

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

The Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana met in Regular Session on the 17th day of August 2026 at City Hall, their regular meeting place, pursuant to the call of the Mayor.

THERE were present: Jason Willis, Mayor

Brad Horton, Councilman

George Choplin, Councilwoman

Jonas Fontenette, Councilman

Monica Charles, Councilwoman

Flo Chatman, Councilwoman

Allan L. Durand, City Attorney

THERE were absent: None

Mayor Jason Willis presiding called the meeting to order.

Upon request of Mayor Willis, it was moved by Councilman Choplin duly seconded by Councilman Horton and unanimously carried that a resolution pertaining to DRA application for the Fiscal Year 2026 federal award program cycle be added to this agenda.

It was moved by Councilwoman Charles duly seconded by Councilman Choplin and unanimously carried that the minutes of the regular meeting held August 3, 2026, hereby be approved for publication in the Teche News, the Official Journal of the City of St. Martinville.

Mayor Willis asked if anyone had questions regarding the Financial Report prepared by CFO Katy Bujard and included in council packets. There were no questions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Delta Regional Authority (hereinafter "DRA") was created by Congress by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, as amended, as a federal/state partnership now comprised of 255 counties and parishes within the eight states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee in order to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnerships that will have a positive impact on the Delta Region's economy;

WHEREAS, the City of St. Martinville, acting by and through its City Council, proposes to apply for an award with DRA for the Fiscal Year 2026 federal award program cycle;

WHEREAS, DRA requires that a person be designated, appointed, and given the authority to perform certain duties and administration of said award for and on behalf of the Awardee;

WHEREAS, Mayor Jason Willis is designated and appointed to perform all duties and administration of said award,

WHEREAS, the City is committed to providing additional funds in the amount of \$25,000 to said award;

WHEREAS, in the event of an administration change, the new Mayor of St. Martinville shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the City Council of St. Martinville, as follows:

THAT, Mayor Jason Willis be and is hereby designated and appointed to perform on behalf of the City of St. Martinville and has the authority to make those acts and assume any and all duties in dealing with the award with DRA for the Fiscal Year 2026 federal award program cycle;

THAT, Mayor Jason Willis is hereby authorized to execute and submit any and all documents including, but not limited to, applications, award closing documents, request for funds, status reports to DRA for the Fiscal Year 2026 federal award program cycle;

THAT, the Awardee agrees to provide additional funds in the amount of \$25,000 to said award;

THAT, in the event of an administration change, the new Mayor of St. Martinville shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Horton duly seconded by Councilman Choplin, and upon being submitted to a vote, the vote was :

Yeas: B.Horton, G.Choplin, J.Fontenette, M.Charles, and F.Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Resolution above was thereon declared adopted on the 17th day of August, 2026.

CERTIFICATE

I, LORRIE M. POIRIER, City Clerk of the City of St. Martinville, Louisiana, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville in Regular Session convened this 17th day of August, 2026, at which time a quorum was present and voting.

LORRIE M. POIRIER
CITY CLERK

Following presentation of pictures provided by Planning & Zoning Coordinator Otis Chatman of nuisance property located 725 N Martin Luther King Drive, owned by Anthony Lange, it was moved by Councilwoman Chatman duly seconded by Councilman Choplin and unanimously carried that 30 days be granted to clean up said property. If property is not cleaned up in 30 days, a citation will be issued under nuisance statute and reportable to Mayor's Court, possibly leading to jail time.

ORDINANCE 26-05

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville amending its present Ordinances with respect to abandoned or junked Nuisance Vehicles

WHEREAS the City of St. Martinville currently maintains an Ordinance dealing with the disposition of abandoned and junked Nuisance Vehicles, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of St. Martinville has, after due consideration, determined that junked or abandoned vehicles located on private property present a safety hazard and an attractive nuisance to children, as well as having a negative impact on property values of surrounding properties, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of St. Martinville has, after due consideration, determined that the Ordinances should be amended to add additional enforcement authority as allowed by Louisiana law,,

THEREFORE be it ordained that Article III "Nuisances" of Chapter 22 "Environment" of the Code of Ordinances for the City of St. Martinville be and the same is hereby amended to add new section 22-97, as follows:

Sec. 22-97. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY. The City Council finds that the storage or abandonment of motor vehicles which are **totally inoperable and whose value is less than the cost to repair** such vehicle constitutes a public nuisance, and is hereby defined as a "**Nuisance Vehicle**". Furthermore, the storage of any such Nuisance Vehicles on any property within the City if the Nuisance Vehicle is within view of a public street is hereby also prohibited.

A. If such a Nuisance Vehicle has remained for 30 consecutive days on private property, a City law enforcement official or other authorized City persons shall attach a notice on the Nuisance Vehicle directing its removal from the property within 10 days from the date of the notice. In addition, the City may place a sign on the property as close to the Nuisance Vehicle as practical providing such notice to remove.

B. Any Nuisance Vehicle which remains on private property for more than 10 days after placing of the notice described above shall be considered as abandoned to the City, and disposed of according to law:

C. If the Nuisance Vehicle in question has not been removed within 10 days after posting of the notice as provided above, then the Nuisance Vehicle may be removed by the City, or by a tow truck operator authorized to act on behalf of the City. In such case, the City or tow truck operator shall store the Nuisance Vehicle and may dispose of the Nuisance Vehicle pursuant to the Louisiana Towing and Storage Act.

D. If the Nuisance Vehicle in question has been left on property without the consent of the owner for 3 days or more, the notice to be posted on the windshield of the Nuisance Vehicle shall direct that the Nuisance Vehicle be removed from its location within 24 hours. If such an abandoned motor Nuisance Vehicle is not removed within 24 hours from the posting of notice,

then the Nuisance Vehicle may be removed by either the City or a tow truck operator authorized to act on behalf of the City. The City, or tow truck operator, shall store and may dispose of the Nuisance Vehicle pursuant to the Louisiana Towing and Storage Act.

E. This authority shall be in addition to any other authority granted by any other law or ordinance.

F. Nuisance Vehicles in existence and located in the City of St. Martinville on the date of the adoption of this Ordinances are not exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance.

G. The City shall have no responsibility or liability with regard to the vehicle once it is attached to the truck, and, by attaching to the Nuisance Vehicle after a request to do so from a City law enforcement officer or other official of the City, the tow truck operated is fully authorized to proceed according to the Louisiana Towing and Storage Act.

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

Yeas: B.Horton, G.Choplin, J.Fontenette, M.Charles and F.Chatman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Ordinance was thereon declared adopted on the 17th day of August, 2026.

JASON WILLIS, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Delivered to Mayor _____

Received from Mayor _____

The following ordinance was introduced and will be considered for adoption at the August 31, 2026 council meeting.

Proposed Ordinance 26-06

An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of St. Martinville authorizing the sale of the City's undivided interest in the lot at the corner of Berard and St. Martin Street to St. Martin Parish Government.

Mayor's Report

*Introduction of CT Director, Michelle Broussard

CRT position was split into CT and Recreation

Danielle Fontenette is retiring in November

Ms. Broussard introduced herself to the council

Report on events being held

Fete du Teche was a great success

Acadian Day – State Park personnel assisted with activities

Distributed tourism packets to schools in parish and will reach out to surrounding areas

Bayou Teche Clean Up Day in September – Bridge to new kayak area

City Wide Garage Sale - October 3rd in conjunction with Breaux Bridge

Art Walk and Artisan Market – October 24th

Trunk or Treat – October 31st 2:00pm – 6:00pm on New Market Street

Community Event Calendar is being created and will be distributed

Historic District and Main Street meetings open to the public

New businesses opening

Meeting rooms available at Acadian Memorial and Heritage Center

*Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Aux – annual picnic was success

*Sidewalks Project coming along- expect to complete mid-October

*Still working with DOTD on lights at roundabout – need to submit plan review

*Commend Police Department for neighborhood walk in District 5

*Next meeting is scheduled for Labor Day, September 7th

Council decided to reschedule for Monday, August 31st

*Test for Chief of Police is scheduled for September 10th – 4 applicants

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

JASON WILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRIE M POIRIER, CITY CLERK