

**Minutes Of The**  
**January 12, 2010**  
**Broussard City Council Meeting**

Present: Mayor Charles Langlinais  
Tina M. Emert, City Clerk  
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  
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 Chief  
Larry Champagne, City Supervisor  
Elmer Girouard, City Supervisor  
Mel Bertrand, City Foreman  
Kenneth Wainwright, City Foreman  
Mr. Troy Courville, Auditor  
Mr. Joseph Soloman, owner of Club Two-Step  
Mr. Adam Mouton, Citizen

Absent: Councilman Terry Guilbeau, District I

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

**Adopt minutes of the December 29, 2009 Regular Meeting** = Moved by Councilwoman Batiste and second by Councilman Rousseau to adopt the minutes of the December 29, 2009 Regular Meeting. Roll call:

District I = Absent

District IV = Yea

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

District V = Yea  
 District VI = Yea

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Troy Courville re: 2008/2009 Audit Presentation** = Mr. Courville addressed the council. He went over the summary. The summary stated they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that they consider to be material weaknesses and that the report also notes that the tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. Financially for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, the City's total actual revenues for the General, Sales Tax, Debt Service and Utility Fund were greater than actual total expenses by \$3,777,100. The City anticipated total revenues of \$14,064,400 but actual revenues were \$15,837,120 resulting in a favorable variance of \$1,772,720. Total actual expenses exceeded budgeted expenses by only \$186 on total budgeted expenses of \$12,059,834. . Councilman Foco questioned about the usual deficiencies matters? Mr. Courville stated that has been taken care of. The council thanked Mr. Courville for the presentation.

**Mr. Joseph Soloman re: Sunday Bar Closing Law** = Councilman Foco stated he spoke to other council members and the Chief about the request and they are not willing to amend this ordinance. Chief Decou stated that when the City of Carencro started letting the bars open; the problem was with the local people, it was with outsiders coming in. Councilman Higginbotham stated he is totally against this. Attorney Landry stated his recommendation is he wouldn't want the council to start this. Councilwoman Batiste stated she did speak to Mr. Soloman about this and she did try to make him understand about the current law. Chief Decou asked that Councilwoman Batiste inform him that he can't open for private functions also. Mr. Soloman arrived late for the meeting. He addressed the council. Mr. Soloman stated all the clubs in Lafayette Parish can open with or without a restaurant. Sports bars can open and sell food, but black clubs give food they don't charge. Chief Decou stated on Simcoe they close the road and they have special police officers there for that. Mayor Langlinais stated this ordinance was adopted when he was on the council. He asked Don to check to see if there is a change or a variance to allow those clubs to open. Soloman questioned why is a sports bar is allowed to open? Attorney Landry stated you have to register as a restaurant. The requirements are stipulated in the ordinance. If the Sports Bar does it, they jump thru all of the hoops. Don read the stipulations of the ordinance to Mr. Soloman. Mr. Soloman left the meeting after the ordinance was read to him.

**Resolution for South Bernard Road Extension Project Right of Ways** = Walter stated that the only thing that has changed is on the Mouton Property. That is the only part of this road that is close to a home. They had a meeting last week with Dean Tekell and he had a concern about a teak in the road, so the geometry of that section was changed. All of that information has been sent to Dean to review. Dean has the most up to date map right now. The big key is if you keep the speed down, you do away with a lot of geometry problems. Councilman Foco questioned about the low area on Albertson Parkway if we will re-route that coulee? Walter

stated if we do not, we have to see what it does with the rest of the project. We will probably have to build that area up. Walter stated he feels we picked a good place to cross. This will be a major traffic carrying street. Councilman Bonin stated we are planning to do phase I and we have to look at phase II for the right of ways. Mayor Langlinais stated that would be adjusted on how the money stream comes back in the next 12 months. Councilman Foco stated he doesn't feel we can afford to do it all the way. Mayor Langlinais stated that Phase I is for Ambassador Caffery South. Mayor Langlinais stated he intends to get all of the right of ways. He intends to fund this and build it in the next 3 or 4 years. Walter stated right now they are looking at (2) two lane boulevard. He would like to know when they get close, so that we build out the intersection. Phase I is from Ambassador South. Councilman Foco stated it should be Albertson. Attorney Landry stated he prepared an ordinance that can be introduced tonight and it can be amended until adopted. The exhibits will be part of the ordinance. They need to decide if that plat is what they want to work with and he will just need more information from the engineer for Exhibit B and Exhibit C is the amount of the money we are talking about. Walter stated that it is an extension of South Bernard and Fairfield. Gene stated that someone has to give the cost. Walter stated he thinks the route we have right now is the best route we have done after 12 proposed routes. Don stated at the next meeting the council should have the information he needs

Moved by Councilman Bonin and second by Councilman Rousseau to introduce Ordinance #10-354, which provides for acquisition of property and right of ways, for engineering, and other such measures as may become necessary to build the South Bernard Road Extension, now known as the South Bernard Road extension Project, and to authorize the Mayor to sign any and all documents and authorizations necessary for that purpose, and, if necessary to amend the budget for the City of Broussard, Louisiana. Roll call:

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

Mayor Langlinais asked the council to think about what David said, about acquiring the right of ways to the North. Walter stated he already has a lot of information on that and he will bring it to the next council meeting. Councilman Higginbotham stated after it's done it may eliminate the traffic on South Morgan so we may not need to do the other Phase on the north end. Councilman Rousseau stated his concern is on the South end it will get everyone to Highway 90. Attorney Landry asked when they will need to decide about the cost by the next meeting.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

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

**Cummings Road Project** = Mark stated that the construction has started on the Cummings Road grant project. It should be finished in 6 weeks.

**Infrastructure Plan** = Councilman Rousseau stated at the last meeting he asked about sewer plan that was presented and a game plan. Mark stated he is getting it together.

**Walter:**

Walter stated that he had nothing else to report on.

**Al and Martin's Report:**

**Sewer Pond** = Al stated that the contractor is waiting for a break in the weather in reference to the sewer pond.

**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:**

Gene stated that he had nothing to report on.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**Sewer Pond Road** = Attorney Landry asked Mark if heard anything from Royal Production about the sewer pond road? Mark stated that they are still waiting to hear from them.

**Tarping of Sugar Cane Trucks Ordinance** = Attorney Landry stated he is working on a tarp ordinance for sugar cane trucks. Councilman Foco stated he doesn't think we can do that. Councilman Foco stated you can't even stop them from overloading. He feels we can go talk to the cane haulers and ask for their cooperation. It was an eyesore downtown a couple of weeks ago. Mayor Langlinais stated we can ask them to cut it back.

**Underground Wiring on Ambassador Caffery** = Attorney Landry stated that he has been working with Oscar Reed to develop an ordinance in reference to underground wiring on Ambassador Caffery and to see how receptive the utility companies will be. That would be the best for that road way. They are just getting into the research now.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Police Officer Accident** = Chief Decou stated that one of his officers was involved in fleet crash this weekend. He has been out of work for a week. We expect him to be back soon.

**Answering of calls by Sheriff Department** = Chief Decou stated he and all the local chief's met with the Sheriff this past week and he has informed them that he will no longer answer our phone lines that are transferred to the Sheriff Department after hours. He ended that meeting with a one on one with him. He explained to him your perception of our tax dollars. He was not open to any suggestions. His solution is to hire an answering service for after hour calls. He said it is because he feels it is a burden on his staff for his people to answer calls. He will not continue the service. Councilman Foco stated it was a burden when he wrote a check for his property tax for the sheriff and received no service. Chief Decou stated he will relate that to him. Attorney Landry stated he would like to speak to some of the other city attorneys and he will do the research. Chief Decou stated basically he just won't provide the service and he has to come up with a solution. He feels they will have to come up with some kind of automated

service. He is looking into a phone system that does have automated service and he will get with the council on this.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**Burned House on Windrow** = Chief Champagne stated that he is working with the owners of the house on the Windrow. He has received some complaints about the status of the clean up. It is still under investigation. It has been 3 months since the fire. Mayor Langlinais requested that he get Don to write her and her insurance company a letter.

**Replacement Vehicle** = Chief Champagne stated they got rid of the old explorer that they previously got from the police dept. They purchase a used vehicle to replace this.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

#### **District V/Councilman Higginbotham:**

**Handicap Parking at the Theatre** = Councilman Higginbotham questioned Chief Champagne if he followed up with the situation at the theatre regarding the handicap parking? Chief Champagne stated he is still awaiting a response from the state fire marshal. Mayor Langlinais stated they need to contact the management of the Celebrity Theatre. Councilman Foco stated when the fire marshal came out they did a full blown inspection, instead of what they were called out for. Councilman Foco stated perhaps Don can write a letter to the management stating that all we want to talk about was about the handicap parking. Councilman Foco stated they tried to get 4 parking stops and the fire marshal came out and did a full inspection. Councilman Higginbotham stated he feels if he and Johnnie and the Mayor can go talk to him, he feels they will do it.

#### **Mayor Langlinais:**

**Sewer Lift Stations** = Mayor Langlinais stated he is working on mapping sewer lift station sites. He will be bringing forward the maps.

**Natural Gas Plant** = Mayor Langlinais stated that Apache is making an offer to municipalities in Lafayette Parish to build a plant with natural gas. We don't get a tax credit for this. He is moving forward into looking into this. It will allow us to switch over vehicles.

**Ambassador Caffery** = Caffery should be open by the end of February.

**Utilities along Ambassador Caffery** = In reference to the services for utilities along Ambassador; utility companies will begin making a presentation for next meeting and the communications companies will make a presentation in February. In the end he feels we shouldn't have to put any money out.

Chief Decou stated that Entergy will be taking out a section of Main and Morgan on 18<sup>th</sup> from 2

– 5. It goes to St. Cecilia. They have to change out a grid.

Larry stated that a lot of preventive maintenance was done, that's why we weren't on TV with low water pressure for the freeze.

Adam Mouton asked if can check the potholes on Marteau Road near Fairfield. Mr. Champagne stated he can call him tomorrow and they will give him the number for the individual with the parish who he can speak to; because those potholes are not in the city limits.

Mayor Langlinais asked Mark the status on St. Etienne Road overlay? Mark stated he will check on this.

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

District I = Absent

District IV = Yea

District II= Yea

District V = Yea

District III= Yea

District VI = Yea

At Large = Yea

---

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

---

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