for a name. We did speak about the Memorial Parkway and he gave some reasons why that is a good idea. Councilman Guilbeau stated last meeting Mr. Brown stated he didn't want a Memorial Parkway. Councilwoman

Batiste stated he wasn't in favor of it, but he would come back with some recommendations.

Camera at Red-Lights = Attorney stated that they also had a meeting with Mr. Charlie Buckles, who represents Re-flex regarding cameras at stop lights he is proposing to bring information to the council about this. They would install these cameras at no cost to the city of Broussard, and we would decide where it is needed. Attorney Landry stated this would save lives and it is not about making money. It would not be the driver of the car that would be ticketed, but the owner of the vehicle. They can also show you a video of what you want, regarding running the light. Attorney Landry stated what impressed him the most was horrible accidents that people have running lights. Statistics show it reduces accidents by at least 40%. There is an administrative hearing and it does not go on your record. Attorney Landry stated he will send the council information on what he has. You have to be a pretty strong violator running the red light not just on caution. Mayor Langlinais stated he liked the idea of using them on Albertson Parkway to eliminate the weight issues on that road. Mayor Langlinais stated you can also request 2 mobile vans in your neighborhoods at that no extra cost.

Naming of the Martin Luther King Drive Street.....continued = Councilman Guilbeau read the minutes to Councilwoman Batiste when Mr. Brown stated he would not consider the Memorial Parkway. Councilwoman Batiste stated after the meeting with Bill Vincent she met with Roy Brown and he stated he would consider the Memorial Parkway. Mayor Langlinais stated that it was just a miss-clarification of when Mr. Brown considered approving the street name to Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Councilman Guilbeau stated he thought that she was implying that Mr. Brown had said that at the last city council meeting. Councilwoman Batiste so no, it was after the meeting they had with the Mayor, Bill Vincent and Attorney Landry, not at the city council meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

No one was present.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

No one was present.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

District V/Councilman Higginbotham:

Traffic Meeting regarding Highway 90 = Councilman Higginbotham stated that they received a letter from Johnny Newberry about the traffic fatalities on Highway 90 and a meeting that is being set up on this. It is at the Hilton and it will be discussed on how we can lower the fatalities on Highway 90. It is on the 8th or 9th. Mayor Langlinais stated the only way you can sell the trust fund is to keep the Highway Dept out of it.

Mayor Langlinais stated the Highway Department has done a lot of cost cutting measures. He feels we should express our concerns. Councilman Higginbotham stated he plans on going to show our concerns on this. Al stated to him the solution is the future I-49. He feels that the problems are all of the crossovers. To finance the interstate would have to be federal monies. Al stated we need to also point out the safety standpoint to them along with the hurricane evacuation standpoint. He feels we need to go to our federal people also. Mayor Langlinais stated Dean Tekell told him that a company out of Baton Rouge is doing a study on how to make Highway 90 into an interstate with toll roads.

District III/Councilman Rousseau:

Highway 90 Traffic = Councilman Rousseau stated he attended a safety meeting last week. A retired colonel attended the meeting and he stated the drinking driving is the highest rate in Louisiana and in New Orleans. The statistics show 40 – 46% deaths on the highway are all alcohol related. He feels it will be a good conference to go to. Councilman Foco stated the insurance is getting to be a major deal in this stated. Councilman Rousseau stated the gentleman also talked about how the drinking and driving affects everyone.

Holiday Wishes = Councilman Rousseau stated that he would like to wish all the city members and workers, all departments and citizens a happy Easter holiday and he requested that everyone please be careful with the Easter holiday.

District I/Councilman Guilbeau:

Fire Department = Councilman Guilbeau presented to an instrument to the council that can test hydrants and also be used as a diffusers on the property where they are testing the hydrant. He would like Tina to check into the capital outlay for the Fire Department to see if they have enough money to purchase this item. He received this information from Bryan. This kit can be put on the hydrant to test the hydrants and stop the diffuser of the property. We can pay it out of the water department budget. It is about \$1,000. Gene stated that it can be paid out of the Water Department supplies. Councilman Foco stated it might be able fabricated. The diffuser is on the end and it also a test kit.

Mayor Langlinais:

Walmart = Mayor Langlinais stated he feels the Walmart deal was a very wise investment and he thanked the council for all of what they have done.

Citizens:

Adam Mouton R/R Crossing = Mr. Mouton questioned what is the status of the railroad crossings? Councilman Bonin stated they told Larry they would send us a flagman if we would do it. Larry stated they said we would be responsible if we would

do anything on them. Attorney Landry stated he would check on this file. Councilman Foco stated he understands what Larry is saying. Councilman Bonin requested that Don send them another letter.

Adjourn the meeting = Moved by Councilman Romero 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
CLERK**

S/Tina G. Denais, CITY