

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY APRIL 16, 2019**

The Parish Council of Iberville Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session, in the Council Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse Building, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, on the 16th day of April, 2019.

The Council Chairman, Matthew H. Jewell, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the roll call with the following Council Members in attendance: Warren Taylor, District 1; Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; Steve C. Smith District 5; Ty J. Arnold, District 7; Hunter S. Markins, District 8; Terry J. Bradford, District 9; Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12.

Absent: Mitchel J. Ourso, Sr.; District 2; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Parish President- J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer- Edward Songy and Legal Counsel- Scott Stassi were also in attendance.

A quorum was present and due notice had been published on the 11th day of April, 2019. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. No one registered to speak.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- A) Resolution of Condolence for former Police Juror Jesse Wilson, Jr.
- Councilwoman Lewis read aloud and presented a Resolution of Condolence to the family of the late former Police Juror, Jesse “Punchy” Wilson, Jr.
 - A picture was taken for the newspaper.
- B) Presentation by Tim Johnson / DOTD Bridge Project
- Mr. Tim Johnson representing TJC Group, offered his own personal condolences to the family of the late Jesse Wilson, Jr. and stated he was a great friend.
 - Mr. Johnson stated funding is critically important to secure a new “South” Mississippi River Bridge. Mr. Johnson introduced Ms. Connie Betts, a representative of Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD) to speak before the Council. Ms. Betts presented a LA DOTD slideshow overview of the proposed new “South” Mississippi River Crossing in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area. In 2003 the new “South” Mississippi River Bridge was included in the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan as Priority C, then in 2015 it was changed to Priority B. There have been several studies over the past 20 years that included a new “South” Mississippi Bridge. The LA 1 to LA 30 Connector Stage 0 Feasibility Study that was completed in August of 2016, is the most recent study. This study proposed five different alternatives with and without rails. There are two basic facility types that can be pursued: full freeway or conventional

highway/expressway. Ms. Betts stated DOTD is undertaking a more detailed toll study to get a better estimate of potential toll feasibility. Toll revenues could finance an estimated 17% of construction cost. Construction of a new bridge will eliminate the Plaquemine Ferry. The present value of running the ferry for 40 years can be credited toward the cost of the project. All 5 parishes could participate in the Road Transfer Program and use the 40-year credits toward the proposed new bridge. If federal funds are used, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required as well as permits from the US Coast Guard and US Army Corps of Engineers, and others. The project will also have to be included in the 5-Parish Air Quality Conformity analysis. Even if no federal funds are used, permits from federal agencies and the air quality analysis are still required.

- Councilman Smith asked Ms. Betts how many years will this take from beginning to end. Ms. Betts estimated at least 3 years for the \$5 million Environmental Study, and then several more years to construct the actual bridge.
- C) Letter from the North Iberville Council on Aging Site Manager, Ruth Anderson
- Chairman Jewell read aloud a letter a gratitude from the North Iberville Council on Aging Site Manager, Ruth Anderson. On behalf of the staff and seniors at the North Iberville Council on Aging, Ms. Anderson thanked President Ourso, the Iberville Parish Council, and Mrs. Charlene Siplin, Director of Council on Aging for their hard work and diligent effort on the new North Iberville Council on Aging building. She thanked everyone for the gift of the new building, and for all that the Parish does for its senior citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Taylor, and seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of March 19, 2019 and approve as written. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Taylor, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley,

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Ourso, Vallet, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- President Ourso stated pictures were presented to the Council.
- The 750,000 gallon water storage tank's base has been poured for Water District No. 3.
- The 150 ft. flag pole had a glowing red light on top but was recently struck by lightning during a recent lightning storm. The light will be fixed. There will be four additional poles put up. The American flag will be raised in the next 6 to 8 weeks at the Ochsner Medical Facility. The veterans will be at the flag raising ceremony to retire the current flag at the Ochsner Medical Facility. That flag will be moved to the upcoming rifle range.

- Pictures of the Rifle Range show progress being made for the archery base, rifle base, and pistol base. President Ourso does have concerns about the railroad crossing near the Rifle Range.
- The Council on Aging building in Maringouin has another 45 to 60 days before it is complete.
- The glass replacement project on the third floor of the Courthouse is in the final phase of renovations.
- The employee parking lot renovations are now complete. All employees have tags placed on their rear view mirrors to enter into the gated employee parking lot.
- The Parish is on its final phase of the Utility Assistance Outreach program. The Parish has assisted close to 300 people with their utilities for an estimated \$225,000.
- The Council members will be allowed two summer workers this year.
- President Ourso stated he has been working on the proposed new “South” Mississippi Bridge to be here in Iberville Parish for years. South Plaquemine is the most economically depressed area in the Parish and that is where the bridge should be, not in the highly congested area of North Plaquemine. President Ourso said the Governor needs to make the decision on where the bridge should be, not leaving it up to five parishes who all want the bridge in their own parish. President Ourso met with Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr. of St. Gabriel about the widening of Highway 30. East Baton Rouge will pass a tax to widen Highway 30 all the way to the Parish line. There are 14 miles from Iberville to Ascension to the interstate and they cut out 4 miles. Highway 30 runs through St. Gabriel from the East Baton Rouge Parish line through the Ascension Parish line. Capital Region Planning will perform the Environmental Assessment Study for the City of St. Gabriel.
- President Ourso introduced the new IPRD Director, Dwayne Boudreaux to speak before the Council. Handouts were presented to the Council. IPRD now has a new logo, social media pages, and website, www.playiberville.com. The Spring Ball Season had 16 T-Ball Teams, 22 Coach’s Pitch Teams, 10 Baseball Teams, and 5 Softball Teams. Overall, IPRD has more teams playing this year than last year. Camp 360 will be a new and free summer camp coming this June in Iberville Parish. It is a collaboration powered by the Iberville Parish Council (Parks & Recreation), Iberville Parish School Board, and the City of Plaquemine. The camp will be comprised of 250 Iberville Parish kids ranging from 3rd to 5th grade. There will be 11 certified teachers leading the camp with an additional 30 part time summer camp counselors. IPRD will also have new fall programs such as youth tackle football, youth soccer, and co-ed softball for adults. The youth flag football program will be sponsored by the NFL. The youth basketball (biddy ball) program will be sponsored by the New Orleans Pelicans. Lastly, IPRD has a new exercise program with Get Ready to Sweat.
- Councilman Arnold asked for the timeframe of Camp 360. Mr. Boudreaux stated the capacity is 250 students, and there will most likely be a lottery conducted to choose the students.
- Chairman Jewell asked Mr. Boudreaux about his transition with the Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Boudreaux stated he recently had his first board meeting and that he has their full support. They were very excited about the upcoming programs.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the financial statements were mailed out but since this was an early meeting this month they not have received them until tonight. The sales taxes are almost exactly as projected. Chairman Jewell asked how the sales taxes this year compare to last year, and Mr. Dunn said the taxes are a little higher this year but the important thing is that they are coming in at what they were budgeted for. There were no other questions from the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

The following ordinances were introduced by Mr. Songy:

- 1) Ordinance to Adopt the Millage Rates for the Tax Year 2019
- 2) Ordinance to Grant a Telecommunication Line Servitude to AT&T Louisiana along John Britton Pkwy
- 3) Ordinance to Grant a Telecommunication Line Servitude to AT&T Louisiana along Industrial Boulevard

Upon a motion by Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. on the introduced ordinances.

The motion having been duly submitted to a vote, was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Taylor, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley,

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Ourso, Vallet, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on April 16, 2019.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique.

Absent: Vallet, Lewis, Morgan.

The following resolutions were read aloud by Mr. Songy:

A) Resolution of the Iberville Parish Council in Opposition of all Proposed Legislation that Transfers the Administration and Collection of Local Sales & Use Taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue

Councilman Smith made a recommendation to forward the resolution to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Kelley. The recommendation having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call by Resolution Committee Members only:

YEAS: Smith, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Lewis, Morgan.

The recommendation was declared adopted by the Chairman to forward this item to the regular meeting.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT - DURING THE REGULAR MEETING:

RESOLUTION IPC# 2019-004

RESOLUTION OF THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION OF ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT TRANSFERS THE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF LOCAL SALES & USE TAXES TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Kelley and seconded by Councilman Markins.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana grants local governments the right to levy and collect local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS, there are several constitutional amendments and bills introduced in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session that would transfer collection responsibility of local sales and use tax levies to the state Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, local taxing authorities possess the best knowledge and experience to properly collect its own taxes and have a proven record of proactive advancements in the areas of enforcement, audit coverage, dispute resolution, reporting technology and successful litigation; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana's budget issues does not offer prospects for the Department of Revenue to have sufficient resources to provide the necessary taxpayer

assistance, enforcement programs and training of its employees on the specific application of local sales and use tax ordinances without significant cost contributions from local governments, thereby resulting in the direct and indirect loss of local tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, many local taxing authorities have issued bonded indebtedness guaranteed by the passage locally adopted sales and use tax levies, collection of said levies are the direct responsibility of local governments, and the transfer of that responsibility to a state agency may generate legal challenges and jeopardize future bond issues; and

WHEREAS, the central local collector of sales and use taxes in each parish is directly responsible to the local taxing authorities and their elected officials for the performance of local tax administration, and the Secretary of the Department of Revenue being an appointee of the Governor of the state, uncertainty exist as to who in the Department of Revenue will be accountable to local taxing authorities for the performance of such critical local tax administration,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Iberville Parish Council, as the local taxing authority and governing body, that each member of the legislative delegation for the Parish of Iberville is urged to vigorously oppose any and all proposed legislation that transfers the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to Iberville Parish legislators so that they will be made aware of our position on this matter, namely Hon. Rick Ward, Hon. Chad Brown, Hon. Jeremy LaCombe, Hon. Edward Price and Hon. Ken Brass.

This resolution was adopted in regular session on the 16th day of April, 2019 by the following vote on roll call:

YEAS: Taylor, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley,

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Ourso, Vallet, Morgan.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORT

The Boards and Commissions Committee met on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:20 p.m. followed by the roll call with the following Committee Members only in attendance: Jackson, Markins, Smith, Arnold.

Absent: Vallet, Lewis.

A quorum was present.

- A) Appointment of Maxie Gray to the Iberville Parish Planning Commission
- B) Appointment of Robert Addison to the Iberville Parish Planning Commission

Upon a recommendation by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was recommended to forward the appointments of Mr. Maxie Gray and Mr. Robert Addison to the Iberville Parish Planning Commission. The recommendation having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call by Boards and Commission Committee Members only:

YEAS: Jackson, Markins, Smith, Arnold.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Lewis.

The recommendation was declared adopted by the Chairman.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORT - DURING THE REGULAR MEETING:

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, and seconded by Councilman Markins, it was moved to appoint Mr. Maxie Gray and Mr. Robert Addison to the Iberville Parish Planning Commission. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Taylor, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley,

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Ourso, Vallet, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on April 16, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Arnold, and seconded by Councilman Kelley, to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN