

CITY COUNCIL

**August 14, 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: Ronda Jacobs, Judy Landry, and Mark Peloquin, Denise Maddox and Andrea Coleman. 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 Andrea Coleman and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to approve the July 10, 2017 regular session minutes. Without objection, the motion carried.

Valecia Royer, CPA, advised the council she had no comments other than the amendments, which she will explain further, when that item comes up on the agenda.

Fire Chief Johnny Copeland reported there were six (6) runs for the month of July 2017.

Chief Suchanek gave the police report. The bonds and fines totaled \$30,848.00 for the month of July 2017.

Eddy Dahlquist gave the public works report. The crew had four (4) sewer taps, ran three (3) new sewer lines, killed three (3) gas services and replaced two (2) driveway culverts.

CITY REPORTS GIVEN BY MAYOR HENAGAN

- We had a good turnout for the LMA Convention in Shreveport last month.
- Buxton Creek Project is moving along with no problems so far, considering all of the bad weather we have had.
- We have had several back to school bashes put on by the churches and various organizations and I would like to thank everyone who participated in that.
- On September 9, we will have a benefit, put on by Rolling Thunder Church Ministry to help raise funds for the War Memorial. They are estimating about 200 motorcycles will roll up to this event.
- Grand Avenue Gym has been approved to be on the national registry of historical buildings.

Andrea Coleman made a motion to add to agenda, discussion of mobile home ordinance. Mark Peloquin seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Items not on the agenda.

- Rose Cooks asked that the Grand Avenue Gym be put on the agenda for the purpose of discussing the name that was put on the historical registry. The Mayor mentioned that once the gym went on the national historical register the name can't be changed.
- Eric Woods also mentioned the name that was put on the historical register. The name went in as the DeQuincy Colored High School Gym and he thinks that should change. He personally felt the community should have been advised of the intentions when the request was made to put the gym on the national registry but instead it was done with very few people knowing about it.
- Verna Armstead said she would rather the gym be taken off the national register if it was going to go by the name of DeQuincy Colored High School.

After a lengthy discussion by the council and several constituents, it was decided that a town hall meeting should be held to make a decision on the Grand Avenue Gym.

- Ethel Crawford asked if the hedges at the corner of Hall and Center Street could be cut back so you can see the stop sign and oncoming traffic.
- David Hyatt asked for a variance to put a travel trailer on property located at 802 N. Division while he tore down the existing house at that location and built a new house. Mayor Henagan asked that he come to City Hall Tuesday so that the zoning committee could be called to make a determination on this matter.
- George Warner asked for help with the sewer problems on William Still Road. Mr. Warner was advised this was out of the city limits and he would need to call the parish for assistance.
- Lorraine Lewis asked how long the city gave a resident to tear down a house. The one being torn down near her was taking much too long.

Items on the agenda.

None.

Valecia Royer, CPA for the City of DeQuincy, explained the amendments in our FYE 9/30/17 budget. There are a few items outside of the 5 per cent (5%) allowed variance. In the General Fund, the video poker revenue and gaming revenue was higher than budgeted, which is good so we will increase those numbers. In the Public Safety fund, the fines were more than expected therefore the court cost was more than projected and an adjustment will need to be made there. In the Street fund, we did not budget for the sale of the surplus equipment so that will be adjusted.

A motion was made by Andrea Coleman and seconded by Ronda Jacobs to introduce an ordinance and set a public hearing to amend the FYE 9/30/17 budget. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Andrea Coleman, Denise Maddox, Mark Peloquin and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

A public hearing was held on the proposed budget of expenditures for the FYE 9/30/18. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Andrea Coleman and seconded by Mark Peloquin to adopt the budget of expenditures for the FYE 9/30/18. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Andrea Coleman, Denise Maddox, Mark Peloquin and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

A public hearing was held on the adoption of the new animal control ordinance. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

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

After a lengthy discussion on the mobile home at 307 LeBlanc Street, Mark Peloquin made a motion and Judy Landry seconded the motion, to start the condemnation process. 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 the problems we were having with the interpretation of ordinance no. 756 and why he felt we needed to amend the ordinance. A motion was made by Mark Peloquin and seconded by Judy Landry to introduce ordinance no. 905, amending no. 756 to include all utility user fees rather than just sewerage user fees. Motion carried as follows: Yeas: Judy Landry, Andrea Coleman, Denise Maddox, Mark Peloquin and Ronda Jacobs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Andrea Coleman voiced her concern about our current mobile home ordinance. After a lengthy discussion about a possible situation on Washington Street, it was agreed that a committee would be formed to discuss the current mobile home ordinance and they will report to the council at the next council meeting of the needed changes, if any. The committee will be Ronda Jacobs, Andrea Coleman and Doug Cox.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Ronda Jacobs asked that City Hall would send a notice to Cleco that the street light is out at the corner of Pugh and Groves Street.

Mark Peloquin had another constituent call him about a variance regarding putting a travel trailer on a piece of property in his district. He asked what the procedure is as far as getting in touch with the zoning committee regarding a variance. Mr. Peloquin also agreed that a something needs to be done to restructure the Grand Avenue Gym Board.

Andrea Coleman thanked Mr. Eaglin for his work on getting the Grand Avenue Gym put on the historical register.

Judy Landry has no council concerns.

Denise Maddox asked Mary Jo Bayles to advise the council on the next trash bash. It is scheduled for September 16 from 7am until noon and they will take tires and batteries. Mrs. Bayles is also working on getting containers so we can accept electronics and old paint also.

Judy Landry made a motion to adjourn and Mark Peloquin seconded the motion.

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
Pat Brummett City Council Clerk Lawrence Henagan Mayor

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: _____
Denise Maddox Council Chairman