

CITY OF CROWLEY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2003

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 9th day of December, 2003, at the regular meeting place of said Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the City Hall, 426 North Avenue F, Crowley, Louisiana.

Mayor de la Houssaye presided with the following Aldermen present: James M. Buatt, Tiger Istre, Woody Marceaux, Vernon Martin, Mary T. Melancon, Laurita D. Pete, Alderman Steven C. Premeaux, Ira Thomas and Kitty Valdetero.

Alderwoman Melancon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Alderman Martin gave the invocation.

Alderman Buatt moved to amend the agenda to consider a resolution for the appraisal of land north of I-10 for a lift station and a possible fire sub station. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted after a unanimous vote.

APPEARANCES:

Mr. Audie Hanks came before the assembly to discuss the electrical work for the air conditioning to the central fire station.

Alderman Martin move to approve a change order to the "Service for the Air Conditioning for the Central Fire Station" project to include electrical work to accommodate a 125 KW generator and to get three quotes on a generator. Seconded by Alderman Buatt and duly adopted.

READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES / BILLS:

Alderwoman Valdetero moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 11, 2003 regular council meeting; and approve them as written and distributed. Seconded by Alderman Premeaux and duly adopted.

Alderwoman Melancon moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 19, 2003 special council meeting; and approve them as written and distributed. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor de la Houssaye presented the Sales Tax Report and User Fee Report that compare current collections to collections from previous years. The Recap of all Funds Report compares actual revenues and expenditures for the three months of the fiscal year to the budgeted revenues and expenditures of the same period.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ZONING & ANNEXATION:

Alderman Marceaux offered a motion to accept the preliminary plat to subdivide Lot 2 of the LIMCO Subdivision contingent upon review of the city engineer. Seconded by Alderwoman Pete and duly adopted.

Alderman Marceaux offered a motion approve the request from LIMCO and permit a Variance of a 5' set back as opposed to the 20' required setback contingent upon approval of the final plat by the city engineer. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted with Alderman Istre voting nay.

Alderman Marceaux reported that in Committee meeting, a motion was offered by Alderman Thomas and seconded by Alderwoman Pete to table the Planning Commission's recommendation regarding the conflict of the building located at Lot 4, South 23' Lot 5, South 73' Lot 7, Block 43, Original Crowley until Judge Ruben rules on this matter. The motion failed in committee due to lack of a majority. At this time Alderman Marceaux offered a motion to concur with the Planning Commission to release the restrictions at Lot 4, South 23' Lot 5, South 73' Lot 7, Block 43, Original Crowley. Seconded by Alderman Istre. A motion to table the existing motion was offered by Alderman Buatt and seconded by Alderwoman Melancon. Alderman Marceaux called a Point of Order because he did not think proper discussion had taken place prior to the motion to table. After a lengthy discussion Alderman Buatt moved to table the motion to release the restrictions at Lot 4, South 23' Lot 5, South 73' Lot 7, Block 43, Original Crowley. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted after the following roll call vote.

YEAS: James M. Buatt, Mary T. Melancon, Laurita D. Pete, Steven C. Premeaux and Ira Thomas

NAYS: Tiger Istre, Woody Marceaux and Vernon Martin

ABSENT: Kitty Valdetero

PUBLIC WORKS:

The following resolution was offered by Alderwoman Melancon, duly seconded by Alderman Martin, and duly resolved and adopted on December 9, 2003.

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY CONCERNING A REQUEST TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR NEEDED DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ON SECOND STREET (U.S. HIGHWAY 90) BETWEEN AVENUE H AND AVENUE J.

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley is experiencing frequent and severe drainage problems at the intersection of Second Street (U.S. Highway 90) and Avenue I.

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has investigated this situation and determined that this problem is due to the absence of drainage structures at this intersection; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has further determined that a subsurface drainage system needs to be installed along Second Street (Highway 90) to direct the runoff from this intersection to the existing subsurface drainage system at Avenue H and to the existing subsurface drainage system at Avenue J.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley in regular session duly convened, that the Mayor and Council of said City hereby request and urge the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to proceed immediately to install a subsurface drainage system along Second Street (U.S. Highway 90) to direct runoff from this intersection to the existing subsurface drainage systems at Avenue H and Avenue J, and to perform any additional improvements that they may deem appropriate and necessary to improve the drainage system along Second Street (U.S. Highway 90).

ADOPTED: December 9, 2003

ISABELLA L. DE LA HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Alderman Melancon offered a motion to authorize purchase of materials for Phase I of the Avenue D at 16th Street (Don Earles) drainage improvements and for the North Side of Sixteenth Street at Avenue E (Mary Simon) project to be done by City Forces under a work order. Seconded by Alderman Istre and duly adopted.

UTILITY:

Alderman Martin moved to approve Partial Payment No. 9 to Stelly Construction for the “West Crowley Sewerage Improvements (LCDBG FY 2001 Program) in the amount of \$66,546.21. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

Alderman Martin moved to approve Partial Payment No. 1 to E. B. Feucht & Sons for the Sewerage Extension for T-Stop (Lovell @ S. Highway 13) in the amount of \$41,064.66. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

Alderman Martin moved to authorize Mader Engineering to prepare a cost estimate for the construction of a sewer main extension in the 100 Block of West 6th Street (Betty Leblanc residence) and present same at the Regular Council Meeting on December 9th. Seconded by Alderman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Pete moved to authorize Mader Engineering to prepare a plan and a revised cost estimate of the most feasible way to construct a sewer main extension in the 100 Block of West 6th Street (Betty Leblanc residence). Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to grant Mount Zion Baptist Church permission to close Hutchinson Avenue between Western Avenue and Ross Avenue from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. annually for their Annual Women’s Conference in December and for the church to notify the Street, Fire and Police Departments. Seconded by Alderman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to authorize the Police Chief to conduct a traffic study to consider a 4 way stop sign at Avenue F and Third Street. Seconded by Alderman Melancon and duly adopted with Alderman Thomas voting nay.

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to approve the following applications for a renewal of retail beer and liquor permits for the year 2004. Seconded by Alderman Melancon and duly adopted.

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| 1. | Guidry’s Package Liquor
Rebecca Guidry
201 Ross Avenue, Crowley. LA | 2004 Class A Retail Outlet Beer Permit
2004 Class A Retail Outlet Liquor Permit |
| 2. | Victoria’s Unpredictable Lounge
Jeanette V. Shepherd
824 West Second Street, Crowley, LA | 2004 Class A Retail Outlet Beer Permit
2004 Class A Retail Outlet Liquor Permit |
| 3. | TJ Downtown Café
Tyler J. Boullion
414 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA | 2004 Class A Retail Outlet Beer Permit
2004 Class A Retail Outlet Liquor Permit |

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to accept the proposal from Friedrichs’ Custom Manufacturing to purchase 75 barricades, model Fs-B-FF in the amount of \$5920.00 and refer to Revenue and Finance. Seconded by Alderman Pete and duly adopted.

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to approve the renewal of a 2004 Class B Retail Package Beer Permit and 2004 Class B Retail Package Liquor Permit for Lazar J. Gielen d Shop Rite Inc. d/b/a Chevron Food Mart No. 20 located at 2600 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA. Seconded by Alderman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to approve a 2004 application from Shree Ganesh Petroleum, LLC for an initial Class B – Retail Package Beer Permit and Class B – Retail Package Liquor Permit for Raceway No. 754 located at 2435 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Martin offered a motion to approve a 2004 application from Lennis Bernard for an initial Class A Retail Outlet Beer Permit and Class A Retail Outlet Liquor Permit for Mr. B Lounge located at 824 West 2nd Street, Crowley, LA, pending approval from Chief Gibson. Seconded by Alderman Marceaux and duly adopted.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

Alderman Thomas offered a motion to accept the lowest bids from Fruge Lumber Company in the amount of \$237,450 and the alternate #1 in the amount of \$2,030 for the renovations to the Central Fire Station located at 104 West Hutchinson Avenue. Seconded by Alderman Buatt and was duly adopted with Alderwoman Melancon abstaining.

Alderman Martin offered a motion to get proposal for gutter work for the Enterprise Center. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

INSURANCE & PERSONNEL:

Alderwoman Pete offered a motion to allow a per diem of up to \$24.00 a day for three meals when an employee qualifies and is out of town on city business. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Martin offered a motion to accept the recommendation of Chief Schmaltz and hire Michael Cormier as a probational firefighter effective December 26, 2003. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Istre, duly seconded by Alderman Premeaux, and duly resolved and adopted.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY,
ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA, IN SUPPORT OF
THE LOUISIANA SUGAR INDUSTRY.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's sugar industry is an important economic engine in our state and has been for more than 200 years; and

WHEREAS, sugar cane is the number one row crop in Louisiana and is farmed in 24 parishes, including Acadia Parish; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's sugar industry employs 27,000 people annually in 15 mills, two refineries and on 800 farms state wide; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's sugar industry provides over \$2 billion in yearly economic impact to the state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's sugar industry supports free trade on a multi-lateral level within the World Trade Organization; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's trade representatives are negotiating the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and are offering the removal of the sugar import tariff system, which will destroy the Louisiana sugar industry; and

WHEREAS, countries included in CAFTA will flood the United States with cheap, subsidized sugar driving the Louisiana sugar industry out of business; and

WHEREAS, if CAFTA is agreed upon by the U. S. Trade Representatives with the removal of any sugar import tariffs as part of the deal, and since Congress must vote up or down on CAFTA, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley will urge the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to vote against CAFTA;

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, they do hereby support the Louisiana sugar industry and urge President George W. Bush to remove sugar from the CAFTA and to assure the economic stability of the sugar industry,

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, on this the 9th day of December, 2003.

ISABELLA L. DE LA HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Alderman Istre offered a motion to enter into an agreement with the International Rice Festival Association for the International Rice Festival Association to use the City of Crowley's beer permit for the festival. This agreement shall be for a period of 10 years. The City of Crowley will receive 15% of the net receipts for sale of beer. Approval is contingent upon legal counsel. Seconded by Alderman Thomas. Alderman Buatt moved to amend the motion by inserting "with an automatic annual renewal option" after "10 years". The amendment was seconded by Alderman Premeaux and passed. The main motion as amended was voted on and adopted.

Alderman Thomas offered a motion to authorize Mader Engineering to do a topographic surveys for improvements on City of Crowley Industrial Park, LaPAC location. Seconded by Alderman Buatt and duly adopted.

RECREATION:

Alderman Premeaux offered a motion to appropriate an additional \$62,500 for a total appropriation of \$77,500 in local funds for Phase I Sidewalk Improvements (sidewalk and drainage around the Hensgens Park Concession Stand) at the Recreation Center. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted with Alderman Istre voting nay.

REVENUE & FINANCE:

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to amend the budget to purchase 75 barricades model Fs-B-FF from Friedrichs' Custom Manufacturing in the amount of \$5,920.00. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted.

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Buatt, duly seconded by Alderman Martin, and duly resolved and adopted.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR AN EXISTING BUILDING AND WAREHOUSE FACILITY FOR ANIMAL SHELTER AND STORAGE OF RECREATION DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley has developed a master plan for the continuing development of the recreation complex located on Mill Street; and

WHEREAS, the plan includes the demolition and relocation of the equipment storage and maintenance facility; and

WHEREAS, the animal shelter is obsolete and in need of substantial repairs and improvements to meet minimum current standards; and

WHEREAS, the animal shelter is situated within the Industrial Park which is better suited for use as inducement to industry to locate in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley have been offered a facility near the recreation complex which would be suitable for an equipment storage and maintenance facility and new animal shelter; and

WHEREAS, the building which has been offered for sale and has the potential to accommodate the needs for both departments and it would be cost effective to combine the needs of both departments into a single facility; and

WHEREAS, an appraisal was authorized and has been received which provides a value of the property and identifies the probable additional costs which should be considered in purchasing the building; and

WHEREAS, the current asking price is substantially lower than the original listing price and the owners have indicated the willingness to further negotiate the price of the building;

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, they do hereby authorize, empower and direct the Honorable Isabella L. de la Houssaye, Mayor, and Thomas K. Regan, City Attorney, to negotiate a purchase agreement for Lots 1, 2 and the West 20 feet of Lot 3, Block 1 of the City of Crowley and the improvements situated thereon at a price not to exceed the appraised value of the building and after taking into account the anticipated costs and expenses to remedy the deficiencies and the repairs necessary as noted in the appraisal.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, on this the 9th day of December, 2003

ISABELLA L. DE LA HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to amend the budget to appropriate an additional \$62,500 for a total appropriation of \$77,500 in local funds for Phase I Sidewalk Improvements (sidewalk and drainage around the Hensgens Park Concession Stand) at the Recreation Center. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted with Alderman Istre voting nay.

Alderman Buatt offered a motion to amend the Fiscal 2004 Budget as follows. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

	Amendment	Fiscal 2004 Budget
General Fund – Revenues		
Rural Development Grant	12,000	-0-
LCDA Loan	369,000	140,000
FEMA/Parish/State	110,000	-0-
Sales of fixed assets	29,550	-0-

General Administration – Expense		
Miscellaneous Expense	38,650	500
Police – Expense		
Capital Outlay	48,950	-0-
Fire – Expense		
Truck & Equipment Repair	25,000	12,000
Miscellaneous Expense	5,750	400
Street – Expense		
Capital Outlay	100,000	20,000
Operating Transfer Out		
Approp. Y.R.B.M. – LCDA	19,000	-0-
Youth Rec. Operating – Expense		
LCDA Principal	8,200	-0-
LCDA Interest	11,500	-0-
Capital Outlay	110,000	100,000
Youth Rec. Building Maint. – Expense		
LCDA Principal	6,400	-0-
LCDA Interest	10,550	-0-
Rice Theater – Expense		
LCDA Principal	4,750	-0-
LCDA Interest	8,675	-0-
Utility – Expense		
Gen. Administration		
City Match – Grant	20,000	-0-
LCDA Principal	2,500	-0-
LCDA Interest	3,000	-0-
Disposal		
Capital Outlay/Parking Lot	5,500	-0-
Sewer		
Capital Outlay	13,500	-0-
Capital Outlay/North Crowley Pump	75,000	-0-
Operating Transfers In		
Approp. From Gen. Fund – LCDA	140,000	-0-

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion duly made by Alderman Buatt and seconded by Alderwoman Melancon the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ISABELLA L. DE LA HOUSSAYE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Presented rough draft to Mayor on December 11, 2003 at 9:45 a.m.
Presented for Mayor's signature on December 18, 2003 at 1:20 p.m.
Mayor Signed & returned to City Clerk December , 2003 at .m.