Introduced November 7, 2023, by Councilman Tamborella, seconded by Councilwoman Haggerty, (by request of Administration)

## Item No. 23-11-3497

## **ORDINANCE NO. 4147**

An ordinance declaring certain City property, being 0.740 acres of land, more or less, part of Cleveland Avenue (Extension) in Sec. 44, T9S, R14E, in Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, to be surplus property no longer required for public use, and authorizing its transfer to Robin W. Goldsmith, in full and final settlement of the legal action entitled and captioned *Robin W. Goldmsith*, et al. v The City of Slidell, et al., Docket No. 2016-11761 "D", 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, according to La. R.S. 33:4712.A., "A municipality may sell, . . . exchange, or otherwise dispose of, to or with . . . private persons, at public or private sale, any property, or portions thereof, including real property, which is, in the opinion of the governing authority, not needed for public purposes"; and

WHEREAS, the City is the owner of certain immovable property, being 0.740 acres of land, more or less, in Sec. 44, T9S, R14E, in Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, as more fully shown and described on the survey attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, a portion of the Property was acquired by the City from Robin Goldsmith in 1999 and utilized in connection with other lands to construct an extension to Cleveland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Property is adjacent to the southern border of a larger tract of land owned by Robin Goldsmith; and

WHEREAS, when the Cleveland Avenue railroad crossing was closed in 2015, the Goldsmiths no longer had direct access to this larger tract from Front St./Hwy 11; and

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WHEREAS, as a result of the closure of the railroad crossing, Robin Goldsmith instituted a legal action against the City and the State DOTD entitled and captioned *Robin W. Goldmsith, et al. v The City of Slidell, et al.*, Docket No. 2016-11761 "D", 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana (the "Litigation"), alleging various disputed causes of action related to the closure; and

WHEREAS, to avoid the time, expense, and legal and financial uncertainty associated with further pursuing/defending the Litigation, the parties, without any admission of liability by any defendant, desire to compromise and settle their dispute by having the City transfer the Property to Robin Goldmsith in full and final settlement of the Litigation, which transfer is, therefore, not gratuitous; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the Property, save the sewer lift station infrastructure located at its northeast corner, is no longer needed for public use and should be declared surplus property; and

WHEREAS, Cleco Corporation owns the tract to the immediate south of the Property and has advised the City it has no objection to the transfer of the Property to Robin Goldsmith, Cleco having primary access to its tract from public roadways on the southern and western sides of said tract; and

WHEREAS; as conditions precedent to the transfer of the Property, the parties to the Litigation shall agree in a standard written settlement that: (1) a right of access/way over/across the Property shall be granted in favor of (i) Parcel A1 as identified in resubdivision Map File #6144, dated May 5, 2022, by Daniel J. Poche, recorded in the land

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records of the St. Tammany Parish Clerk and (ii) the tract/estate to the immediate south of the Property, currently owned by the Cleco Corporation, for purposes of road access to those respective tracts; (2) the City shall reserve any mineral rights and/or interests it may have in the Property as well as the sewer lift station infrastructure it has in the northeast corner of the Property as shown on Exhibit A, which area shall also constitute a utility servitude in favor of the City (any drainage infrastructure over or under the Property being transferred to Robin Goldsmith); (3) the City shall be granted ingress and egress rights across the Property, as an access servitude, to service and maintain said utility servitude and lift station infrastructure; (4) upon transfer of the Property, the transferee shall undertake all further responsibility for the condition, upkeep, repair, and replacement of the roadway, and the responsibility the Property generally; (5) contemporaneously with the transfer of the Property, the Litigation and all claims therein shall be dismissed by plaintiffs as to all defendants, with prejudice, and without further payment, each party to bear its own costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council that certain immovable property, being 0.740 acres of land, more or less, in Sec. 44, T9S, R14E, in Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, as more fully shown and described on the survey attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Property"), is no longer needed for public use and is hereby declared to be surplus property (except for the sewer lift station infrastructure located at its northeast corner), and it hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Slidell, on

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behalf of the City, to settle the Litigation by standard written settlement and transfer of the Property to Robin W. Goldsmith, conditioned upon:

(1) a right of access/way over/across the Property being granted in favor of (i) Parcel A1 as identified in resubdivision Map File #6144, dated May 5, 2022, by Daniel J. Poche, recorded in the land records of the St. Tammany Parish Clerk and (ii) the tract/estate to the immediate south of the Property, currently owned by the Cleco Corporation, for purposes of road access to those respective tracts; (2) the City's reservation of any mineral rights and/or interests it may have in the Property as well as the sewer lift station infrastructure it has in the northeast corner of the Property as shown on Exhibit A, which area shall also constitute a utility servitude in favor of the City (any drainage infrastructure over or under the Property being transferred to Robin Goldsmith); (3) a grant of ingress and egress rights to the City across the Property, as an access servitude, to service and maintain said utility servitude and lift station infrastructure; (4) the transferee's acceptance of all further responsibility for the condition, upkeep, repair, and replacement of the roadway on the Property and responsibility for the Property generally; and (5) a contemporaneous dismissal of the Litigation and all claims therein by plaintiffs as to all defendants, with prejudice, and without further payment, each party to bear its own costs.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council that this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

**ADOPTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

inny Tanbaella Kenny Tamborella

President of the Council

Councilman, District E

Greg Cromer

Mayor

Council Administrator

DELIVERED 12/13/23 8:45 cm. to the Mayor RECEIVED 12/18/23

