

**MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2022
6:30 P.M.**



**SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL
2045 SECOND STREET
SLIDELL, LA 70458**

Council President Borchert called the regular meeting of the Slidell City Council to order in the Slidell City Council Chambers. A quorum was present.

PRESENT: Council Members Bill Borchert, David Dunham, Megan Haggerty, Nick DiSanti, Trey Brownfield and Cindi King

ABSENT: Council Members Jeff Burgoyne, Leslie Denham and Kenny Tamborella

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Greg Cromer, Council Administrator Thomas Reeves, Chief of Staff John Welborn, City Attorney Thomas Schneidau and Police PIO Daniel Seuzeneau

The Council President opened the Consent Calendar for a public hearing. No one from the public appeared to speak. The Council President closed the public hearing on the Consent Calendar.

Councilman Brownfield, seconded by Councilwoman King made a motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL 6 Yeas 0 Nays 3 Absent CARRIED

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting.

B. Proposed Ordinance:

- 1. Item No. 22-12-3459** - An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell, Appendix A – Zoning, Part 1. Districts, Section 1.102, (Borchert/Tamborella, by request of Administration).

Note: A Public Hearing will be held on the above listed ordinance on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 2045 Second Street, Suite 319.

C. Reallocation of Funds:

- 1. To reallocate funding for Breckenridge Ditch Improvements**

Coding	Account Description	Type of Account	Increase	Decrease
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MINUTES
SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2022
PAGE 2

96002-69533	Breckenridge Ditch Improvements	Expenditure	256,271	
96000-28406	Fund Balance	Fund Balance		256,271

Change on fund balance *\$(256,271)*

D. Appointment:

1. Planning and Zoning – Appoint Eric Shives to an unexpired term, ending on July 1, 2028 (King)

REGULAR AGENDA

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Laughlin was not in attendance for the special presentation.

CONDEMNATION HEARING

A condemnation hearing was held on 1738 Sullivan. City Attorney Thomas Schneidau reviewed the items in the condemnation package which was previously distributed to the Council and asked that they be submitted into evidence.

Councilman Tamborella entered the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Next Mr. Schneidau swore in Joe France, the City's Chief Building Official and asked Mr. France to state his credentials. Mr. France stated that he has been the City's Chief building official for over 14 years and his responsibilities run from permitting, building inspections, code enforcement and condemnations and demolitions on dilapidated houses. Mr. France described the property at 1738 Sullivan as being substantially damaged in a fire. The remaining structure is in deplorable condition with structural, electrical, ventilation and sanitary deficiencies. The property is abandoned and the building is unsecured. The overall condition of the building is dilapidated, unsafe and a health hazard. Mr. France recommends condemnation and demolition.

Next appeared Mr. Damian Marinello, attorney for and Zelmo Strickland, owner of the property at 1738 Sullivan Drive. Mr. Marinello explained that Allstate Insurance Company refused to pay the claim on this property because the fire was determined to be arson and Mr. Strickland is suspected of the arson. Mr. Strickland has filed a lawsuit against Allstate. Mr. Marinello stated that if the house is demolished it will destroy any evidence of the value of the property. Mr. Marinello is requesting an extension

MINUTES
SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2022
PAGE 3

of thirty days so that he can meet with the attorneys representing Allstate to find out their intentions.

Several Council Members voiced their concerns regarding the trash, inoperable vehicles on the property and the unkept grass, as well as the fact that Mr. Strickland is living on the property in a wrecked RV with no city services. Mr. France informed Mr. Strickland that he cannot live in the RV on the property, as it is against City Ordinances.

The Council President asked if anyone else was present with interest in the property at 1738 Sullivan Drive. Sira Rojas appeared before the Council and stated that she is the ex-wife of Mr. Strickland and that she wants nothing to do with the property and would like her name removed. Mr. Marinello stated that Ms. Rojas is as much an owner of the property as Mr. Strickland.

Councilman Disanti, seconded by Councilman Dunham made a motion to condemn the property at 1738 Sullivan.

ROLL CALL	7 Yeas	0 Nays	2 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilman Disanti, seconded by Councilwoman King made a motion to postpone the vote on the demolition of the property until the January 24, 2023 Council meeting, with the understanding that the yard is to be cut, cleaned of all of the debris and trash and all inoperable vehicles removed.

ROLL CALL	4 Yeas	3 Nays (Dunham) (Haggerty) (King)	2 Absent	CARRIED
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City Attorney Thomas Schneidau asked both Mr. Marinello and Ms. Rojas if they will agree to waive service of the notice of the meeting to appear on January 24, 2023. They both agreed that they understand that this is their only notice to appear at the January 24th Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 22-11-3455, an ordinance authorizing the lease of the premises commonly referred to as "Hangar 11" at the Slidell Airport to Michael F. Roeling, Inc. and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Slidell to execute and administer a written lease with respect to same. No one from the public

MINUTES
SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2022
PAGE 4

appeared to speak. The Council President closed the public hearing. Councilman Disanti, seconded by Councilwoman King made a motion to adopt Item No. 22-11-3455, Ordinance No. 4109.

ROLL CALL 7 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Absent CARRIED

As advertised, a public hearing was held on Item No. 22-11-3456, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 4076, revising the Revenue, Expense and Capital Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 (first supplemental budget), providing for supplemental appropriations, additional revenues and matters in connection therewith and Amendment A which makes changes to the accounts for pickleball and tennis courts. No one from the public appeared to speak. The Council President closed the public hearing. Councilman Brownfield, seconded by Councilman Disanti made a motion to adopt Amendment A to Item No. 22-11-3456.

ROLL CALL 7 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Absent CARRIED

Councilman Tamborella, seconded by Councilman Dunham made a motion to adopt Item No. 22-11-3456 as amended, Ordinance No. 4110.

ROLL CALL 7 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Absent CARRIED

BIDS AND REQUEST TO PURCHASE

The Council President opened a public hearing on the bid for the construction of tennis courts at Sgt. Afred Drive, Cobalt Construction \$2,447,000. No one from the public appeared to speak. The Council President closed the public hearing. Councilwoman Haggerty seconded by Councilman Dunham made a motion to accept the bid.

ROLL CALL 7 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Absent CARRIED

Councilman Brownfield seconded by Councilman Tamborella made a motion to suspend the rules to move the Special Presentation to the next item on the agenda.

ROLL CALL 7 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Absent CARRIED

1 **MINUTES**

2 **SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL**

3 **DECEMBER 20, 2022**

4 **PAGE 5**

5 **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

6 Councilman-elect Arthur Laughlin appeared before the Council and stated
7 that he will be the Parish Councilman for District 11. He stated that he is looking forward
8 to working with the City Council and will keep everyone abreast of projects in the Parish.

9 **LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

10 Councilman Brownfield thanked everyone involved in the supplemental budget
11 process for their hard work and mentioned that \$1 million will go towards the Police
12 Department's new building.

13 Councilwoman King recognized former Councilman Eric Shives and thanked
14 him for agreeing to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

15 Councilman Borchert wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New
16 Year.

17 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

18 Mayor Cromer informed everyone of the acceptance of Midwest Employers
19 Casualty Company for Workers' Compensation Insurance for FY-23. He mentioned that
20 administration is working with the City's broker and Risk Manager David Anderson to see if
21 it is best for the City to be self-insured or move to a fully insured insurance plan.

22 Bayou Christmas will be held in Heritage Park on December 22nd and 23rd with
23 music, rides, an ice skating rink and food.

24 Finally Mayor Cromer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New
25 Year.

26 **POLICE CHIEF COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

27 Police PIO Daniel Seuzeneau thanked the Council, on behalf of Chief Fandal
28 for the \$1 Million given to them from the supplemental budget to go towards new building.
29 He said it means a great deal.

30 Mr. Seuzeneau asked for a moment of silence in respect of the two Bay St.
31 Louis police officers who were killed last week.

MINUTES
SLIDELL CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2022
PAGE 6

Finally, Mr. Seuzeneau wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Council President opened the Election of Officers to the public. No one from the public appeared to speak.

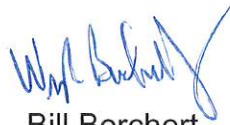
Councilman Brownfield, seconded by Councilman Disanti made a motion to elect Councilman Tamborella as the Vice President of the Council.

ROLL CALL	7 Yeas	0 Nays	2 Absent	CARRIED
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Councilman Disanti seconded by Councilman Dunham made a motion to elect Councilman Borchert as the President of the Council.

ROLL CALL	7 Yeas	0 Nays	2 Absent	CARRIED
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As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Bill Borchert
President of the Council
Councilman at-Large



Thomas P. Reeves
Council Administrator

COUNCIL ACTION: **DATE APPROVED** 1-10-23 **DATE AMENDED** _____