

MINUTES

SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 14, 1988

6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Councilman Van Sandt. All members were present with the exception of Councilman Salvaggio.

Councilman Berault removed and withdrew Item No. C. 4., Resolution R88-35, a resolution endorsing fiscal reform for the State of Louisiana, from the consent calendar. He also removed Item No. C. 5., a resolution providing for the temporary closure of the Audubon Bridge. Councilman Barthelemy removed Item No. E. 1., the West Hall Roadway Improvements bid, from the consent calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman-at-Large Singletary, seconded by Councilman Barthelemy, moved to adopt the consent calendar as amended.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the May 24, 1988, Meeting.

B. Proposed Ordinances:

1. **Item No. 88-06-1280:** An ordinance declaring certain property of the City of Slidell surplus and setting the method of disposing of same, (Van Sandt/Callahan, both by request).
2. **Item No. 88-06-1281:** An ordinance prohibiting commercial buses from using the residential streets in Olde Towne, (Washington/Van Sandt, by request).
3. **Item No. 88-06-1283:** An ordinance amending Chapter 14 Sewers and Drainage, to allow for an annual swimming pool discharge into the sewer system at no charge, (Callahan/Singletary, by request).

NOTE: A Public Hearing will be held on the above listed ordinances on Tuesday, July 12, 1988 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

C. Proposed Resolutions:

1. **R88-32:** A resolution establishing the millage rate for the 1988 tax rolls of the City of Slidell, (Van Sandt/Callahan, both by request).
2. **R88-33:** A resolution endorsing the program outlined in the City's application for a Community Development Block Grant (Final Statement) for 1988, (Washington/Van Sandt by request).
3. **R88-34:** A resolution directed to the legislators of the State of Louisiana, requesting that they reject any request for a reduction in State funds dedicated to Delgado Junior College, (Berault/Washington).

D. Approval of Special Function Liquor Licenses:

1. **U.S.S.S.A. Softball Qualifying Tournament**
(Sponsored by Slidell Chrysler Plymouth)

ROLL CALL

8 Yeas

0 Nays

1 Absent
(Salvaggio)

CARRIED

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REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman Berault briefly explained Resolution R88-36, a resolution providing for the temporary closure of the Audubon Bridge during roadway construction on Rue Rochelle. He stated that he recently met with the Heritage and Bon Village Homeowners Associations, and it was the consensus to close the Audubon Bridge during the construction period on Rue Rochelle. Mr. Allen Lockhart provided a letter containing a request from the Audubon Homeowners Association to close the bridge.

Councilman Berault, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to adopt Resolution R88-36.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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Councilman Barthelemy briefly discussed Item E. 1., West Hall Roadway Improvement Bid (Phase I) of Bush Construction Company in the Amount of \$60,641.00. City Attorney Elaine Guillot stated that this bid could be accepted and later amended with a change order to provide for additional work and an extension of the contract.

Councilman Barthelemy, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Singletary, moved for acceptance of the West Hall Roadway Improvement Bid of Bush Construction Company, and also moved to use \$18,000 from the Capital Project Fund to continue the roadway through to Jaycee Drive. The Council Administrator will notify that Finance Director of the particular budget line items.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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SUSPENSION OF RULES

Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to suspend the ruled to introduce Resolution R88-37, a resolution directed to the Louisiana Department of Transportation, requesting that the north lane of Gause Boulevard going west, at its intersection with U.S. Highway 11, be designated as a right turn only lane.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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Councilman Van Sandt briefly explained R88-37. Councilman Barthelemy and Councilman-at-Large Singletary stated they had concerns with traffic congestion if this right turn only lane was allowed. Councilman-at-Large Martinez requested that the Council Administrator send a letter to the Department of Transportation inquiring as to the feasibility of the proposed turn lane.

Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to adopt Resolution R88-37.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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REGULAR AGENDA (CONTINUED)

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Councilman-at-Large Martinez, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, moved to suspend the rules to bring Item 7. A. 1., the salary adjustment for the Council Administrator forward.

ROLL CALL	7 Yeas	1 Nay (Berault)	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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Councilman Van Sandt made an opening statement explaining that the proposed salary adjustment would bring the Council Administrator's salary to a level of \$39,788 as of July 1, 1988.

Appearing to speak in opposition to the salary adjustment were Barbara Penton, Vincent Matranga, Mr. E.V. Redmond, David Squires, Dan Yeates, Larry Abney, Robert Schmidt, Wesley Hill, Mr. Crockett, Dan Carmen, and Herman Waschka. Also appearing to discuss the issue were Mayor Salvatore Caruso, Chief of Staff Reinhard Dearing, and City Engineer Stan Polivick.

A lengthy discussion followed with Councilwoman Williams, Councilman-at-Large Martinez, and Councilman Barthelemy expressing their concern over the issue. Councilwoman Williams stated that Councilman Salvaggio was unable to attend the meeting, and he has requested that she read a statement submitted by him. Councilman Salvaggio stated that Council Administrator Davis Dautreuil has been a very good employee, but he is opposed to the salary adjustment. Councilwoman Williams requested that Councilman Salvaggio's statement be entered into the minutes. Councilman Callahan, Councilman Van Sandt, and Councilman Berault spoke in favor of the proposed salary adjustment.

Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman Berault, moved to increase the Council Administrator's salary to \$39,788, or the same level as that of the Chief of Staff, effective July 1, 1988.

A general discussion led by Councilman Callahan regarding the raises received by both classified and unclassified employees followed. Councilwoman Williams read an excerpt from the minutes of the May 10, 1988, City Council meeting regarding a salary increase proposed for Arts Director Suzanne Parsons, which had been denied by the City Council. Councilwoman Williams requested that the excerpt become an official part of the minutes of this meeting.

Councilman-at-Large Martinez, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, offered an amendment to table the proposed salary adjustment until the Council could establish a final job description for the Council Administrator.

ROLL CALL	3 Yeas	5 Nays (Singletary) (Washington) (Callahan) (Van Sandt) (Berault)	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	DENIED
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REGULAR AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Councilman Washington called for the question previously stated to increase the Council Administrator's salary to \$39,788, or the same level as that of the Chief of Staff, effective July 1, 1988.

ROLL CALL	5 Yeas	3 Nays	1 Absent	CARRIED
		(Williams)	(Salvaggio)	
		(Martinez)		
		(Barthelemy)		

As stated previously, Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman Berault, moved to increase the Council Administrator's salary to \$39,788, or the same level as the Chief of Staff, effective July 1, 1988.

ROLL CALL	5 Yeas	3 Nays	1 Absent	CARRIED
		(Williams)	(Salvaggio)	
		(Martinez)		
		(Barthelemy)		

At 8:40 P.M. Council President Van Sandt called for a brief recess. The Council Members returned at 8:50 P.M.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman Berault, moved to suspend the rules to bring Item No. 88-05-1274, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2078, adopting a revised pay plan for Municipal Employees Civil Service and Municipal Police Employees Civil Service of the City of Slidell, forward. Also brought forward was Amendment A to Item No. 88-05-1274.

Councilman Van Sandt withdrew Item No. 88-05-1274 and Amendment A to Item No. 88-05-1274. Ken Arnold of the Municipal Employees Civil Service Board addressed the Council. He stated that the board intends to make adjustments to the classified structure currently in effect for civil service employees. He asked the Mayor and Council for support and cooperation to update salary ranges and classifications. Councilman Berault thanked Mr. Arnold, and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Arnold's participation on the Civil Service Board.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Councilman Callahan, seconded by Councilman Barthelemy, moved to suspend the rules to bring Item No. 8. 1., a discussion on the cable television rate increase, forward.

ROLL CALL	7 Yeas	1 Nay	1 Absent	CARRIED
		(Berault)	(Salvaggio)	

Appearing before the Council was Kelly LeBoeuf of St. Tammany Cable T.V. Mr. LeBoeuf reviewed the proposed increase in basic cable rates from \$13 to \$15 effective July 1, 1988. Mr. Carl Prescher inquired as to the possibility of having the M-TV station disconnected from his cable service. Mr. Leboeuf stated that this would involve a \$15 service fee, and it could be completed in approximately two (2) weeks. Councilman Berault stated that Mr. Prescher could speak with Council Administrator Davis Dautreuil if he needed assistance.

TABLED ITEMS

Architect Ashley Inabnet addressed the Council on the final acceptance of the City Hall renovations and re-roofing. There was a brief discussion concerning the air condition system.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS (CONTINUED)

Councilman-at-Large Singletary asked about out of state owners receiving notice of violation of the ordinance. City Attorney Elaine Guillot stated that in the future, one (1) blanket notice would be sent to owners notifying them that the City would cut the grass approximately every six (6) weeks, and charge the owners. There was a brief discussion concerning the definition of underbrush as opposed to grass.

Appearing to speak before the Council was Charles Alexander. Mr. Alexander requested that he be given notice of the name of the individual if a complaint is made against him. Also appearing was John Higgins who advised the Council that in his area of the City many people have large lots with grass at least twelve (12") inches high, and that they like it that way. A general discussion developed with Councilman-at-Large Singletary asking if a twelve (12") inch grass height was really noxious. He continued by stating that it all depends on which part of the City you live in. He requested that this proposed ordinance be better refined and clarified. Councilwoman Williams added that residents should be notified of the total cost they will be assessed for grass cutting, and not just the price per square foot. She added that the Green Heritage Association should also provide input into the proposed ordinance. Mayor Caruso suggested that City Planner Pete Cioni meet with various individuals to make adjustments to the proposed ordinance. Also discussed were requirements for undeveloped property and larger sized lots not located in subdivisions.

Councilman Callahan, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez moved to table Item No. 88-05-1270 until technical changes could be made to the proposed ordinance.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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SUSPENSION OF RULES

Councilman-at-Large Singletary, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to suspend the rules to bring Item No. 88-05-1273, an ordinance amending Chapter 2 Administration of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Slidell, to correctly state the City's contribution for employees' health insurance, and to add a provision for advertising for public bids on various insurance coverages for the City of Slidell, forward.

There was a general discussion regarding the provision providing for awarding the insurance contract on a low bid basis. It was determined that the Mayor's staff was doing a review, and a study would be presented by August 1st. Councilman-at-Large Martinez stated that the intent of the proposed ordinance is excellent, but the City should not go with the lowest bid without first looking at the services provided and the financial ability of the insurance company. Councilwoman Williams added that we should be sure to include a clause for pre-existing conditions.

As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 88-05-1273. Since no one from the public appeared to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman-at-Large Martinez, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to table Item No. 88-05-1273 until later in the meeting.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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PUBLIC HEARINGS (CONTINUED)

As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 88-05-1272, an ordinance rescinding and reenacting Section 17-68.1 Requirement of Bond, and adding a new Section 17-49.1 Alternative Means of Enforcing Collections, to Taxation and Licenses of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell. Since no one from the public appeared to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Finance Director David Squires addressed the Council. He stated that this proposed ordinance would strengthen the sales tax collection policies and procedures. There was a brief discussion.

Councilman-at-Large Martinez, seconded by Councilman Washington, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 88-05-1272.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 88-05-1275, an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1. Administrative Assistant George Philips of the Slidell Police Department appeared before the Council. Also appearing with Mr. Philips was an official of the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1. Mr. Philips stated that the Police Department would share communication systems with the Fire Department. He added that the Fire District would receive twenty percent (20%) of the system. Since no one from the public appeared to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Barthelemy, seconded by Councilman Washington, moved to adopt Item No. 88-05-1275.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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As requested, Item No. 88-05-1273, regarding the health insurance contact for the City of Slidell which was tabled earlier in the meeting, was brought back before the Council. There was a brief discussion and Amendment A was brought before the Council. Amendment A removed the language relative to bid procedure from the Item. It was determined that this language would be introduced in an ordinance at a later meeting after technical changes could be made.

Councilman-at-Large Singletary, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to adopt Amendment A to Item No. 88-05-1273.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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Councilman-at-Large Singletary, Seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez, moved to adopt Item No. 88-05-1273 as amended.

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Council Administrator Davis Dautreuil explained the proposed renovations to the Council Chamber. He advised the Council that the Police Department has a labor crew consisting of a number of trustees who would perform the work. The City Council would pay for the labor of one (1) supervising person only and would buy the materials.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

SUSPENSION OF RULES

ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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ROLL CALL	8 Yeas	0 Nays	1 Absent (Salvaggio)	CARRIED
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Since there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 P.M.


Davis Dautreuil
Council Administrator/Clerk of the Council