

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, May 12, 2020 at six-thirty (6:30) o'clock p.m., at their regular meeting place, the Eunice City Hall.

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.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler, seconded by Alderman Ernest Blanchard and carried to adopt the Minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting.

The Mayor announced that the April 14, 2020 regular monthly meeting was cancelled due to the restrictions regulating social distancing and gatherings of more than ten (10) people, therefore, there are no Minutes from a public meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Alderwoman for April, 2020.

The following items were postponed until the June 9, 2020 meeting:

Update on 100 Fruge Street postponed until June 9th 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 June 9th 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 June 9th 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.

City Marshal Terry Darbonne announced that an area of the Eunice City Hall parking lot, designated by signage, will be declared a "Safe Zone" under video surveillance, allowing the public to use this area for video monitored custodial exchange of minor children or any other exchange between individuals, ensuring safety knowing that the exchange is monitored and recorded by security cameras. Marshal Darbonne advised that the "Safe Zone" project is a cooperative endeavor between the Eunice City Marshal's Office and the Eunice Police Department.

Mayor Fontenot reminded the public that it is vital that they participate in this year's Census. Federal Grants available are dependent on population and if every person is not counted then that will affect the amount of grants the City of Eunice will be eligible to receive. The Mayor advised that anyone needing more information can contact the Eunice Mayor's Office.

Mayor Fontenot announced that, following the Governor's announcement of the implementation of Phase I of reopening of particular businesses, the Eunice City Hall will reopen to the

public on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 8:00 am. The City offices will adhere to the guidelines of Phase I reopening and the Mayor will announce the guidelines later in the week.

It was also announced that Eunice City Court would reopen Monday, May 18, 2020 and conduct Court with guidelines to include, but not limited to, all persons attending Court must wear a mask and practice social distancing and only those individuals actually on the Court Docket will be allowed inside the City Hall.

There was no old business.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Marion "Nootsie" Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux and carried to introduce for consideration, by Title only, Ordinance 0520(A), amending the City of Eunice budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020.

It was moved by Alderman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to introduce for consideration, by Title only, Ordinance 0520(B), adopting the City of Eunice budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.

City Attorney Vernon McManus asked that the Board allow new subject matter on the agenda in relation to Resolution 0520(A) which was already on the Agenda.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to allow new subject matter not on the Agenda.

City Attorney Vernon McManus addressed the Board on the matter of the building known as the American Legion Hall.

In an Act of Donation dated June 15, 1971, the American Legion, Turner-Mornhinveg-Moore, Post 129 donated use and responsibility to the City of Eunice with conditions, one being that should the City of Eunice stop using the building as a public facility, then the building would revert back to the American Legion Post.

In an Act of Donation dated August 27, 1976, the American Legion, Turner-Mornhinveg-Moore, Post 129, donated title of the building to the City of Eunice with conditions, one being that the City of Eunice would apply and receive grant money to be used solely for renovation of the building.

As there is no record of any grant money having been applied for or received for renovation of the building then the condition of the 1976 Act of Donation was not met and as the City of Eunice has no use for the building as a public facility which was a condition of the 1971 Act of Donation, therefore requiring that the building be returned to the American Legion Post 129.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to consider for adoption 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, with a public hearing to be held before the Resolution is considered for final adoption at the June 9, 2020 regular meeting.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to consider for adoption Resolution 0520(B), acknowledging non-performance of condition in the 1976 Act of Donation between the City of Eunice and the American Legion, Turner-Mornhinveg-Moore, Post 129, with a public hearing to be held before the Resolution is considered for final adoption at the June 9, 2020 meeting.

It was moved by Alderman Chad Andrepont, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to declare the old florescent light fixtures removed from City Hall as surplus and of no value.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to declare as surplus the replaced outdoor field lights at the Recreation Complex and at the Fairground Tennis Courts.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Thibodeaux and carried to concur with the recommendation of Fire Chief Mike Arnold and hire Landon Guillory as a Fire Fighter/Operator.

Alderwoman Thibodeaux spoke on the issue of flooding and yard waste, trash and/or rubbish in streets or ditches being swept into drainage pipes and clogging up the pipe, causing a back up of rain water that will flood streets and property. Alderwoman Thibodeaux referenced City of Eunice Ordinances Chapter 9, Section 1 and 3, prohibiting the dumping or disposing of trash, rubbish and refuse in the City's streets, alleys, ditches or property.

Alderwoman Simpson addressed bagging trash before placing in garbage cans provided by Waste Connections. If trash is put in cans loose, not bagged, then when the automated trucks lift the cans to dump into truck containers, a wind can cause the loose trash to blow onto the streets and ditches as it is being emptied.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to declare as surplus two (2) police vehicles; a 2001 Ford F150 ID # 4659 and 2007 Ford Crown Victoria ID #3094.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to concur with the recommendation of Police Chief Randy Fontenot and hire the following personnel:
As Police Officers: Noah Courville and Chris Ortego.
As Police Communications Officer (dispatcher): Quiona Belle
As Police Jailer: Ethan Granger.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to concur with the recommendation of Police Chief Randy Fontenot and approve the appointment of Ethan Granger and Marcus Bergeron as Reserve Police Officers.

Police Chief Randy Fontenot submitted a request to create three (3) new civil service positions within Eunice's classified service; Information & Technology Officer, Jail Supervisor and Records Supervisor, along with pay information for each newly created position. This same item was presented to the Board by the Chief of Police at the March 10, 2020 Meeting where a motion was made, and passed, to take the request under advisement.

The Mayor and Board advised that the City did not know the state of future sales tax revenues with business closures due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Alderman Blanchard made a motion to table the Police Chief's request. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor asked the members of the Board if there was any other action they wished to take on the Chief's request.

No action was taken on the Police Chief's request.

Police Chief Randy Fontenot read a report of the Police Department's activities for the months of March and April, 2020.

Mayor Fontenot read a report of the Fire Department's activities for the months of March and April, 2020.

It was moved by Alderwoman Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to approve payment of the bills for April, 2020 and acknowledged that the Board has received the financial reports for the City

Alderwoman Thibodeaux spoke on an individual being able to list their blood type on their Driver's License or State ID.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to adjourn.

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor