

**Minutes Of The**  
**August 26, 2008**  
**Broussard City Council Meeting**

Present: Mayor Charles E. Langlinais  
 Tina M. Emert, 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  
 Mr. Don Landry, City Attorney  
 Jerry Grooms, City Engineer  
 Martin Poirier, City Engineer  
 Al Reaux, City Engineer  
 Walter Comeaux III, City Engineer  
 Gene Chiarulli, City Bookkeeper  
 Mel Bertrand, City Foreman  
 Larry Champagne, City Supervisor  
 Elmer Girouard, City Foreman  
 Chief Brannon Decou, Police Chief  
 Asst. Chief Bryan Champagne, Fire Dept.  
 Ms. Geraldine Flugence, Citizen  
 Several citizens of Broussard

Councilman Foco called the meeting to order and Councilman Romero lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer was done for Ms. Hilda Johnson, former Councilman Harold Johnson's wife.

**Adopt minutes of the August 12, 2008 Meeting** = Moved by Councilwoman Batiste and second by Councilman Rousseau to adopt the minutes of the August 12, 2008 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:**

**Mr. Ben Hogan re: Request for Abandonment of Right of Way** = Councilman Foco questioned if we need right of ways near the railroad tracks? Larry stated no. Councilman Foco stated it is where First Street is across the tracks from where the glass shop is. Councilman Bonin questioned how big of a right of way do we have? Mayor Langlinais stated we never really officially had one. Attorney Landry stated in the future if Mr. Hogan develops the property he might have a problem if this isn't cleared. Mr. Hogan stated the adjoining piece of property is 272 feet and this property is like 250 feet. Mr. Hogan stated he just wants to make sure when he buys it there is are no questions on the property. It was moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman Romero to abandon that section of the right of way along the railroad tracks off of Morgan Street, adjacent to the old Mrs. Alphonse Girouard property of lots 6,7,8,9, and 10. Roll call:

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

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

**Adopt Resolution #237-08 re: Requesting Financial Assistance from the State under the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 LGAP Program for \$50,000** = Mayor Langlinais stated we generally did get it if it was a good idea. Mayor Langlinais stated he would like to use it for generators for the lift stations. It was moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman Rousseau to adopt Resolution #237-08, requesting financial assistance from the State of Louisiana under the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Local Government Assistance Program up to \$50,000. Roll call:

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

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

**Introduce Ordinance #08-339 re: Prohibition of stopping or parking in designated fire lanes** = Chief Decou stated this ordinance was brought to him by the businesses in Broussard; they wanted to know why he can't do anything with people parking in the fire lanes. This ordinance is more so needed for fire apparatus. He would like to adopt this especially with Walmart coming. Councilman Bonin questioned what about the businesses in the old part of town? Chief Decou asked Don about that. Attorney Landry stated we don't have the authority for those businesses that don't have fire lanes now. Councilman Bonin stated the last sentence might require the businesses to paint their lines? Landry the city would have to be pro-active and say we want to get the lines installed and painted. Councilman Foco stated the existing businesses are grandfathered in. Attorney Landry stated he can put something in the paragraph to that effect. Chief Decou stated he feels the establishments were looking for the ones that are properly marked. Asst. Chief Champagne stated he feels it is just for the establishments that have them now. Attorney Landry he can even delete that sentence. This is an introductory

ordinance. Councilman Rousseau stated we just want to introduce the ordinance as a fire department not as a police department safety for the city. The council asked for the last sentence to be taken out, which reads “the City of Broussard may require the owners and operators of any private facilities subject to this Ordinance to paint the lines and/or curbs.” Moved by Councilman Rousseau and second by Councilman Higginbotham to introduce Ordinance #08-339, providing for the prohibition of stopping or parking in designated fire lanes with the amendment previously described. Roll call:

District I = Yea

District IV = Yea

District II= Yea

District V = Yea

District III= Yea

District VI = Yea

At Large = Yea

**Ms. Geraldine Flugence re: Ideas for Parks and Recreation for the local park =**  
 Ms. Flugence addressed the council. She read a letter to the council stating the crime is on the rise and there is a need to develop a community center in the city. The question is what we will do to save our children. She stated that education, recreation and communication should be what we should be working towards for our community. She stated that we do have BYYA, but we need a recreation center in Broussard. She stated that in the previous elections they were told that Ida Park would be improved. Currently it has 3 small pavilions and a gazebo and broken swing sets and 1 basketball goal, no free standing bathroom, just port-lets. She questioned why don't we have a recreation center in Broussard and amenities in Ida Park? She also feels we need a sidewalk to Arceneaux Park and to the Theatre. Councilman Guilbeau stated we tried to get a sidewalk to the park, but we had problems with the property owners that wouldn't give a right a way and neither would the state give a right of way. Councilwoman Batiste stated that a grant was to be applied for the additional Ida Park. Mayor Langlinais stated the additional property is owned by an estate that wants over \$100,000 for the property which is in a flood zone. Ms. Flugence stated that the Bel Air is for sale; that would be a good place for a recreation center. Mayor Langlinais stated that is for sale for over \$1,000,000. Ms. Flugence stated that we need to do something for our children. Ms. Flugence questioned why at can't we get a recreation center here. Mayor Langlinais stated we are working on a little community center off of Heart D Farm Road and Ambassador Caffery. Ms. Flugence questioned what about here in town? Councilman Foco encouraged her to go to the Parish Council Meeting and get put on the agenda. Ms. Flugence stated we will just let out kids twiddle away with ankle bracelets. She stated during election time that when the property was cleared it was stated that would be the entire park from Loul to Morgan Street. Mayor Langlinais stated we don't own that entire property. Councilman Foco stated he gave the money for those three patio covers and they were turned over and damaged. She questioned why wasn't it brought to the parents' attention? Attorney Landry stated we don't own the rest of that property and we have to follow the law. Attorney Landry stated it was improved. She stated it only has a half of basketball court, and broken swings and a walking track. She wants some park equipment for the children and a recreation center. Councilman Rousseau stated the Parish owns the parish recreation center; he encouraged her to go to the parish. Councilman Rousseau stated every year the city contributes to the parks and recreation and last meeting we contributed to a maintenance person at the park. For us to spend \$200,000 for the park, we have to look at other things we have to spend money on also. He feels we are always looking to do better. He is talking about the other side of the

age groups. Larry stated since it cost us \$120,000 to build that park. We have changed the lights under the canopy, the front canopy was pulled down, the basketball goal was torn down and the gazebo was torn down 3 times. We just spent \$18,000 for a fence. The park and all of the equipment was worth \$120,000. The basketball goals were \$8,000. The half court was \$17,000. Mayor Langlinais stated we just got Gerald Hanchey to donate the asphalt for the church, which cost \$28,000. The equipment was built by our welder. Mayor Langlinais asked her to contact the Guilbeau family and see about acquiring the property from them. Ms. Flugence asked if they can have playground equipment placed on the property. Councilman Foco stated he saw some sheets of metal broken from the bottom and the only way that it can be done is maliciously done. Ms. Flugence questioned what will we do? She asked for a merry go round, a tennis court and some slides. Attorney Landry stated we can't donate it. Councilman Batiste stated she spoke to her before and like she told her things come in sequence and she has to wait for them. Councilman Higginbotham asked her to get a list of requests. Chief Decou stated he met with Ms. Flugence and one of the individual's she is talking about there is nothing we can do with the youngsters. Chief Decou stated if they are able to get the names they can do something about it is reported. Chief Decou stated he has no problems in handling their concerns. Chief Decou some of his concern is the lack of respect of the kids in the community in that area. Mayor Langlinais questioned if there is any talk of gangs? Chief Decou stated there is a talk of a juvenile gang. They have concerns. Councilman Guilbeau stated he understands the concern, but didn't we add 2 additional personnel and 2 resource officers. Councilwoman Batiste explained about the meeting at her residents with the Chief and with the children, which she feels resolves the problem. Another resident stated there are still kids hanging out at the corner at 11 and 12 o'clock at night. She feels if the kids are out late at night, we need to cite the parents too. Ms. Flugence stated that someone was robbed by Big A the other night. Chief Decou stated that that investigation is still ongoing. Councilwoman Batiste stated if they have problems with the kids they can call her and she can help them. Councilman Rousseau stated the more it is reported, it can be helped. Ms. Flugence stated if we had constructed things for them to do, she feels it would help. Attorney Landry stated the juvenile crime is not unique to the City of Broussard. He feels the city does a better job than most places. A big part of the problem is parental responsibility and the participation with the police will go a long ways. Councilman Higginbotham stated he would like to look for the equipment for the park and we will go from there. She feels the parents should be accountable for the kids' destruction. Councilman Rousseau stated they can look into putting the playground equipment into the park; but they need to communicate with their neighbors and get them involved. Chief Decou stated he can provide them with information on starting a neighborhood watch program. Councilwoman Batiste stated they started a neighborhood watch and they are asking the parents of that street to get everyone involved. Councilman Foco asked her to get a list and get with Ms. Gert and she will get it to the council. He asked her once it is placed, how many times do they have to replace it when it is broken. Chief Decou stated the problem is there are not enough residents in the area to see what is happening or being destroyed in the park. Chief Decou stated they can take the report, but it is where to go from there if they don't know who did it. Councilman Foco requested that she get with Ms. Gert after she gets a list together. Councilman Rousseau recommended that she goes to City-Parish Government and plead her case also.

**Hours of City Hall Operation** = Councilman Foco stated he spoke to several council

members and they agreed it is an administrative decision on the city hall hours and he would like to table this and let the Mayor take care of this. He appreciates the Mayor asking them for their comments. Councilman Foco stated he spoke to several people and our town workers work 4/10 hour days and he sees no problem with the city hall doing the same. Therefore the Mayor will handle the situation.

**Introduce Ordinance #08-340 re: LA92/Joseph Anzalone Annexation** = Councilman Bonin stated he spoke to Mr. Anzalone and he not expecting from the city. Moved by Councilman Bonin and second by Councilman Guilbeau to introduce Ordinance #08-340 to provide for the annexation of certain property located in section 10, township 11 south, range 5 east, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, being known as the LA 92/Joseph Anzalone Annexation. 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:**

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

**St. Nazairre Road** = Al stated in reference to St. Nazairre the contractor has done the majority of the striping and still has some driveways to do.

**Sewer Pond** = Al stated in reference to the sewer pond we asked the contractor to give us a schedule of completion. So they will have a meeting next week to see. After 4 months we were 40 % complete. The contractor still has time on his contract.

##### **Jerry's Report:**

Jerry stated he had nothing to report on.

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

**South Bernard and Fairfield Extension** = Walter stated that he is still working on South Bernard and Fairfield Extension.

**South Morgan Street Lift Station** = Oscar stated that he spoke with Oscar Reed about the South Morgan Street lift station and Oscar stated that he will take care of this.

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

**Monthly Report** = Gene stated that this is the first month's report and there is not much to report on. The collections are pretty close to budget.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Attorney Landry stated basically he doesn't have anything to report on. He has been working with Police Chief about the Fire Lane ordinance.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Radar Trailer** = Chief Decou stated he has the results for Madelyn, Second and Fairfield with the radar trailer. On Fairfield about midnight there was vehicle traveling at a speed of about 92 mph and several about 80 mph. Chief Decou stated this is the same sort of trailer we will get. Chief Decou stated it gives the times of day you get the most cars and the speed of the vehicles. It tells when we need to deploy enforcement. A citizen in that residential area stated that his petition was done in one evening and not one person declined to sign his petition. Councilman Foco stated if they see someone personally speeding call the Chief and he will contact the individuals that are speeding. Chief Decou if the committee wants to meet they can. He doesn't have the crash data to support putting a stop sign in that area though. The radar trailer is ordered. The council asked Larry to get the speed lumps, the plastic ones. Larry stated he can build them cheaper. Attorney Landry stated liability wise we are better off buying the ones that are already built. Walter stated there is some signage required. The council asked Larry to get some prices on those speed lumps.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**Office Renovations** = Asst. Chief Champagne stated he spoke to David Bernard today. He has everything ready and he wants to look over it all before he gets it printed. After that is done, then it gets printed. He asked the council to allow them to bid it out so that they don't lose their money allocated from the parish. Councilman Foco asked him to get with him before it goes out for bid though. Mayor Langlinais questioned if it was in the budget? Gene stated no and Councilman Foco stated it can be amended at that time.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS:****District I/Councilman Guilbeau:**

**Red light at Albertson Parkway and South Morgan** = Councilman Guilbeau stated coming down Morgan Street the green light at Albertson Parkway there was some problems; however Dean Tekell took care of it and it has been corrected. He wanted to thank Dean for working on that.

**Red Light at Albertson Parkway and Highway 90** = Councilman Guilbeau stated he thinks they put more green at Albertson and Highway 90. Chief Decou stated he brought it to the attention of DOTD at a meeting. Mayor Langlinais stated it was brought to him and they were going to take care of this. He also feels we need a bigger sign "no left turn sing" onto Highway 182. Chief Decou stated they wrote 8 citations in one hour in that area.

**District II/Councilman Rousseau:**

**Radar Trailer and Redflex** = Councilman Rousseau questioned Chief Decou for bringing the radar out on Fairfield so promptly. He also questioned where are we on Redflex? Attorney Landry stated the State seems to be the hold up and Dean Tekell should be getting some information for Redflex. Councilman Bonin stated he feels the vans could solve our problems. Attorney Landry stated the last he heard was they were waiting on some data. Attorney Landry stated he will get a report for the next meeting.

**District IV/Councilwoman Batiste:**

**Thanking Ms. Flugence** = Councilwoman Batiste thanked Ms. Flugence for coming to the meeting and voicing her concerns. She stated she will get with Ms. Flugence and report back to the meeting.

**District V/Councilman Higginbotham:**

**Electrical outage on Highway 96** = Councilman Higginbotham stated during the storm the other night 3 streets were without power that are powered by Entergy. Some limbs that broke were on the lines. Councilman Higginbotham added that the poles are rotten and need to be replaced. Entergy is not maintaining these poles. Mayor Langlinais will contact Entergy about the poles. Everyone with SLEMCO in that area had power.

**At Large/Councilman Foco:**

**Voicing Concerns** = Councilman Foco thanked everyone for voicing their concerns and stated that without the voice of all our citizens that come to the meeting, we don't know what ya'll want. We will do what we can for everyone.

**Mayor Langlinais:**

**Christmas Parade** = The parade is set preliminary for Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. They are considering Saturday next year, because of bumping up the time.

**Walmart Opening** = Mayor Langlinais stated the grand opening is set tentatively for Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Viator who is a new resident to the city complimented the council to keep up the good work. Mr. Viator stated he bought a home a year ago, because Broussard is very inviting.

Councilman Foco added that we do for the whole city. And Councilman Guilbeau stated for the last 8 years we did \$1.8 million dollars in overlay projects in town.

**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= 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 M. Emert, CITY CLERK**