

Minutes Of The

September 26, 2007

Broussard City Council Meeting

Present:

Tina G. Denais, City Clerk
 Councilman Terry Guilbeau, District I
 Councilman David Bonin, District II
 Councilwoman Gertrude Batiste, District IV
 Councilman Albert Romero, District VI
 Councilman Johnnie Foco, At Large
 Chief Brannon Decou, Chief of Police
 Mr. Don Landry, City Attorney
 Gene Chiarulli, City Bookkeeper
 Jerry Grooms, City Engineer
 Al Reaux, City Engineer
 Larry Champagne, City Supervisor
 Mel Bertrand, City Foreman
 Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor
 Mr. Mike LaBorde....Candidate for Parish Councilman District 9
 Mr. Pat LeBlanc.....Candidate for State Representative District 43
 Mr. Charlie Buckles, representative from Red-Flex Cameras

Absent:

Mayor Charles Langlinais
 Councilman Keith Rousseau, District III
 Councilman Kenny Higginbotham, District V

Councilman Foco called the meeting to order and Charlie Buckles lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer was done for our troops that are still in Iraq and Ms. Alton Girouard, who passed away last week.

Adopt minutes of the September 12, 2007 Regular Meeting = Moved by Councilwoman Batiste and second by Councilman Romero to adopt the minutes of the September 12, 2007 Regular Meeting. Roll call:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Mike LaBorde.....candidate for Parish Councilman District 9 =Mr. LaBorde addressed the city council. He is retired from the Lafayette Fire Department. He stated that the past parish council has not gotten anything done. He would like to work with all of the other cities. He also feels we need to build a loop around this city. He would also like to address the drainage issues, which includes dredging the Vermillion River. There was supposedly a sales tax dedicated to the Vermillion District, but nothing has been done. Councilman Guilbeau stated like the he told the previous candidates, where is the money going to is being collected by parish from the city limits, we would just like something in return for our money. Councilman Foco stated we don't want a lot, we just want dollar for dollar. Councilman Foco stated he feels whoever gets elected, we need to work together. Councilman Foco wished Mr. LaBorde good luck. The council thanked Mr. LaBorde for coming.

Mr. Patrick LeBlanc.....Candidate for State Representative District 43 = Mr. LeBlanc addressed the council. He is a candidate for District 43 State Representative. He gave some background information on himself. He is not accepting any contributions from any special interests groups or any pack money. He wants to make a difference in our community and in our state. We need to change the political cultural in Baton Rouge. He was passed president of Lafayette Jaycees and Lafayette Cajundome Commission. He owns over 12 businesses. He wants to eliminate the sales tax on machinery and equipment when he gets to Baton Rouge. He also wants to eliminate the sales tax on utilities. We also need to get our fair share back in Lafayette. He would like to call for an emergency re-apportionment of this State, because Lafayette Parish does not get their fair share of representation. He would also call for Federal Investigation of the Road Home Project and their administrator. He has always been a fighter. Our area needs this kind of leadership. Councilman Foco stated it is very encouraging to see someone of his statue that is putting his name in the hat. He wants to get money for our state roads in Lafayette Parish. The council thanked Mr. LeBlanc for coming to the meeting and wished him luck.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:**Jerry's Report:**

Jerry stated he had nothing to report on.

Al's Report:

Al stated that we are still working with the weather conditions for the St. Nazairre Road Improvements.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:

Monthly Report = Gene stated that once again the sales tax are up and everything is pretty much in line.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Red-Flex Cameras = Attorney Landry stated that Mayor Langlinais is out of town, but he should sign the Red-Flex contract on Friday. Mr. Buckles addressed the council. They did the video surveys to see what problems we are having at the intersections. The survey lasts for 12 hours. This is when the people actually entered the intersection after the light turned red. August 15th in a 12 hour period at 16 different locations, we had approximately 142 violations of running the lights and stop signs. Mr. Buckles stated this will turn out a good system. After the contract is signed, we will have a kick off meeting with everyone involved. Then it should go into effect within 60 days. After the contract is signed, they should have a van here within 2 weeks. We need to set-up a warning period for about 30 days. Some cities decide to do warning period for the lights and some for the van.

Mr. Charlie Buckles/Candidate for BESSE Board = Mr. Buckles stated that he is running for the seat on the 7th BESSE District (Board of Elementary and Education). This state has the highest drop out rate. He wants to look at the self-work like vo-tech schools for kids that don't want to go to college. He has a program to do that. He feels the first and second grade levels are not getting what is needed. We are spending almost \$180,000 per classroom. We are spending \$77,000 per student and we are 49th in the nation. He wants to remove the cap for the classroom. Councilman Guilbeau spoke about the program Lafayette Parish School Board is trying to implement to keep students in school by offering help in vo-tech schools and different trades. At the same time while they are learning a trade they will be studying their school academics and upon graduation they will receive a high school diploma and certification in the trade they studied. He complimented the new school board members for coming up with such a program. Mr. Buckles agreed it is a fabulous idea. The council thanked Mr. Buckles for his time and wished him luck.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Bank Robbery = Chief Decou stated they are still working on the Community First Bank Robbery. There are also 5 other banks that this suspect is considered to have robbed. They are working with all of these other agencies on this matter and hoping to resolve it soon.

Break-ins at Storage Facility = Chief Decou stated yesterday 34 storage units were broken into. As of 10:00 last night 25 of those people reported nothing stolen. They are pretty sure they know what the items are that were stolen.

Monthly Report = Chief Decou stated they are working on a lot of investigations and the traffic division has been busy also.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

No one from the Fire Department was present.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

South Morgan Street Sidewalk = Larry stated his estimate is between \$13,000 - \$14,000. The council asked that he bring the bids to the council for the next meeting. Gene stated we need to amend the budget, because it is not in the budget. We had it in last year's budget and it wasn't put in this year's budget.

District V/Councilwoman Batiste:

Meeting Report = Councilwoman Batiste stated that she has to get with the city attorneys about the project she is working on and she will have something next week.

District II/Councilman Bonin:

Railroad Crossings = Councilman Bonin stated that we have one railroad crossing fixed, Albertson Parkway is not fixed. Larry stated the tracks are over 10 years old. St. Etienne will be done first, because it is older. Albertson Parkway will then be next. Morgan Street we can do.

District I/Councilman Guilbeau:

Police of Re-Naming Streets = Councilman Guilbeau requested that on the agenda for the next meeting he would like to add "Policy On Re-naming of Any Streets in the City of Broussard" be put on the agenda.

Tree Limbs = Councilman Guilbeau stated he received a call from a citizens called that 2 pecan trees fell in his back yard and he is a sugar diabetic and couldn't cut the trees. Councilman Guilbeau stated he came get some loaner cans and cut the tree branch for the man and put them in it in the loaner cans.

At Large/Councilman Foco =

Branch Pickup = Councilman Foco stated that we had a quote for \$1,600 per day that Larry got from a contractor to pick-up branches in town. That is a loader, a truck, 2 operators and 2 laborers and to be dumped at dirt-pit and \$150 per load if it has to be disposed somewhere else besides the dirt-pit. Councilman Guilbeau stated according to the way he reads the permit for the dirt-pit, it does not say we cannot pickup branches and dump them there. Gene stated he doesn't think the city can do it for \$1,600 a day. Councilman Guilbeau stated that he would rather go on a trial basis with the city doing it. Attorney Landry stated Bob Boese has a concern with us using the burn permit for this. He also added that once people hear we are doing this, they will call their tree surgeon to cut their trees at a reduced rate. Then Larry and his crews will be picking up trees more and more and the rest of the services we provide to the citizens will be put on hold. Attorney Landry stated he only is stating what Bob Boese said. The council requested that this item be put back on the agenda at the next meeting and Attorney Landry will get Bob Boese to come to the meeting.

Thanks = Councilman Foco thanked everyone for coming tonight. We have good people running for these seats. The sad part about is we will have 20% that will vote. It is a shame that people don't go vote.

Others Present:

Sofas on the side of the street/Roy Brown = Mr. Brown questioned about the sofas on the side of the road on East Broussard Street? Councilwoman Batiste stated she spoke to the owner and they will be taking care of this.

Burned House/Chief Decou = Chief Decou questioned Councilwoman Batiste about the house in the area of East Broussard that caught fire over a year and nothing has been done about it? Ms. Batiste stated she did speak to the owners and they were suppose to be taking care of this, but she will get with them again

Katherine Drexel = Larry stated that Councilman Guilbeau can contact the school board about the parking situation there, because the abandon street situation has been resolved. Chief Decou stated he did speak to Mr. Brunnel and he said it would happen. Councilman Guilbeau stated he gave the school board attorney Mr. Simon a copy of the map.

ADJOURN:

Adjourn the meeting = Moved by Councilman Romero and second by Councilwoman Batiste to adjourn the meeting. Roll call:

District I = Yea

District II= Yea

District III= Absent

At Large = Yea

District IV = Yea

District V = Absent

District VI = Yea

S/Charles E. Langlinais, MAYOR

S/Tina G. Denais, CITY CLERK