



City of Lake Charles

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Lake Charles, LA
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Meeting Minutes City Council

*Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Donald W. Fondel, Ronnie Harvey, Jr.,
Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford, Matt Young
Council President: Craig Marks*

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2025 TO BE TAKEN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION NO. 150-97, RULES FOR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

CALL TO ORDER - President Marks, presiding

INVOCATION - Craig Marks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Matthew Vezinot

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Stuart Weatherford, Matt Young, President or Presiding Officer Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey Jr., Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo Jr., and Matthew Vezinot

Absent: 0

Also present were Mayor Marshall J. Simien, Jr., Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, John Cardone, City Administrator and Renee' P. DeVillie, Clerk of the Council.

The monthly financial reports for November, 2025 were provided to the City Council members by the Department of Finance. The reports include the Budget to Actual Revenues and the Budget to Actual Expenditures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025

A motion was made that this item be approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

APPOINTMENTS**1. 390-25**

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3237 - WWTP A Basin A-06 Sewer Rehabilitation.

Mr. Young was appointed chairman.

2. 405-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3414 - Southwest WTP Back Up Power Improvements.

Mr. Weatherford was appointed chairman.

3. 493-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to accept the lowest responsible bid and to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP9778 - LCEC ADA Railing and Seating, and amend the budget as

Mr. Harvey was appointed chairman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**4. 397-25**

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of structure located at 1901 7th Street, Earle Joseph Banks, Jr., James Anthony Anderson, Bessie Mae Joyner (Estate), Emmett Joyner (Estate) and Sheila Marie LeBlanc Ozane, owners, subject to a tax sale to the State of Louisiana.

Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service through the appointment of a curator and which were made part of the record. He also stated that this was a rehearing. James Anderson, 1829 7th Street, Lake Charles, LA, stated this was his mother's home that was damaged during the storm and requested the city demolish the structure. Mr. Fondel recommended time delays of 30/60 which were approved by the following vote.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20424

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ACTION**5. 369-25**

An ordinance amending Section 24-5-307.1(5)(A)(1)(i) of the Lake Charles Zoning Ordinance relative to Nellie Lutcher District Overlay Standards.

Mr. Burguières stated that this was at the request of Mr. Marks and other council members to allow other materials to be included on the front facade within that district to include hardie board with no more than a 6" reveal on a horizontal basis and stucco. Cullen Washington, 2127 Vito Street, Lake Charles, LA initially requested stucco and hardie board and he objects due to the requirement that the hardie board be placed horizontally. Louis Guillory, 322 Libby Street, Lake Charles, LA speaking in favor of Mr. Cullen's using hardie board being placed vertical like Mr. Washington placed his. Mr. Marks explained that the idea behind The Nellie Lutcher Cultural District is an overlay district and the guidelines that are required. The council voted as follows:

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20425

6. 428-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase one (1) new Rear-Loader Refuse Truck, for use by the Public Works Department, Solid Waste Trash Division.

Mr. Harvey made a motion to accept the recommended bid from Martin Truck in the amount of \$256,624.00. The motion carried by the following vote

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20426

7. 429-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase one (1) new Three-Wheel Sweeper, for use by the Public Works Department, Streets Division.

Mr. Bilbo made a motion to reject and rebid this item.

8. 430-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase one (1) new 8-Yard Dump Truck, for use by the Public Works Department, Grounds Maintenance Division.

Purchasing requested this item be amended to accept bids for an 8 yard dump truck instead of a 6 yard dump truck as it as bid out.

A motion was made that this item be amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20427

Mr. Young made a motion that this item be adopted as amended and to accept the recommended bid from Martin Truck in the amount of \$121,240.00. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20427

9. 431-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase one (1) new Four-Wheel Sweeper, for use by the Public Works Department, Grounds Maintenance Division.

Mr. Vezinot made a motion to accept the recommended bid from Utility Truck & Equip. Co. in the amount of \$378,000.00. The motion carried by the following vote

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20428

10. 432-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase traffic control products under a twelve (12) month contract with the option to renew for an additional twelve (12) months for use by the Public Works Department, Communications and Traffic Division.

Mr. Marks made a motion to accept the recommended bids from Vulcan, Inc. in the amount of \$53,844.00 for Category I; Trantex Transportation in the amount of \$22,415.00 for Category II; Newman Signs in the amount of \$5,672.00 for Category III; Trantex Transportation in the amount of \$16,835.00 for Category IV; and Vulcan, Inc. in the amount of \$23,356.16 for Category V. The motion carried by the following

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20429

11. 459-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a professional services agreement with Allied Universal to provide comprehensive security detail coverages for City Hall and the Transit Division Building for a six (6) month period, and to amend the budget as necessary.

Miles Brown, 1020 4th Avenue, Lake Charles, Louisiana, requested information regarding the cost of the agreement, which Mayor Simien stated would be approximately \$200,000.00 per year. Mr. Brown expressed concerns about the authority the security guards would have regarding the use of force and their engagement with the public. He reminded the Council that he had previously raised this issue during a meeting in August 2025. Mr. Brown further stated that the presence of a city marshal, police officer, or sheriff would likely be more respected and that such personnel are trained to handle certain threats. Mr. Brown further noted that the security personnel currently in place have done a great job.

A motion was made that this item be amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 1 - Harvey Jr.

Absent: 0

A motion was made by Mr. Weatherford and seconded by Mr. Fondel, that this item be Deferred to the December 17, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 5 - Weatherford, Marks, Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 2 - Young, and Harvey Jr.

Absent: 0

12. 481-25

An ordinance authorizing the settlement of a claim against the City of Lake Charles in the suit styled "Asa Meche v. Union Carbide Corporation, et al.", Docket No. 2024-4641, Division G, on the docket of the 14th Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20430

13. 483-25

An ordinance amending Section 12-15.3 of the City of Lake Charles Code of Ordinances relative to Permitted Uses.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20431

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENT

14. 484-25

A resolution appointing a member to the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitor's Bureau Board to fill the expiring term of Hiren Zaveri.

Mr. Young recused himself from the discussion and the vote due to his employment with the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Three names were submitted. Mr. Hiren Zaveri is already on the board and sent a letter requesting to be reappointed although he was unable to attend the meeting. Kyle Edminston, President and CEO of Visit Lake Charles, 3817 Placid Lane, spoke on behalf of reappointing Hiren Zaveri. The council voted on Hiren Zaveri first and then Tiffany Celestine and Nimesh Zaver. Ms. Celestine was appointed to fill the expiring term of Hiren Zaveri.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Weatherford, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Young

Enactment No: 233-25

15. 487-25

A resolution accepting Project No. CP2881 - Ten Pin Alley Phase 2 as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 234-25

16. 488-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing and consideration of the Lake Charles Planning & Zoning Commission's decision to deny a request for a Major Conditional Use Permit in order to establish a runway matting manufacturing facility in an existing commercial structure with Variances to 1) allow use on local street vs. required location adjacent to and has access to an arterial or collector street and 2) allow manufacturing use of a fiberglass product within 1000 feet of a residential land use, within a Mixed Use Zoning District, at 2925 Industrial Avenue.

The hearing date was set for the December 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 235-25

17. 489-25

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise and to receive sealed bids for Project No. DR010 - New Fire Training Facility.

Mr. Bilbo was appointed chairman.

Enactment No: 236-25

18. 490-25

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise and to receive sealed bids for Project No. LCR401 - Lock Park Inclusive Playground.

Mr. Young was appointed chairman.

Enactment No: 237-25

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE FOR INTRODUCTION BY CONSENT AND READ INTO THE RECORD THE DAY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING AT 1:00P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

19. 491-25

An ordinance amending the City of Lake Charles Ward 3 Marshal's Office budget for the addition of one (1) position allotment of Deputy Marshal and to amend the budget accordingly.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

20. 492-25

An ordinance amending Section 4-205(5)(a)(i) of Chapter 24 of the Lake Charles Zoning Ordinance relative to Variances - Limitations on Variances.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

21. 493-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to accept the lowest responsible bid and to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP9778 - LCEC ADA Railing and Seating, and amend the budget as

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

22. 494-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to accept the lowest responsible bid and to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3224 - Muirfield Drive Drainage Phase II, and amend the budget as

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

23. 495-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. LCR401 - Lock Park Inclusive Playground, and amend the budget as necessary.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

24. 496-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. DR010 - New Fire Training Facility, and amend the budget as necessary.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

25. 497-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to renew the Joint Services Agreement with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury for animal control services.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the City Council, President Mark adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2025.

I, RENEE' P. DEVILLE, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Council of the City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

I further certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the Minutes of a meeting of the City Council of said City, held on the 3rd day of December, 2025.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 9th day of December, 2025.
s/Renee P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

I, RENEE' P. DEVILLE, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Council of the City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

I further certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the Ordinances adopted at a meeting of the City Council of said city held on the 3rd day of December, 2025.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon the official seal of said City, this 9th day of December, 2025.
s/Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

The City of Lake Charles fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act, and related statutes, executive orders, and regulations in all programs and activities. The City operates without regard to race, color, or national origin. Any person who believes him/herself or any specific class of persons, to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI and/or Americans with Disabilities Act may by him/herself or by representative file a written complaint with the City of Lake Charles. The City's Title VI Coordinator/ADA Coordinator may be reached by phone at (337) 491-1440, the Mayor's Action Line at (337) 491-1346, or contact the appropriate Department Head.