

CITY COUNCIL

**November 13, 2017,
DeQuincy, LA**

The city council of the city of DeQuincy met in regular session on the above date in the city hall council chambers located at 300 Holly Street, DeQuincy, Louisiana, with the following members present: Denise Maddox, Mark Peloquin, Ronda Jacobs, Andrea Coleman and Judy Landry. Absent: None.

Council Chairman Denise Maddox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Lawrence Henagan gave the invocation and Andrea Coleman led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to approve the October 9, 2017 regular session minutes. Without objection, the motion carried.

Valecia Royer, CPA, gave the financial report for October 2017. Total actual year to date revenue is \$301,392.62 and the actual year to date total expenses are \$261,790.27. We are within our budget so there is no need to amend at this time.

Fire Chief Johnny Copeland reported there were five (5) runs for the month of October 2017.

Chief Suchanek gave the police report. The bonds and fines totaled \$24,513.00.

Eddy Dahlquist gave the public works report. The gas crew killed three gas risers and reworked two driveway culverts. They also received a pallet of asphalt this week so they will be filling potholes around town again.

CITY REPORTS GIVEN BY MAYOR HENAGAN

- Our crew has started putting up Christmas decorations and the Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 1 at 5:30 p.m.
- We did a walk through this week on our Buxton Creek project. It is near completion but there are still a few things that need to be done before the job is complete.
- We received notice back from the Legislative Auditor's Office that our millage was approved again this year.
- Janice Askley came to City Hall and met with Mary Jo and myself to discuss the city considering a new no smoking ordinance that would include all the local businesses in the city limits. This would not be an enforceable ordinance.

Andrea Coleman made a motion to approve the November 13, 2017 agenda and Judy Landry seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Items not on the agenda.

- Alice Danclair, 805 Seymour Pullam Lane, discussed a meeting that she called together for three groups, namely the Ned Johnson Group, the Grand Avenue Board and the New Alumni Board. The purpose of the meeting was to unify the three groups. Only the officers and members of the three groups were invited but other people in the district showed up and therefore it was mistook for a Town Hall Meeting. Ms. Danclair wanted to make clear this was not a Town Hall Meeting. She also stated that, at this meeting, a new Grand Avenue Board was chosen and they would like to be approved by the council. Denise Maddox, Andrea Coleman and Mark Peloquin all made comments about the Grand Avenue Board. Mrs. Maddox advised the board would have to be approved at a later date.
- Katrina Ford, 112 West Street, asked exactly why a Town Hall Meeting was still needed. The gym is already on the historical register so why not move forward from this point on and not go backwards. The council explained they had been asked to have a Town Hall Meeting and therefore they felt they needed to still hold the meeting and give everyone a chance to appear and voice their opinion.
- Seymore Pullam, 805 Seymour Pullam Lane, stated if gym was put on the historical registry it had to be in the original name, which is DeQuincy Colored High School.

Items on the agenda.

➤ None.

Ms. Jackie Green with the Calcasieu Council on Aging spoke to the council regarding the new Senior Center that will open in DeQuincy on February 5, 2018 in the JCE Center on South Grand Avenue. They are going hire a Senior Center Coordinator to help run the DeQuincy Center and would like to ask that the City of DeQuincy contribute whatever they can toward the salary of the coordinator. Mayor Henagan advised Ms. Green the city should be able to contribute at least what Iowa was contributing yearly toward their coordinator.

There were no bids received for replacing the roof on the Old Town Hall Museum. A motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Mark Peloquin to table this matter until the job could be placed up for bid again. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Andrea Coleman, Denise Maddox, Mark Peloquin, and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

A motion was made by Mark Peloquin and seconded by Andrea Coleman to approve the billboard application resubmitted by Delia Outdoor Advertising. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Mark Peloquin, Andrea Coleman. Nays: Ronda Jacobs, Judy Landry and Denise Maddox. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion Failed.

A public hearing was held regarding the amendment to the mobile home ordinance and there was no public input. The hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Andrea Coleman and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to adopt the ordinance amending the mobile home ordinance. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Andrea Coleman, Denise Maddox, Mark Peloquin, and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Henagan explained what GIS mapping is and why it is needed in DeQuincy. GIS mapping is a computer printout of all of the gas and sewer lines running throughout the city. Right now, all we have are very old city maps showing gas lines together with the memories of the few gas and sewer employees we still have employed with the city. If the council should decide to go with GIS mapping, we could go out for bids and try to get the best price available. There is also a local man that actually did this for the company he previously worked for that might be willing to do it for DeQuincy. This would be something that would be costly for the city initially but would pay off in the long run. The council asked that the Mayor get some more information together and get back with them.

Mayor Henagan explained the need for the city to increase our city gas prices. Our monthly rate now is \$4.00 and the recommendation is to go up to at least \$8.00 which is still lower than most municipalities our size. Ronda Jacobs agreed with the increase but suggested the rate increase go up \$2.00 the first year and then the additional \$2.00 the next year. Mark Peloquin agreed with Mrs. Jacobs but added he felt the residents on city gas outside the city limits should go up \$10.00 within the next two years. They also felt the commercial rates should go up. A citizen asked why the outside city limit residents should have to pay more than inside city limit residents and the council explained the reason is that outside residents with city gas do not pay city property taxes, which is what is used to help maintain the gas lines.

The Mayor discussed amending the billboard ordinance issuing a moratorium against billboards and grandfathering in the billboards that are in place now. All council members agree that the ordinance should be amended and instructed the city attorney to prepare an ordinance to be introduced at the December council meeting.

Denise Maddox mentioned she was contacted by Weldon Karr regarding the four men that started the little league in DeQuincy, namely, Ralph Mitchell, Richard Quinn, Frank Jones and Glenn White. Mr. Karr asked if the council would consider naming the four fields at the Dixie Youth Baseball Complex after these men.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Judy Landry had no council concerns.

Andrea Coleman had no council concerns.

Mark Peloquin asked what could be done about the hedges next to the big two-story house at the corner of Hwy. 27 and Harrison Street. They block the view of the vehicles trying to pull out on Hwy. 27 from Harrison Street. Mrs. Maddox advised she would contact the property owner and ask if he would cut the hedges back. Mr. Peloquin also mentioned he had several people mention to him the items being put out on the sidewalk at the corner of Pine Street and Hwy. 12. This could become a hazard if it continues.

Ronda Jacobs mentioned what a great job had been done on the Buxton Creek Project and also thanked the businesses and residences in each district for upgrading their buildings. She also asked that everyone look around their district and make a list of any buildings that need attention and present the list at the next council meeting.

Denise Maddox had no council concerns.

Ronda Jacobs made a motion to adjourn and Andrea Coleman seconded the motion.

ATTEST: _____
Pat Brummett City Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Lawrence Henagan Mayor

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: _____
Denise Maddox Council Chairman