

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA  
HELD ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 2nd day of September 2025 at City Hall, their regular meeting place, pursuant to the call of the Mayor.

THERE were present: Jason Willis, Mayor

Mike Fuselier, Councilman

Carol Frederick, Councilman

Janise Anthony, Councilman

Flo Chatman, Councilman

Allan L. Durand, City Attorney

THERE were absent: Jonas Fontenette, Councilman

Mayor Jason Willis presiding called the meeting to order.

Upon recommendation of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried to add two resolutions for Capital Outlay to the agenda of this meeting.

It was moved by Councilwoman Chatman duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held August 18, 2025 hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Upon request of Deacon Conque of Maris Stella School, it was moved by Councilwoman Chatman duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried that the outstanding monthly lease fee owed to the City for use of the Maison Duchamp be forgiven and the lease be terminated due to the school closing.

Upon request of George Choplin, it was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted to hold the annual Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. There will be a fee for all parade participants. A poboy sale will be held to raise funds to pay for security. Mr Choplin has met with Chief Martin and Chief will provide an assessment of the parade.

Upon request of Blair Boudreaux owner of nuisance property located at 322 Columbus Street, it was moved by Councilman Mike Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Frederick and unanimously carried to grant Ms. Boudreaux 90 days to demolish the dilapidated structure and remove all debris located at said address. Meanwhile she agreed to keep the grass cut.

Upon request of Delaney Johnson owner of nuisance property located at 204 Governor Mouton, it was moved by Councilwoman Frederick duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried to grant Mr. Johnson 90 days to demolish the dilapidated structure and remove all debris located at said address.

Councilman Fuselier discussed his concerns of the process he experienced when trying to connect utilities at 104 S. Main. City Inspector Rodney Richard was present to explain the process in obtaining permits to connect utilities.

It was moved by Councilwoman Anthony duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier and unanimously carried that Mr. Floyd Johnson be appointed as Planning & Zoning Representative of the Historic District Commission. Mr Johnson will replace Ms. Lisa Birdsong.

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted for Main Street Association to hold a Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> to include a parade from SMP Courthouse to Evangeline Blvd. The parade will consist of only US Military and Veterans.

It was moved by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Chatman and unanimously carried that permission be granted for Main Street Association to close Evangeline Blvd and New Market Street to hold the upcoming Music at the Market on September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event will be held on the corner of Evangeline Blvd and New Market Street beginning at 5:00pm and ending at 9:00pm. Permission to sell alcohol was also granted.

Mayor Willis tabled the amending of funding source for the LLOP Grant Change Order #1 to allow time to determine if the change is a necessity.

The following ordinance was introduced for adoption at the September 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 25-11  
*An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville  
providing for the cutting of grass or weeds*

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville is authorized by La. R.S. 33:5062 to enact an Ordinance providing for the cutting of grass or weeds on any lot, place, or area within the City; and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that the previous Ordinances should be updated and clarified to provide more specificity in the Ordinance,

THEREFORE be it ordained that Sections 22.161 and 162 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same are hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

**Sec. 22-161. Weeds, Tall Grass, Noxious Growth and Dead Trees. Prohibited.**

(a) No owner, tenant or occupant of any lot, place or area not leased or occupied by another person shall permit any noxious weeds, grass or deleterious, unhealthful or noxious growths to grow or stand on any lot, place or area owned by said person, or on any sidewalks or banquettes abutting any lot or place or area owned by said person. **No dead trees shall be allowed to stand on any lot, if such dead trees pose a potential safety hazard to vehicle or pedestrian traffic, or to adjoining property.**

(b) Any noxious weeds, grass or other deleterious, unhealthy or noxious growths in excess of twelve (12") inches in height shall be presumed to be in violation of this Ordinance.

**( c ) On any land within the city on which hay has been grown, continuously since 2015, for commercial purposes or for use by the landowner, such use may continue. However a twenty (20) foot wide area around the perimeter of such land must be kept below sixteen (16) inches in height.**

**Sec. 14-53. Abatement by city.**

(a) The city is hereby authorized to cut, destroy or remove any **dead trees as well as any** noxious weeds or grass or deleterious, unhealthful or noxious growth growing or standing on any sidewalk or banquette, or on any lot, place or area, provided no such work shall be undertaken by the city until the owner of said lot, place or area or the owner of the property abutting the sidewalk or banquette, **or of the lot upon which such growth or tree is found,** shall have had the opportunity to do the work himself within at least ten (10) days after notice has been given him by advertisement in the official journal of the city, or by registered mail, **or by hand delivery. Notice mailed to the address of the property owner as shown on the tax assessment records shall be sufficient, if no other address is known.** The owner of said lot, place or area shall be charged a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the cost of notification to cut grass and weeds.

(b) However, the city may undertake the cutting, destruction or removal of noxious weeds or tall grass on a monthly basis without the notice required above if the property owner has been notified as provided above at any time during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months and has failed to do the work himself after opportunity to do so.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, duly seconded by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas:

Nays:

Absent:

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JASON WILLIS, Mayor

The following ordinance was introduced for adoption at the September 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting:

#### PROPOSED ORDINANCE 25-12

*An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville Amending Sections 9.3 and 9.4 of the Code of Ordinances with regard to Burning of Yard Waste*

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville maintains an Ordinance regulating the burning of yard waste and other materials within the city limits of the City of St. Martinville, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that the previous Ordinance contains restrictions which convert the Ordinance into a virtual prohibition of any burning within the city limits, which the Council has found to be too restrictive, and

THEREFORE be it ordained that Sections 24.3 and 24.2 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby amended and restated to read as follows, this amendment to be effective upon final passage:

#### **Section 24.3. Burning of yard waste.**

It is hereby authorized that private landowners may burn any brush, grass, small tree branches, or other vegetable material between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. as long as the fire is at least 100 feet from any structure or dwelling, and

A. The yard waste must come from the property of the person burning the waste, and

- B. The burning must be for non-commercial purposes only, and
- C. The owner must attend the fire with a hose capable of spraying water on the fire site until the fire is out, and
- D. The pile of material being burned must not exceed 10 feet in diameter, and three (3) feet in height, unless approved in writing by the Fire Chief.

Any violation of this section shall be considered as misdemeanor and punishable by the maximum penalty allowable under the Charter.

Section 24.4. **Exemption for ‘burn pits’.**

This Ordinance does not prohibit fires, fueled by wood or artificial logs, made for social or recreational purposes, and which are contained within a metal or concrete ‘burn pit’. However, Section 24.3, above, applies to such fires, except for requirement that it be 100 feet from the dwelling, which is reduced to 20 feet.

Section \_\_\_\_ **Trash fires.**

Except as provided in Section \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, it shall be unlawful for any person, corporation or other entity to burn paper, trash, or any other items within the corporate limits of the City of St. Martinville unless such burning is in an approved furnace or incinerator.

Any violation of this section shall be considered as misdemeanor and punishable by the maximum penalty allowable under the Charter.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, duly seconded by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas:

Nays:

Absent:

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JASON WILLIS, Mayor

## ORDINANCE 25-10

*An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville reconciling the various requirements for Orders to Abate a Nuisance, and for Service of Notice of Orders to Abate for all different types of Nuisances within the City.*

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville has slightly different notice provisions for different types of nuisances which may exist within the City, and

WHEREAS the City Council believes that it is in the best interest of the City to have a uniform notice procedure, and

THEREFORE be it ordained that Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby partially amended as follows:

1. Section 22.60 of the Code of Ordinances is amended and restated to read as follows:

**“If the order to abate the nuisance does not provide a different length of time within which to either abate the nuisance or to request a hearing before the City Council to contest the finding of the existence of a nuisance, or to seek additional time to abate, then the time allowed to do one of the above shall be ten (10) days.”**

2. Section 22.61 of the Code of Ordinances is amended and restated to read as follows:

“Anything to the contrary in this Chapter 22 notwithstanding, the following rules shall apply to Service of the Notice to Abate:

“The notice to abate a nuisance shall be served upon a **resident** of the State of Louisiana either by **personal delivery, or by mail. If neither is accomplished after good faith effort, then notice may be given by attaching the notice to the front of the residence of the Owner and/or Occupant.**

“If the owner of the premises is a **non-resident** of the State of Louisiana, the notice shall be served by certified mail.

“If the premises where the nuisance exists is occupied by the Owner, or is unoccupied, the notice shall be served on the Owner. If the owner is not the Occupant of the premises, the notice shall be served on both the Occupant and the Owner. Such service may be made by personal delivery or by mail, **or posting to the front of the residence after delivery or mail is unsuccessful.**

“If the owner is unknown, or if the owner is deceased and the heirs are unknown, or if the owner is a non-resident of the state and mail delivery was unsuccessful, then the City shall declare at a regular meeting that a nuisance exists on the property, and shall publish its intention to abate the nuisance for 2 consecutive weeks in the official journal of the City.”

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Councilman Fuselier duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick, J.Anthony and F.Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: J. Fontenette

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2025.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Willis, Mayor

Delivered to Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Received from Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville, domiciled in the City of St. Martinville, that Mayor Jason Willis is hereby authorized and empowered to act on behalf of the City of St. Martinville in all matters pertaining to SLCC Sewer Extension, Planning & Construction Project, including certifying requests for State disbursements with the State of Louisiana, Facility Planning and Control Department.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Chatman, duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick, J.Anthony and F.Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: J.Fontenette

The Resolution above was thereon declared adopted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2025.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Lorrie M Poirier of the City of St. Martinville do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and exact copy unanimously adopted by the City Council of City of St. Martinville at a meeting thereof legally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2025.; that said resolution is duly entered into the records of said municipality; that it has not been rescinded or modified; and that it is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said municipality this 2nd day of September, 2025.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville, domiciled in the City of St. Martinville, that Mayor Jason Willis is hereby authorized and empowered to act on behalf of the City of St. Martinville in all matters pertaining to Public Works Building Renovation, Planning & Construction Project, including certifying requests for State disbursements with the State of Louisiana, Facility Planning and Control Department.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Chatman, duly seconded by Councilwoman Anthony, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas: M.Fuselier, C.Frederick, J.Anthony and F.Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: J.Fontenette

The Resolution above was thereon declared adopted on the 2nd day of September, 2025.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Lorrie M Poirier of the City of St. Martinville \_\_\_\_\_do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and exact copy unanimously adopted by the City Council of City of St. Martinville at a meeting thereof legally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2025.; that said resolution is duly entered into the records of said municipality; that it has not been rescinded or modified; and that it is now in full force and effect.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said municipality this 2nd day of September, 2025.

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

TITLE:\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor's Report

- DOTD received approval for permit for the sidewalks on south end of Main St
- Street repair survey underway
- Utility bills are higher this month due to fuel charge increase, Lepa rate increase, City rates increased, bills are for July consumption and AMI meters are more accurate
- PD working diligently on Iris Davis Case – SMSO assisting

Memorial to be held September 6<sup>th</sup> at SMSH

- Direct Appropriation for Police Department Improvements
- Adam Carlson Pavillion completed
- Magnolia Pavillion Big Fan installed

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, Mayor Willis adjourned the meeting upon motion of Councilwoman Anthony and duly seconded by Councilman Fuselier.

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JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK