Introduced October 27, 2009, by Councilman Hursey, seconded by Councilman Hicks, (by request of Administration)

Item No. 09-09-2821

ORDINANCE NO. 3551

An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell, Chapter 21 Personnel, Article II Employee Benefits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council that Chapter 21, Personnel, Article II, Employee Benefits, Sec. 21-21 (2) is hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 21. Personnel

Section 21-21. Medical and Dental Insurance.

- (A) The City shall contribute to a program of medical and dental insurance for all fulltime City employees, elected officials and retirees as provided in this Section. City contributions to the cost of the medical and dental insurance shall be paid from amounts appropriated for such purposes.
- (B) The City shall contribute seventy five percent (75%) of the cost of the medical and/or dental coverage selected by each active fulltime employee and each current elected official.
- (C) (1) The surviving spouse and dependents of a deceased City employee or of a deceased elected official may continue to participate in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program for no more than five (5) years after the death of such employee or elected official, provided that:
 - (a) the said deceased employee or elected official was employed on a fulltime basis or was serving the City as an elected official and dies while so employed by the City or while serving as an elected official of the City; and
 - (b) the deceased employee or elected official had participated in the City's medical insurance program for at least five (5) years prior to death if the surviving dependents opt to continue medical coverage; or

- (c) the said deceased employee or elected official had participated in the City's dental insurance program for at least five (5) years prior to the death if the surviving dependents opt to continue dental coverage.
- (2) The City shall pay its portion of the medical and/or dental insurance premium as provided in subsection (B). The surviving spouse or dependent shall be responsible to pay the remainder of the premium.
- (3) Unless a dependent child is added through a qualifying event, only those surviving spouses and dependents who were covered under the City's medical insurance program for five (5) years prior to the employee's or elected official's death may continue to participate in the City's medical insurance program pursuant to this subsection.
- (4) Unless a dependent child is added through a qualifying event, only those surviving spouses and dependents who were covered under the City's dental insurance program for five (5) years prior to the employee's or elected official's death may continue to participate in the City's dental insurance program pursuant to this subsection.
- (5) Participation under this subsection shall terminate at the earlier of:
 - (a) the date the premium payment is more than sixty (60) days delinquent; or
 - (b) the date the surviving spouse or dependent becomes eligible for Medicare; or
 - (c) the date the surviving spouse or dependent becomes eligible to participate in another group medical and dental insurance plan; or
 - (d) the date the dependent child becomes ineligible; or
 - (e) the date the surviving spouse remarries; or
 - (f) five (5) years from the date of death of the employee or elected official.
- (D) (1) City employees who retire on or before June 30, 2010 may continue to participate in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program under the following conditions:

- (a) the employee shall be vested and eligible to retire under any retirement system authorized by the City; and
- (b) the employee shall have a minimum of 10 years of City service; and
- (c) in order to continue medical coverage, employees, spouses and dependents shall have participated in the City's medical insurance program from the effective date of this ordinance to the date of the employee's retirement.
- (d) in order to continue dental coverage, employees, spouses and dependents shall have participated in the City's dental insurance program from the effective date of this ordinance to the date of the employee's retirement.
- (e) the City shall contribute one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the medical and/or dental insurance premium;
- (f) upon attainment of the age sufficient for Medicare eligibility, the retiree and his/her spouse shall apply for Medicare Parts A and B. Those retirees and their spouses shall participate in the City's Medicare Advantage Plan at the same percentage contained in subsection (D)(1)(e) for medical coverage.
- (g) retirees and their spouses who are not eligible for Medicare may continue their participation in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program as provided in this subsection (D)(1).
- (h) retirees, spouses and their dependents may remain on the City's dental insurance program at the same percentage contained in subsection (D)(1)(e) after beginning the Medicare Advantage Plan.
- (2) City employees who were hired before September 1, 2008 and who retire from the City after June 30, 2010 may continue to participate in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program under the following conditions:
 - (a) the employee shall be vested and eligible to retire under any retirement system authorized by the City; and
 - (b) Have a minimum of 10 years of City service; and

- in order to continue medical coverage, the employee shall have participated in the City's medical insurance program for not less than five (5) years immediately prior to retirement. Unless a dependent child is added through a qualifying event, only those spouses and dependents who were covered under the City's medical insurance program for five (5) years prior to the employee's retirement may continue to participate in the City's medical insurance program pursuant to this subsection. Employees, spouses and dependents shall be exempt from this five (5) year requirement if they continuously participate in the City's medical insurance plan from the effective date of this ordinance to any employee retirement date that is prior to June 30, 2014.
- (d) in order to continue dental coverage, the employee shall have participated in the City's dental insurance program for not less than five (5) years immediately prior to retirement. Unless a dependent child is added through a qualifying event, only those surviving spouses and dependents who were covered under the City's dental insurance program for five (5) years prior to the employee's retirement may continue to participate in the City's dental insurance program pursuant to this subsection. Employees, spouses and dependents shall be exempt from this five (5) year requirement if they continuously participate in the City's dental insurance plan from the effective date of this ordinance to employee retirement date that is prior to June 30, 2014.
- (e) the City shall contribute to the cost of the medical and/or dental insurance premium at the following percentages:
 - (i) for employees who retire after at least ten (10) years but less than twenty (20) years of service in a City sponsored retirement plan, the City shall pay eighty percent (80%) of the total premium for the retiree and eligible dependents;

- (ii) for employees who retire after at least twenty (20) years but less than twenty five (25) years of service in a City sponsored retirement plan, the City shall pay ninety percent (90%) of the total premium for the retiree and eligible dependents;
- (iii) for employees who retire after twenty five (25) years or more of service in a City sponsored retirement plan, the City shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the total premium for the retiree and eligible dependents;
- (f) Upon attainment of the age sufficient for Medicare eligibility, the retiree and his/her spouse shall apply for Medicare Parts A and B. Those retirees and their spouses shall participate in the City's Medicare Advantage Plan according to their length of service at the same percentages contained in subsection (D)(2)(e) for medical coverage.
- (g) Retirees, spouses and their dependents who are not eligible for Medicare may continue their participation in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program according to their length of service at the same percentages contained in subsection (D)(2)(e).
- (h) retirees, spouses and their dependents may remain on the City's dental insurance program at the same percentage contained in subsection
 (D)(2)(e) after beginning the Medicare Advantage Plan.
- (3) City employees who were hired after September 1, 2008 and who retire from the City may continue to participate in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program under the following conditions:
 - (a) the employee shall be vested and eligible to retire under any retirement system authorized by the City; and
 - (b) have a minimum of 10 years of city service; and
 - (c) in order to continue medical coverage, the employee shall have participated in the City's medical insurance program for not less than five (5) years

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immediately prior to retirement. Unless a dependent child is added through a qualifying event, only those spouses and dependents who were covered under the City's medical insurance program for five (5) years prior to the employee's retirement may continue to participate in the City's medical insurance program pursuant to this subsection.

- (d) unless a dependent child is added through a qualifying event, only those surviving spouses and dependents who were covered under the City's dental insurance program for five (5) years prior to the employee's retirement may continue to participate in the City's dental insurance program pursuant to this subsection.
- (e) the City shall contribute to the cost of the medical and/or dental insurance premium for the employee at the following rates:
 - (i) employees who retire after at least ten (10) years but less than twenty(20) years of service in a City sponsored retirement plan, the City shall pay fifty five percent (55%) of the total premium for the retiree;
 - (ii) employees who retire after at least twenty (20) years but less than twenty five (25) years of service in a City sponsored retirement plan, the City shall pay sixty five percent (65%) of the total premium for the retiree;
 - (iii) employees who retire after twenty five (25) years or more of service in a City sponsored retirement plan, the City shall pay seventy five percent (75%) of the total premium for the retiree;
- (f) In order for the spouse and dependents to participate in the medical and/or dental insurance program, they shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the total premium;
- (g) Upon attainment of the age sufficient for Medicare eligibility, the retiree and his/her spouse shall be covered by Medicare without any further participation in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program.

- (h) Retirees, spouses, and their dependents who are not eligible for Medicare may continue their participation in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program according to their length of service at the same percentages contained in subsection (D)(3)(e) and (D)(3)(f).
- (4) Upon the death of the retiree, the surviving spouse may continue to participate in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program at the same percentages contained in subsections (D)(1)(e), (D)(2)(e) or (D)(3)(f) as applicable until he/she remarries. The dependents of the retiree may continue to participate in the City's medical and dental insurance program until he/she is no longer eligible.
- (5) If a surviving spouse has remarried prior to the effective date of this ordinance, they may continue to participate in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program at the same percentage contained in subsection (D)(1)(e).
- (6) Participation in the City's medical and/or dental insurance program pursuant to subsections (D)(2) and (D)(3) shall automatically terminate if the portion of the premium for which the retiree or his/her surviving spouse is responsible to pay is more than sixty days (60) delinquent.
- (E) Any medical and/or dental premium payments that are due to the City shall be made through automatic draft.
- (F) The City's Finance Department is authorized to promulgate and implement administrative rules as it deems appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Section.
- (G) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any City employee who separates from City service in order to avoid disciplinary action.

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Thomas P. Reeves

Council Administrator

ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2009.

Rickey Hursey
President of the Council Councilman, District B

Ben O. Morris

Mayor

10/31/09 DELIVERED 3.05 p.m. to the Mayor

RECEIVED 11/5/09

8:00 a.m. from the Mayor