

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMAN OF THE CITY OF GONZALES,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023, 5:30 P.M.,
AT CITY HALL, 120 S. IRMA BLVD, GONZALES, LA 70737.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barney Arceneaux, Mayor	Councilman Harold Stewart
Councilman Tim Riley	Councilman Tyler Turner
Councilman Kirk Boudreaux	Councilman John A. Berthelot

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

Scot Byrd, City Clerk	Brandon Boylan, Finance Director
Matt Percy, City Attorney	Terri Delatorre, Administrative Secretary
Chief Sherman Jackson, Gonzales PD	

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Tyler Turner, to approve the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council taken on Monday, July 24, 2023.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tyler Turner, seconded by Councilman John A. Berthelot to approve and accept the Minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting taken on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Final Vote on Ordinance No. 4223:

ORDINANCE INTRODUCED

July 10, 2023

ORDINANCE # 4223

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 20. UTILITIES. ARTICLE II. – GAS. SECTION 20-
20 – APPLICABLE SERVICE RATES. CHANGE, TO READ:

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Councilman of the City of Gonzales, Louisiana:

That the Code of Ordinance of the City of Gonzales be amended as follows:

(CHANGE SECTIONS)

20-20 – Applicable service rates.

(CHANGE)

The rate shall be calculated on the basis of fixed operating cost (annual basis) plus cost of gas (monthly basis). The mayor and board of aldermen shall fix the per MCF charge on an annual basis based on the required revenue to operate the gas system in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with local, state and federal law. To that basis, the monthly total cost of gas from the supplier shall be added. The resultant combined rate will represent a per MCF charge for gas.

The minimum bill shall be seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50). The minimum bill for gas customers outside of the city limits shall be nine dollars and thirty-five cents (\$9.35) per month.

All utility bills shall be due on the seventeenth of each month. All accounts remaining unpaid after the seventeenth of each month shall incur a delinquent penalty of ten (10) percent of the net amount due. All accounts remaining unpaid after the twenty-seventh of each month shall incur an additional delinquent penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The utility manager shall discontinue utility services to all accounts not paid by the twenty-seventh of each month. Utility services shall not be restored to disconnected utility accounts until all outstanding bills, fees and delinquent penalties have been paid.

(TO READ)

The rate shall be calculated on the basis of fixed operating cost (annual basis) plus cost of gas (monthly basis). The mayor and city council shall fix the per MCF charge on an annual basis based on the required revenue to operate the gas system in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with local, state and federal law. To that basis, the monthly total cost of gas from the supplier shall be added. The resultant combined rate will represent a per MCF charge for gas.

The minimum bill shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00). The minimum bill for gas customers outside of the city limits shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per month. The minimum commercial bill shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00).

All utility bills shall be due on the seventeenth of each month. All accounts remaining unpaid after the seventeenth of each month shall incur a delinquent penalty of ten (10) percent of the net amount due. All accounts remaining unpaid after the twenty-seventh of each month shall incur an additional delinquent penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00). The utility manager shall discontinue utility services to all accounts not paid by the twenty-seventh of each month. Utility services shall not be restored to disconnected utility accounts until all outstanding bills, fees and delinquent penalties have been paid.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ORDINANCE ADOPTED: August 14, 2023

Motion by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, seconded by Councilman Tim Riley, to approve a Special Event Permit Request of Lilly Harvey, with Drug Epidemic Awareness Walk Across America, to use Jambalaya Park on Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, to have a “Millie Mattered Moonlight Memorial”, remembering those who have been taken by the drug epidemic, with lighted pictures and banners.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Tim Riley, to approve a Special Event Permit Request of Gallagher Insurance to have “A Recipe for Crafting a Successful Benefits Strategy” on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at Sugarfield Spirits, located at 481 W. Eastbank Street, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. This is an Old Fashioned tasting event for clients and business owners and there will be a prepaid food truck from Curbside Burgers.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Tyler Turner, to approve The Weekly Citizen as the City’s Official Journal, contingent on its satisfaction of all legal requirements.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to declare the following vehicles as surplus:

2019 Chevrolet Tahoe, VIN #1GN5CAKC9KR319917, previously a Police Dept. vehicle
2015 Ford F250, VIN #1FT7X2A66FEC55935, previously a Utility Dept. vehicle
2015 Dodge Ram 1500, VIN #8039, previously a Utility Dept. vehicle
2009 F350 Dump Truck, VIN #1460, previously a Utility Dept. vehicle
2014 Dodge Charger, VIN #5014, previously a Police Dept. vehicle
2014 Dodge Charger, VIN #8927, previously a Police Dept. vehicle

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to approve a waiver of height and zone provisions of Chapter 25 – Signs and Billboards for Love’s Travel Stops.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Mayor Arceneaux invited Citizens of Gonzales who wished to speak regarding Item No. 15 on the Agenda – An Appeal to the Zoning Commission’s recommendation to deny the rezoning application of Lynn Levy Land Company to rezone from R-8 Single Family District to R-TH Townhome District of Parcel 2410400, being 22.57 acres, addressed as 1613 S. Lanoux Road, Gonzales, LA 70737.

Yolanda Martin Singleton, 1610 S. Purpera Avenue, Gonzales, turned in a comment card, not wishing to speak, but wished to express her approval of the proposed townhomes.

Cynthia Gray James, 1803 E. Rosedown Street, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed townhomes. She stated that she would like to keep that location as single family residential and that it’s mainly residential homes near where they want to build the townhomes.

Jo Ann Robinson, 1919 S. John Avenue, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed townhomes. She stated that the streets are crowded with cars now, speeding is prevalent, the drainage is not good, and she doesn’t think the infrastructure is able to handle the townhomes.

Jo Ann Johnson, 2317 S. Darla Avenue, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed townhomes. She stated that the streets need to be improved first, before bringing in new construction; the townhomes would create more sewer problems; the townhomes would bring in more people and with more people, you would have more problems. She stated there are people walking in their yards at all hours of the night now, instead of using the sidewalks.

Gloria Bailey, 1908 S. Robert, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed townhomes. She questioned whether the City’s current infrastructure can sustain new construction and that the proposed new construction that has already been approved is going to overburden the city.

Adinas Perkins, 1946 S. Ringer Avenue, Gonzales, came forward to speak. She did not say that she was for or against the townhomes. She stated she was new to the area and wanted to know if the townhomes would be for rent or for sale, and would they be affordable?

Donald Peoples, Jr., 1325 W. Sidney Street, Gonzales, came forward to speak. He did not say that he was for or against the townhomes. He was interested to see how the Council would vote because he has a piece of property on S. Lanoux Road that he previously requested to be re-zoned.

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Tyler Turner, to uphold the Zoning Commission’s recommendation to deny the rezoning application of Lynn Levy Land Company to rezone from R-8 Single Family District to R-TH Townhome District of Parcel 2410400, being 22.57 acres, addressed as 1613 S. Lanoux Road, Gonzales, LA 70737.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart,
Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, to approve the recommendation to changes to driveways within the East Bank Shopping Center, based on the East Bank Shopping Center Access Management Study, to close driveways designated D3 and D5 in the study and require the driveway access to Hwy. 44 be right-in/right-out only.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Gonzales Fire Dept. EMS Addition Project in the amount of \$10,107.80.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, to approve Change Order No. 2 for the Purpera Avenue Drainage Improvements contract with Boone Services in the amount of \$42,209.41, due to three critical water line conflicts.

YEAS: Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot


NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Via Proclamation, August 21 – 25, 2023 was proclaimed as “Flood Awareness Week”.

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned.


Barney Arceneaux, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Scot Byrd, City Clerk/CAO