

CITY OF CROWLEY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 10, 2008

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Louisiana, the governing authority of the City of Crowley, met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday the 10th day of June, 2008 at the regular meeting place of said Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the Council Chambers, 426 North Avenue F, Crowley, Louisiana.

Mayor Greg A. Jones presided with the following Aldermen present: Elliot Doré, Jeff Doré, Lyle Fogleman Jr., Vernon Martin, Mary Melancon, Laurita Pete, Steven Premeaux, and Todd Whiting. Alderwoman Kitty Valdetero was absent.

Alderman Steven Premeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Alderman Vernon Martin gave the invocation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 1) The public hearing on Rule to Show Cause for Condemnation of Property on Lot 14 of Block 5 Walker Addition, having a municipal address 926 West 3rd Street, Crowley, Louisiana belonging to Earl Grant, Jr. was reset for July 8, 2008.

- 2) Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Rule to Show Cause for Condemnation of Property on Lot 16 of Block 6 of Walker Addition, having a municipal address 315 Western Avenue, Crowley, Louisiana belonging to People's Investment Company Inc. Mr. Albert Brown was present to represent the owner's interest of the property.

Mayor Jones called the public hearing to a close.

- 2) Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Rule to Show Cause for Condemnation of Property on Lot 14 of Block 3 of S. Stutes Addition, having a municipal address of 1819 James Street, Crowley, Louisiana belonging to Earline Alcock. Mrs. Earline Alcock and Mr. Bryon Alcock were present to represent the interest of the property.

Mayor Jones called the public hearing to a close.

READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES / BILLS:

Alderman Lyle Fogleman moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the May 13th, 2008 regular council meeting. Seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux and duly adopted.

Alderwoman Mary Melancon moved to approve all bills presented for payment. Seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux and duly adopted.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Greg A. Jones presented the Sales Tax chart and User Fee chart that track the collection trend since fiscal 1992.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS: Alderwoman Mary Melancon, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderman Vernon Martin to accept the recommendation of Tim Mader, City Engineer, and authorize Mayor Jones to enter into a contract for \$88,0000.00 with CEC for the bridge piling work required on the Avenue D bridge in order to restore it to the original load limits. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderman Todd Whiting to authorize the Mayor to engage the firm of Huval and Associates to provide the structural plans and inspection services for the bridge piling repair work on the Avenue D Bridge at the cost of \$4,800. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderman Todd Whiting to authorize Mr. Regan, City Attorney, to file a Preliminary and Permanent Injunction with the 6th Ward Drainage Board in a law suit for damages from the dumping of large amounts of debris on the property abutting Bayou Blanc along the drainage canal. Motion carried with an abstention from Alderwoman Mary Melancon.

UTILITY: Alderman Vernon Martin, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderman Elliot Doré to approve Partial Payment No. 26 to M. P. Dumesnil Construction Company in the amount of \$154,915.15 for the Release of Retainage under the North of I-10 Sewerage Improvements Project. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Councilman Jeff Doré, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderman Vernon Martin to re-schedule July's committee meetings to June 30, 2008 and July 1, 2008 due to JulyFete activities. Motion carried.

RECREATION: Councilman Steven Premeaux, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderman Steven Premeaux and seconded by Alderman Vernon Martin to authorize Mader Engineering to work with Tim Robichaux and prepare optional layouts for tennis courts at the football field and layouts for baseball field(s) on property located on Mill Street. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Steven Premeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Laurita Pete to explore partnering with the Boys & Girls Club. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin, duly seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon, and duly resolved and adopted.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA, ORDERING AND ISSUING A RULE TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CONDEMNATION OF PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the City Inspector has notified the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of a violation of the Building and Safety Codes of the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, notice has been issued to Glen E. Howie, attorney appointed to represent the absentee property owner, Earl Grant Jr., by the City Inspector's Office for repairs and/or demolition to be made of the improvements on Lot 14 of Block 5 of the Walker Addition to the City of Crowley, having a municipal address of 916 West 3rd Street, Crowley, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, no action has been taken and the City Inspector has requested a public hearing on the condemnation of the said property;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, in regular session duly convened, that the Notice of Rule to Show Cause should be issued to Glen E. Howie, attorney appointed to represent absentee property owner, Earl Grant Jr., for a public hearing to be held by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the 8th day of July, 2008 in regular session at 6:00 p.m. and that said notice be properly recorded and served upon the property owner pursuant to law.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, in regular session duly convened on this the 10th day of June, 2008, at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin, duly seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux, and duly resolved and adopted.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA, ORDERING THE CONDEMNATION OF IMPROVEMENTS SITUATED ON LOT 16 OF BLOCK 6 OF WALKER ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CROWLEY.

WHEREAS, a Condemnation Hearing was held regarding the above described property on the 10th day of June, 2008; and

WHEN AFTER considering the evidence presented, the testimony of all parties interested and after due consideration of the circumstances and condition of the building and the report of the City Inspector;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, in regular session duly convened that they do hereby order the building and/or structure situated on Lot 16 of Block 6 of Walker Addition to the City of Crowley, being the property of People's Investment Company Inc., having a municipal address of 315 Western Avenue, Crowley, Louisiana, be and the same is hereby condemned; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the said building and/or structure be brought up to building code requirements or demolished and/or removed together with all trash and debris within 90 days from the date of receipt of notice; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the owner shall have five (5) days in which to obtain a building permit and shall commence renovations within ten (10) days of the date of receipt of notice.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 10th day of June, 2008 at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Jeff Doré, duly seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux, and duly resolved and adopted.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA, ORDERING THE CONDEMNATION OF IMPROVEMENTS SITUATED ON LOT 14 OF BLOCK 3 OF S. STUTES ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CROWLEY.

WHEREAS, a Condemnation Hearing was held regarding the above described property on the 10th day of June, 2008; and

WHEN AFTER considering the evidence presented, the testimony of all parties interested and after due consideration of the circumstances and condition of the building and the report of the City Inspector;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, in regular session duly convened that they do hereby order the building and/or structure situated on Lot 14 of Block 3 of S. Stutes Addition to the City of Crowley, being the property of Earline Alcock, having a municipal address of 1819 James Street, Crowley, Louisiana, be and the same is hereby condemned; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the said building and/or structure be brought up to building code requirements or demolished and/or removed together with all trash and debris within 90 days from the date of receipt of notice; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the owner shall have five (5) days in which to obtain a building permit and shall commence renovations within ten (10) days of the date of receipt of notice.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 10th day of June, 2008 at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin, duly seconded by Alderman Elliot Doré, and duly resolved and adopted.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA, AUTHORIZING AND CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER LEVYING ADDITIONAL OR INCREASED MILLAGE TAX RATES

ON TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF CROWLEY
AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF SAID HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW; AND
TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 47:1705(B) provides any tax recipient body wishing to consider levying additional or increased millages on taxable property without further voter approval shall publish public notice of the date, time and place of hearing during which the public body intends to consider such matter; and

WHEREAS, the office of the Honorable Russell Benoit, Acadia Parish Assessor, has informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley that 2008 is a reassessment year and that it is likely an increase in the assessed value of property will result in a reduced millage rate which amount will be calculated by the Assessor's Office but will not be available for several weeks; and

WHEREAS, in order to consider action to "roll forward" or increase the millage rates (not to exceed the previous year's rates), a public hearing must be called and public notice of the date, time and place of the hearing must be published in accordance with the above referenced statute not later than July 15, 2008 and that more than 30 days must elapse from the date of the publication prior to the date of the public hearing and said notice of public hearing must be provided to the Assessor's Office which shall post the date, time and place on its website in accordance with the statute; and

WHEREAS, the millage rates for ad valorem tax purposes adopted for the City of Crowley for the tax year 2007 were fixed at 30.25 mills to be applied to the assessed values of all properties subject to taxation in the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen deem it prudent to call for and fix a date and time for a public hearing for the purpose of considering levying additional or increased millage tax rates to be applied to the assessed values for ad valorem tax purposes on all property subject to taxation without further voter approval in accordance with law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, in regular session duly convened that they do hereby authorize and call a public hearing to be held on the 22nd day of July, 2008 at 5:00 o'clock p.m. in Council Chambers on the Second Floor in the old City Hall located at 426 North Avenue F, Crowley, and that notice of said hearing shall be published twice not less than 30 days prior to the date of the hearing in the City's official journal in a prominent section other than the classified or public notices section and that a press release issue concerning same and that the notice thereof be provided to the Assessor and the notice shall contain a statement that the purpose of the hearing is to:

- 1) Consider adopting the adjusted millage rates for the tax year 2008; and
- 2) Consider adoption of adjusted millage rates after reassessment, levying additional or increased millage tax rates, to roll forward the millage tax rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum millage and without further voter of approval on all property subject to taxation in the City of Crowley in accordance with law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk be and she is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all things and perform all acts and duties as may be meet and proper in compliance with law for said purpose.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 10th day of June, 2008, in Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Mary Melancon, duly seconded by Alderwoman Laurita Pete, and duly resolved and adopted.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY
DESIGNATING THE CROWLEY POST SIGNAL AS THE
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley is required by R.S. 43:141 to designate an official journal of the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, the Crowley Post Signal is a daily newspaper printed in the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley has used same as its official journal for many years previously;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, City of Crowley, in regular session, duly convened, that the Crowley Post Signal, a daily newspaper printed in the City of Crowley, is hereby designated as the official journal of the City of Crowley for the fiscal year, beginning September 1, 2008 and ending August 31, 2009; and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to notify the Secretary of State of said designation by providing him with a copy of said Resolution.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session on this the 10th day of June, 2008, in Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion duly made by Alderwoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderwoman Laurita Pete the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

Presented rough draft to Mayor on June 11, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Presented for Mayor's signature on June 11, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Mayor signed & returned to City Clerk on June _____, 2008 at _____ .m.