

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Monday, January 30, 2012 @ 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Julius Alsandor, Chairman, Jacqueline Martin, Vice-Chairman, Joseph Charles, Blair Briggs
ABSENT: None

1. *Discuss Budget Concerns.* Alderman Blair Briggs stated several concerns with the proposed budget. Alderman Briggs stated that he wants to decrease the amount of unclassified employees and reduce the amount going to the Boy's & Girl's Club to \$30,000 instead of \$60,000. *On a motion by Alderman Joe Charles, seconded by Alderwoman Jacqueline Martin, it was recommended to reduce the contribution to the Opelousas Boy's & Girl's Club from \$60,000 to \$30,000 because of the City's financial position. BUDGET DISCUSSION CONTINUED* - Alderman Briggs wants to also reduce the unclassified employees' salary by \$400,000. Alderman Alsandor addressed several concerns regarding the budget. Alderman Alsandor stated that he felt we had a balanced budget and reiterated what Mr. Troy Courville stated at the regular meeting regarding the budget. Alderman Alsandor stated that the additional retirement increases over the last three years has cost the City approximately over 1.6 million dollars. He also stated that the City has been losing over \$600,000 in the past few years because the water/sewer expenses have been greater than the revenues. Sales tax contributions have had to make up the short fall in water/sewer for the past few years. City clerk, Ms. Frank, stated that the annual increase to all employees costs the City approximately \$300,000 each year. This increases the expenses but the revenues remain the same. Ms. Frank also spoke of the City wide improvements that have taken place from 2007 to 2012. Total improvements for the city amounted to over 1.4 million. Alderwoman Martin voiced her concerns regarding the budget and the retirement issues that are state mandated. Mr. Daryl Wagley gave some statically information on the average number of employees per 1000 population. He compared several other cities comparable to Opelousas in his presentation. Several individuals from the audience spoke regarding the budget and how critical it was to work together and get it done.

On a motion by Alderman Blair Briggs, seconded by Alderman Joseph Charles, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.