

**MINUTES  
FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Mandeville City Council was called to order by the Council Chairman at 6:00 p.m. followed by roll call.

**ROLL CALL - present:** Jason Zuckerman, Rick Danielson, Skelly Kreller, Rebecca Bush, Jill McGuire

**Also present:** Keith LaGrange, PW Director, Elizabeth Sconzert, City Attorney, Kathleen Sides, Finance Director, Mayor Madden, Cara Bartholomew, Planning Director, Joanna Anderson, HR Director

**MINUTES:**

Adoption of the April 13, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Mrs. Bush. With no further comments or questions a vote was taken and the minutes were adopted 5-0.

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Danielson stated last week we had two very successful events: Girod Stret Stroll and the Spring Clean Up. This Friday there will not be a concert at the Trailhead, the next concert will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. This Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a Pollinator event at the Trailhead sponsored by Parks and Parkways Commission and an open house for City Hall plans both starting at 9am at the Trailhead. Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the National Day of Prayer located at the Lakefront Gazebo starting at noon. The mayor stated next Saturday will also be the Food Truck event at the Lions Club and the Crawfish Cookin for the Corp at the Yacht Club.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Adoption of Ordinance 23-12; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AMENDING AND ADOPTING THE PAY SCALE OF THE MANDEVILLE POLICE EMPLOYEES' CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

A motion was made by Mrs. Bush, seconded by Mr. Zuckerman. Ms. Anderson explained this is for a dispatch supervisor position to be located at the 911 call center. It has been approved through the police civil service board and now comes to the council. There will not be a budget adjustment needed since this will take the place of a current dispatch position. Currently, we are the only organization without a dispatch supervisor at the location. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the ordinance passed 5-0.

2. Adoption of Ordinance No. 23-13; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 6 SECTIONS 6.7F(3) PRICES FOR CRYPTS AND NICHES IN THE MAUSOLEUM OF THE MANDEVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND AMENDING APPENDIX C OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

A motion was made by Mr. Zuckerman, seconded by Mrs. McGuire. Mr. Danielson explained the city is adding a new mausoleum and this ordinance is to update the pricing for the new addition. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the ordinance passed 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

## 1. Discussion/Update on the City Hall Project

Mr. Danielson explained it has been a few months since we discussed the City Hall project and Mr. Zuckerman had requested to put this on the agenda for updates. We will see where we currently stand, how to move forward, address any questions – just catch up.

Mr. Zuckerman explained we are not voting on anything tonight, just a general discussion and he has some thoughts he wanted to share for consideration. The city has had public presentations regarding the City Hall Project and the mayor plans on holding a meeting at the Trailhead this weekend and another meeting on the other side of town. He wants to give the mayor an opportunity to discuss the designs. Mr. Zuckerman wants to get this on the table to see if we are in favor or not of the project. He does not want this to be a budget discussion. He wants to see if we are all on the same page with the project and is it one the city should be focusing on. He feels this is a viable project and this building is reaching the end of its life cycle and needs to be addressed. At some point in the future City Hall needs to be addressed whether this year or further out. The analysis of the seawall was helpful, and he would like to see the same analysis for this project. Mr. Zuckerman would like to know as we move towards budgeting, what is the cost of doing nothing, waiting a few years or longer. We need to get those numbers because they will be helpful especially as we move towards the new budget. Construction costs are still increasing and there is a cost of waiting so where do we stand on this project and others.

The mayor stated this is similar to the berm project. Many of these projects were in the works years ago and when he took office he wanted to update the plans. Having a forecasting analysis was a good decision and he has in the works an AG opinion request about funding with CMAR. The mayor wants citizen input, and he hopes to get more feedback. The city has 3 different firms working on 3 projects: City Hall, Police Building, and the PW Labs building. All three are needed and the forecast will help see what the city should do first and then how to budget for them. Mr. Zuckerman stated you could agree on a project and could budget \$1 million per year, but there is a cost associated with doing that; construction costs are increasing. The mayor feels since we have started the plans he feels strongly that they should finish the designs for the buildings. The plans will not change and once we have the designs then we can move towards the budget perspective. Mr. Danielson feels with all the projects and variables, we should slow things down a bit to determine what is needed. He has no problem finishing with the design phase and then determine what is needed now versus what we can budget later. In addition, he would like to see more public comment to determine what the public wants so we can prioritize our most urgent needs, make sure we are accomplishing those needs, do the forecasting, and then start the budget process. We need to address the seawall, police department, PW, City Hall, and other projects – there are a lot of big-ticket items. Mr. Zuckerman wants to have all of this information so when we get to the budget, we know what we need to focus on and how much money to spend now and what to set aside for later. Mr. Danielson stated unlike the Police Department which he feels need to be a priority, the building at City Hall, takes care of business, but needs to be more efficient.

Dr. Kreller explained there were a lot of residents that took a look at the design and there had a lot of questions. Many residents did not like the design of City Hall. He is not sure if the design being presented at the Trailhead has changed at all. He stated, originally, Design Review suggested several changes and he has not seen that they have been any changes made from the original showing. He is not sure if any changes have been made. He is in favor of slowing things down. He has spoken to all the members of the citizen's group who reviewed the plans and they do not feel they had enough input. He hopes these meeting will give direction as to what the citizens want to see. He feels the police building is a high priority project, but City Hall is functionable. The city does not need a 140-165 Council chamber when we have very few attendees. He likes doing the priority list which he feels is crucial. He feels the Police building is dangerous and is the number one priority. City Hall would not be on his top 10 list. He would like more information about the PW Lab building to determine the cost savings of our current testing vs building a brand new

facility for our water analysis. He does not have that answer now, but will have more information once the designs are done. He would like more architects used from the City of Mandeville. He feels slowing down is the right way to move forward once more facts and data are in. Mr. Zuckerman and Mr. Danielson agreed if we get this information and do our forecasting over the next 4 months, it will only help with the budget process. Dr. Kreller will be attending the open houses and hopes he sees some more changes. If there are no changes made, we need more discussion.

Mr. Burguiere agrees the seawall presentation was done well and wonders if the forecasters can do this for other big-ticket items. This can only help with what is a want and what is a need. Mrs. Sides has a meeting with them next week and has sent them their big ticket items. She did want to remind everyone that the city has to budget the entire project in order to go out to bid. Mr. Brand would like to see more priority given to the Justice Center (Police building). Mr. Buck Abbey asked if City Hall should remain here or another location. That would be determined by a master plan. Mrs. Becky Rohrbough would like to see a City Hall building that would take us into the future. She likes the idea of seeing the cost of doing nothing etc. but we need the financial information as well.

2. Adoption of Resolution No. 23-16; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE ACCEPTING THE BIDS FOR THE HURRICANE IDA NRCS DRAINAGE CANAL CLEANING CONTRACT, CITY PROJECT NO. 211.23.006 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE APPARENT LOW BIDDER GRILLOT CONSTRUCTION, LLC AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. A motion was made by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Mrs. McGuire. Mr. Danielson explained this project is to remove and clean out 16 drainage canals from Hurricane Ida debris in various locations across the City. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the resolution passed 5-0.

3. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-14; AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-18, THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AND FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH A motion was made by Mrs. McGuire and seconded by Mrs. Bush. Mr. Danielson stated this will be discussed and voted upon at the next meeting.

4. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-15; AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-17, THE CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AND FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Mrs. McGuire. Mr. Danielson stated this will be discussed and voted upon at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Jessica Brewster discussed her experience and qualification for the Clerk of Court position. The election is this fall.

Mr. Josh Allison discussed his platform and experience as he runs for the State Representative District 89.

Mrs. Becky Rohrbough asked the council to revisit the animal ordinance regarding animal waste. There are several instances of people leaving their animal's waste in neighbors recycling bins.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Mrs. Sides discussed the financial reports. She has inherited the spreadsheets and is currently working to make some changes. She wanted to explain the city received \$4.6 million in cash in

FY23 for Ida that is not shown in revenue. FEMA obligated \$6.1 million prior to FY22 and this will be an accounting adjustment.

Mr. Danielson stated the Mandeville City Council is calling an Executive session under LA. R.S. 42:16 and LA. RS 42:17A(2) to discuss the following case: *Hilda Roberta Maestri Landry, et al. vs. City of Mandeville*. This session is to discuss the above referenced litigation and items that are confidential under La. R. S. 44:4.1(C) and communications with counsel in the rendition of professional legal services that are privileged under the Louisiana Code of Evidence, Art. 506(B).

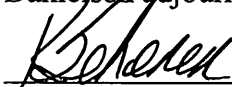
Mr. Danielson made a motion to call Executive Session to discuss the opinions of counsel regarding cases that are confidential under La. R. S. 44:4.1(C) and communications with counsel in the rendition of professional legal services that are privileged under the Louisiana Code of Evidence, Art. 506(B); this was seconded by Dr. Kreller. The motion passed 5-0.

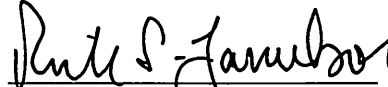
Mr. Danielson stated during executive session there will be no voting or minutes taken. The council invited Ms. Sides, Mr. LeBreton, Mr. LaGrange, Mrs. Sconzert, and the mayor to join the council. With no comments or questions, the vote to enter executive session passed 5-0. The Council paused the City Council meeting at 7:09 pm to enter executive session.

Upon their return, 7:59pm, Mr. Danielson stated no notes or votes were taken during the session. Mr. Danielson made a motion to resume the regular Council meeting; seconded by Mrs. McGuire. With no objections the motion passed 5-0. With no further Council business, Mr. Danielson asked for someone to entertain a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Zuckerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Bush. Mr. Danielson adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

  
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Kristine Scherer  
Council Clerk

  
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Rick Danielson  
Council Chairman