

Minutes Of The

January 23, 2008

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 Kenny Higginbotham, District V  
Councilwoman Gertrude Batiste, District IV  
Councilman Albert Romero, District VI  
Councilman Johnnie Foco, At Large  
Mr. Don Landry, City Attorney  
Mark Savoie, City Engineer  
Walter Comeaux, City Engineer  
Gene Chiarulli, City Bookkeeper  
Al Reaux, City Engineer  
Mel Bertrand, City Foreman  
Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor  
Jonathan LeBlanc, City Operator  
Chief Brannon Decou, Police Chief  
Mr. Troy Courville, City Auditor

Councilman Foco called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Batiste lead the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer was done for boys still overseas.

**Adopt minutes of the January 9, 2008 Meeting** = Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Romero to adopt the minutes of the January 9, 2008 Meeting, subject to the following revision: page 2 under auditor's report; the vote by the council was to amend the police budget for capital outlay from \$113,000 to \$150,122 not \$237,122. 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:**

**Mr. Troy Courville re: 2006/2007 Audit Report** =Mr. Courville addressed the council. On page 1 and 2 is the basic audit report. In the auditor's report there is a finding regarding internal control and compliance. They noted no non-compliance. They do have a finding which

was mentioned in the past which was segregation of duties. We do have some checks and balances, where things may go un-detected during the year. This is a small finding that is in all reports and other towns. It is not cost beneficial to hire other employees to correct this problem. Councilman Rousseau questioned, because it has been on the audit and been on the finding for several years, when does it become a concern. Mr. Courville stated he is not concern, because there is always a potential. Courville stated they study what is in place and the transactions that are in place. He has confidence in their controls. Councilman Rousseau questioned what would be the state's reaction to this? Courville stated the legislative auditor would approve this. He stated they audit about 100 local governments and they have probably have had five of them that don't have this finding. Councilman Rousseau stated he was just concerned because he would like to get the problem corrected if there is any problem. Page 3 is a consolidated summary of the audit. There was a 3.9 million increase of revenues. The bottom line is that we budgeted \$2.6 million surplus and we had a surplus of \$4.3 million. Councilman Foco questioned if he knows of any other town that has that much of a surplus? Courville stated no not that at this time. We are a very pro-active town.

**Pride Oil Property and Gas....re: Application for oil, gas and mineral lease =**

Don stated he was contacted today by Mark Lapari with Pride Oil and Gas. The council at the last meeting requested that Larry Hebert handle this; therefore he requested that Mark contact Larry Hebert. It was moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Guilbeau to table this matter until we hear from Mr. Larry Hebert. Roll call:

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Adopt Ordinance #07-325/Prohibiton of Placing Telephone Books on any Property**

= Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Higginbotham to adopt Ordinance #07-325, which prohibits of the placing of telephone books on any property, without permission, and on highways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, roadside parks, and public rights of ways. Roll call:

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

**Adopt Ordinance #07-326/Revising Ordinance #06-300 Policing/control and efficient use of all utility systems =**

Attorney Landry stated we that have not set the amount of the fees yet structured into the ordinance. Mayor Langlinais stated he thought Oscar and Cindy had come up with the fees. Attorney Landry stated maybe with Oscar has in mind, maybe the actual permit fee doesn't have to be to expensive, because in section (4) it states that "in the event that nay public improvement by the City requires the relocation or movement of such utility facilities, they will be relocated and/or moved at the sole expense and liability of such provider of utilities and its successors and assigns." Attorney Landry stated we could charge a \$25.00 per fee, just so

when they make application. Mayor Langlinais stated he feels that we need to keep it reasonable. We just want them to understand that if have to move the utilities for expansion, and then they will move them at their own expense. Mayor recommended a fee of \$25.00 across the board fee. It was moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilwoman Batiste to charge a \$25.00 permit required in the ordinance in Section 3. Roll call:

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

It was then moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman Romero to adopt Ordinance #07-326, which amends ordinance #06-300 of the ordinances of the City of Broussard, Louisiana, to revise section 3 of that ordinance and to add section 4(a) to that ordinance. 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:**

**Ida/LaFlamme Road** = Mark stated that the contractor finished Ida Road/LaFlamme last week. We did have a little increase in the amount because of the coulee we had to straighten. Mark stated he will have a final amount at the next meeting for the final approval.

**Eola Pump Station** = Mark stated that the pumps came in last month. The wet well will be delivered probably tomorrow and then the contractor will be starting after that.

### **Al's Report:**

**Home Depot** = Al stated Home Depot will have a soft opening on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. H & S will have the road opened to that intersection by that date. The highway department will do the re-signalization of the signals, which is being done by Dean Tekell. There will be a signal at St. Nazairre at the Walmart entrance.

**Sewer Pond** = The contractor is in the process of executing the contract. He is asking to start as soon as he executes the contract after the pre-construction meeting. Councilman Foco stated at the meeting the contractor stated he will be leasing new equipment for this job with Kahutsu for one year. After speaking to this contractor, they have a lot of confidence in this contractor.

### **Walter's Report:**

**South Bernard Extension to Fairfield** = Walter stated he brought the Mayor a preliminary route of South Bernard and Fairfield Road. He gave it to the Mayor and he is working on the map. It is a preliminary map.

#### **ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:**

**Monthly Report** = Gene gave the council the monthly report for Dec. 2007. The sales tax collections are ahead of the budget. If this continues we should be in pretty good shape. Everything is within budget.

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**Railroad Crossings** = Attorney Landry questioned if anyone heard from the railroad? Mel Bertrand stated that Larry spoke to the man in the field Mr. Whitney a week and a half ago and he hasn't heard from him since then. Several people stated that they have seen several crews from the railroad in town. Attorney Landry stated they signed for the certified letter on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and he told them he needed to report back to council in Feb. Attorney Landry stated we will see if they respond by February.

**Beausoliel Monument** = Councilman Foco stated they received some correspondence in reference to the granite on the monument at city hall that was damaged from a car accident? Attorney Landry stated it is on property belonging to the city; however there is no paperwork stating that the monument was donated to us. The whole face needs to be changed for a sum of \$3,000. Mayor Langlinais stated we sent inquires to the people involved and they had minimum insurance. Attorney Landry stated he didn't know we had damages. The monument is on our property and was built by the Broussard heirs. It has been over a year, and we don't have any recourse to get our money back from the damages. Chief Decou stated for quite a while there was a lot of kids that would come to the monument and he thinks it might need to stay the way it is. This is a very touchy situation. There was even a plaque that was put on the monument by the families of the individuals involved in the car accident. There was also an estimate to remove the plaque and Pellerin stated it would look like it could be patched. Mayor Langlinais stated maybe we need to leave it damaged. Chief Decou stated there is damaged on one side and the plaque is on the other side. Perhaps we get the plaque removed and put it over the hole? Councilman Guilbeau stated what about if we put the plaque on a post? Attorney Landry stated perhaps remove the Memorial Plaque and put it near the tree. Councilman Higginbotham stated he feels that the plaque needs to be left, because it blends in. The bill is for the whole side of the monument. Councilman Higginbotham stated if they want to fix the monument they should and they have claimed the plaque, so we should just leave it alone. Attorney Landry stated the Broussard's were directing it towards us, that we should have gotten some reimbursement from the insurance company. Attorney Landry stated he feels it is our monument, because it is on our property and it is immovable. Mayor Langlinais stated he will get Pellerin's to fix it and if the Broussard family wants to get the plaque removed, then they can do that, per the instructions of the council. Al stated the damage is only on one panel and you can put something on it and put it on the other side. You can put a crest. Mayor Langlinais stated that would cost more than to cast it.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Katherine Drexel** = Councilman Guilbeau questioned about the Drexel situation? Chief Decou stated he hasn't had any more problems.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

No one was present.

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

### **District III/Councilman Rousseau:**

**Branch Pick -up** = Councilman Rousseau questioned what is the status of the temporary branch pick up in the city? Mel stated we are not picking anything up. Mel stated in Youngsville they just got their grinder, but he doesn't know how it is going there. Mel stated the last time Larry had gotten some prices on the grinding situation. Mayor Langlinois stated we had talked about looking in the budget to see if we had the funds to do this. Councilman Guilbeau stated what he gathered is that DEQ stated if we needed to burn and we would let them know about the winds, and it would be okay to burn at the dirt-pit. Councilman Guilbeau stated he feels instead of paying \$3,500 for someone to pick-up the branches, we should give our employees the 5% we said we would look at 3 months after the budget was adopted, but we still haven't done that yet. Councilman Foco stated the branches are getting picked up. Mayor Langlinois stated what he recalls is in reference to the employee pay raises was after the major retailers would open he, then we would look at that, but he would also like to hire another crew after the major retailers do open. The council discussed what was discussed about the raises. Mayor Langlinois asked Tina to do a full survey on the cities with our population and area municipalities regarding their salaries compared to ours.

### **District II/Councilman Bonin:**

**Fire Department Reimbursement** = Councilman Bonin stated at the last meeting we talked about reimbursing the fireman for use of their vehicles. He feels this would show a good show of faith. He talked to Councilman Romero and Councilwoman Batiste about this. Attorney Landry stated if you head in that direction, you need to make that optional. Attorney Landry stated he understands in his research that some people won't be able to serve in positions, being they are already paid by the, unless it is made an optional, the pay. The money cannot be donated it would have to be optional. Gene stated we have to address whether they are employees or not. Councilman Foco requested that Councilman Bonin get with the fireman and make them understand that they probably have to pay taxes on this money.

### **At Large/Councilman Foco:**

**COG Meeting** = Councilman Foco stated we will be sponsoring the first COG meeting on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008. The new council members should be there.

**Sewer Pond Meeting** = Councilman Foco stated the meeting with contractor about sewer pond went very well. Everyone was very comfortable with them.

**Mayor Langlinais:**

**Cypress Bayou** = Mayor Langlinais stated he had a conversation with Tom Carroll, with LPCG about Cypress Bayou. He recalled that there was only one property owner that was outstanding. They will go with the project and stop where the last property owner is. Walter stated we need to go back to FEMA after this project is done, because it will effect a lot of property owners.

**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

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**S/Charles E. Langlinais, MAYOR**

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**S/Tina G. Denais, CITY CLERK**