

THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMAN, THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF EUNICE, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY/ACADIA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at six-thirty (6:30) o'clock p.m., at their regular meeting place, the Eunice City Hall.

6:16 pm Public Hearing was held to hear public views on the following:
1. Ordinance 0520(A) – Amending 2019-2020 Budget
2. Ordinance 0520(B) – Proposed 2020-2021 Budget
3. Resolution 0520(A) – American Legion Building not needed as public facility
3. Resolution 0520(B) – Condition of 1976 Act of Donation not met (Amer. Legion)

There were no comments during the Public Hearing.

6:30 pm The Mayor called the Regular meeting of the City of Eunice Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen to order:

There were present: Mayor Scott A. Fontenot, Alderman at Large Marion “Nootsie” Sattler, Alderman Chad Andrepont, Alderwoman Germaine Simpson, Alderman Ernest Blanchard and Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux.

There were absent: None

It was announced that a quorum was present and ready to transact business.

There were no public comment requests.

Alderman Ernest Blanchard recognized Mr. Richard LeBouef, executive director of the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District, who was in the audience. Alderman Blanchard thanked Mr. LeBouef for all of the assistance he and his people have given the City of Eunice.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Marion “Nootsie” Sattler, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to adopt the Minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting.

The following items were postponed until the July 14, 2020 meeting:

Update on 100 Fruge Street postponed until July 14th meeting:

At the March 10, 2020 public meeting, the Eunice Board of Aldermen and Alderwoman made the following motion:

It was moved by Alderman Blanchard, seconded by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux and carried to give the property owner an additional thirty (30) days to make improvements to the property.

Show Cause Hearing on 451 North Beulah Street postponed until July 14th meeting:

At the March 10, 2020 public meeting, the Eunice Board of Aldermen and Alderwoman made the following motion:

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to set a Show Cause Hearing to be held for this property.

Show Cause Hearing on 541 North 4th Street postponed until July 14th meeting:

At the March 10, 2020 public meeting, the Eunice Board of Aldermen and Alderwoman made the following motion:

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to set a Show Cause Hearing to be held for this property.

The Mayor introduced Mr. Judson Venezia who is the new Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Eunice.

Mr. Chad Pitre, attorney and candidate for the position of St. Landry Parish District Attorney, addressed the Board. Mr. Pitre spoke of his background in Law Enforcement and Law and his plans for the office of the District Attorney should he be elected to that position on November 3, 2020.

The Mayor requested that the Board ratify his appointment of Mr. Robert Johnson, City of Eunice Recreation Director, as chairman of the City of Eunice's Emergency Preparedness Committee.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the Mayor's recommendation and appoint Mr. Robert Johnson as Chairman of the City of Eunice's Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Mr. Robert Johnson, Recreation Director and newly appointed Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, thanked the Mayor and Board for his appointment.

The Mayor announced that the Tax Sale of property delinquent on their 2019 Property Taxes would be held on June 25, 2020 at 10 AM in the lobby of the Eunice City Hall. He advised that anyone that still owed their 2019 City of Eunice property taxes should pay them before June 25th to avoid their property being placed for sale for delinquent property taxes.

The Mayor announced that former Mayor Kenneth Peart will be handling the Fireworks Display on July 4th at the Recreation Complex at 9:00 PM. The Mayor stated that the Complex is large and that anyone going to watch the Fireworks Display at the Complex should practice social distancing.

Mr. Don Reber, representing VFW Post 8971, advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen that the State VFW Convention would be held this year on Saturday, June 20th at the Eunice VFW with many members coming to Eunice on Friday, June 19th to attend Saturday's convention and that the VFW will co-host a blood drive with Fire District 4 on Saturday, June 27 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the VFW building on Highway 190 East.

Alderman Chad Andrepont stated that Eunice High School's 2020 graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 19th.

The Mayor stated that the next item on the agenda, Mr. Randy Miller and the Community Garden, would be postponed until Mr. Miller's arrival as he was running late.

Mr. Steve Moosa, financial officer for the City of Eunice, addressed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen on this fiscal year's amended budget and the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to adopt Ordinance 0520(A), amending the City of Eunice budget, fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

It was moved by Alderman Blanchard, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to adopt Ordinance 0520(B), the City of Eunice budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

City Attorney Vernon McManus addressed the Board concerning the next two Resolutions that were being considered for adoption. Mr. McManus advised that he was contacted by a member of the public who had read about the proposed Resolutions concerning the American Legion Building. He was given information which led to his discovery that the City of Eunice had complied with the 1976 Act of Donation and, therefore, he advised the Board to not adopt either Resolution and that he would get with the attorney for the VFW in order to resolve the issue of returning the building to the American Legion Post 129.

No action was taken on proposed adoption of the following Resolutions:

Resolution 0520(A) – declaring the City of Eunice no longer has any use as a public facility for the building known as the "American Legion Building."

Resolution 0520(B) – acknowledging non-performance of condition in 1976 Act of Donation between the City of Eunice and the American Legion, Turner-Mornhinveg-Moore, Post 129.

Mr. Drew Miller, Manager of the Eunice Airport, spoke to the Board about the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan for the Airport and a 1.666 million dollar grant that the Eunice Airport has received from the FAA.

It was moved by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to accept and approve the six (6) year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), CIP start year 2021, for the Eunice Municipal Airport (4r7), Eunice, Louisiana.

It was moved by Alderman Blanchard, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to declare as surplus seventeen (17) city of Eunice vehicles (list of vehicles attached).

It was moved by Alderman Blanchard, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to declare as being of no value and surplus a pile of dirt at the City Barn which has been dug out of ditches and has organic and non-organic debris mixed in the dirt, making it unusable for the City.

Chief Randy Fontenot spoke about accidents which have occurred on Walnut Avenue between 2nd Street and 3rd Street. The Chief advised that there have been twenty-five reported crashes in this area from 2010 to 2019 and that of these reports nineteen (19) have involved at least one (1) vehicle backing out of the street side parking areas. The Chief recommended that this part of Walnut Avenue be made a one-way lane of travel, with travel being allowed on Walnut Avenue only from 3rd Street East to 2nd Street.

It was moved by Alderman Chad Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux and carried to ask Risk Management, Inc., the liability insurance carrier for the City of Eunice, to evaluate the traffic and issues on Walnut Avenue (between 2nd and 3rd streets) and at the intersection of Reed Avenue and North 7th Street to determine the best course of action the Board should take in regards to traffic issues.

Alderwoman Germaine Simpson spoke about current City of Eunice Ordinances Criminal Damage to Property (Section 14:28); Tampering, damaging or destroying city property (Section 14:28.1) and Unnecessary Noise (Section 14:82).

Mr. Randy Miller spoke to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen on the activity at the Community Gardens and Farmers Market.

Police Chief Randy Fontenot read a report of the Police Department's activities for the month of May, 2020.

Fire Chief Mike Arnold read a report of the Fire Department's activities for the month of May, 2020. The Fire Chief also updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen on two (2) \$5,000 grants awarded to the Eunice Fire Department and other grants he is in the process of applying for, one of which, if funded, would be used to purchase a new ladder truck for the Fire Department.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to approve payment of the bills for May, 2020 and acknowledge that the Board has received the financial reports for the City

The Mayor announced that June 7th through 13th is "National Garden Club Week" and acknowledged the Eunice Bulb and Blossum Club and their projects to benefit and beautify the City of Eunice.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Ernest Blanchard and carried to adjourn.

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor