

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD, 2010 at 6:30PM AT YOUNGSVILLE CITY HALL:**

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tempore Paul Huval, Councilman Tim Barbier (Div D), Councilwoman Dianne McClelland (Div E), Councilman A.J. Bernard (Div C), Councilwoman Brenda Burley (Div B), CEO Rick Garner, and City Clerk Rebecca Gondron

GUESTS: Charles Porter, Grant Thorne, Jerry Wiley, Police Chief Earl Menard, Cindy Broussard, Melissa Robin, and Grant Thorne

Mayor Pro-Tempore Paul Huval asked that Councilman Tim Barbier lead everyone in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

(1) At the request of Councilwoman Dianne McClelland, this special meeting was called for the City Council's consideration to hire two police officers. Chief Menard thanked the City Council for calling this special meeting to hire two replacement police officers for Youngsville Police Department. Chief Menard stated that he will not be asking for special meetings again; he will hire at regular city council meetings. He stated that he did not know that there were issues concerning this matter.

The first recommendation by Chief Menard was to hire Grant Thorne who has been in law enforcement for eight (8) years; Lafayette Police Department, Broussard Police Department, and the University of Lafayette. He is 28 years old and is already P.O.S.T. Certified. The second police officer for hire is Melissa Robin who has ten (10) years of law enforcement; working at Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office for eight (8) years as Dispatcher Supervisor and also the Lafayette Police Department for two (2) years. She is 30 years old and is to be hired as an Administrative Officer. She will work at the front desk of the police department and shall handle walk-ins to file police reports. This is to keep other officers on the road. She is also P.O.S.T. Certified and will receive clerks salary, as stated by Chief Menard. Grant Thorne and Melissa Robin gave a brief discussion of their personal and law enforcement background.

Chief Menard then asked that when police officers are hired at the Regular City Council meetings, that the news reporters don't put their names in the newspaper. They could say that Youngsville Police Department has hired two (2) more new officers. Councilwoman Brenda Burley stated that the minutes of all meetings are

public record. Councilman Paul Huval stated that the Chief can personally communicate with the news people. Chief Menard stated that police officers tend to mess with dangerous guys and they tend to hold grudges.

Councilman Tim Barbier asked Chief Menard if the police department has changed their operating procedures as far as screening applicants, management of officers, and providing incentives to remain with the Youngsville police department. Chief Menard stated that psychic testing is performed as required by our insurance carrier. Chief Menard stated that he had a problem with take-home police units not being kept clean and cared for. Council Tim Barbier also asked if the Chief had anything that would be an incentive for deputies to remain with our police department. Chief Menard stated that this was a problem with every police department and these guys just skip around; the turnover is high. He also stated that the officers that are hired with our police department and become certified at our expense must sign a one-year contract and remain, or else they must reimburse the department.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Dianne McClelland and seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Burley to hire Grant Thorne and Melissa Robin as replacement police officers for Youngsville Police Department. Councilman A.J. Bernard questioned Chief Menard about their department's working shifts. A roll call was taken with Councilman Tim Barbier, Councilman A.J. Bernard, Councilwoman Brenda Burley and Councilwoman Dianne McClelland in favor of this motion. Passed unanimously. Chief Menard stated that he has a total of 16 police officers (including himself and Cindy Broussard) in his department.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman Brenda Burley made the motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Dianne McClelland to adjourn this special meeting. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Paul Huval declared this meeting adjourned.

City of Youngsville

City Clerk