

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF THIBODAUX
CITY HALL
THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA
JUNE 17, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Thibodaux assembled in regular session at its regular meeting place, City Hall, 310 West 2nd Street, Thibodaux, Louisiana, on Tuesday June 17, 2008 at 5:00 o'clock P.M.

There were present: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Centanni and Mire.

There were also present: Mayor Charles Caillouet and Germaine Jackson.

The minutes of the June 3, 2008 Council meeting were approved as written.

The Mayor has received a copy of correspondence submitted to the Lafourche Parish President from the President of Louisiane-Acadie requesting community support from the Parish and the Municipalities for their bid to host the 2014 Congres Mondial Acadien event in South Louisiana. This worldwide event is held every five (5) years, and it was hosted in Louisiana in 1999.

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Hebert, the Council voted to adopt a resolution in support of the Louisiane-Acadie proposal to host the 2014 Congres Mondial Acadien event in South Louisiana. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor Centanni, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTANED: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 1364

***RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LOUISIANE-
ACADIE PROPOSAL TO HOST THE 2014 CONGRES
MONDIAL ACADIEN EVENT IN SOUTH LOUISIANA***

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the Congres Mondial Acadien (World Acadian Congress) is an event held every five years in different areas and is the biggest gathering of Acadians in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Congres Mondial Acadien event would have a major impact on the State's tourism industry and the preservation of French in Southern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiane-Acadie are working together to create Louisiana's bid for the 2014 Congres Mondial Acadien gathering; and

WHEREAS, the Acadian people are known worldwide for their unparalleled hospitality, their unique culture, their ability to create some of the finest cuisine anywhere, and their all-consuming "joie de vivre"; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana hosted the 1999 Congres Mondial Acadien, and was, by all accounts, a spectacular event and showcased to the world the culture, food, music and attractions of the Acadian people; and

WHEREAS, South Louisiana is the best region to host this international event because it will help us develop closer ties with our Acadian cousins as well as have an important economic impact for Cajun coastal areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Thibodaux does hereby support the proposal to host the Congres Mondial Acadien event within the State of Louisiana in 2014.

The above resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Centanni, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

And the above resolution was declared adopted this 17th day of June 2008.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

Mayor Caillouet had a discussion and presentation in reference to the future development of Andolsek Park. Approximately 10 (ten) acres of land was donated by J. B. Levert to make a recreational park. The land is now being used for a soccer field.

Duplantis Design Group created a conceptual drawing of a Sports Complex Center for the City of Thibodaux. The conceptual drawing was presented to the Council in order to bring them up to date on the progress thus far. The project was presented in 3 phases and hopes to be an economic enhancement to the City. The approximate total of land required for the proposed project would be about 90 to 100 acres. The drawing is only conceptual and the purpose of the presentation is to get feedback from the Council before presenting the various phases to the public. The multi-use facility would benefit a variety of age groups. Of course, additional research has to be done before the project moves forward. The money to fund the project raises questions about a possible increase in taxes. Mayor Caillouet suggested that instead of increasing property taxes, the option of a possible 1/2% sales tax increase may be a better solution. The reason is that the increase would draw revenue from all of the surrounding areas utilizing the facility, as well as, surrounding businesses. The people actually using the services of the facility and surrounding businesses would also be contributing by means of the sales tax increase.

The City Attorney has informed the Council Administrator that there has been some confusion as to where the actual boundary lines were located for the property located on the corner of Canal Boulevard and West 8th Street. The lot on the corner is owned by the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department for the construction of the new Home Hook and Ladder Fire Station, and the City owns a portion of the lot where the water tower is located.

The property has been surveyed by Acadia Land Surveying, and they have prepared a survey plat of the property and the Administrative Subdivision of a portion of Lot 88 into Lot 88-A and 88-B. In order to accept and approve the new established boundaries of the property owned by the City and the property owned by the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department, it is necessary to execute a Boundary Agreement that was prepared by the City Attorney.

On motion of Councilman Hebert, seconded by Councilman Centanni, the Council voted to adopt an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a boundary agreement with the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Centanni, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2403

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
TO EXECUTE A BOUNDARY AGREEMENT WITH
THE THIBODAux FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that:

WHEREAS, there exists a dispute concerning the correct location, boundaries and lines of separation of property owned by the City of Thibodaux and the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the property in question is a portion of Lot 88 of the City of Thibodaux as it is shown on the Grinnage Survey bounded on the North by West 8th Street, on the East by Canal Boulevard, and on the West by St. Philip Street which lot is triangular in shape; and

WHEREAS, in order to settle the differences the boundaries were surveyed by Acadia Land Surveying and they have prepared a survey plat entitled “Plat showing survey and Administrative Subdivision of a portion of Lot 88 of the City of Thibodaux as it is shown on the Grinnage Survey into Lots 88-A and 88-B located in Section 24, Township 15 South-Range 16 East City of Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana for Home Hook and Ladder Fire Company”; and

WHEREAS, in order to approve and accept the survey plat as prepared by Acadia Land Surveying, it is necessary to execute a Boundary Agreement outlining the new boundaries between the properties; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City to execute this proposed agreement it is necessary for the Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the said Boundary Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Boundary Agreement with The Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for the purposes, and under the conditions mentioned hereinabove.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of the said agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and thereby made a part hereof.

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Centanni, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 17th day of June 2008.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

The Public Works Director has informed the Council Administrator that the Mayor wishes to execute a new Mosquito Abatement Contract. The contract term is for the period beginning March 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009. Truck spraying will be conducted once per week during the months of March through October. The annual cost will be \$113,360, which is included in the 2008 budget.

Councilman Centanni questioned the process used by Mosquito Control of Lafourche, LLC. Kermit Kraemer, Public Works Director, explained the process that is used by the company in regards to the Mosquito Abatement Contract.

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Hebert, the Council voted to adopt an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Mosquito Control of Lafourche, LLC. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Centanni, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2404

***AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH MOSQUITO
CONTROL OF LAFOURCHE, LLC***

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that;

WHEREAS, the City has negotiated the terms for a new mosquito abatement contract for the term March 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is recommending that the City accept the proposal from Mosquito Control of Lafourche, LLC, in the amount of \$113,360.00 annually; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to execute a contract with the said contractor for the services mentioned hereinbefore.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Mosquito Control of Lafourche, LLC for the services to be rendered as mentioned above.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of the said contract is attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and thereby made a part hereof.

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Centanni, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 17th day of June 2008

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

The Finance Director has informed the Council Administrator that it is time to present the Council with the mid-year supplemental appropriation to the 2008 Budget. The proposed adjustments to the budget will accommodate transfers of funds within a department by reducing or increasing appropriations in individual line-items or the lack of appropriations. All of these adjustments are required in order to comply with State Law which requires that our budget, after all adjustments, be within five (5%) percent of the actual activity after being audited.

It should be noted that a majority of the transferred funds are a result of the re-budgeting of funds from projects and purchases originally budgeted in 2007 but not initiated until 2008. Also any grant funds that have been received since the adoption of the 2008 budget are included as additional revenues along with the corresponding expenditures for the grant project.

Councilman Centanni explained his position on the supplemental appropriation to the 2008 budget. While he questioned some of the items, the one that he had a problem with is the transfer of \$366,000 from the General Fund to the Gas & Sewerage Fund. He didn't see any purpose in making a transfer of funds for a couple of reasons:

First, the Gas & Sewerage Fund has had a positive cash flow since the gas rate increase in April of 2006 and the two sewerage rate increases on December 2005 and December 2006. With these increases, it was not necessary and no transfers were made to the Gas & Sewerage Fund during 2007. Furthermore, this supplemental appropriation does not show a need for this transfer, since there is no request for an increase in cash expenditures. There is however a budgeted increase in depreciation which does not require cash. The only possible justification for any transfer to the sewerage portion of the Gas & Sewerage Fund is the 96,000 for the improvements on which we recently voted to begin the lean period at the Sewer Plant. It is questionable that even this \$96,000 transfer is necessary since the Gas & Sewerage Fund had \$291,000 unrestricted cash on hand at the end of 2007 and this amount should have increased over the past six months.

Secondly, he feels that it is not right for the City to transfer funds from the general fund for the benefit of the gas system customers. According to the recent audit report, the City has 6400 water and sewerage customers and only 4200 natural gas customers, leaving 2200 customers or households that do not use natural gas. By transferring funds from the general fund, the 2200 households without natural gas are subsidizing the 4200 customers or households with natural gas. As Mayor Caillouet said a few minutes ago, it should be the people that use the services that pay for them. I'm opposed to the transfer and that's all I have. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to voice his opinion.

Debbie Daigle, the Finance Director, addressed Councilman Centanni's issues on the transfer of funds. She explained that the reason for the transfer of funds was due to a cash flow issue. The City has to pay for gas distribution services up front and collect the money throughout the year in monthly billing. As of now, the City has paid Acadian Gas 1.344 million for the services rendered for the year. Money has also been paid out on Capital Projects and a variety of funds. This is the reason for the transfer of funds. She stated that when and if the funds are back to normal then the money would be returned to the General Fund.

Councilman Eddie Hebert called for a vote.

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Richard, the Council voted to amend Ordinance No. 2363 "Appropriation Ordinance for the Year 2008" (Supplemental Appropriation). Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Mire

NAYS: Councilman Centanni

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2405

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2363
"APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR 2008"
(SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION)**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that:

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1 of the Thibodaux City Charter indicates that the appropriation ordinance shall contain appropriations of the expenditures for each City Department; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2363 adopted by the City Council on November 26, 2007 approved appropriations for the 2008 Budget by line item; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 2 of the Thibodaux City Charter reads in part, "If during the fiscal year the Mayor certifies that there are available for appropriation, revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget, the Mayor may present a supplemental appropriation ordinance for the disposition of such revenues; and the Council may adopt it."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Thibodaux City Charter, that the following items as indicated are amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Mayor:

(Exhibit "A")

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Hebert, Richard, Taylor, Mire

NAYS: Councilman Centanni

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 17th day of June 2008.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

Chad J. Mire, President