

CITY OF CROWLEY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 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 12th day of February, 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, Vernon Martin, Mary Melancon, Laurita Pete, Steven Premeaux, Kitty Valdetero and Todd Whiting. Alderman Lyle Fogleman Jr. was absent.

Alderswoman Kitty Valdetero led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Alderman Elliot Doré gave the invocation.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Alderman Vernon Martin offered a motion to consider the DEQ settlement proposal. Seconded by Alderman Elliot Doré and duly adopted after a unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION:

Mrs. Ezora Proctor, coordinator of the Acadia Parish Career Connection Expo, appeared before the assembly to promote this program that aide and support the 8th and 10th grade students of Acadia Parish in planning their careers. She invited elected officials to welcome the students at the Rice Festival Building on February 19th, 2008.

READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES / BILLS:

Alderswoman Kitty Valdetero moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 8th, 2008 regular council meeting. Seconded by Alderswoman Mary Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Elliot Doré moved to approve all bills presented for payment. Seconded by Alderswoman Kitty Valdetero 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: Alderswoman Mary Melancon, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderswoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderswoman Laurita Pete to authorize Mader Engineering, Inc. to proceed with the annual City-Wide Street Inventory for Work Order No. 1 under the FY 2007-08 Annual Crack Repair Contract with Quality Construction Specialist. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderswoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderman Todd Whiting to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with CEC, Inc. to repair the damage to the Avenue G Bridge Railing in the estimated cost of \$3,500. Motion carried.

UTILITY: Alderman Vernon Martin, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderman Steven Premeaux and seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon to accept the year end 2007 Audit report from the auditing firm of Kolder, Champagne, Slaven and Company with the corrective action plan. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderwoman Kitty Valdetero to authorize Mader Engineering, Inc. to perform the 2008 quarterly inspections for operation of the SCADA system. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderman Elliot Doré to approve Partial Payment Estimate # 23 to M. P. Dumesnil Construction Co. for the North of I-10 Sewerage Improvements contract in the amount of \$118,530.96. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with WSI in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the repair of the overflow system at the end of Ash Street. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderman Todd Whiting to authorize Mayor Jones to proceed to restore permanent sewerage service to John N. John Truckline using Option 3, a Pipe Bursting technique, at a cost estimated not to exceed \$35,000. Motion carried with an abstention from Alderwoman Mary Melancon.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderwoman Kitty Valdetero to authorize the purchase of a pick up truck from Federal Surplus for \$8,500 pending the approved inspection from Albert John and Brian Mallet. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Alderman Todd Whiting, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderman Todd Whiting and seconded by Alderwoman Laurita Pete to approve the renewal of a 2008 Class A Retail Outlet Beer Permit for Nelson Arceneaux d/b/a American Legion Post #506 located at 628 West Third Street. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Todd Whiting and seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon to fund the Louisiana Accident Control Enforcement Program for the first quarter in the amount of \$10,000 per month effective March 1, 2008. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Todd Whiting and seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon to amend the following January 10, 2006 motion: "Alderman Istre offered a motion to authorize the Mayor, Chief of Police and City Attorney, after due diligence, to enter into intergovernmental agreements with the Acadia Parish Police Jury, Acadia Parish Sheriff and Acadia Parish Law Enforcement District to lease to the city 15 inmate spaces at the new Acadia Parish Correctional Facility. Seconded by Alderman Marceaux and duly adopted"; to include prior to negotiations report the negotiations to the Council. Motion failed after the following roll call vote:

YEAS: None

NAYS: Elliot Doré, Jeff Doré, Vernon Martin, Mary Melancon, Laurita Pete, Steven Premeaux, Kitty Valdetero and Todd Whiting

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lyle Fogleman

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux reject the delivery of the firemen's turnout gear purchased from Wilson

Fire & Rescue because they do not meet the specification and requirements listed in the bid accepted by the City. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderman Vernon Martin and seconded by Alderman Elliot Doré to request an extension of the grant completion date from FEMA for the firemen's turnout gear, due to the rejection of delivery. Motion carried.

ZONING & ANNEXATION: Alderman Elliot Doré, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderman Elliot Doré and seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux to authorize the Developer of Bobby Smith Subdivision to patch and overlay John F. Kennedy Drive in accordance with approved plans and specifications, and to replace the related culvert pipe street crossing to be furnished by the City of Crowley. Motion carried with two abstentions, Alderman Vernon Martin and Alderwoman Laurita Pete.

INSURANCE & PERSONNEL: Councilwoman Laurita Pete, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Laurita Pete and seconded by Alderwoman Kitty Valdetero that upon retirement of a firefighter that the employee be given his helmet. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Laurita Pete and seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon upon retirement of a police officer that the employee be given his badge. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Laurita Pete and seconded by Alderwoman Mary Melancon to hold semi annual socials to honor employees that have retired during the previous 6 months. Motion carried.

REVENUE & FINANCES: Alderwoman Kitty Valdetero, Chairperson

A motion was offered by Alderwoman Kitty Valdetero and seconded by Alderman Elliot Doré to amend the budget and appropriate \$100,000.00 from Sales Tax Fund to Employee Benefit Fund. 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, INTRODUCING A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING SAME.

WHEREAS, an ordinance has been proposed to be adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance must be introduced by its title and a public hearing must be held prior to its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the title of the proposed ordinance must be published in the official journal and the notice shall provide the time, date and place where the Board will consider its adoption;

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

following ordinance be and it is hereby introduced for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, to-wit:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 10-30, USER FEES, OF DIVISION 1.5 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, TO PROVIDE FOR A DECREASE IN THE MINIMUM MONTHLY AMOUNT OF GALLONS USED; TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE BASE MONTHLY SEWER USER FEE FOR WASTEWATER DISCHARGE; TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATE PER 1,000 GALLONS THEREAFTER; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROVISIONS HEREOF TO BE SEVERABLE; AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith OR IN CONFLICT HERETO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the City Clerk shall publish the following notice in the Crowley Post Signal:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, shall meet on the 11th day of March, 2008 at 6:00 o'clock p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Crowley, Louisiana, to consider the adoption of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 10-30, USER FEES, OF DIVISION 1.5 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, TO PROVIDE FOR A DECREASE IN THE MINIMUM MONTHLY AMOUNT OF GALLONS USED; TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE BASE MONTHLY SEWER USER FEE FOR WASTEWATER DISCHARGE; TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATE PER 1,000 GALLONS THEREAFTER; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROVISIONS HEREOF TO BE SEVERABLE; AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HERewith OR IN CONFLICT HERETO.

Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for a nominal fee in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Crowley, Louisiana.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on this the 12th day of February, 2008.

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 12th day of February, 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 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, AUTHORIZING A SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (LDEQ) TO RESOLVE A COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTIES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) issued a Notice for Potential Penalties (NOPP) for various alleged violations of the City of Crowley's NPEDS Permit and the Wastewater Pretreatment Program and issued a Consolidated Compliance Order, Enforcement Tracking Number WE-CN-06-0271, Agency Interest Number 4689; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley has responded to the LDEQ notices, filed required reports and documentation and addressed the issues raised in the Compliance Order; and

WHEREAS, a mediation conference was held between the LDEQ and the City of Crowley on December 13, 2007 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the mediation conference, the LDEQ asked the City of Crowley to propose a settlement in accordance with the Louisiana guidelines for the assessment of fines and penalties; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Crowley to conclude the NOPP and Consolidated Compliance Order by resolving the differences with the LDEQ through settlement;

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, empower and direct the Honorable Greg A. Jones, Mayor of the City of Crowley, and Thomas K. Regan, Attorney for the City of Crowley, to negotiate and offer a settlement of the NOPP and Consolidated Compliance Order Enforcement Tracking Number We-Cn-06-0271, Agency Interest Number 4689 with the amount of the said offer to be made in accordance with the Louisiana guideline for the assessment and penalties up to a maximum amount of \$15,000.00;

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 12th day of February, 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 Alderman Todd Whiting, 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, TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF RURAL

DEVELOPMENT FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRST RESPONDER RESCUE UNIT; AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Crowley Fire Department maintains a First Responder Rescue Unit equipped for First Aid response and crash rescue assistance; and

WHEREAS, the present vehicle in use was acquired as a used 1995 Chevrolet Chassis/Ambulance Body donated to the City of Crowley by the Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the vehicle's ambulance body was converted to transport bulky rescue equipment and is less than ideally suited for the role; and

WHEREAS, the age of the unit renders it increasing susceptible to frequent breakdowns and expensive repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Rural Development provides funds through grants to assist local public entities to acquire equipment for public safety needs;

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, empower and direct the Honorable Greg A. Jones, Mayor of the City of Crowley; to apply for a Rural Development Grant through the Office of Rural Development, State of Louisiana, for grant funds to be solely used for public safety purposes to acquire a new First Responder Rescue Unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Honorable Greg A. Jones, Mayor, be and he is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do and provide all necessary things as may be meet and proper in the premises.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 12th day of February, 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 Alderman Todd Whiting, 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, INTRODUCING A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING SAME.

WHEREAS, an ordinance has been proposed to be adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance must be introduced by its title and a public hearing must be held prior to its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the title of the proposed ordinance must be published in the official journal and the notice shall provide the time, date and place where the Board will consider its adoption;

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 following ordinance be and it is hereby introduced for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, to-wit:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTION 7-20 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY; TO AMEND AND RE-ENACT SECTIONS 1-8 OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY AND SECTIONS 14-1 ET SEQ OF ARTICLE I, SECTION 14-20 OF ARTICLE II AND SECTION 14-40 OF ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY; TO PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM FINES TO BE LEVIED BY THE COURT FOR VARIOUS OFFENSES; TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROVISIONS HEREOF TO BE SEVERABLE; AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH ON IN CONFLICT HERETO.

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Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for a nominal fee in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Crowley, Louisiana.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on this the 12th day of February, 2008.

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on the 12th day of February, 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

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion duly made by Alderwoman Mary Melancon and seconded by Alderman Steven Premeaux the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

GREG A. JONES, Mayor

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, City Clerk

Presented rough draft to Mayor on February 15, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.
Presented for Mayor's signature on February 18 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Mayor signed & returned to City Clerk on February 19, 2008 at 11:20 a.m.