



City of Lake Charles

Meeting Minutes

City Council

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

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

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2026 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

Call to Order - President Craig Marks, Presiding

Invocation

Invocation - Ronnie Harvey, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance - Stuart Weatherford

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Absent: 0 -

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.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made that Approve. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 - None

Absent: 0 -

Abstain: 0 - None

1. 26-193 Minutes

Defer/Delete

President Marks stated that Item 19 was being deferred for introduction until the July 1, 2026, regular council meeting.

Public Notice

Notice was read into the record by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

Appointments

2. 26-395 Appoint a chairman to review bids to purchase one (1) new Sewer Inspection System Camera and Crawler for use by the Public Works Department, Wastewater Division.

Sponsor: Matt Young
Councilman Young was appointed as chairman.

3. 26-396 Appoint a chairman to review bids for Project No. CP3400 - 18th Street Reconstruction (Lake St. to Creole st.) Phase 1

Sponsor: Matt Young
Councilman Young was appointed as chairman.

4. 26-397 Appoint a chairman to review bids to purchase annual supply of Public Safety Uniforms for use by the Lake Charles Fire Department for a twelve (12) month period.

Sponsor: Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr.
Councilman Bilbo was appointed as chairman.

Public Hearings

5. 26-126 An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1517 Martha Street, Don Erik Muhammad, 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.
Don Muhammad, 1517 Martha Street, Lake Charles, LA requested additional time to continue making repairs. Councilman Harvey recommended deferral to the September 16, 2026 regular council meeting, which was approved by the following vote.

A motion was made that this item be deferred. The motion passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 - None

Absent: 0 -

Abstain: 0 - None

6. 26-127 An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1621 2nd Avenue, Judith Lynn Pichon (Estate) and Amber Henry, 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.
Mr. Stutes stated that this was a rehearing from March 18, 20026. There were no requests to speak on this item. Mr. Fondel stated the property owner had secured the property and recommended time delays of 60/90 which were approved by the following vote

A motion was made that this item be approved. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford
Against: 0 - None
Absent: 0 -
Abstain: 0 - None

7. 26-128

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 711 Fall Street, Rose Young Fontenot and Frank Fontenot, owners.

A motion was made that this item be deferred. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford
Against: 0 - None
Absent: 0 -
Abstain: 0 - None

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. Mr. Stutes stated this was a rehearing from April 15, 2026. Annette Walker, 1627 St. John Street, Lake Charles, LA stated that she was working with Skipper Drost for a succession and the house is secured. She requested additional time to complete the succession. Councilman Fondel recommended deferral to the August 19, 2026 regular council meeting which was approved by the following vote.

Ordinances for Final Action

8. 26-369

An ordinance authorizing the City Council of the City of Lake Charles to amend Sec. 21-92 of the Code of Ordinances to allow car washes with State of Louisiana discharge approval to use irrigation meters for vehicle washing purposes.

A motion was made that Approve. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford
Against: 0 - None
Absent: 0 -
Abstain: 0 - None

Emily McDaniel stated if a property owner holds a valid DEQ wastewater license, they may qualify for an irrigation meter that is exempt from sewer charges. To maintain eligibility, the owner must renew or recertify the DEQ license annually.

9. 26-394

An ordinance amending Sec. 20-78 of Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake Charles to prohibit parking on the West side of the 2000 block of 4th Avenue to Rose Street.

A motion was made that this item be approved. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford
Against: 0 - None
Absent: 0 -
Abstain: 0 - None

The Following Resolutions May Be Adopted by Consent

14. 26-402

A resolution approving publication costs and authorizing the Clerk of the Council, Director of Finance, or appropriate staff, to publish in the official journal notices required prior to any vote by the City Council to establish a local healthcare provider program and annual hospital assessment rate, as well as authorizing notice to be provided to the Louisiana Department of Health, pursuant to LA R.S. 40:1248.1-1248.10.

A motion was made that Approve. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 6 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot
Against: 0 - None
Absent: 0 -
Abstain: 1 - Stuart Weatherford

Councilman Weatherford requested that this item be pulled up. Councilman Weatherford abstained from the vote due to his employment with a local hospital. Michael Neill, 501 W. 15th Street, Austin, TX, stated he was assisting Lake Charles Memorial Hospital and Christus St. Patrick's Hospital to work with the City on the vote in August to create a local provider participation fund. He explained that this vote was to authorize the notices and not to vote on the program. He further explained the local provider participation program is a way for the hospitals to use hospital funds, not City funds, or citizen funds, to pay an assessment into the City for the State to use to unlock federal matching funds to support the Medicaid population in Lake Charles. Mr. Neill stated the program would allow those federal funds to flow back in to support those services for supplemental payments because Medicaid rates are so low, to allow those hospitals to continue their current services, and to retain doctors. Jason Rashall, 3878 N. Jasmine Drive, Lake Charles, LA turned in a card for informational purposes. but did not speak.

10. 26-398

A resolution promulgating the results of a special election held in the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana on May 16, 2026.

A motion was made that this item be approved. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford
Against: 0 - None
Absent: 0 -

Abstain: 0 - None

Russell J. Stutes, City Attorney, stated that this was required to promulgate the results of the May 16, 2026 election. Councilman Harvey made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Bilbo to adopt the resolution.

11. 26-399

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to proceed with (i) developing of a financing for acquisition and establishment of additions to and improvements of the City's sewer system; (ii) borrowing not to exceed \$15,000,000 principal amount from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to be evidenced by the Sewer Revenue Note and Loan Agreement of the City; and (iii) approving the "Notice of Intention" and authorizing publication of a Public Notice in connection with the project; and authorizing application to the Louisiana State Bond Commission in connection therewith.

A motion was made that Approve. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 - None

Absent: 0 -

Abstain: 0 - None

Councilman Marks questioned what project the funds would be used for. Emily McDaniel stated that the funds would go towards the Southern Sewer Loop project which has multiple parts to it. Councilman Harvey made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Vezinot to approve this resolution.

12. 26-400

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise to receive sealed bids for Project No. CP3435 – 2022 Drainage Infrastructure Improvements – Package No. 3.

A motion was made that Approve. The motion Passed by the following vote:

For: 7 - Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 - None

Absent: 0 -

Abstain: 0 - None

Councilman Harvey was appointed as chairman.

13. 26-401

A resolution accepting CP3323 - W. Prien Lake Road Sewer – Heard Road to Burton Lane, as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

15. 26-405

A resolution setting date for public hearing and consideration of the Lake Charles Planning & Zoning Commission's decision to deny a request for a Variance in order to establish a short-term rental unit within 1,000 feet of existing licensed short-term rental, within a Mixed Use Zoning District, at 3121-3123 June Street. The hearing date was set for the July 1, 2026, regular city council meeting.

16. 26-406

A resolution setting date for public hearing and consideration of the Lake Charles Planning & Zoning Commission's decision to deny a request for a Variance in

order to construct a new 1,925-square-foot accessory structure, thereby exceeding the maximum allowable 40% of floor area of principle structure, within a Residential Zoning District, at 612 W. Claude Street.
The hearing date was set for the July 1, 2026, regular council meeting.

The Following Ordinances are for Introduction by Consent and Will Be Read Into the Record the Day Following This Meeting at 9:00am in the City Council Chambers in City Hall

- 17. 26-403** An ordinance amending Exhibit A of Ordinance No. 15062 regarding the membership and procedures policy of the City of Lake Charles Downtown Development/Lakefront Development Sub-District Authority.
Introduced as read into the record by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.
- 18. 26-404** An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid for Project No. CP3435 – 2022 Drainage Infrastructure Improvements – Package No. 3, and amend the budget as necessary.

Sponsor: Ronnie Harvey, Jr.
Introduced as read into the record by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.
- 19. 26-407** An ordinance amending Section 24 of the City of Lake Charles Code of Ordinances by adding Section 24-5-203.1 relative to Outdoor Lighting.
This item was deferred for introduction at the beginning of the meeting until the July 1, 2026, regular council meeting.
- 20. 26-410** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Calcasieu Parish School Board to cost share in the McNeese/Barbe drainage project.
Introduced as read into the record by Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Council, President Marks adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2026.

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 17th day of June, 2026.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 18th day of June, 2026.
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 17th day of June, 2026.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon

the official seal of said City, this 18th day of June, 2026.
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.



City of Lake Charles

Signature Copy

Ordinance: 20578

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

File Number: 26-127

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1621 2nd Avenue, Judith Lynn Pichon (Estate) and Amber Henry, owners.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: The facts, as set forth at the meeting of the City Council of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, on the 5th day of November 2025, justify an order of this City Council, and it is hereby ordered that the improvements, buildings and/or structures on the premises located at 1621 2nd Avenue, legally described as: Lot 16 Blk 2 Eastside Add, in the City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, and all improvements situated thereon, and owned by Judith Lynn Pichon (Estate) and Amber Henry, be repaired, demolished and/or removed.

A permit must be obtained from the City Permit Center by the 17 day of August, 2026, and the repair, demolition and/or removal completed by the 15th day of September, 2026. In default thereof, the City of Lake Charles shall demolish and/or remove said improvements on the above described property on the 16th day of September, 2026, or cause same to be done.

If no permit is obtained by the above date, the City will commence the demolition procedure on the 18th day of August, 2026. In the event the City demolishes the structures, a lien and privilege for the cost of said demolition and removal, as well as other expenses provided for by law, shall be filed against the above property. Legal interest, at the rate provided in Louisiana Civil Code, Article 2924, as the same now exists, or as the same may hereafter be amended, shall be charged from the date of recordation of said lien until paid.

SECTION 2: The Mayor of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of said demolition/and or removal as required by law, to enter into a contract for the demolition of the improvements, to pay the fees of the contractor from appropriate city funds, and to pay any and all of the costs associated with the demolition.

SECTION 3: This order is made the 17th day of June, 2026, and shall become final within five (5) days as provided by law.

At a meeting of the City Council on 6/17/2026, a motion was made that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey,

Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 None

Absent: 0

Passed and Adopted _____
Craig Marks, President or Presiding
Officer

Date _____

Attest _____
Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council

Date _____

Approved by _____
Marshall J. Simien, Jr., Mayor
City of Lake Charles

Date _____



City of Lake Charles

Signature Copy

Ordinance: 20579

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

File Number: 26-369

An ordinance authorizing the City Council of the City of Lake Charles to amend Sec. 21-92 of the Code of Ordinances to allow car washes with State of Louisiana discharge approval to use irrigation meters for vehicle washing purposes.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: Section 21-92 of the City of Lake Charles Code of Ordinances relative to Sewer user rate is hereby amended to add paragraph (e) to read as follows:

“(e) The above rates shall not include irrigation meters which shall be exempt from sewer user fees and sewer capacity utilization fees upon the request of the owner and the approval of the Waste Water Division when the use is for a commercial car wash purpose. A State issued discharge approval must be provided to the City of Lake Charles’ billing for irrigation use and approval.”

SECTION 2: All other paragraphs, subsections, subparagraphs, clauses, phrases, and words of this section, not specifically amended by this ordinance, are to remain the same.

At a meeting of the City Council on 6/17/2026, a motion was made that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 None

Absent: 0

Passed and Adopted

Craig Marks, President or Presiding
Officer

Date

Attest _____
Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council

Date _____

Approved by _____
Marshall J. Simien, Jr., Mayor
City of Lake Charles

Date _____



City of Lake Charles

Signature Copy

Ordinance: 20580

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

File Number: 26-394

An ordinance amending Sec. 20-78 of Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake Charles to prohibit parking on the West side of the 2000 block of 4th Avenue to Rose Street.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, in regular session convened, that:

SECTION 1: Section 20-78 of Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake Charles, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

"STREET	SIDE OF STREET	FROM	TO
4th Avenue	West	2000 Block	Rose Street"

SECTION 2: All other paragraphs, subsections, subparagraphs, clauses, phrases and words of this section, not specifically amended by this ordinance, are to remain the same.

At a meeting of the City Council on 6/17/2026, a motion was made that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Matt Young, Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey, Jr., Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford

Against: 0 None

Absent: 0

Passed and Adopted

Craig Marks, President or Presiding
Officer

Date

Attest _____
Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council

Date _____

Approved by _____
Marshall J. Simien, Jr., Mayor
City of Lake Charles

Date _____