



City of Lake Charles

326 Pujo Street
P.O. Box 1178
Lake Charles, LA
70602-1178

Meeting Minutes City Council

*Luvertha August, Rodney Geyen, Mark Eckard,
Ronnie Harvey Jr., John Ieyoub, Stuart Weatherford
Council President: Craig Marks*

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 21, 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 Craig Marks, presiding

INVOCATION - Mark Eckard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - John Ieyoub

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - President or Presiding Officer Mark Eckard, John Ieyoub, President or Presiding Officer Craig Marks, Stuart Weatherford, Luvertha August, and Ronnie Harvey Jr.

Absent: 1 - Rodney Geyen

Also present were David L. Morgan, City Attorney, John Cardone, City Administrator, Kimberly Dellafosse, Assistant City Administrator, and Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

President Marks stated Item 26 was being deferred for introduction to the August 6, 2025 regular council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2025

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

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. 38-25** An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3450 - Wastewater Treatment Plant A Operational Reliability Improvements - Lift Station Electrical Improvements, and to amend the budget as necessary.

Mr. Geyen was appointed chairman.

94-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP2876 - City Hall Back Up Power & MCC Improvements, and to amend the budget as necessary.

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

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

A motion was made by Mr. Harvey to accept the recommended bid from Alfred Palma, LLC in the amount of \$1,414,000.00 including Alternate 1 in the amount of \$33,300.00 and Alternate 2 in the amount of \$160,800.00. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

Enactment No: 20304

PUBLIC HEARINGS**3. 764-24**

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1517 Fournet Street (including all three structures), Serenity Oaks Property LLC, owner.

Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and David Morgan, City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. There were no requests to speak on this item. Mr. Harvey recommended deferral for 30 days due to the fact that he was part of the Louisiana Housing Corporation Rental Restoration program which was approved by the following vote.

A motion was made that this item be Deferred to the June 18, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

4. 800-24

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 3026 General Marshall Street, Dream Investments, LLC, Cecilia Jefferson, Barbara Combs, Catherine Gaskin, Michael Joseph Deville, Brenda Joyce Jones a/k/a Brenda Joyce Guillory, Dexter Jerome Goodman, Arimis King, Larry James King, Donald Raymond King, Sheila Ann Simon King, and William Samuel King, Jr., owners.

Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and David Morgan, City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Willie King, Jr., 1611 Gerstner Memorial, Lake Charles, LA recommended moving forward with the demolition but Mr. Morgan requested deferral to June 18, 2025 to appoint a curator, which was approved by the following vote.

A motion was made that this item be Deferred to the June 18, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

5. 123-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of two structures located at 1702 Commercial Street and 832 North Shattuck Street, Azucena Madrigal, owner.

Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and David Morgan, City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Edward Madrigal, on behalf of his mother, stated he had issues separating the properties for sale and 832 North Shattuck Street has been demolished. They would like to use the other building for storage. Mr. Harvey recommended deferral until June 18, 2025 and requested the slab be removed from the other structure that was demolished, which was approved by the following vote.

A motion was made that this item be Deferred to the June 18, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ACTION**6. 65-25**

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase public safety uniforms for use by the Lake Charles Fire and Police Departments.

Mr. Ieyoub made a motion to accept the recommended bid from Acadian Promotional Products in the amount of \$2,848.95 for Fire Categories 1, 5, and 10 and Police Category 4 and to accept the recommended bid from Southern Specialty Products in the amount of \$7,776.84 for Fire Categories 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 and Police Categories 1, 2, 3 and 5. The motion carried by the following vote.

For: 6 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Geyen

Enactment No: 20305

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - President or Presiding Officer Mark Eckard, John Ieyoub, Rodney Geyen, President or Presiding Officer Craig Marks, Stuart Weatherford, Luvertha August, and Ronnie Harvey Jr.

Absent: 0

7. 176-25

An ordinance requiring that good faith efforts be made to include African American nominees in consideration for each of the three appointments to the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors appointed by the City Council for the City of Lake Charles.

Mr. Morgan stated that the city has three appointments. They are nominated from names of nominees from Visit Lake Charles, Arts & Humanities and the City Council has its own appointment from receipt of resumes. Ms. August stated that there are eleven positions on the Board, but the Police Jury didn't participate in the good faith efforts so she wanted the City to always do so.

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

For: 6 - Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 1 - Eckard

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20306

8. 177-25

An ordinance amending the Operating and Capital Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year relative to additional expenditures for the construction of Project No. DR009 - LCPD Annex.

Mr. Marks requested to know what the additional expenses covered. Emily McDaniel explained to the council consisted of adding a flag pole and other items that are part of the project. The funds are coming from the police department operating budget and being moved into the Operating and Capital budget.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20307

9. 178-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to submit an application to the Calcasieu Parish Road and Drainage Trust Fund and, if granted, to execute any and all agreements in connection therewith.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20308

10. 179-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana for \$1,000,000 in water grants for projects submitted by the City of Lake Charles and, further, to authorize budget amendments as necessary to fulfill local matches for the funding.

Mr. Marks asked if there was a cap on the budget amendments. Emily McDaniel stated that the project had been set up for water well and electrical improvements at the George West Water Plant and required a match which if needed would come from the existing budget.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20309

11. 180-25

An ordinance enlarging the boundaries of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, by annexing property generally described as the eastside of the 3500 block of Knight Lane, containing 2.48 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

Mr. Marks stated that Tom Gayle was present representing the owner if any questions arose.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20310

12. 181-25

An ordinance assigning Zoning Classification of Business to property generally described as the eastside of the 3500 block of Knight Lane, containing 2.48 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20311

13. 182-25

An ordinance assigning Councilmanic District "E" to the eastside of the 3500 block of Knight Lane, containing 2.48 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20312

14. 183-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to purchase property located on Highway 90, north of OD Johnson Sports Complex, from the record owner.

Mr. Harvey requested clarification on whether the property would be fenced in, gravel, cement, lighting and will the entrance be from Hwy 90 or Mt. Talbot. Mr. Castille stated that the goal would be with the entrance from Hwy 90 and immediately they will place gravel on the site to alleviate the issues from Mt. Talbot.

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

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20313

15. 202-25

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake Charles ratifying the provisions of the Lake Charles Police Department policies pertaining to City Police Officers' utilization of mobile video and body worn cameras that are currently in effect and as it may be amended in the future.

Ms. August asked Mr. Morgan if they are ratifying the provisions that are already in place, would that allow the Council to amend it later on? Mr. Morgan stated that they are ratifying the existing policy but doesn't necessarily give permission to amend it. Deputy Chief Nicosia stated that the policy addresses automatic and manual ways to turn on the cameras and the body camera. Mr. Marks stated Deputy Chief Nicosia offered to set up a demonstration. David Morgan read in a proposed amendment that would appear between the second and fourth "whereas" section to read "Whereas it shall be the policy of the Lake Charles Police Department that city police officers shall activate their dash cameras and body worn cameras whenever the officer comes into contact with the public while performing their official duties as provided in or limited by Lake Charles Police Department General Order O25." Mr. Eckard stated that there is no state law that says that we have to have an ordinance so what does the ordinance accomplish? Mr. Morgan stated it acknowledges the police department has a policy and ratifies it. Mr. Marks stated that this ordinance allows the general public to know that there is a policy in place backed by the city council that can be enforced if an officer does not follow that policy. Mr. Morgan stated the Lake Charles Police Department has already been enforcing the policy and a matrix for discipline had already been set up. Mr. Marks requested deferral to revisit the ordinance. Mr. Harvey stated in the initial meeting the purpose of this ordinance was to show actual actionable steps and to be transparent with the public with the standard of when the body cam would be activated. Mr. Harvey agreed with deferring the matter. Miles Brown turned in a card to speak but since there was a motion and second on the deferral, he was requested to return on June 18, 2025.

A motion was made that this item be Deferred until the June 18, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS MAY BE ADOPTED BY CONSENT

16. 204-25

A resolution accepting Project No. CP2944 - GH West Transmission Main Extension as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 105-25

17. 205-25

A resolution accepting Project No. CP3436 - 2022 Drainage Infrastructure Improvements - Package No. 4 as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 106-25

18. 206-25

A resolution accepting Project No. CP3279 - 6th Avenue Rehabilitation - 3rd Street to 6th Street as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 107-25

19. 207-25

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise to receive sealed bids for the purchase of janitorial supplies for use by various divisions and departments of the City of Lake Charles.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Weatherford was appointed chairman.

Enactment No: 108-25

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 - Eckard, Ieyoub, Geyen, Marks, Weatherford, August, and Harvey Jr.

Against: 0

Absent: 0

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE FOR INTRODUCTION BY CONSENT AND WILL BE READ INTO THE RECORD THE DAY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING AT 9:00A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

20. 208-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for the purchase of janitorial supplies for use by various divisions and departments of the City of Lake Charles.

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

21. 209-25

An ordinance for consideration to amend the official zoning map from a Neighborhood Zoning District to a Business Zoning District located at 2400 Opelousas Street and 330 North Lincoln Street.

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

22. 210-25

An ordinance enlarging the boundaries of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, by annexing property generally described as 5755 Big Lake Road, containing .98 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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

23. 211-25

An ordinance assigning Zoning Classification of Residential to property generally described as 5755 Big Lake Road, containing .98 acres more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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

24. 212-25

An ordinance assigning Councilmanic District "G" to property generally described as 5755 Big Lake Road, containing .98 acres more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

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

25. 146-25

An ordinance authorizing the City to enter into a lease agreement with VGM Financial Services for the lease of golf carts for use at Mallard Golf Club.

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

26. 213-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the North Lake Charles Economic Development District ("District") for the purpose of appropriating funds totaling \$650,000 over a four-year period to assist with the operations of the District and further providing office space for the District.

This item was deferred until the August 6, 2025 regular council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Council, Mr. Marks adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m. The next regular city council meeting will be held on June 4, 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 21st day of May, 2025.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 28th day of May, 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 21st day of May, 2025.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon the official seal of said City, this 28th day of May, 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.