

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF THIBODAUX
CITY HALL
THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA
AUGUST 17, 2021**

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, August 17, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

There were present: Councilmen Tabor, Richard, Naquin, Mire and Councilwoman Johnson.

There were also present: Mayor Tommy Eschete and Beau Brooks.

Absent: None

The minutes of the August 3, 2021 City Council Meeting were approved as written.

The Monthly Financial Report was presented to the Council as required by the State's Agreed-Upon Procedures for July 2021.

In accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 10 (B), the Civil Service Board has conducted a public hearing to amend the Uniform Plan of Salary Ranges for FY 2022, and has submitted their recommendation to the City Council for approval.

The Civil Service Director requested a recommendation from the consulting firm of Baker Tilly US, LLP for the salary range adjustment to keep our salaries competitive in the current market. Based on their recommendation, the Civil Service Director recommended a 2.5% increase in the pay plan salary ranges for 2022 to the Civil Service Board for their consideration. This recommendation was approved by the Board at their July 13, 2021 meeting.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilman Richard, the Council voted on a resolution to approve a 2.5 % increase to the Civil Service Uniform Plan of Salary Ranges for the fiscal year 2022. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2340

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Thibodaux Civil Service Uniform Plan of Salary Ranges, the pay ranges must be evaluated and adjusted on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Service Director requested that the consultant firm Baker Tilly US, LLP review the current pay plan and make a recommendation for an adjustment for the said ranges which would be effective January 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, based on the report submitted by the consultant firm, the Civil Service Director proposed an adjustment of the pay plan ranges by 2.5% for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Service Board held a public hearing on July 13, 2021 to discuss the pay plan adjustment and have forwarded their recommendation to the City Council for a 2.5% increase to the salary ranges for the fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, and the Thibodaux City Charter, any recommended adjustment to the pay plan must be approved by the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby approve the recommendation of the Civil Service Board and hereby enacts a 2.5% increase to the Civil Service Uniform Plan of Salary Ranges effective January 1, 2022.

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

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

And the above resolution was declared adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

Due to the retirement of Mrs. Deborah Daigle, the Mayor received approval from the Civil Service Board to grant a leave from the service for Ms. Jessica Hebert in order for her to serve in the capacity of Finance Director for the remainder of his term. The Mayor would now like to present his appointment of Ms. Hebert to the Council for confirmation at an annual salary of \$88,714.00 effective August 17, 2021.

In accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3E (7) of the Thibodaux Home Rule Charter, the Mayor shall submit a nomination to fill the vacancy for this position for confirmation by the City Council.

On motion of Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Naquin, the Council voted on a resolution to confirm the appointment of Ms. Jessica Hebert to the position of Finance Director for the City of Thibodaux. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2341

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

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3E (7) of the Thibodaux City Charter states the method in which the Mayor shall submit his/her nominations for the heads of all departments to the Council for confirmation; and

WHEREAS, due to the retirement of Mrs. Deborah Daigle as the Finance Director, and in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid section of the City Charter, the Mayor has submitted his nomination to fill the vacancy for the Finance Director for confirmation by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor wishes to appoint Ms. Jessica Hebert to the position of Finance Director effective August 17, 2021 at an annual salary of \$88,714.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Thibodaux does hereby confirm the appointment of Jessica Hebert as the Finance Director in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3E(7) of the Thibodaux City Charter.

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

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above resolution was declared adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

Due to the appointment of Ms. Jessica Hebert as Finance Director, it is necessary for the City Council to add her as an authorized signatory for all City checks, drafts, notes and orders drawn on City of Thibodaux bank accounts.

Therefore, it would be appropriate for the Council to consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Mayor, Finance Director, and the City Council President to act as signatories for all accounts of the City.

On motion of Councilman Richard, seconded by Councilman Tabor, the Council voted on a resolution to establish the authorized signatories for all checks written against the City of Thibodaux Bank Accounts. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2342

***A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE AUTHORIZED
SIGNATORIES FOR ALL CHECKS WRITTEN AGAINST CITY
OF THIBODAUX BANK ACCOUNTS***

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

WHEREAS, the Finance Director, Ms. Jessica Hebert, is hereby authorized to sign all checks, drafts, notes or orders drawn against any and all accounts in bank depositories of the City of Thibodaux as a counter-signature with that of Mayor Tommy Eschete for and on behalf of said City.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the absence of either the Mayor or Finance Director, the President of the City Council is authorized to act as a signatory of the City of Thibodaux checks as one of the two persons necessary to sign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all banks and depositories of the City of Thibodaux and that authorization is applicable to all said depositories of the City.

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

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above resolution was declared adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

Councilman Richard introduced an ordinance to ratify the Mayor's execution of a grant agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for their Airport Rescue Grant Program for the Thibodaux Municipal Airport.

Councilwoman Johnson introduced an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Councilman Richard introduced an ordinance to amend and re-enact Section 20-13 of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances so as to create Sub-Sections (ggg) – No Parking on Goode Street and (hhh) – No Parking on East Second Street.

Councilman Tabor introduced an ordinance to amend and re-enact Section 2-9 of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances – Annual Salary of the Mayor.

The Public Hearings on these ordinances will be held at the Council meeting on September 7, 2021.

The Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended the approval of a special exception request by Layouke Walker for property located at 1352 Ledet Street.

Section 307 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance stipulates the process for granting a special exception to certain provisions contained in the zoning ordinance. This particular request is to allow a special exception in accordance with the provisions of the R-4 Zoning District Regulations in order to allow a manufactured home at this location.

On motion of Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Naquin, the Council voted on an ordinance to approve a special exception request in accordance with Section 307 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance in order to allow a manufactured home in an R-4 Zoning District – 1352 Ledet Street. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3167

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION
REQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 307 OF THE
THIBODAUX ZONING ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO ALLOW A
MANUFACTURED HOME IN AN R-4 ZONING DISTRICT – 1352
LEDET STREET**

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 307 of the Thibodaux

Zoning Ordinance, a special exception request has been filed with the Zoning Administrator by Layouke Walker for property located at 1352 Ledet Street which is designated as an R-4 Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the request was filed in order to request a special exception in accordance with the R-4 Zoning District regulations in order to allow a manufactured home at this location; and

WHEREAS, a request for a special exception was duly referred to the Thibodaux Planning and Zoning Commission on July 7, 2021 and the Commission is recommending approval of the request by the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux that the aforesaid special exception request to allow a manufactured home to be placed in an R-4 Zoning District located at 1352 Ledet Street is hereby approved.

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

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

The Police Department wishes to enter into a cooperative endeavor with the Houma Police Department in order to form a crime victim task force. The agreement will allow the agencies to apply for VOCAL Grant funding administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice. The City is eligible to receive \$10,000 under the VOCAL grant to pay overtime for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

The agreement stipulates that the Houma Police Department will accept responsibility for project administrative and financial matters and will notify each participating agency when the grant award has been received.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, the Council voted on an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Houma Police Department for the 2021-2022 VOCAL Grant Crime Victim Task Force. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3168

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH
THE HOUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE 2021-2022
VOCAL GRANT CRIME VICTIM TASK FORCE**

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

WHEREAS, the Thibodaux Police Department wishes to cooperate with the Houma police Department for the purpose of establishing a Crime Victim Task Force and facilitating the application for funds available through the VOCAL

Grant administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, in order for the aforesaid agencies to apply for the VOCAL grant funds it is necessary to have a written agreement between the agencies forming the crime victim task force; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of this Agreement shall be effective for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 plus a period of ninety-days in order to conclude administrative reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish the crime victim task force, and the responsibilities of both parties, it is necessary to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Houma Police Department outlining the terms and purpose of the cooperative effort between the public agencies; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City to execute this proposed agreement it is necessary for the Council to authorize the Mayor to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Houma Police Department 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: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

Councilman Richard has requested an ordinance for your consideration that would change the speed limit on Cherokee Avenue from the exit of Peltier Park to Menard Street. The speed limit is currently established at 25 mph, and he has received requests to lower the speed limit to 15 mph.

On motion of Councilman Richard, seconded by Councilman Tabor, the Council voted on an ordinance to amend and re-enact Section 20-19 (a) of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances so as to create Sub-Section (22) – Speed Limit on Cherokee Avenue. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3169

***AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 20-19 (a)
OF THE THIBODAUX CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO
CREATE SUB-SECTION (22)-SPEED LIMIT ON CHEROKEE
AVENUE***

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that Section 20-19 (a) of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and re-enacted so as to create sub-section (22) to read as follows:

Sec. 20-19. Speed Limits ---Specified.

(a) Maximum generally, exceptions. No vehicle, under any circumstances, shall be driven at a greater rate of speed than twenty-five (25) miles per hour on any streets of the city, except as follows:

(22) The speed limit on Cherokee Street is hereby fixed and established at the rate of fifteen (15) miles per hour from the Peltier Park exit to Menard Street.

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

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

**/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.**

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

A condemnation hearing was held for structures located at the following addresses:

- a) 305 North 13th Street- The Council adopted a unanimous motion moving to proceed with condemnation on or after September 17, 2021.
- b) 1282 St. Charles Street- The Council adopted a unanimous motion moving to proceed with condemnation on or after September 17, 2021.

Larry Bonvillian, 1725 Midland Drive, Debra Brown, 2102 South Barbier, and Betty Smith, 1727 Midland Drive, addressed the Council about flooding in this area and a brief discussion took place.

Ethel and Charles Joseph, 101 Lake Maclaine Drive arrived late and addressed the Council in reference to the property located at 1282 St. Charles Street. A brief discussion took place with Councilman Mire stating that this item was set for condemnation on or after September 17, 2021 and that any further questions could be handled by the Mayor's Office.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

Chad J. Mire, President