

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, September 8, 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 Alderwoman Ernest Blanchard and carried to adopt the Minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting.

The Mayor announced that Mr. Judson Venezia, Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Eunice, was out due to recent surgery.

The Mayor advised that the City of Eunice was preparing to implement the Neighborhood Restoration Program. This Program will involve City departments working together and identifying in specific neighborhoods all city code violations, abandoned structures, lots, vehicles, any criminal activity and drainage and/or any street issues. The Neighborhood Restoration Program will allow the City to identify all issues in one specific neighborhood, correct these issues, then move on to the next neighborhood. The first neighborhood addressed will be the area of Benoit, Cotton and Corn Avenues. Alderwoman Germaine Simpson spoke about neighbor's ability to purchase adjudicated property in their neighborhood through Civic Source.

The Mayor gave an update on clean-up of debris from Hurricane Laura and assistance being given to the communities heavily damaged by the hurricane through donations and providing of meals. Citizens wishing to donate to those communities devastated by Hurricane Laura can contact the Fire Department or City Marshal's Office.

Alderman Blanchard spoke on meals being provided to evacuees staying in local hotels.

Alderwoman Simpson advised that evacuees staying in Eunice can contact the Eunice Food Bank at 337-457-7541 for assistance.

Fire Chief Mike Arnold advised that the City of Eunice Fire Department has been awarded a grant through FEMA for the purchase of a new ladder truck. The grant award is \$663,636.36 and the City's contribution of \$66,363.64 will allow the purchase of the \$730,000.00 ladder truck. The new truck will replace the old 1972 ladder truck.

The Mayor recognized Damien Hardy for bringing to his attention the LED program and putting him in touch with Brilliant Efficiencies and their program to replace the City's Street Lights with LED lights. The Mayor also acknowledged assistance of Public Service Commissioner Mike Francis and CLECO.

Mr. Jason Hewitt of Brilliant Efficiencies addressed the Board. The program totaled 1.6 million dollars and they are especially proud of the lighting improvements at the Recreation Complex and Street Lights.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderwoman Simpson and carried to authorize the Mayor to sign the Notice of Completion for the Brilliant Efficiencies LED program.

It was moved by Alderman Blanchard, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to declare the following equipment at the Wastewater Plant to be surplus:

1. Diesel 6" Service Pump XDZL057011
2. Versa-Matic Diaphragm Pump
3. Shoring Pump & Equipment Model 512001

It was moved by Alderman Blanchard, seconded by Alderman Chad Andrepont and carried to adopt a Resolution to Acadia Parish Police Jury requesting annexation into the city limits property belonging to New Hope Fellowship Church on Sittig Road, with property being in Acadia Parish.

It was moved by Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux, seconded by Alderman Andrepont and carried to introduce for consideration, by title only, an Ordinance regulating Mobile Food Vendors.

The Mayor announced that anyone with outstanding balances on their Gas and/or Sewer bills with the City of Eunice should contact the billing office and make arrangements to begin paying the outstanding balance. The St. Landry Parish Community Action Agency can also help in payment of utility bills by calling 337-948-3651. Alderwoman Simpson spoke on the City's responsibilities on providing service to accounts that have outstanding balances and that arrangements to pay balances can be made with the billing department.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to reinstate the practice of disconnection of gas and/or sewer services for non-payment of bills on October 16, 2020.

Alderwoman Connie Thibodeaux spoke about the responsibilities of property owner or occupant of property to contact Waste Connections to schedule bulk pick-up by calling 337-942-4031 or by emailing Stephanie.willridge@wasteconnections.com to schedule the pick-up.

Alderwoman Simpson asked the Mayor about the plan to send letters to property owners informing them that the City will no longer pick up bulk debris and that the property owner will be responsible for contacting Waste Connections. The Mayor advised that the advent of Hurricane Laura has postponed finalizing a date and sending out notices to property owners.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to concur with the recommendation of Police Chief Randy Fontenot and hire Mr. Andy Faul in the position of Provisional Police Officer.

It was moved by Alderman at Large Sattler, seconded by Alderman Blanchard and carried to concur with the recommendation of Police Chief Randy Fontenot and promote Officer Cody Miller to Police Sergeant.

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

Fire Chief Mike Arnold read the monthly report of Fire Department activities for the month of August, 2020.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderman at Large Sattler and carried to approve payment of the City's bills for August, 2020 and acknowledge that the Board has received the financial reports for the City.

It was moved by Alderman Andrepont, seconded by Alderwoman Germaine Simpson and carried to adjourn.

Ginny Moody, City Clerk

Scott A. Fontenot, Mayor