

City of Lake Charles

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 6, 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 - Donald F. Fondel

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Stuart Weatherford, Matt Young, President or Presiding Officer Craig Marks, Ronnie

Harvey Jr., Donald W. Fondel, and Matthew Vezinot

Absent: 1 - Tommy M. Bilbo Jr.

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

The monthly financial reports for July, 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.

Mayor Simien, President Marks, Michael Castille and Ernest McCarthy presented awards to the Mid-City Baseball Champions. President Marks took a point of personal privilege to recognize Deputy Chief Michael Nicosia on his retirement of 24 years with the Lake Charles Police Department. Mayor Simien, John Cardone and Stuart Weatherford also wished him well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2025

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

As a point of personal privilege, President Marks announced the City of Lake Charles had recently been awarded a 2025 Community Achievement Award in the category of Economic Development for the Port Wonder project by the Louisiana Municipal Association and stated that the awards were judged by the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association, Louisiana Governor's Office of Rural Development, Louisiana Main Street, Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal and Louisiana Economic Development. He further thanked the previous administration and council for their hard work on the project.

President Marks stated Item #4 was being deferred until the September 3, 2025 regular council meeting and Items 3, 10 and 11 were being deferred until the August 20, 2025 regular council meeting. He further stated that Item 8 was being deleted.

APPOINTMENTS

1. 380-24

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3274 - Southpark Drive Waterline Extension.

Mr. Marks was appointed chairman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. 802-24

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1814 Easton Street, Willie Lafleur and Josephine Lafleur, owners.

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 which were made part of the record. Peggy LaFleur, 156 Lee Street, Lake Charles, LA stated that the succession was still in progress. She further stated her attorney was attempting to reach family members in Colorado and California. She boarded up the property. Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, recommended deferral until October 1, 2025 which was approved by the following vote.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

3. 73-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2116 3rd Street, Oran L. Owens (Estate) and Rosemary Owens, owners.

This item was deferred at the beginning of the meeting until the August 20, 2025 regular council meeting.

4. 251-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2008 12th Street, Natasha Young and Russell Young, owners.

This item was deferred at the beginning of the meeting until the September 3, 2024 regular council meeting.

5. 252-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2011 Evans Street, Olivia Davis Trahan (Estate), owner.

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 which were made part of the record. Tryistan Carter, 2011 Evans Street, Lake Charles, LA stated that they were unable to do a succession and there was nothing else that could be done. He has been working and taking care of his mother. Mr. Fondel requested deferral until September 3, 2025 which was approved by the following vote.

A motion was made that this item be Deferred until the September 3, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

6. 253-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 903 Mill Street, Florence Murchison Breda, Marjorie Breda, Leonard Charles V Breda, Charlene B Norman, and Elizabeth A. Breda, owners.

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 which were made part of the record. Jeff Townsend, 512 Pujo Street, Attorney at Law, representing the owners stated that there was no opposition to the demolition. Mr. Harvey recommended time delays of 15/15 which were approved by the following vote.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20348

7. 254-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1803 13th Street, Dohn Hamic Hoffpauir, owner, 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 which were made part of the record. There were no requests to speak on this item. Mr. Marks recommended time delays of 30/60 on behalf of Mr. Bilbo which were approved by the following vote.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20349

8. 255-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 512 Lebato Street, Stanley E. Keller, owner.

This item was deleted at the beginning of the meeting.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ACTION

9. 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.

President Marks stated that he received cards from Marzetta Landry, Carl Ambrose, Shauntell Willis, Wilford Carter, Miles Brown, Robert Campbell, Pastor Allen Collins, Rev. Carl White, Samuel Tolbert, Joseph Richmond, Kenneth Smith and Alvin Noel turned in cards to speak in support.

A motion was made by President Marks, seconded by Mr. Fondel, that this item be Deferred to the September 3, 2025 regular council meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 5 - Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, and Vezinot

Against: 1 - Weatherford

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

10. 266-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible quote and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Bancroft Street Sewer Repairs.

This item was deferred at the beginning of the meeting until the August 20, 2025 regular council meeting.

11. 267-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible quote and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Ryan Street Sewer Repairs.

This item was deferred at the beginning of the meeting until the September 20, 2025 regular council meeting.

12. 288-25

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an employment contract on behalf of the City of Lake Charles with John Cardone, Jr. as City Administrator as approved by Resolution adopted on July 16, 2025.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20350

13. 289-25

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement on behalf of the City of Lake Charles with Russell J. Stutes, Jr. to provide legal services for the City of Lake Charles pursuant to the approval of his appointment as City Attorney by the City Council by Resolution adopted on July 16, 2025.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20351

14. 290-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to allow more than ten percent (10%) cumulative increase for a change order for Project No. CP3386 - 2020 Asphalt Overlay Package.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20352

15. 291-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to allow more than twenty percent (20%) cumulative increase for a change order for Project No. DR010 - LCFD Fire Training Facility Demo & Earthwork.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20353

16. 292-25

An ordinance for consideration to amend the official zoning map from a Residential Zoning District to a Mixed Use Zoning District located at the Eastside of the 4800 Block of Ihles Road (including Rue De Jardin, Chalet Au Dorte, Chalet Au Nord, Chalet Au Sud, Petite Rue, Amy Street, Lodden Street, Lauren Street and Kenneth Street).

Doug Burguieres, stated this item was a recommendation that was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. He further stated this was an existing development under a residential zoning classification that includes offices, duplexes and apartment complexes so changing the classification from residential single family to mixed use is appropriate.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20354

17. 293-25

An ordinance approving the City of Lake Charles' 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and the 2025 Action Plan. This ordinance will authorize the City of Lake Charles to make application to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for its 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding allocation.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20355

18. 306-25

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to renew the lease of a body camera system for use by the Ward 3 Marshal's Office for a five-year term.

Chief Deputy Rocky Rhodes was present to answer any questions.

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

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

Enactment No: 20356

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENT

19. 308-25

A resolution giving notice of Appointment and setting date for selection of nominees by the City Council to be sent to the Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor, for appointment of a Board Member to the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District Board of Commissioners.

Resumes will be received through August 15, 2025 with the appointment being made at the August 20, 2025 regular council meeting.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 150-25

20. 309-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 712 Williams Street, Freddie Mark Johnson (Estate), owner.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 151-25

21. 310-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2611 Ernest Street (rear porch only), James Darrel Talbot and Tammy Davida Sawrie Talbot, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 152-25

22. 311-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2901 Creole Street (two houses), Warren Blanchette, owner.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 153-25

23. 312-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 501 North Booker Street, Elijah Hancock (Estate) and Lucille Jones Hancock (Estate), owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 154-25

24. 313-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 716 Royal Street (workshop/garage), James White Hellums, Jr. and Henri Alice Liggin Hellums, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 155-25

25. 314-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2915 Legion Street, Dwayne Brown and Bernita L. Brown, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 156-25

26. 315-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2623 Lynn Street, Batson Stevens, Jr., and Edolia Stevens Avie, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 157-25

27. 316-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2923 General Collins, Louis Haley and Dorothy Mae Hicks Haley, owners, subject to a tax sale to the State of Louisiana.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 158-25

28. 317-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2512 Tupelo Street, Lisa Kaye Guillory Cormie and Gina Gail Guillory Melancon, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 159-25

29. 318-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 718 North Lyons Street, Jonathan Gray and Jaquay Jackson Gray, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 160-25

30. 319-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 2310 North Old Hwy 171 (garage/barn), Charles Richard Frank and Daina Ann Kilchrist, owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 161-25

31. 320-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 3023 General Twinning, Gertrude Ann Savoy and George Watkin Savoy (Estate), owners.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 162-25

32. 321-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 604 Craft Street (shed/garage), George P. Natali and Estelle M. Natali Trust. owner.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 163-25

33. 322-25

A resolution setting date for public hearing on condemnation of a structure located at 3903 Auburn Street, Nelson Bernard, owner.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. The hearing dated was set for the September 17, 2025 regular council meeting.

Enactment No: 164-25

34. 338-25

A resolution to the Louisiana Federal Delegation and to the Louisiana Public Service Commission to have Entergy Louisiana recognize their rate payers as being eligible for funds Entergy Louisiana received from FEMA to help defray some of the costs of hurricane repairs.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 165-25

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

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Bilbo Jr.

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

35. 323-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 712 Williams Street, Freddie Mark Johnson (Estate), owner.

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

36. 324-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2611 Ernest Street (rear porch only), James Darrel Talbot and Tammy Davida Sawrie Talbot, owners.

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

37. 325-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of structures located at 2901 Creole Street (two houses), Warren Blanchette, owner.

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

38. 326-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 501 North Booker Street, Elijah Hancock (Estate) and Lucille Jones Hancock (Estate), owners.

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

39. 327-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 716 Royal Street (workshop/garage), James White Hellums, Jr. and Henri Alice Liggin Hellums, owners.

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

40. 328-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2915 Legion Street, Dwayne Brown and Bernita L. Brown, owners.

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

41. 329-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2623 Lynn Street, Batson Stevens, Jr., and Edolia Stevens Avie, owners.

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

42. 330-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2923 General Collins, Louis Haley and Dorothy Mae Hicks Haley, owners, subject to a tax sale to the State of Louisiana.

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

43. 331-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2512 Tupelo Street, Lisa Kaye Guillory Cormie and Gina Gail Guillory Melancon, owners.

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

44. 332-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 718 North Lyons Street, Jonathan Gray and Jaquay Jackson Gray, owners.

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

45. 333-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2310 North Old Hwy 171 (garage/barn), Charles Richard Frank and Daina Ann Kilchrist, owners.

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

46. 334-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 3023 General Twinning, Gertrude Ann Savoy and George Watkin Savoy (Estate), owners.

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

47. 335-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 604 Craft Street (shed/garage), George P. Natali and Estelle M. Natali Trust, owner.

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

48. 336-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 3903 Auburn Street, Nelson Bernard, owner.

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

49. 337-25

An ordinance amending both Sec. 20-78 and Sec. 20-132(b) of Chapter 20 of the City of Lake Charles' Code of Ordinances prohibiting parking on both sides of Elaine Street from Rhodes Street to Kingsley Street and designating this area as a tow-away zone.

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 Council, President Marks adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The next regular city council meeting will be held on August 20, 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 6th day of August, 2025.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 11th day of August, 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 6th day of August, 2025.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon the official seal of said City, this 11th day of August, 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.