

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday December 20, 2021
Washington Town Hall 405 N. Washington St. Washington, LA

Mayor William Dwight Landreneau called the regular council meeting to order.

Attendance: Councilmembers Wilbert Ledet, Tanya Doucet, Mona Wilson and Beau Wilson
(Town Attorney Chris Granger also in attendance)

Absent: Rogers Malveaux

A quorum was established.

Councilmember Beau Wilson led the prayer. Following the prayer Councilmember Wilbert Ledet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made to accept and approve the minutes of the previous months regular Council Meeting held on November 15, 2021, by Councilmember Beau Wilson; motion was seconded by Councilmember Mona Wilson; no discussion and the motion carried.

Resolution No 10 of 2021 Approval of LA Compliance Questionnaire for Audit for Fiscal Year July 2020 -June 2021. - Tanya Doucet motioned to approve. Wilbert Ledet second the motion. YAYS: Beau Wilson, Tanya Doucet, and Wilbert Ledet NAYS: None ABSENT: Rogers Malveaux. The motion was carried.

Reminder Avenu & Insights Analytics will be handling Occupational License for the Town effective January 1st. Renewal notices will be sent to all business owners from Avenue & Insights Analytics in the next week. The town will no longer collect the Occupational license fees. The town will continue to handle the liquor and beer permits.

District 5 School Board Member Bianca Vedell newly appointed in October 2021 who fills the remaining term for the former District 5 School Board Member addressed the Council and public. There will be a special election to complete the term in March 2022. Bianca introduced herself and explained her background, education, and experience. She requested the community's involvement in the schools in District 5 and suggested anyone who would like to be involved to contact her.

Mayor Landreneau advised the Christmas Festival was a great success. Also, during the festival, the re-opening of the museum took place. Mayor Landreneau acknowledged the effort and thanked the Christmas Festival Chairman Brenda Pitre, Vicki Thibodeaux, and all volunteers on the success.

Mayor Landreneau announced The Town of Washington will partner with The Maestro Foundation to host a Toy Giveaway at the Washington Pavilion from Noon to 2:00pm on December 24th.

Chief Trent requested to add an item to the agenda. The item is to request approval for Shondra Fontenot currently working as a full-time dispatcher to be commissioned as a reserve officer. Chief Trent explained that she would like the item added tonight since she received an e-mail from the town attorney advising her she must get council approval. Mona Wilson motioned to add the item to the agenda and the motion was seconded by Wilbert Ledet. A roll call vote was taken to add the item to the agenda. YEAS: Wilbert Ledet, Tanya Doucet, Mona Wilson, and Beau Wilson NAYS: none ABSENT: Rogers Malveaux

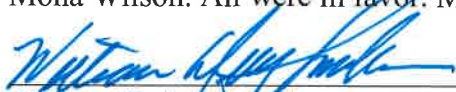
Chief Trent explained she would like Shondra Fontenot to be approved to work as a reserve officer (performing duties as an officer). Beau Wilson asked why this request was added tonight and what was the e-mail from the attorney. Chief explained the e-mail from town attorney Chris Granger received today advised that the council must approve Shondra Fontenot to work in a dual role as a reserve officer and dispatcher. Insurance cost and coverage was discussed between the council and town attorney regarding a dispatcher and a reserve officer. Positions within the department were discussed. Chief Trent explained the Police Department has one part-time officer and one full-time officer. The Police Department has one dispatcher. The night dispatcher gave her notice several weeks ago. Mayor Landreneau explained the Town Clerk must be notified to remove the employee from employee status and insurance coverage. Chief Trent explained she was waiting on her official letter from the dispatcher. The notice was sent through a text. Halli Polotzola, Town Clerk explained a simple statement from the Chief explaining the text message from the employees is sufficient to terminate the employee. Mona Wilson made the motion to approve Shondra Fontenot to dispatch and as needed as a reserve officer pending approval of insurance. There was NO second. The motion failed.


Chief Trent requested to hire a dispatcher to Tyniah Malveaux. Mona Wilson motioned to hire Tyniah Malveaux as a dispatcher. The motion was seconded by Wilbert Ledet. YEAS: Wilbert Ledet and Mona Wilson, NAYS: Tanya Doucet and Beau Wilson ABSENT: Rogers Malveaux Mayor Landreneau voted that upon resignation of the night dispatcher he approves to hire Tyniah Malveaux.

Beau Wilson requested an update regarding Blue Lines. Blue Lines has been suspended. Tickets were issued under an incorrect name. Chief Trent advised communication was horrible with Blue Lines. The tickets were voided with the incorrect names. The contract has been suspended but not officially cancelled at this time.

Chief Trent advised that crime including theft is on the rise. Chief requested to move back to the Police Department building. The roof is getting worse and needs to be fixed. There is no privacy for when complaints are handled in the office. Mayor Landreneau explained he requested a grant for \$35,000 however was only granted \$7,000. \$7,000 is not enough to cover the roof repair. He explained that approximately \$40,000 would be needed to address Police Department building issues.

A motion was made to adjourn the Council Meeting by Wilbert Ledet. Motion seconded by Mona Wilson. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.


William Dwight Landreneau, Mayor


Halli Polotzola, Town Clerk