

CITY COUNCIL

**September 10, 2018
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: Judy Landry, James Harris, Mark Peloquin, Denise Maddox and Ronda Jacobs. Absent: None.

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

Motion was made by Judy Landry and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to approve the August 13, 2018 regular session minutes. Without objection, the motion carried.

Valecia Royer, CPA, gave the financial report. As of August 31, 2018, the overall total revenue, the actual year to date is \$4,240,598.50 with the amended budget being \$4,510,110.00, with a remaining budget of \$269,511.50. The total expenses, as of August 31, 2018, are \$3,831,985.18, with the amended budget being \$5,535,070.00, with a remaining budget of \$1,703,084.82.

Mayor Henagan gave the fire report August 2018. They had twelve (12) calls for the month.

Chief Suchanek gave the police report. The bonds and fines totaled \$21,941.00. He also advised the council he received a report that one case of the West Nile Virus was confirmed in DeQuincy. The individual is currently in the hospital being treated.

Eddy Dahlquist gave the public works report. Although one worker at the sewer plant has been off sick for a while they were able to get two sewer jobs done, two driveways put in and are still filling potholes. They have another load of reclaim coming in so will continue to fill potholes.

CITY REPORTS GIVEN BY MAYOR HENAGAN

- They have started unloading the materials at the airport for the fencing project and will be getting started soon.
- A letter was received today advising we will be receiving the Gravity Drainage Fund grant. We won't know exactly how much the grant will be until after their October 4 meeting.
- Jennifer with the DeQuincy Senior Citizen's Center, contacted Mayor Henagan regarding the City possibly assisting in the hiring of someone to drive the elderly in DeQuincy, at no charge, on their daily errands.
- Mayor Henagan asked that everyone keep a close watch on the weather. There are storms in the Gulf but it looks like, for now, all we will get is rain. Please say a prayer for the people on the east coast.

After being introduced by Mayor Henagan, Les Farnum, candidate for State Representative, Dist. 33, addressed the council and announced his bid for office.

Denise Maddox made a motion and Ronda Jacobs seconded the motion to approve the September 10, 2018 agenda. Without objection, the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Items not on the agenda.

Darlene Hooker invited everyone to the 9th Annual Harry L. Hooker Holy Smoke BBQ Cook-off & Praise Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the DeQuincy Railroad Museum.

Items on the agenda.

- **None**

A motion was made by Denise Maddox and seconded by James Harris to accept the bid from Merrick, LLC on the airport obstruction removal project. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, James Harris, Mark Peloquin, Denise Maddox and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

A motion was made by Denise Maddox and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to adopt a resolution authorizing Mayor Henagan, on behalf of the City of DeQuincy, to pursue a LGAP grant and sign all documents pertaining thereto. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, James Harris, Mark Peloquin, Denise Maddox and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

A motion was made by Denise Maddox and seconded by James Harris to table the discussion of the condemnation of the residence at 305 Hereford Street until the November council meeting. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, James Harris, Mark Peloquin, Denise Maddox and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

A motion was made by Denise Maddox and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to move to the next step of condemnation, which will be inspection by Parish inspector, of the house located at 305 S. Division, owned by Freeca Hunt. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, James Harris, Mark Peloquin, Denise Maddox and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Henagan advised the council he received an appraisal on the city owned property on N. Fourth Street and has again talked to the renter about a month-to-month rental. He also asked the city attorney to prepare a rental agreement to present to the council. Mrs. Maddox said the constituents she has heard from do not want the city to sell this building because it is attached to our pocket park. James Harris asked if we could present the renter with a rental agreement but also asked if they could form a committee to discuss all of the facts and come back with a recommendation on whether or not to rent or sell the building. The council then agreed to rent the building rather than sell it. City Attorney, Doug Cox advised no council action was necessary until the rental agreement was prepared and presented to the council. Mr. Peloquin then asked if the leaky roof had been repaired. He was advised there was still a leak in the front and all agreed the leak needed to be repaired regardless of what was done with the building.

Denise Maddox opened the discussion by asking whether city vehicles should be used for personal use or be driven back and forth to Cameron to work security jobs. She asked that the discussion include all city vehicles and asked if any other council members had received calls from constituents regarding the use of city vehicles. Ronda Jacobs said she had also received calls. James Harris felt there should be city policy regarding use of vehicles and if there is, the policy should be followed. It was explained the Police Dept. does have a policy for use of vehicles but there is no policy for use of other city vehicles. Mr. Harris reiterated there should be policy and if we do not have a policy, we need to get one. Chief Suchanek said he was told, several months ago, that marked vehicles would not be used for security. If unmarked cars were driven, then the officers would buy their own gas and turn in the gas receipts. Chief Suchanek also explained they did have a clause in their policy about personal use of police cars and their use of the cars was within policy. Mayor Henagan said it would probably be a good idea to form a committee to update the current policy.

Mr. Peloquin asked Chief Suchanek if he kept documentation showing a vehicle left the city limits and where it was going. Chief Suchanek said he was made aware of when the vehicles leave the city but there is no written documentation. He knows when a vehicle is being used for security because he makes the schedule.

Daisy Cole, stated the city website would be a great place to put policy for the public to see what was and was not allowed.

There was no action taken by the council at this time but all agreed a committee should be formed to start the work on an updated policy on police vehicles and on all other city vehicles.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Ronda Jacobs mentioned she is happy work is finally starting on the condemnations the council had requested.

Mrs. Maddox thanked the city crew for working on potholes. She also asked the council to start getting their list together for the condemnations. She thinks they need to start with the top five and go

from there. Mrs. Maddox asked if the inmate crew could be put on cleaning off the grass growing onto the street on Yoakum Street and also if the corner by the hospital could be scooped out again since it's starting to build up again.

Judy Landry mentioned Hereford, Frazier and Velmer Streets do not have a street signs. In addition, there seems to be a problem with either the telephone or the cable lines around town that are hanging very low. She would like to see them raised by the appropriate company. Several calls have been made to both the telephone company and cable company and there has been no action by either.

James Harris mentioned there are some decorative lights out in front of the Police Station. He also advised Eddy the sidewalk on Evergreen Lane needs to be worked on.

Mark Peloquin asked Eddy to check the sinkhole on Gill Street. He also mentioned the ants at the Railroad Museum Park are really bad and asked if the city crew could put out ant killer. Addressing Chief Suchanek, Mr. Peloquin asked if he could have a patrol officer go by the park on Oak Street to check out the activity at night. He is receiving complaints.

Mayor Henagan mentioned the War Memorial Monument is having engineering work done by Myer and Associates and hopefully they are getting things finalized and a groundbreaking will be in the near future.

Denise Maddox made a motion to adjourn and Ronda Jacobs seconded the motion.

ATTEST: _____
Pat Brummett City Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Lawrence Henagan Mayor

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: _____
Mark Peloquin