

MINUTES

SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 23, 1988

6:30 P.M.

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

Councilman Washington removed Item C. 1. the Stanley Street Drainage Improvement Bids from the consent calendar. Also removed from the consent calendar, by Councilman Callahan, was Item D. 1., the Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation Bids.

Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman Washington, moved to adopt the consent calendar as amended.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the August 9, 1988, Meeting.

B. Proposed Ordinances:

1. **Item No. 88-08-1293:** An ordinance rescinding and reenacting Section 7-9 (1)(c)(7) of Chapter 7 Buildings* of the Code of Ordinances, (Singletary/Van Sandt, by request).
2. **Item No. 88-08-1294:** An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to acquire property and the dedication of same as a public utility right-of-way, (Van Sandt/Singletary (both by request)).

NOTE: A Public Hearing will be held on the above listed ordinances on Tuesday, September 27, 1988, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

BIDS AND REQUEST TO PURCHASE

Council Administrator, Davis Dautreuil, distributed the bid sheets for the Stanley Street Drainage Improvements Phase B. He advised the Council that the bids were received on Monday, and came in \$90,000 - \$95,000 under budgeted amount. City Engineer, Stan Polivick, reported the bids consisted of two (2) separate items. One bid was advertised for construction work, and the other for pipe. There was a brief discussion led by Councilman-at-Large Martinez regarding the background of the company awarded the bid. The City Engineer stated that he did check the accepted bidder's background and everything was in good order.

Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Salvaggio, moved to accept on the recommendation of administration, the bid of E.C. Durr Heavy Equipment in the amount of \$193,214.00 for the Stanley Street Drainage Improvements Phase B, and also the bid of Cashio Concrete Company in the amount of \$46,969.06 for the Stanley Street Drainage Phase B Pipe.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

PROJECT APPROVAL

Councilman Callahan, seconded by Councilman Washington, moved to accept on the recommendation of Administration, the project approval/acceptance for the Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Council Administrator, Davis Dautreuil, distributed an updated Utility Extension Agreement relating to Resolution R88-49, a resolution to commit funds for the extension of sewer and water lines to Ecol Village Subdivision, and to authorize the Mayor to execute a utility extension agreement. This agreement will be substituted for the agreement presently in the agenda packet. The City Attorney, Elaine Guillot, stated that the updated version of the agreement contains two (2) changes. An alternative site was proposed for water/sewer lines, and the proposed work dates were changed to allow for a more flexible time frame. The City Attorney added that she also supplied the Council with a time table to keep them advised of the projected work schedule of the Manufacturer's Retail Outlet matter.

There was a brief discussion regarding the funding for the M.R.O. utility extension. Councilman Salvaggio said that he felt very good about the project, especially since the developer donated \$50,000 to the City. He added that the engineering study will cost \$80,000 but with the donation considered, the City will only have to put up \$30,000 and not spend another cent until the ground is broken.

Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilman Van Sandt, moved to adopt Resolution R88-49 with the inclusion of the substitute Utility Extension Agreement provided to the Council.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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TABLED ITEMS

Item No. 88-07-1285, an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell to establish operational requirements for wrecker companies, along with Amendments A, B, and C were brought before the Council. Also introduced as amendments to the proposed wrecker ordinance were Amendments D, E, F, G, and H. There was a lengthy discussion with input from all Council Members.

A public hearing was declared. Appearing before the Council to speak regarding the proposed wrecker ordinance were Richard Lay, George Foster, Harold Dwyer, Judy Carter, and J. Anthony Moscona.

Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilman Berault, moved to adopt Amendment H to Item No. 88-07-1285.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, moved to adopt Amendment G to Item No. 88-07-1285.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilman-at-Large Martinez moved to table this matter until the meeting of September 13, 1988.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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The meeting was recessed at 8:00 p.m. The Council Members returned to resume the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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11 **SUSPENSION OF RULES**
12

13 Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Salvaggio,
14 moved to suspend the rules to move forward Item No. 88-07-1289, an
15 ordinance rezoning a parcel of property located at 1222 Fremaux
16 Avenue from A-6 Single Family Urban to C-4 Highway Commercial, as
17 petitioned by Mr. Lee Landry representing Fidelity Bank and Trust
18 Company.
19

20 **ROLL CALL** **8 Yeas** **0 Nays** **1 Absent** **CARRIED**
21 (Barthelemy Out of Room)
22

23 City Planner, Pete Cioni, explained the ordinance, along
24 with the past and present usage of the property involved. He
25 stated that the property has never been zoned as commercial,
26 although it is presently being used as commercial. The Planning
27 and Zoning Commission gave no recommendation regarding this zoning
28 request.
29

30 As advertised, a public hearing was held. Appearing to
31 speak on this matter was Johnny Crowe representing the Bank of
32 Louisiana, who requested that the Council change the zoning
33 classification of the property located at 1222 Fremaux Avenue to
34 C-4 Highway Commercial.
35

36 Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilman
37 Washington, moved to adopt Item No. 88-07-1289.
38

39 **ROLL CALL** **9 Yeas** **0 Nays** **0 Absent** **CARRIED**
40

41 **TABLED ITEMS**
42

43 Item No. 88-07-1287, an ordinance amending Chapter 2
44 Administration, of the Code of Ordinances, to add a provision for
45 advertising for public bids, various insurance coverages of the
46 City of Slidell, and Amendment A to Item No. 88-07-1287 were
47 brought before the Council. Councilman-at-Large Singletary
48 explained the ordinance would provide for bids every three
49 (3) years for insurance coverages. Mayor Caruso addressed the
50 Council, and he stated that he is not in agreement with
51 the ordinance as proposed. He commented that State law does
52 not require bids, and the City needs the flexibility of the
53 proposal process.
54

55 A public hearing was held on Item No. 88-07-1287.
56 Appearing from the public were John Case, Mickey Vivien, Carlos
57 Cardone, and Dan McKay. A lengthy discussion followed with
58 Councilman Berault explaining that low cost insurance is not
59 necessarily the best coverage. Also discussed was the use of a
60 professional risk manager and advertising procedures. Councilman
61 at-Large Martinez stressed clarifying advertising procedures to
62 seek offers/proposals and not bids for insurance coverage.
63

64 The Council Administrator distributed Amendments B & C
65 for introduction. Councilman-at-Large Singletary explained
66 Amendment B as a compromise to the ordinance. He summarized the
67 amendment as the City offering insurance proposals to a committee
68 for review and recommendation, with the Mayor presenting the final
69 recommendation to the City Council for approval. Councilman
70 Callahan proceeded to explain Amendment C which would expand this
71 proposal to include all professional services.
72

73 Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman Callahan,
74 moved to introduce Amendments B & C to Item No. 88-07-1287, and to
75 table the entire matter until the meeting of September 13, 1988.
76

77 **ROLL CALL** **9 Yeas** **0 Nays** **0 Absent** **CARRIED**
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PUBLIC HEARINGS

As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 88-07-1288, an ordinance amending Chapter 9 Crimes - Miscellaneous, Section 9-52 of the Highway Regulatory Act of the State of Louisiana, of the Code of ordinances of the City of Slidell. Councilman Van Sandt briefly explained the ordinance. Appearing before the Council was Vincent Crawford, Sr., who spoke in opposition to the ordinance, and Craig Landry, Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of St. Tammany. Mr. Landry advised the Council that another problem exists in the poor condition of the trucks using the area roadways. There was a lengthy discussion with Councilman Berault expressing a need for control. He added that he feels trucks belong on the interstate highway system and not on the roadways of the City of Slidell, especially Ponchartrain Drive. Also discussed was the need for changing the weight standards for City highways/roadways.

Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilman Washington, moved to adopt the following verbal resolution: The Slidell City Council requests that Representative Scogin and Senator Hinton submit a proposal to the legislature to lower the weight standard limits of the State highways and bridges to coincide with the weight standard limitations placed on the federal interstate highways.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Salvaggio, moved to table Item No. 88-07-1288 and that the City Council send a letter to the Louisiana Department of Highways and Transportation requesting that a right hand turn lane be constructed at the intersection of Front Street and Ponchartrain Drive.

ROLL CALL	6 Yeas	3 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
		(Van Sandt)		
		(Washington)		
		(Callahan)		

Councilman Berault, seconded by Councilman Callahan, moved to suspend the rules to introduce a verbal resolution.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilman Berault, seconded by Councilman Callahan, moved to adopt the following verbal resolution: The Slidell City Council, through the Administrative Branch of City government, requests that the State Police, Slidell Police Department, and any other law enforcement agency deemed necessary, monitor traffic conditions and institute inspection of trucks for the purpose of traffic law enforcement and weight limit violations in the City of Slidell, while this proposed ordinance is tabled.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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SUSPENSION OF RULES

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Councilman Salvaggio, seconded by Councilman Van Sandt, moved to suspend the rules to move forward item No. 7. A. 1., a review of the annexation policy of the City of Slidell.

ROLL CALL	9 Yeas	0 Nays	0 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilman Salvaggio briefly discussed the forced annexation policy. He stated it is time to review this policy, especially in light of the recent settlement of the sales tax dispute.

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13 **LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS (CONTINUED)**
14

15 The forced annexation policy was explained by the City
16 Attorney, with Councilman-at-Large Martinez stating for the record
17 he will not vote to spend any more legal fees on matters such as
18 this. Councilwoman Williams inquired as to the legality of
19 downgrading zoning with forced annexation, with Councilman Van
20 Sandt adding that the basic reason for forced annexation is to
21 square-up the City boundaries. There was a lengthy discussion
22 with a determination being made to suspend forced annexations for
23 a total review of the policy. A research team will soon be
24 appointed by Council President Van Sandt and Mayor Caruso.
25

26 **PUBLIC HEARING**
27

28 As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 88-
29 07-1290, an ordinance amending Chapter 17 Article 3, to provide
30 for an Inter-Governmental Agreement for distribution of sales
31 taxes between St. Tammany Parish and the City of Slidell. Since
32 no one from the public appeared to speak, the public hearing was
33 closed.
34

35 Council Administrator, Davis Dautreuil, stated that this
36 ordinance ratifies the Sales Tax Enhancement Plan recently adopted
37 between the City of Slidell and the Parish of St. Tammany.
38

39 Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilman
40 Washington, moved to adopt Item No. 88-07-1290.
41

42 **ROLL CALL 9 Yeas 0 Nays 0 Absent CARRIED**
43

44 As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 88-
45 07-1291, an ordinance amending Chapter 20* Water of the Code of
46 Ordinances of the City of Slidell to provide for a discount to the
47 handicapped. Since no one from the public appeared to speak, the
48 public hearing was closed.
49

50 Councilman Callahan, seconded by Councilman Barthelemy,
51 moved that this matter be tabled for further clarification until
52 the meeting of September 13, 1988.
53

54 **ROLL CALL 9 Yeas 0 Nays 0 Absent CARRIED**
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56 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**
57

58 Mayor Caruso announced that there would be a press
59 release tomorrow naming Diane Hanephin as Finance Director for
60 the City of Slidell. Ms. Hanephin will succeed David Squires the
61 former Finance Director who recently took a job in New York City.
62

63 Councilman Callahan inquired as to recent complaints
64 regarding the odor of chlorine in the of City water. Stan
65 Polivick, City Engineer, replied that the City is presently
66 checking the complaints. Most of the problems relate to uneven
67 distribution of chlorine in the system. The City Engineer
68 explained that an exact measurement of chlorine is required for
69 even distribution. The City is in the process of correcting this
70 problem, and very soon there will be no taste or odor of chlorine
71 in the City water.
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14 DISCUSSION ITEMS
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16 RICHARD LAY - POLICE DISCRIMINATION
17

18 Richard Lay appeared before the Council to discuss
19 police discrimination by conducting illegal searches. He stated
20 that the Slidell Police Department conducts illegal searches which
21 discriminates against black patrons of the Rainbow Inn in the
22 Washington Heights area. He added that the officers do not
23 identify themselves as police officers and unnecessarily draw
24 their guns. He also stated that he was arrested for violation of
25 the open container law when he was on private property and not
26 breaking the law. He would like all of this information to be
27 brought to the attention of the Chief of Police.
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29

30 GARBAGE TIPPING FEES
31

32 Councilman Callahan introduced Mr. B.A. Kincaid of
33 American Waste. Mr. Kincaid briefly explained the increase the
34 City will have to pay as a result of the Parish of St. Tammany
35 passing a 22% increase for the Mandeville disposal site. He added
36 that there may be another increase within the next ninety (90)
37 days which will raise the fee \$.82 - \$. 83 per household per
38 month. Council Administrator, Davis Dautreuil, stated that the
39 City may be able to get a reduced rate if they re-negotiate their
40 contract with American Waste ahead of time.
41

42 DEBT REFINANCING
43

44 Councilman Salvaggio briefly discussed the subject of
45 refinancing the City's debt. He stated that this was proposed by
46 City Bond Attorney, Jerry Osborne. Council Administrator, Davis
47 Dautreuil, advised the Council that Jerry Osborne stated it would
48 be a good idea to retire the 1982 debt and refinance it at a lower
49 rate. This would provide \$3 Million more working capital and
50 would extend the debt over a period of six (6) years. Voter
51 approval would be required.
52

53 Mayor Caruso reported that he was currently working on a
54 presentation regarding this matter, but it was not available at
55 this time.
56

57 Since there was no further business to discuss, the
58 meeting was adjourned at 11:05 P.M.
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60

61
62 *Richard B. Van Sandt*
63 Richard B. Van Sandt
64 Councilman, District C
65 President of the Council
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67 *Davis Dautreuil*
68 Davis Dautreuil
69 Council Administrator/Clerk of the Council
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