

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF THIBODAUX
CITY HALL
THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

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, October 21, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

There were present: Councilwoman Crochet, Councilmen Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire.

There were also present: Mayor Kevin Clement and Beau Brooks.

Absent: None

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Crochet, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025 City Council Meeting as written. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

On motion of Councilwoman Crochet, seconded by Councilman Taylor, the Council discussed a motion to ratify the consensus of the executive session held on November 4, 2025 to terminate the employment of Chelsea Voclain as Assistant Council Administrator.

The Council Administrator informed the Council that Ms. Voclain had filed a letter of objection to the ratification vote on the agenda, and that a copy of the letter would be included in the record of the meeting. Her letter read as follows:

November 18, 2025

VIA EMAIL jmorvant@ci.thibodaux.la.us
Jennifer B. Morvant Council Administrator City of Thibodaux
P.O. Box 1184
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301

Re: Formal Objection to Ratification Vote-Violations of Civil Service

Dear Jenny:

I am submitting this formal objection to the motion scheduled for today, November 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.:

"A motion to ratify the consensus of the Executive Session held on November 4, 2025 to terminate the employment of Chelsea Voclain as Assistant Council Administrator."

This agenda item is legally improper, and any action taken on it would violate the Louisiana Constitution, the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, and the City of Thibodaux Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

I request that this objection be entered into the official minutes and distributed to all Council Members.

I. No Lawful Termination Occurred on November 4, 2025

On November 4, 2025, the City Council entered executive session to "discuss" a personnel matter. No motion, vote, or formal action was taken in open session regarding my employment. Nevertheless, immediately after the executive session, I was informed that I was terminated.

This action was unlawful and voidable for the following reasons:

1. Louisiana law prohibits final actions in executive session.

La. R.S. 42:17(a) states:

"No final or binding action shall be taken during an executive session."

A termination is final and binding action, and therefore cannot legally occur unless conducted in open session.

2. All votes must be made publicly and recorded.

Under La.R.S. 42:14(A):

"All votes made by members of a public body shall be open and public and the vote of each member shall be recorded."

3. Actions taken in violation of the Open Meetings Law are voidable.

La.R.S. 42:24 provides:

"Any action taken in violation of this Chapter shall be voidable."

The purported termination-having occurred outside an open meeting-was taken in violation of law and is therefore legally invalid.

II. A retroactive vote cannot cure an illegal action.

The Council's attempt to place a termination vote on an agenda two weeks after the fact is legally ineffective. A public body cannot:

- * take action in violation of state law,**
- * implement that action immediately, and then**
- * attempt to "ratify" or "correct" it weeks later.**

Louisiana's Open Meetings Law requires that final actions must be taken properly at the time they are made, and not manufactured after the fact.

A termination that was never lawfully voted on cannot be retroactively created or validated.

III. The proposed agenda item is unlawful and prejudicial.

As a classified civil service employee, I am entitled to:

- * lawful notice of disciplinary action**
- * due process**
- * adherence to the City of Thibodaux Civil Service Rules, and**
- * termination only through proper legal procedures.**

The November 4th action violated:

- * Rule IX-Discipline and Termination,**
- * Rule X-Appeals Procedures,**
- * the requirement for written specification of charges,**
- * the requirement for formal action by the Council, and**
- * the constitutional protections of Article X of the Louisiana Constitution.**

The agenda item for November 18, 2025 is therefore:

- * procedurally defective,
- * contrary to statutory requirements,
- * contrary to constitutional civil service protections, and
- * incapable of producing a legally valid termination action.

IV. Formal request for removal of the agenda item.

For the reasons described herein. I formally request that the agenda item relating to my alleged termination be withdrawn from the agenda for the upcoming meeting. Any further action taken without first correcting the procedural and statutory violations described above will constitute additional violations of state law and civil service rules.

V. Reservation of all rights.

This objection is submitted without waiver of any rights or remedies, including but not limited to:

- * civil service appeal
- * declaratory and injunctive relief,
- * claims for violations of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law,
- * claims under Article X of the Louisiana Constitution,
- * judicial review in the Seventeenth Judicial District Court, and
- * reinstatement with full back pay and benefits.

I respectfully request that this letter be made part of the permanent public record and circulated to all members of the City Council prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,
CHELSEA VOCLAIN

cc: Chad Mire (via email-councilmane@hotmail.com)
Monique Crochet (via email-citycouncil.monique@gmail.com)
Lester Bimah (via email-lbimah@yahoo.com)
Varick Taylor, Sr. (via email-vbed642@charter.net)
Michael Naquin (via email-mpnaquin@charter.net)
Beau Brooks (via email beau.brooks@gmail.com)
Mr. J. Kelly Chighizola (via email civilservice@ci.thibodaux.la.us)

Councilman Naquin then discussed his concern with the termination date being effective on November 4, 2025 with no formal vote of the council. He proposed an amendment to the motion in order to change the effective date of Mrs. Voclain's termination to November 19, 2025 in order to be in effect after the vote of the council.

Councilman Taylor, and Councilwoman Crochet both discussed the fact that Mrs. Voclain was offered the option to resign, or to be terminated, and that she made the decision to be terminated at a meeting held with the Council Administrator on November 5, 2025.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilman Taylor, the council voted on an amendment to the motion ratifying the termination of the Assistant Council Administrator, to be effective November 19, 2025. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

On motion of Councilwoman Crochet, seconded by Councilman Taylor, the Council voted on a motion to ratify the termination of Chelsea Voclain with the effective date of November 19, 2025 as per the approved amendment. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

In accordance with the prescribed statewide agreed-upon procedures by the Legislative Auditor, the Finance Director has submitted the monthly revenue and expense report for October 2025 to the City Council for review.

The Housing and Community Development Director has requested that David Waitz Engineering prepare an agreement for your consideration that would authorize the firm to prepare the plans and specifications for the 2025 CDBG Project that includes the construction of sidewalks on Bobby Street from Sugar Cane Way to South Barbier (Phase II) and South Barbier to Midland Drive (Phase III).

The proposed agreement stipulates that David Waitz Engineering will perform the duties associated with the aforesaid project for a lump sum payment of \$16,000.00 with additional services in the amount of \$8,500.00 and up to \$1,000.00 in reimbursable costs.

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Naquin, the Council voted on A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Engineering Contract with David Waitz Engineering for the 2025 CDBG Project – Sidewalk Construction on Bobby Street from Sugar Cane Way to South Barbier (Phase II) and South Barbier to Midland Drive (Phase III). Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2680

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT WITH DAVID WAITZ ENGINEERING FOR THE 2025 CDBG PROJECT - SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION ON BOBBY STREET FROM SUGAR CANE WAY TO SOUTH BARBIER (PHASE II) AND SOUTH BARBIER TO MIDLAND DRIVE (PHASE III)

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 CDBG Project will provide for the construction of sidewalks on Bobby Street from Sugar Can Way to South Barbier (Phase II) and South Barbier to Midland Drive (Phase III); and

WHEREAS, David Waitz Engineering has been selected to prepare the plans and specifications, and assist in the bidding and construction phases of the project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to execute a contract with the said engineering firm for the services to be rendered in conjunction with this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to execute an engineering contract with David Waitz Engineering for the aforementioned project.

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

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

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

And the above resolution was declared adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

/s/Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

Councilman Naquin introduced an ordinance to amend and re-enact Article II, Section 202 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance – Behavioral Health Service Center Definition. The public hearing on this ordinance will be held at the December 16, 2025 city council meeting.

Councilwoman Crochet introduced an ordinance approving a special exception request in accordance with Section 307 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance in order to allow Maintenance/Repair Services (HVAC Company) in an R-3 Zoning District – 1028 Ridgefield Road. The public hearing on this ordinance will be held at the December 16, 2025 council meeting.

Councilman Taylor introduced an ordinance to amend and re-enact Section 506 Table 5.3 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance – Commercial District Permitted Uses and Special Exceptions – Dwelling Three Family as a special exception in B-1 Districts. The public hearing on this ordinance will be held at the December 16, 2025 council meeting.

The Mayor's Office has received a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide funding for the operation of a Veterans' Services Office in Thibodaux for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The City is responsible for a total annual amount of \$11,204.84 payable in minimum monthly payments of \$933.74. This amount is an increase of approximately \$1,700.00 from last year due to increased expenses for the operation of the office.

In order to provide these funds, it is necessary to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Council must authorize the Mayor to execute the said agreement by the adoption of an appropriate Ordinance.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilman Bimah, the Council voted on an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3418

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 29:260-262, as amended and re-enacted, specifically provides enabling legislation for the LA Department of Veterans Affairs to estimate and recover part of the costs associated with the operation of local Veterans' Service Offices; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to support local veterans and improve their access to benefits and services by providing for both the cost to maintain and operate Veterans' Service Offices and space to house service offices as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, the Thibodaux Veterans' Services Office will operate three (3) days per week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2535 Veterans Blvd., Thibodaux, LA 70301; and

WHEREAS, The City shall contribute to the support of the Veterans' Service Office for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 by paying the LDVA a total of \$11,204.84 in minimum monthly payments of \$933.74.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for the local Veterans' Services Office for the 2026 fiscal year.

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: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

/s/Jennifer Morvant

Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/Chad J. Mire

Chad J. Mire, President

The Public Works Director has advised the Council Administrator that the Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended the approval of a special exception request by Lawrence Robertson for property located at 803 Lagarde 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-2 Zoning District Regulations in order to construct a two-family dwelling at 803 Lagarde Street.

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Crochet, the Council voted on an ordinance approving a Special Exception request in accordance with Section 307 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance in order to allow a two-family dwelling in an R-2 zoning district as recommended by the Thibodaux Planning & Zoning Commission at their October 1, 2025 meeting for 803 Lagarde Street. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3419

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 307 OF THE THIBODAUX ZONING ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO ALLOW A TWO-FAMILY DWELLING IN AN R-2 ZONING DISTRICT AS RESOMMENDED BY THE THIBODAUX PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION AT THEIR OCTOBER 1, 2025 MEETING FOR 803 LAGARDE 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 Lawrence Robertson for property located at 803 Lagarde Street which is designated as an R-2 Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the request was filed in order to request a special exception in accordance with the R-2 Zoning District regulations in order to a two-family dwelling with the construction of a duplex at that location; and

WHEREAS, a request for a special exception was duly referred to the Thibodaux Planning and Zoning Commission on October 1, 2025 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 two-family dwelling to be constructed in an R-2 Zoning District located at 803 Lagarde Street is hereby approved.

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

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

/s/Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

The Public Works Director has advised the Council Administrator that the Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended the approval of a special exception request by Lawrence Robertson for property located at 809 Lagarde 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-2 Zoning District Regulations in order to construct a two-family dwelling at 809 Lagarde Street.

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Naquin, the Council voted on an ordinance approving a Special Exception request in accordance with Section 307 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance in order to allow a two-family dwelling in an R-2 zoning district as recommended by the Thibodaux Planning & Zoning Commission at their October 1, 2025 meeting for 809 Lagarde Street. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3420

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 307 OF THE THIBODAUX ZONING ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO ALLOW A TWO-FAMILY DWELLING IN AN R-2 ZONING DISTRICT AS RESOMMENDED BY THE THIBODAUX PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION AT THEIR OCTOBER 1, 2025 MEETING FOR 809 LAGARDE 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 Lawrence Robertson for property located at 809 Lagarde Street which is designated as an R-2 Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the request was filed in order to request a special exception in accordance with the R-2 Zoning District regulations in order to a two-family dwelling with the construction of a duplex at that location; and

WHEREAS, a request for a special exception was duly referred to the Thibodaux Planning and Zoning Commission on October 1, 2025 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 two-family dwelling to be constructed in an R-2 Zoning District located at 809 Lagarde Street is hereby approved.

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

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

/s/Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

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

The Public Works Director has inspected a structure located at 1102 Henderson Street, and he has deemed it to be substandard and posing a threat to the safety and welfare of the residents living in the neighborhood where this structure is located.

In accordance with the provisions of LRS 33:4762, the City Council must afford the property owner(s) and residents the opportunity to speak on the proposed condemnation order.

Mrs. Anna Milline, 3469 Woods Drive, Decatur, GA 30032, was present with some members of the family that are the heirs to the property. She has acquired a quote to have the property demolished, but not all of the heirs agree on the route to take. She is working to have this taken care of as quickly as she can from Georgia, and requested that they be given more time to try to get everyone to agree.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilman Bimah, the council voted to condemn the property located at 1102 Henderson St., with demolition to begin on or after August 18, 2026. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Crochet, Bimah, Taylor, Naquin, and Mire

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

Under the public comment section of the agenda, Lionel Rhodes, 2118 S. Barbier, addressed the council concerning his neighbor's property that had received a letter from the city, and a summons from the police department, but nothing has been done. He asked if he could get an update on the problem. Chief Zerinque notified everyone that the neighbor did appear in court, and pleaded guilty, and the Judge ordered him to get it cleaned up within a certain time frame, and that time has not yet elapsed.

The Mayor informed the Council of issues and projects going on throughout the City:

- Candy Lane water tower painting continues
- Leonard Chauvin has begun engineering work on the Road Overlay Project
- Midland basketball court resurface is complete, waiting on new goals and bleachers to be delivered. Asked Councilman Taylor to let him know when he was ready to proceed with the opening of the court.
- Chalk art contest, Tuesday, November 25th in front of City Hall
- Property tax notices have been mailed
- Congratulated the TVFD on the passing of the renewal of their 5mil ad valorem tax on Saturday, November 15th
- Budget hearing will be conducted on December 2nd
- The mayor will get copies of the Rienzi drainage study to the council for their review.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

Chad J. Mire, President