

**MANDEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 7, 2014  
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The budget work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Danielson at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Rick Danielson, Clay Madden, David Ellis, Carla Buchholz, Ernest Burguières

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO:** Mayor Villere, Louisette Kidd; David deGeneres, Chief Richard, Henry DiFranco

**CAPITAL BUDGET – STREET CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Burguières suggested moving the budgeted funding of \$1,000,000 for the drainage study on Monroe Street from Massena to Barbara to FY2016 to allow for GEC to expand their study from the end of Lakeshore Drive to the Causeway. Mrs. Buchholz asked what the risk would be for the City if these drainage studies were delayed one year. Mr. DiFranco addressed the recommendation to extend the GEC study. He stated the area studied (East, Lakeshore Drive) vs the recommended area to the West (to Causeway) are completely different, looking at elevations. The GEC study was for existing conditions (seawall protection) and various levels of solutions. The elevations of the land to the West are already at 5.3' seawall height (or better). GEC did not do an interior drainage study or look at critical areas when it rains. Mr. Burguières stated that we would like the same study for the West; there may be different solutions or no solutions may be needed. There was agreement that Hermitage may need protection. Mr. DiFranco stated that the issues at Galvez are similar to the slope stabilization problems in Mariner's Village. We are starting to lose the slope along North Street and we want to prevent that problem. There was further discussion regarding the elevation difference between the East and West side. Mayor Villere stated that we do not need to wait on a storm surge protection study to work on drainage solutions to move water out of the City. Mr. Burguières disagreed; he stated that storm surge, flooding and drainage should be studied together. There does not appear to be an immediate need to design a solution before the study has been completed. He added that there may be inches of standing water on Monroe but some Old Mandeville residents have been complaining of several feet of water. There was debate over the benefits of flapper valves. Mayor Villere clarified that the budgeted amount of \$1,000,000 was for the design and construction of the drainage project not for a study alone; it was similar to the project we completed on Coffee Street. Those residents are high and dry and we did not move the water onto another street or into another neighborhood. Mrs. Buchholz stated that she wanted to keep both drainage projects in the FY2015 budget. Mr. Danielson stated that he would like to address some carryover capital projects before undertaking the Galvez and Massena projects to allow for more time to study the basic statistics around the drainage and flooding issues in that area and to justify a need.

Mr. DiFranco stated that the scope of work was in process to bid all flapper valves. It will be bid as a public works project. Each valve will be custom made. Mr. Burguières asked if the project could be bid as an RFP. Mr. deGeneres stated no, a design/build bid would violate state public bid law. Mayor Villere stated that the design/build option is only available under the \$150,000 level for public works projects. Five valves are in the process of being manufactured and the additional 27 need to go through the bid process. The scope of work includes design, size and construction attachment method.

An amount of \$60,000 was budgeted for five parking spots in the 500-600 block of Girod Street and will be added onto the Girod Street line item.

**CAPITAL BUDGET – SEWER DEPARTMENT**

Lift stations 20 & 21 will be combined into a new lift station, on Heavens and Dorado, which will save on maintenance costs. The LPBF grant is for the design and extension of our pipeline into the wetlands. The Parish will tie into our system and we will charge them a bulk rate. The Parish will have to push their discharge all the way to the city's plant; it will not come through any of our lift stations. New lift station 21 has been designed and is currently in the bidding process.

The odor control budget is for lift stations City wide (all locations). Public Works is exploring "greener" solutions.

**OPERATIONS BUDGET**

Mr. Madden noted that, due to the format of the operations budget and the summary sheets, finding the bottom line of the operations budget was difficult. Mayor Villere stated that some of the summary sheets are dictated by the State Auditor's office. Mr. Glen Runyon, MFOC member, asked if there was a five year forecast of revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. This was a recommendation to the Administration by both the Finance Committee and City Council for incorporation into this year's budget. Mayor Villere stated that they were not in a position to do a five year forecast and thought that the Council would provide one. Mr. Danielson stated that the Council could use the forecasting model that was presented to the Administration during a prior meeting. This could be a task for the Finance Committee.

Mr. Runyon stated that he found a \$500,000 discrepancy for wages and benefits between two different sets of budget sheets (General Government, page 124). The revised set of numbers shows a 6.5% increase. Mayor Villere stated that he would have Mr. Oliveri provide clarification. Mr. Burguières stated that salary increases were not consistent; some were 5% and some were 2.5%. He gave some examples, found on pages 80-82. Mayor Villere stated that the intent was that all qualified employees were eligible for a 2.5% increase. The \$500 scale increase (\$125,000 total) was not included in the budget; that would be an additional amount.

The actual employees from year to year number between 116 to 118 and the Administration budgets for 126 fulltime employees. Mr. Runyon asked why does the City budget for 126; it inflates the budget. Mayor Villere stated that some positions were under evaluation to determine if they need to be filled or if we can do without them. A majority of the vacancies were in the Public Works Department. Mr. deGeneres stated that there was a possibility of a brand new employee getting a 5% raise because new employees have a review after a six month probation period.

Mr. Madden asked for an explanation of the 86.9% increase in the Parks and Parkways budget. Mr. Danielson provided a break down: \$1,000 miscellaneous, \$10,000 Kierr family Garden, \$10,000 miscellaneous small beautification, \$10,000 Monroe Street East/West upgrades, \$100,000 Hwy 190 planting from the triangle to Marigny Ave. The Hwy 190 planting project is a five year project at a cost of \$100,000 per year. The City is working with the Parish to partner on this project and share the expense. Other Parks and Parkways projects include cemetery rehabilitation, a sculpture garden

under the Causeway, Lakefront signage, and Girod Street. Ms. Kidd stated that the difference between last year's budget and this year was \$231,000. The cemetery project is a continuation of the master plan that includes a memorial wall and the Girod Street project involves pulling up all of the landscaping pavers that are a constant maintenance problem. Mr. Runyon asked if the City was willing to spend \$500,000 on the Hwy 190 planting project without grant funding or Parish participation. Mayor Villere was hopeful of Parish or State participation. Mr. Runyon recommended prioritizing the list of enhancement projects. Mrs. Kidd stated that the East Causeway triangle started this year and part of the budget is to finish that project in FY2015. Half of the \$56,000 cemetery budget is for the implementation of the memorial wall; the design work has been completed. The Hwy 190 project cannot be taken out of the capital budget; trees and landscaping are not considered assets with a useful life. Therefore, the project is put in the operating budget under Parks and Parkways.

The training budget in the general fund increased 324% due to the addition of the new historic commission, which is in need of training. Those members will attend their first conference in 2015. Also, the Planning and Zoning Commission travels out of state every other year for the national APA conference.

The contract labor budget increased 60% partially due to the addition of the historic district survey and inventory for \$26,500. Mrs. Kidd stated that they just received approval for a grant to cover half of the cost for the historic survey. Mr. Danielson stated that the Council received a list, from the Finance Director, of all the contracts for this line item. The list includes the art program; landscaping consultant; electrical, plumbing and mechanical inspections; architecture contract; and appraisal services. Mr. Madden asked why did the line item increase 60%; was there a rise in inspections or an increase in new contracts. Mr. Burguières asked for an appendix to the budget that lists these contracts with a brief explanation of each service, along with cost. Mayor Villere agreed.

Chief Richard stated that due to State mandates, starting in 2014, police officers are required to have 20 hours of training per year. We can do some training in house. The training hours are expected to increase to 40 hours in two years so the training budget will have to be readdressed at that time.

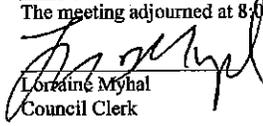
Mr. Danielson stated that discussions on salaries, retirement and medical insurance will be held for the 8/11/2014 meeting so the Finance Director can be present. This proposed budget does not reflect the \$500 step adjustment raise recommended by the Mayor. The Mayor left it as a separate item for Council consideration to distinguish between the 2.5% salary increase and the \$500 step adjustment.

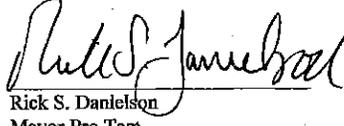
Mr. Danielson asked about the police organizational chart. Was there any thought of changing the rank structure to bump up the sergeant/detective to lieutenant of the detective division. Chief Richard yes, it was a conversation he intends to have, along with other organizational ideas, with the Mayor and Civil Service Board Chairman. He added that all ideas were budget neutral.

Mr. Burguières asked the Mayor for the litigation summary of all pending City litigation. Mayor Villere stated that he thought pending litigation needs to be discussed in executive session. Mr. Burguières stated that he only wanted public information. Currently, the budget reflects \$50,000 for general liability and \$175,000 for legal expenses.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
Loraine Myhal  
Council Clerk

  
Rick S. Danielson  
Mayor Pro Tem