

Minutes Of The

June 27, 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
Chief Brannon Decou, Chief of Police
Chief Blair Rivette, Fire Chief
Don Landry, Attorney At Law
Gene Chiarulli, City Accountant
Mark Savoie, City Engineer
Larry Champagne, City Supervisor
Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor
Ms. Rae Trahan representative/Lafayette Parish School Board
Mr. Mark Cochran representative/Lafayette Parish School Board
Mr. Beasley representative/Lafayette Parish School Board
Broussard Business Leaders
Ms. Joretta Surratt, resident of West Monroe Street
Mr. Mark Gallagher, resident of Moulin Cove and Developer

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

Adopt minutes of the June 13, 2007 Regular Meeting & the June 19, 2007 Budget Meeting & the June 20, 2007 Bond Meeting = Moved by Councilman Bonin and second by Councilman Rousseau to adopt the minutes of the June 13, 2007 regular meeting. Roll call:

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

Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Guilbeau to adopt the minutes of the June 19, 2007 Budget Meeting. Roll call

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

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

Moved by Councilman Romero and second by Councilman Rousseau to adopt the minutes of the

June 20, 2007 Special Bond Meeting. Roll call:

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Rae Trahan, Mr. Mark Cochran and Mr. Beasley w/Lafayette Parish School Board = Mrs. Trahan and Mr. Mark Cochran addressed the council. Mrs. Trahan read a letter mailed to the school board from the Mayor. The letter basically stated “that the school board can’t afford to fix the schools. Now they have chose to vote and buy out the superintendent’s contract for \$250,000 plus the cost/uncertainty of paying someone to run the system while he is sitting at home. He went on to say that he hopes they don’t expect any help here unless the whole program is changed where a third party administers the money...you can count on no help here...especially after the miss-information on teacher pay raises from your last tax proposal. He ended the letter by saying you can fool some people some of the time but not all of the time....this has happened numerous times...expect resistance here and elsewhere!” She stated this was signed by the Mayor on City letterhead. She asked if this is the consensus of the Board and is this how they feel? Councilman Foco stated he agrees with some of the things in the letter, he did not sign the letter. Mrs. Trahan stated he could have called any one of the board members. Mayor Langlinais stated he got their attention and that was his intention. Mrs. Trahan questioned is this how the city of Broussard feels, because it is on the City of Broussard letterhead. Councilman Higginbotham stated he did not sign that letter. Councilman Guilbeau stated that is not how they all feel and he also did not sign that letter. Mayor Langlinais stated they had this discussion before. Mrs. Trahan stated she would like to clarify this. Mrs. Trahan stated there are school board members here that would like some clarification. Mrs. Trahan stated this board has come in and has fixed things. Mayor Langlinais stated he understands this board needs time. Mrs. Trahan stated she would prefer next time he has something to speak to her about that he contact her by telephone, instead of going thru the news media. Councilman Foco stated it is not the City of Broussard council’s letterhead. If it concerns all of them they will sign it. She would prefer not to drag things thru the media. She thanked the council for their time.

Broussard Business Leaders = Mr. Kevin Cook introduced himself. They started this organization a couple of years ago. They will be forming a Broussard Chamber of Commerce. They want to extend their gratitude for helping them for the business directory. They will have their first meeting tomorrow. This will be the Broussard Chamber of Commerce. They will be joining the US Chamber of Commerce.

They will have a meeting tomorrow from 5 – 7 at Home Bank. Mayor Langlinais stated previously we met with Tex Plumley and they agreed to fund this. They will also have a physical location in the next several weeks at Mr. David Bernard's office.

Ms. Josette Surratt re/Drainage on West Monroe Street = Ms. Surratt addressed the council. Ms. Surratt stated Councilman Bonin has been nothing but kind and informative to her problem. She moved here 4 years ago. She didn't think about drainage when she bought her home. At the time she bought she wanted to put culverts, but there was a moratorium on it. Two years ago 6 new town-homes was built. Now there is another piece of property being sold. Mayor Langlinais stated since we know there is an issue, the permits will be held until an analysis is did. They came to the planning and zoning and it was told she doesn't need to do anything. Mayor Langlinais stated she will have to submit an analysis. She has pictures of the water going up to her carport. She knows about the Cypress Bayou Project., but she wants to know what can be done in the meantime? Mayor Langlinais asked if she ever had water in her house? She stated no, only to the door. Mayor Langlinais stated because the tract was not 2 ½ acres the developer of the condos didn't need to do a storm water retention. Mayor Langlinais stated the big tract of land behind her should be coming forward in a couple of years. He added if they can't get water there thru ditches it can't be fixed. Councilman Bonin stated in the last couple of weeks they have flushed that area and removed 2 basketballs from the drainage pipes. She stated that she understands they are trying. She questioned what is the timetable for Cypress Bayou? Councilman Bonin stated they will adopt the ordinance tonight to proceed with the necessary expropriations. Mayor Langlinais stated it should be let out for bid within 90 days. Mayor Langlinais stated perhaps we can contact the adjacent property owner in the back Ms. Annette Ducote to see if we can cut a ditch on her property. Councilman Foco stated he thinks the ditch was cleaned this week. Mayor Langlinais stated the council needs to re-visit the issue of acreage amount for storm water retention. Councilman Bonin stated after Cypress Bayou is done, he feels we will have results. Ms. Surratt thanked the council for their help.

Mr. Mark Gallagher re/Drainage at Moulin Cove and Nellie's Lane = Mr. Gallagher addressed the council. He is the president of the home owner's association for Nellie's Acres. They have problems with the ditch behind Nellie's Lane. He is here to requesting that we lower the pipeline to relieve the problem. Mayor Langlinais stated it is more than the \$15,000 - \$20,000, more like \$100,000 and he has people looking at another avenue. Mr. Gallagher stated the person he was here with at the last meeting; Josh Thibodeaux has come close to taking on water. He feels after Moulin Cove is finished Mr. Thibodeaux will take on water along with 3 other lots. He feels until something is done with the pipeline behind Nellie's, then nothing can be resolved. Mayor Langlinais stated that they may be able to move some of the water to the south with Ambassador Caffery. He feels we might have to acquire some sort of ridge. He feels this will be easier to do. Mayor Langlinais asked Mr. Gallagher to let them play with the engineering and see what can be done with Ambassador Caffery. Mr. Gallagher questioned if he thinks they will consider lowering the pipeline? Mayor Langlinais stated we have been there before, and we have to pour a kicker on top. The drainage ditches were there before the pipeline. Unless it is the original documents the pipeline companies

will play hardball. Mayor Langlinais questioned Jack Naumann if he talked to the property owner in the back? Mr. Naumann stated he was under the impression that we were going to talk to the property owner. The fact is no houses went under water, but they can't wait till houses go under water. Councilman Foco questioned Walter about moving all 6 pipelines? Walter stated he was involved with the previous request the Mayor had, but all in all he was always told a couple of \$100,000 per pipeline. Al stated there is also downtime in moving the pipeline. Councilman Foco stated he feels the best shot right now is to drop something on the Ambassador Caffery side. Walter stated there is about a 100 acre drainage area that goes into that and Ambassador should change that. Mr. Gallagher stated he doesn't feel that this will affect the Josh Thibodeaux area. Mayor Langlinais stated the problem with the state is they take a very limited area for drainage. He feels Mr. Gallagher needs to go back to the developer of Moulin Cove and ask them for a drainage easement. Mayor Langlinais stated the storm water retention in Moulin Cove is working. Walter stated the pond is a natural pond. Moulin Road is 2.35 and in front of Josh's house it is lower. Councilman Rousseau questioned Walter and Mark if can they build a storm water retention pond in that low area? Walter stated yes, but he has always worried about storm water retention. All it does is hold you where you are today. If your outfall ditch has a problem, you will still have a problem. We have heavy clay soil also. Retention only slows the water down. Mark stated the engineer that designed the subdivision had some designs to go by and he can't put more water on those people. Councilman Foco stated the best shot they have is to do something with Ambassador Caffery. Councilman Foco stated where it drains and in front of Thibodeaux's house it is a foot lower. Councilman Bonin stated Mr. Thibodeaux's house is in a natural drain. Attorney Landry stated he founds it curious they still have not heard from the design engineer of Moulin Cove. Attorney Landry stated the point that Councilman Rousseau is making is that the engineer and developer know that those pipelines were there, they just didn't come up a better plan. Mayor Langlinais stated when this subdivision was developed, he asked the developer to put storm water retention in it, but to what level. Mel stated the retention pond/ditch in Moulin Cove is doing exactly what it supposed to do. Questioned was asked to Mr. Naumann if he or anyone in Nellie's Acres has ever flooded? Mr. Naumann stated no, just his horse stall has taken on water and his fish pond has over flowed. It stops Nellie's Acres from flooding. Councilman Foco stated he feels Mr. Landry had an excellent idea; we need to have the engineer here for Moulin Cove. Mel stated he did get with Jeff Faust with the Highway Dept and he will have some drainage studies for him and it will be 10 feet lower by Mr. Naumann's. Mr. Gallagher agreed that might settle part of the problem. Councilman Foco stated they will talk to the pipeline company and the state and he is sure something will be done.

Adopt Resolution #208-07 re/Requesting Financial Assistance from the State for the LA Government Assistance Program =Moved by Councilman Bonin and second by Councilman Guilbeau to adopt Resolution #208-07, which hereby requests financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the fiscal year 2007—2008 from the Louisiana Government Assistance Program. Roll call:

District I = Yea

District IV = Yea

District II= Yea

District V = Yea

District III= Yea
At Large = Yea

District VI = Yea

OLD BUSINESS:

Adopt Ordinance #07-317/Cypress Bayou Coulee Project = Moved by Councilman Bonin and second by Councilman Higginbotham to adopt Ordinance #07-317 declaring the Cypress Bayou Coulee Drainage improvement project a public necessity and authorizing the acquisition of the necessary rights of way, servitudes, easements and other property rights requisite to the completion of said project either on an amicable basis or through the use of the expropriation process, if necessary. Roll call:

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

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

Adopt Ordinance #07-316/ Amended Budget for 2006/2007 and proposed Budget for 2007/2008 = Gene stated he incorporated the changes that were made into the new budget.

******5% COL Increase instead of 3% for all city employees except police officers.*****

The Mayor asked him to include a 5% increase for all employees except the police department. Councilman Guilbeau questioned if that is 3% plus 5%? Mayor Langlinais stated no just the 5%.

Councilman Guilbeau stated he would like to make motion to look at another 5% in three months to be added to the employees 5%. Mayor Langlinais stated that right now we have to approve the budget.

Chief Decou stated the additional \$300 per month increase is for every officer under him. Mayor Langlinais stated he thought it was for the patrol officers only not the officers in the office. Councilman Foco stated he was under impression all patrol officers gets \$300 and the office get 5%. Councilman Guilbeau stated that he does not have enough money in the budget for that. Chief Decou stated he has factored in the overtime allowance. Councilman Guilbeau stated \$63,000 won't give each patrolman \$300 a month. Chief Decou stated last year he had excess of overtime that wasn't used. Chief Decou asked Gene was his ending salaries? Gene stated he doesn't know because are not at the end of June 07 yet. Councilman Guilbeau stated his ending figure should be \$722,000. Chief Decou stated he didn't use all of the money that was allocated in his budget. At the end of May he shows he has \$113,000 left in salaries. He is averaging \$53,000 a month. Councilman Foco stated he didn't take the clerk he didn't take the pay raise for himself. Councilman Higginbotham stated he has no problem with what was submitted, the 14% or \$300 per month increase for the officers. Gene stated in the budget he has a cushion for overtime allowance. This budget is not based on based salaries for the year; it can always can be amended.

Councilman Bonin stated he also told the Fire Department the same thing, it can always be amended. Gene stated there is \$75,000 for the fire station improvements. There is no money in the budget for equipment.

Mayor Langlinais stated he feels there is not a doubt they can amend the budget 9 or 10 months later. They want to be conservative. They are much more comfortable with retiring the bond. Original figures *\$80,000 a month and instead it will be \$52,000. He is feels the cash flow will be much more than anticipated.

Councilman Bonin questioned what about paying the two assistant chiefs? Gene stated not included that has not been included in the budget. Gene stated we tabled that because of the legal issue. Councilman Guilbeau questioned stated we talked about paying the assistant chiefs. Attorney Landry stated they are still volunteers and the Chief's position was created. Councilman Higginbotham and Councilman Foco stated they feel we need to look toward giving an incentive for the firefighters. Lenny stated the fire department has pushed the pay and assistant chief's pay to the side. This office would not help with the rating. They are requesting for the \$75,000 to go towards a truck with an additional \$75,000. Councilman Bonin questioned how long will the truck take to come in? Lenny stated 9 – 10 months and payment is not due till the truck comes in. They would like to get something easier for them, being they are volunteers. Mayor Langlinais stated based on forecast they see no issue in the future. He is requesting the fire department come back with their specs for the truck in a couple of months to see what can be done.

Gene stated we also need to the water and sewer by 3% increase. Attorney Landry will prepare a resolution for that. We are charging \$11.00 for garbage and being charged \$12.56 by Waste Management and they will be going up July 1st to \$12.88; therefore the garbage will also need to be increased. The council agreed to the following increase: **3% Water Increase, 3% Sewer Increase and Garbage will be \$13.00.***** Councilman Foco stated that he thought we were bound by the Larson act to break even? Attorney Landry stated no and Gene stated his recommendation is to break even. It will be effective July 1, 2007.

Councilman Guilbeau questioned if the school crossing guards are getting a 5% increase? Chief stated is if they want to. They are paid from the fines. Gene stated the Magistrate Court is to run thru Magistrate Court. We have spent approximately \$35,000 this year from Magistrate Court. We cannot confuse where it comes from. *****The council agreed to give them 5% to the crossing guards.**

Councilman Rousseau stated the Mayor and Chief waived their right to a raise, but he feels we need to give them something. They are the back bone of this city; they are what makes it run. Councilman Guilbeau stated the Chief said he didn't want a raise. Councilman Guilbeau stated if they want to keep as conservative as possible we should keep it as it is. Guilbeau stated we can look at 3% for them 3 months down the road when we look at the employees for another 5%. *****After much discussion the council agreed to the 5% COL increase for the Mayor and Chief.**

Chief Decou questioned if we are doing the maintenance program; however there was no response to that.

Councilman Guilbeau questioned Larry about the lawnmower and the crew cab for the grass crew? Larry stated they really need a truck and they also did with less weed-eaters this past year, but they need to replace a lawn mower. Estimated cost of the

lawn mower is \$12,000 and with lights \$14,000 for a lawn mower diesel. Larry stated he also needs a regular crew cab truck.

*****The council agreed to \$40,000 in Streets/Capital Outlay for a truck and a lawn mower (\$25,000 for truck and \$15,000 for lawn mower).**

Councilman Guilbeau questioned about side walks to Arcneaux Park? Attorney Landry stated that not everyone is in agreement. Councilman Higginbotham stated we will have to do something. Councilman Guilbeau stated he is questioning it, because it was previously budgeted. Attorney Landry stated that he and Oscar are still trying to come up with a solution.

After the above revisions were submitted the following vote was taken:
Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Higginbotham to adopt Ordinance #07-316, adopting the amended budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Broussard during the same period. Roll call

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

Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Higginbotham to adopt Ordinance #07-316, adopting the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 to serve as an Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Broussard during the same period. Roll call

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mark's Report:

Mark stated they will have no rate increase this year.

Al's Report:

Al stated he had nothing to bring up.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:

Monthly Report = Gene stated they have regular report. It follows along with the budget.

The third page, we have a \$300,000 swing in a couple of months. Bottom-line is we are doing quite well.

Adopt Resolution #209-07/Utility Rates Increase = Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Romero to increase the utilities as follows: 3% water, 3% sewer and \$13.00 garbage effective July 1, 2007. Roll call:

District I = Yea

District IV = Yea

District II = Yea

District V = Yea

District III = Yea

District VI = Yea

At Large = Yea

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Landry stated he had nothing to report on.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Monthly Report = Chief Decou stated that they had an accident on Highway 92 near the dirt-pit last week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Monthly Report = Chief Rivette stated that he nothing and he wished the council a good evening and he hopes they dream of fire trucks

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

District III/Councilman Rousseau:

Thanks = Councilman Rousseau thanked the city workers for everything they do. Ya'll are the people on the ground pounding the pavement.

District II/Councilman Bonin:

Red-Flex Cameras = Councilman Bonin questioned on the status of the Red-Flex Cameras? Attorney Landry stated the ordinance will be presented at the next meeting for final adoption so that we can move forward with this.

Railroad Crossings = Councilman Bonin stated that he and Councilman Foco met with a railroad representative. He stated he will fix the crossings. They will fix Main and St. Etienne first, that is the worst one, then the others. Councilman Bonin thanked Attorney Landry for getting this matter taken care of. Attorney Landry questioned about the trains stopping for a long period of time on the track? Councilman Bonin stated that the gentleman stated that wasn't his department.

District I/Councilman Guilbeau:

Old Sewer Pond = Councilman Guilbeau questioned if the council is aware of the situation at the old sewer pond. We have high voltage wire going in the pond.

Perhaps Slemco can put polls up and put wire on top. Elmo stated that it comes from our control panel. Elmo stated that is our wires and we have to get with Slemco about this. Councilman Guilbeau requested that Elmo look into this get back with on this as soon as possible.

At Large/Councilman Foco:

Thanks = Councilman Foco thanked everyone for showing up tonight.

Mayor and Chief = Councilman Foco stated the Mayor and the Chief did not talk to them about a pay raise. He is glad Councilman Rousseau brought it up, it is well deserved.

Others Present:

Thanks from Deputy Myron Istre = Mr. Istre stated this is a wonderful investment for the people and their department that was given to the officers tonight. It will be a lot easier for them. There is no price for putting their lives on the line. It is an honor to put their life on the line for the City of Broussard.

Councilman Guilbeau stated he feels everyone that works for the city puts their life on the line everyday: police officers, fire fighters and the works that dig out in the field and the utility workers also.

Mayor Langlinais:

Utility relocation at Fairfield = Mayor Langlinais questioned Larry what is the status on this? Mel stated Cox Communications should be finished next week and they should be starting after that. Larry stated it took time, because they had to get into everyone's yard. This is example of a franchising not charging city to move utilities.

Bonds for Ambassador Caffery = Mayor Langlinais stated he signed the bond documents today. He will go to Baton Rouge next week to give them their check. The bids for Ambassador Caffery will opened on Thursday.

ADJOURN:

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