



Joel Robideaux
Mayor-President / Maire-Président

September 18, 2019

HAND DELIVERED

Ms. Veronica L. Williams
Clerk of the Council
Lafayette City-Parish Council

RE: Disposition of Ordinance No. O-134-2019

To the Clerk of the Council and Members of the Lafayette City-Parish Council:

Please allow this letter to inform you that I have acted on and signed Ordinance No. O-134-2019. However, I have exercised the line item veto authority granted by Article II, Section 2-13(B) of the Charter to veto one item. I have exercised the line item veto authority as follows:

Veto No. 1: Delete "SEPARATE AMENDMENT 4 – which reads "Castille – LOUISIANA AVENUE EXTENSION FUNDING RESTORATION: Remove the reduction of funds in LA AVE EXT PH IID and remove the corresponding increase to STORM WATER DIVERSION. Ballard objected. (PUBLIC WORKS)

Attached is the signed version of Ordinance No. O-134-2019, along with the narrative explanation for the Veto above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Robideaux", written over a horizontal line.

Joel Robideaux
Mayor-President

JR:bp

Attachment

NARRATIVE FOR VETO NO. 1

Veto No. 1: Delete "SEPARATE AMENDMENT 4 – which reads "Castille – LOUISIANA AVENUE EXTENSION FUNDING RESTORATION: Remove the reduction of funds in LA AVE EXT PH IID and remove the corresponding increase to STORM WATER DIVERSION. Ballard objected. (PUBLIC WORKS)

The Administration's budget proposed moving \$7,130,716 of City dollars into drainage projects titled "Stormwater Diversion," now titled "City Stormwater Diversion." This funding was reallocated from a project that proposed to extend Louisiana Avenue outside of Lafayette's incorporated City limits.

As I've consistently stated during this year's budget process, drainage has become the priority of our constituents. Rather than raise taxes, my administration looked within the \$620 million dollar budget to identify existing dollars that could be committed to drainage projects. That effort led to the discovery that the final phase of Louisiana Avenue extension was outside of Lafayette City limits.

If this connection makes sense as it relates to future development, then the City of Lafayette should only move forward once annexation of all properties surrounding the connection are annexed into the City. It would be grossly irresponsible for the City of Lafayette to build, own, and maintain a road only to have another municipality annex the property around it and become the beneficiary of tax dollars derived from future development.

The earlier phases of Louisiana Avenue were completed within Lafayette City limits (with the exception of the stub-out north of E. Butcher Switch Road) as can be seen from the graphic below. The dates within each parcel indicate the year annexation took place.



In addition to the logical and fair belief that City dollars should not be spent on projects outside of the City, the language approved by voters in 1961 specifically stated that these tax dollars must be spent in the City of Lafayette. Thus, Separate Amendment 4 undeniably disregards the will of the voters. (Ballot language is below with emphasis added by me.)

Shall the City of Lafayette, State of Louisiana, under the provisions of Sub-Part D, Part I, Chapter 6, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 (R.S. 33:2711, et seq.), be authorized to levy and collect a tax of one percent (1%) upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property on sales of services in said City, as defined in R.S. 47:301 through 47:317, inclusive, with the revenues derived from said sales and use tax to be dedicated and used for the purposes of opening, constructing, paving, resurfacing and improving streets, sidewalks and bridges; constructing and purchasing street lighting facilities; constructing and improving drains, drainage canals and subsurface drainage; constructing and purchasing fire department stations and equipment; constructing and purchasing police department stations and equipment; constructing and purchasing garbage disposal and health and sanitation equipment and facilities; constructing public buildings; purchasing, constructing and improving public parks and recreational facilities and acquiring the necessary equipment and furnishings therefor; purchasing equipment for civil defense; constructing, acquiring or improving any work of permanent public improvement; and purchasing and acquiring all equipment and furnishings for the public works, buildings, improvements and facilities in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, or for any one or more of said purposes, title to which shall be in the public?

For all the reasons stated above, I hereby delete SEPARATE AMENDMENT 4 as my line item Veto of Ordinance No. O-134-2019.