

CITY OF CROWLEY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

**APRIL 9, 2002**

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2002, at the regular meeting place of said Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the City Hall, 426 North Avenue F, Crowley, Louisiana.

Mayor Isabella L. de la Houssaye presided with the following Aldermen present: James M. Buatt, J. Elliot Doré, Tiger Istre, Greg Jones, Vernon Martin, Mary T. Melancon, Laurita D. Pete, Steven C. Premeaux and Ira Thomas.

Alderman Doré led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and gave the invocation.

**PRESENTATIONS OR APPEARANCES:**

Mr. Kenneth Privat addressed the assembly to inform them of his intentions to become a candidate for the position of District 15<sup>th</sup> Judge.

Sincere appreciation was given to the Crowley Fire Department for their achievement to attain a Class 2 Fire Rating for the City.

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF CROWLEY, ACADIA PARISH, LOUISIANA,  
RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE  
CROWLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE CHIEF RUSSEL  
MECHE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACHIEVE A CLASS 2 FIRE RATING FOR  
THE CITY OF CROWLEY

WHEREAS, the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana has notified the City of Crowley that it has improved the fire rating classification from Class 3 to Class 2; and

WHEREAS, the Class 2 Rating recognizes significant improvements in fire fighting capabilities, employee training and departmental management; and

WHEREAS, the improved Class 2 Rating will result in a reduction in fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial property located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley is one of only 13 municipalities in the State of Louisiana to attain a Class 2 Fire Rating; and

WHEREAS, the Class 2 Fire Rating was achieved through the dedication and hard work of career and volunteer firefighters, their efforts to continuing education, training, performance evaluations, maintenance and operation of equipment, together with the commitment and leadership of Russell Meche, Fire Chief of the City of Crowley; and

WHEREAS, committed leadership, hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Crowley Fire Department, Volunteer Firefighters and the Fire Chief represent a valuable and important resource which deserves acknowledgment and recognition;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Crowley, in regular session duly convened, that they do hereby recognize and commend the career and volunteer firefighters of the Crowley Fire Department and extend their appreciation and thanks on behalf of the citizens of Crowley for their dedication and commitment to improving the ability of the Fire Department to protect lives and property of the citizens of Crowley.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED in regular session duly convened on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2002 at Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, at which a quorum was acting throughout.

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ISABELLA DE LA HOUSSAYE, MAYOR  
ATTEST:

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JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Mr. Ryan Nevitt presented his community service project that he is doing to earn his Eagle Scout badge. In working with the Faith House and Motorola, he is requesting the donation of old cell phones that will be given to battered women. These phones will give the women the ability to request aid in a crisis or emergency. City Hall will be a drop off point for anyone interested in donating a cell phone.

**READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES / BILLS:**

Alderman Martin moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002 regular council meeting; and approve them as amended, written and distributed to each Alderman. Seconded by Alderman Premeaux and duly adopted.

Alderman Thomas moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002 special council meeting; and approve them as written and distributed to each Alderman. Seconded by Alderman Doré and duly adopted.

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

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor 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 six months of the fiscal year to the budgeted revenues and expenditures of the same period.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

Alderman Melancon moved to authorize Mader-Miers Engineering to proceed with patching the railroad crossing at Avenues D and to examine the railroad crossings at Avenue E, F and H to see if those locations are in need of patching. Seconded by Alderman Buatt and duly adopted.

### **UTILITY:**

Alderman Martin moved to approve Partial Payment No. 3 to Acadiana Shell and Limestone for the Demolition of the Abandoned Waste Water Treatment Facility in the amount of \$51,265.80. Seconded by Alderman Jones and duly adopted with Alderman Thomas abstaining.

Alderman Martin moved to approve Partial Payment No. 1 under the K.A.S. contract to Furnish and Install a Comminutor at the Main Pump Station in the amount of \$168,126.08. Seconded by Alderman Jones and duly adopted.

Alderman Martin moved to approve Change Order No. 2, the final Contract Change Order, to the K.A.S. contract to Furnish and Install a Comminutor at the Main Pump Station. Seconded by Alderman Buatt and duly adopted.

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

RESOLUTION OF TERMINATION

A resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute for and on behalf of the City of Crowley, a Notice of Termination for K.A.S. Construction, L.L.C., Contractor, pertaining to the substantial completion of the contract subject to a punch list attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution, for "Furnish & Install Comminutor at the Main Pump Station" for the City of Crowley in accordance with the plans and specifications contained in the contract documents pertaining thereto.

WHEREAS, K.A.S. Construction, L.L.C., as Contractor, has substantially completed "Furnish & Install Comminutor at the Main Pump Station" for the City of Crowley in accordance with the plans and specifications contained in the contract documents pertaining thereto; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crowley desires to accept the completed work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Crowley Board of Aldermen that the Mayor of said City of Crowley be, and is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to execute a Notice of Termination for and on behalf of the City of Crowley accepting the work as being substantially completed, and that the Mayor be authorized and directed to have a copy of said acceptance recorded in the Conveyance Records of the Parish of Acadia, State of Louisiana.

ISABELLA DE LA HOUSSAYE, MAYOR  
ATTEST:

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JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Alderman Martin moved to authorize the advertisement for the West Crowley Sewerage Improvements Project (LCDBG FY 2001 Program) contingent upon LCDBG clearing of contract conditions. Seconded by Alderman Istre and duly adopted.

**PUBLIC BUILDING:**

Alderman Premeaux moved to approve Change Order No. 9 in the amount of \$15,669 to the E. L. Habetz Builders, Incorporated for renovations to the Crowley Enterprise Center for the following purposes:

- 1) Provide and install S2S clear cedar wood trim to bottom of existing exposed wood beams to lower and straighten beam profile. Install cedar “false columns” in seven (7) locations where existing columns are hidden behind drywall;
- 2) Add labor and materials to add one (1) three phase electric panel for A/C units due to units having to be moved from original plan locations. Add single-phase circuits for inside units. Add two (2) new circuits for inside air handlers.

Seconded by Alderman Istre and duly adopted.

Alderman Premeaux moved to approve Partial Payment No. 2 to Miller Roofing for the re-roofing of the Crowley Administrative offices in the amount of \$28,336.50. Seconded by Alderman Jones and duly adopted.

Alderman Premeaux moved to approve Partial Payment No. 6 to E. L. Habetz Builders, Inc. for the renovations to the Rice Theatre in the amount of \$41,590. Motion carried.

Alderman Premeaux moved to approve Change Order No. 8 in the amount of \$414.00 to the E. L. Habetz Builders, Incorporated contract for renovations to the Crowley Enterprise Center to replace plexiglass and broken glass panes and reglaze windows on the second floor level of the East facade. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

Alderman Premeaux moved to approve Partial Payment No. 7 to E. L. Habetz Builders, Inc. for the renovations to the Rice Theatre in the amount of \$81,451.00. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Premeaux moved to approve Partial Payment No. 7 to E. L. Habetz Builders, Inc. for the renovations to the Crowley Enterprise Center in the amount of \$136,690. Seconded by Alderman Thomas and duly adopted.

### **INSURANCE & PERSONNEL:**

Alderwoman Melancon offered a motion to accept the recommendation of Mark Landry and continue with One Source as the Third Party Administrator of our group health insurance; and accept Option 1 with an aggregating specific deductible of \$25,000. Seconded by Alderman Martin and duly adopted.

Alderman Martin offered a motion to increase the firemen's salary and raise the base pay by \$125.00, effective April 15, 2002. Seconded by Alderman Doré and duly adopted.

### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC:**

Mr. Bowen Miller spoke on conditions that cause the low prices that the farmers receive for their rice. Alderman Martin moved to endorse the "Declaration of Local Agriculture Emergency". Seconded by Alderwoman Pete and duly adopted.

### **RECREATION:**

Alderman Thomas moved to approve Partial Payment No. 7 to LADCO for the Sewerage and Drainage Improvements at Miller Stadium in the amount of \$4,875.42 to release retainage. Seconded by Alderwoman Melancon and duly adopted.

Alderman Thomas moved to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,150 to Kirk Knott Electric for Ballfield Lighting Improvements at Miller Stadium for the following purposes:

- 1) To increase the originally designed 400-amp service to a 500 amp service in the amount of \$750
- 2) To increase the originally designed 45 kva, 3-phase transformer to feed the grandstand to a 50 kva, 1-phase transformer with corresponding fused switch and electrical panel changes in the amount of \$1,500
- 3) To add a main breaker at each light pole in the amount of \$1,000
- 4) To provide for new electric service to each dugout and provide for a service near the flagpole for a future floodlight receptacle in the amount of \$900

Seconded by Alderman Jones and duly adopted.

Alderman Thomas moved to appropriate \$30,000 from Sales Tax Fund balance to Youth Recreation Operating Capital Outlay Account for limestone at Hensgens Park parking lot, amend the budget to reflect the same and refer to the Revenue and Finance Committee. Seconded by Alderman Premeaux and duly adopted.

### **REVENUE & FINANCE:**

Alderman Doré offered a motion to appropriate \$30,000 from Sales Tax Fund balance to Youth Recreation Operating Capital Outlay Account for limestone at Hensgens Park parking lot and amend the budget to reflect the same. Seconded by Alderwoman Pete and duly adopted.

The following motion was offered by Alderman Doré and seconded by Alderman Martin:



- 1) To approve a salary increase of \$125 per month to the base pay of Firemen effective April 15, 2002 with this increase to be funded from the ½ Cent Sales Tax – Salary Fund
- 2) To increase each rank’s base pay as follows: (the funds for all new employees hired at these new base pay rates are not eligible to be paid from the ½ Cent Sales Tax – Salary Fund):

\$1,344.38	Firefighters	\$1,259.38 plus \$85 after three months =
	Firefighter 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	\$1,401.10
	Drivers	\$1,457.82
	Captain	\$1,627.98

- 3) To amend the fiscal 2002 budget to reflect these changes as follows:

	2002	AMENDED	
	APPROVED	BUDGET	INCREASE
GENERAL FUND			
REVENUE-GENERAL FUND			
Transfers & Appropriations	3,127,582	3,148,177	20,595
EXPENDITURE-FIRE			
Salary & Fringe	1,004,350	1,024,945	20,595
½ CENT SALES-TAX SALARY			
EXPENDITURE			
Transfers & Appropriations	1,003,708	1,024,303	20,595

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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ISABELLA L. DE LA HOUSSAYE,

MAYOR

ATTEST:

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JUDY L. ISTRE, CITY CLERK

Presented rough draft to Mayor on April 10, 2002 at 5:15 p.m.

Presented for Mayor's signature on April, 2002 at 10:30 a.m.

Mayor Signed & returned to City Clerk on April , 2002 at .m.

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