

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 @ 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Blair Briggs, Chairman; Jacqueline Martin; Sherell Roberts, and Marvin Richard.
ABSENT: None

Alderman Blair Briggs announced that Item No. 2, "*Discuss proposed salary increase for Mayor and Council members*" be discussed first.

1. *Discuss proposed salary increase for Mayor and Council members.* Mayor Reginald Tatum spoke regarding increasing the Mayor's salary. He pointed out that he looked at different municipalities and what the salaries were. He stated that there are not any towns in the LMA area where the Mayor makes less than other city employees besides Opelousas. The Mayor provided the Committee with a list of what the City employees make and what the Mayor makes. He pointed out that he has saved about \$200,000 in salaries because of what the City Clerk makes versus what they made before; they haven't replaced the Chief Administrative Officer or the Public Works Director and he is basically doing all of those jobs. Alderman Briggs asked if they were going to replace the Public Works Director. Mayor Tatum stated that it has been over a year since they have had a Public Works Director and they plan on advertising, but he can guarantee that the Public Works Director is not going to make what they were making before. The previous Public Works Director was making approximately \$100,000 and based on LMA reviews, the standard salary for that position is approximately \$60,000. Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin stated that she and the other Council members have decided to take themselves out of the equation for an increase. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Marvin Richard and unanimously carried, it was recommended to forward to the full council for further discussion.
2. *Discuss funding for Tourism Grant Match as related to the Downtown Courthouse Square Area Sidewalks Improvements Project.* Mrs. Melanie Lee Lebouef provided the Committee with a breakdown of the project costs relating to this grant. Mrs. Lebouef also stated that an additional project area can included the City Court area and the East and West entrances to the City. The total cost of the project is \$207,863 with an amount of \$173,219 eligible for reimbursement through the grant. The grant match amount is \$34,000 with an engineer's cost of \$17,000 after an in-kind engineer's fee allowance of \$17,622 totaling an estimated amount of \$51,000 due from the City. Mrs. Lebouef stated that the Main Street Budget can provide funding sources for the next three fiscal years (2014-2017) in the amount of \$17,000 which would lower the amount due from the City to an estimated amount of \$17,000. There is also a potential partnership opportunity with St. Landry Parish Government which may further lower the amount due from the City. Funding for this project can also be provided through Capital Outlay. On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin and seconded by Alderwoman Sherell Roberts, it was recommended to forward to the full council to authorize the City to move forward with the Project.

On a motion by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, seconded by Alderman Blair Briggs and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn. The Budget Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.