

Minutes Of The  
October 27, 2009  
Broussard City Council Meeting

Present: Mayor Charles Langlinais  
Tina M. Emert, City Clerk  
Councilman Terry Guilbeau, District I  
Councilman David Bonin, District II  
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  
Mr. Gene Chiarulli, City Bookkeeper  
Mark Savoie, City Engineer  
Martin Poirier, City Engineer  
Al Reaux, City Engineer  
Walter Comeaux III, City Engineer  
Chief Brannon Decou, Police Chief  
Chief Bryan Champagne, Fire Department  
Larry Champagne, City Supervisor  
Mel Bertrand, City Foreman  
Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor  
Kenneth Wainwright, City Foreman  
Absent: Councilman Keith Rousseau, District III

Councilman Foco called the meeting to order and Chief Champagne lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer was done our troops that are still overseas.

**Adopt minutes of the October 13, 2009 Regular Meeting** = Moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman Romero to adopt the minutes of the Oct. 13, 2009 Regular Meeting. Roll call:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Greg Manuel re: Waterford Ridge Phases I and II** =Mark stated that he spoke to Mr. Manuel and he has a couple of things to take care of for the subdivision, before the acceptance is approved. There are cracks in the asphalts and some signs are missing. Councilman Guilbeau questioned if the asphalt was tested? Mark stated it is the dirt in that area that is bad. The best thing is to seal it with asphalt. Councilman Guilbeau stated he doesn't want to go a couple of months down the road and we have to overlay the entire road. Mark stated they haven't seen any base failures. The bad areas are in the front and back area. Councilman Foco stated he went ride there for the rain, and there wasn't any water. The retention ponds were full though. It was moved by Councilman Bonin and second by Councilwoman Batiste to table this matter. Roll call:

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

**Mr. David Bernard re: Zoning Plan** = Mr. Bernard addressed the council. He read some of the zoning ordinance. He feels there are some areas that are left out in the downtown area. He would like to get the old downtown area put in a separate zone, because of its unique area. The current zoning ordinance, doesn't address some areas. He would like us to redo it to our advantage. He would like to promote it to the downtown district. His only interest is to incorporate the downtown. He will get some feedback from the downtown residents and business owners to get some feedback on developing this district. He understands the intent of the zoning ordinance. He feels if we have a base map, we could go back to look at these areas. He did give the Mayor a proposal to prepare such a map. He feels we should get it drawn up whether with him or someone else and get public feedback and put it on file. Mayor Langlinois stated he asked Mark and them to come up with some maps. There appears to be a Caffery corridor. His instructions were to follow the property lines as best as we could do. Mark hasn't touched the old parts of town, with the map he prepared. Mayor Langlinois instructed Mark to come up with some sort of historical district for the town. Mayor Langlinois stated it is far easy to have the property owners along Caffery to come in. David stated he understands this will not happen next week. He just would like to say that the downtown area is a very distinct area. David stated he has certain ideas that he would like to consider. His intent is not to make restrictions. Mayor Langlinois stated it makes sense to him that perhaps the property owners would maybe want it commercial. The ordinance doesn't address the unique and historic areas of the downtown area. Mark stated the reason is to stop obnoxious places from building in certain areas and to protect property values. Walter stated it is to put compatible use. David stated he will work to try and get enough interest from the downtown people to come back and address the council with this. David stated he would like the council to consider it and he would like to talk to all the council that he hasn't talked to. He also is getting feedback from other municipalities also.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

### **Mark's Report:**

**Sewer Project on Albertson Parkway** -The sewer was put in next to PSC, but we are having problems with the contractor. The contractor was very un-cooperative. We are trying to get him back out there to do the job. It could be very controversial. He will be able to give the facts at the next meeting. We will be re-bidding out sewer installation contract next year. This is under the annual contract for sewer installation. Mark suggested if we continue having problems with him, he suggest we terminate the contract with him. We have had a lot of problems with him. Mel stated we have been fighting with him to come and finish the job and he hasn't done it. Mark stated he has the control panel. He sent him a certified letter stating that if he doesn't hear from him by Friday, we will pull the plug on the project. Mayor Langlinais stated if he doesn't come back we will stop paying him.

**Sewer Re-Hab** = The sewer re-hab job went very well. Mark stated he will put a video together of what they found. This grant will be closed out tomorrow.

**DEQ Sewer Revolving Loan** = Mayor Langlinais questioned Mark if he heard anything about the DEQ revolving loan. Mark stated we are getting them a packet next week.

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

**Sewer Pond** = Al stated he doesn't have any encouraging news on the sewer pond, because of the weather conditions. It is a wait and see situation.

**Amabssador Caffery Draining Ditch from Hardware Road** = Al stated at the last meeting we discussed the drainage ditch on Ambassador Caffery. He thought this was in the Caffery right of way. Al stated however the entire ditch is not. Al stated at the last meeting it was stated that we were contacted by LADOTD about this. The next day he visited with Larry and Mel and all they had were preliminary plans indicating the "channel improvements." Then he met with Jeff Faust w/LADOTD and he obtained copies of the final plans. The comment on the plans was that the channel improvements would be provided by us. Then he contacted Larry Cramer w/Sellers and Associates and he recalled meetings were held early on about drainage ditch improvements, but he could not remember specifics without researching files. Then they contacted Chad Winchester w/LADOTD and he stated State Law does not allow LADOTD to perform work outside States right of way and he recommended submitting drainage project for Capital Outlay Program Funding. The final plan drawings include drainage ditch design details and quantities, but no construction servitudes. If these drainage improvements were included in the current Ambassador Caffery project, the costs would have been about \$60,000. Rerouting along property line east of St. Etienne Road, would entail relocating AT & T junction box (\$150,000 to \$180,000), clearing and grubbing wooded area, and additional excavation. Councilman Higginbotham questioned if they didn't go move dirt on private property? Mayor Langlinais stated previously the utilities were moved outside the construction plan. The estimate of \$60,000 has nothing to do with re-aligning the coulee. Councilman Foco questioned about

culverts? Al stated culverts at Hardware and Ambassador would be \$60,000 if Gilchrist would have done the work. Mayor Langlinais stated he feels we need to address this. He was contacted by Todd Vincent about this. And he thought it was only changing a box culvert. He doesn't have a problem with the \$60,000, but it can't be done for that much. Al stated there was a lack of communication on this project. They found no where, where we received final plans and what our part was. Mayor Langlinais stated he needs to sit down with Bill Fontenot and tell him to submit a change order and the city will contribute \$25,000. Al stated he will keep the council advised about this.

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

**South Bernard Project** = Walter stated a letter was sent out for the property owners about South Bernard Project for the second meeting in November. He has spoken to one property owner so far about the project.

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

**Monthly Report** = Gene gave the council his report for the 3 months of the year. The sales tax does not include TIF sales tax. We are pretty much where we budgeted. What happens in the future hopefully we can maintain this. Expenses are pretty much in line also.

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

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant** = Don stated that he has paperwork requesting a resolution be adopted to apply for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the La Dept. of Natural Resources. These funds are too administered by Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) on behalf of the small cities/towns within the parish. Mayor Langlinais stated he proposed all the cities invest in natural gas stations. Essentially all of the money was awarded to Youngsville and Carencro, but he sent them an e-mail. So then the money was divided by percentage. Mayor stated he doesn't know that we need to winterize city hall. He likes the idea of compressed natural gas. He plans on buying natural gas vehicles. Right now we wouldn't have the use for them. They now make digital oilfield radiators. They are actually very efficient. The idea was to go use this as a second option and buy these radiators and supply low to moderate income families with these. Attorney Landry stated we have a deadline by Nov.13, 2009. He read the guidelines of what we have to do. The first step is to select the project and get one of the engineers to work on the application. Mayor stated he can make one or two calls he has to make. Mayor Langlinais asked the council for any other thoughts. Don stated you don't have to bid it our right now. Councilman Guilbeau stated what about lift stations; we can put natural gas generators. We have already equipped the two main lift stations for natural gas. Mayor Langlinais stated he doesn't know if we can do that. The money is there we just have to justify what we are using this for. Don stated perhaps we want to get Minvielle on this. The council will decide what we will use it for so it can be adopted on November 9, 2009.

**Michael's Lawsuit** = Attorney Landry stated the Federal Court lawsuit by Michael's

Men's Club against the Town of Broussard was dismissed on October 14, 2009. The suit has been dismissed against the town. Each party is bear their own cost and attorney fees. And because of our negotiations and the council actions to change these ordinances, the lawsuit has been dismissed. Councilman Foco stated some people are still not happy, but he feels the citizens were saved in legal fees.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Michael's Men's Club** = Chief Decou stated that some of his guys were subpoenaed for the ATC hearing in Baton Rouge. That is a state action.

**New Cars** = The new cars will be in tomorrow and they will be getting rid of some old cars.

**Residential Burglaries** = Councilman Foco commented about the e-mail they were sent from the resident whose home was burglarized. The e-mail was from his heart. Councilman Bonin questioned Chief Decou if he talked to someone on Ducote Street if they recovered some items from the burglary? Chief Decou stated they need to contact the Police Department, because some items were recovered.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**House Fire** = Chief Champagne stated there was a large fire Sunday in the early morning hours. The family lost their house and 2 vehicles. They received the call in the advance stages. They are currently being occupied at the city of Lafayette burn houses. Our residents were the first to use these houses. They are in the burn house for a couple of days till they can get on their feet. The fire is still under investigation.

**New Truck** = Chief Champagne stated when we did the budget hearing the council gave him permission to spec a new truck to replace the 1985 fire truck. The specs are ready to go out for bid. He sent them to engineers to review. He is ready to go out for bid with the council's permission. Delivery won't be for about 300 days. It will pass the budget year, probably next year. They will get money from the parish also to help with this purchase. There is a rotating basis of what departments get. They will get the next \$80,000 from the parish. They will use that to buy equipment for the truck and they will turn over about \$40,000 for the truck. It was moved by Councilman Guilbeau and second by Councilman Bonin to authorize the bidding out of a new fire truck. Roll call:

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

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

#### **COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**District IV/Councilwoman Batiste:**

**Ida Park** = Councilwoman Batiste stated that her constituents are expressing a desire for a full basketball court. She got with Mel and she will meet with him again tomorrow. There is \$10,000 in the budget for equipment in that park. She will get back to the council on this.

**AT LARGE/Councilman Foco:**

**Flooding** = Councilman Foco stated he was in the rain, the other day and he rode around in different parts of Broussard. He rode around and he was very pleased of the drainage he saw. The water went down very fast.

**DISTRICT I/Councilman Guilbeau:**

**St. Etienne Road** = Councilman Guilbeau questioned Larry about the status on St. Etienne Road Project; did he talk to H & S and see when will start? Larry stated his contacts have left and he has no clue who is in charge their now, but he will go by there office tomorrow and see.

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

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

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**S/Tina M. Emert, CITY CLERK**