

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018**

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 21st day of August, 2018.

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; Mitchel J. Ourso, Sr.; District 2; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; Steve C. Smith, District 5; Courtney P. Lewis, District 6; Ty J. Arnold, District 7; Hunter S. Markins, District 8; Terry J. Bradford, District 9; Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12.

Absent: Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; 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 16th day of August, 2018. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. Pastor Kevin Snaril registered to speak.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- A) Presentation by Access Health Louisiana
- This agenda item was passed on.
- B) Presentation by the Iberville Parish Sheriff, Iberville Parish Coroner, and Others regarding the Opioid Epidemic in Iberville Parish and the strain it has placed on each Departments' resources
- Sheriff Brett Stassi came before the Council to speak on the Opioid epidemic. There were 72,000 over doses in 2017 in the United States. Since 2012, there has been an increase of 150%, with 1 out of 4 people with an opioid addiction. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Heroin is being mixed with fentanyl and this is what Sheriff Stassi believes is causing the overdoses. Over 80% of heroin users misused opioids before turning to heroin. In 2014, there were 777 overdoses in Louisiana. In 2015, there were 861 overdoses in Louisiana. In 2016, there were 996 overdoses in Louisiana. Narcan is a drug used to reverse opioid overdoses and it has saved many lives. Statistics show in 2017 out of 100 Louisiana residents those in the age range of 55-65+ have two prescriptions each. The younger generations are stealing opioid prescriptions from the older generations and selling them or using them themselves. In September the Sheriff's office will host a prescription disposal event in an attempt to help dispose of these drugs.
 - Coroner James Grace came before the Council to speak. Mr. Grace thanked CAO, Edward Songy for everything he does for the Coroner's office. He recognized and thanked Mrs. JoAnne Adams, Mr. Robby Johnson, and Mr. Darren Ramirez for their tremendous efforts for Coroner's office. Coroner Grace stated the overdoses are rarely suicide. The drug user gradually increases dosages until they unknowingly reach a fatal dose. The United States has an average of 198 overdoses a day. The synthetic fentanyl is a morphine derivative that is stronger than heroin and morphine. A couple grains of this synthetic substance can kill you. He stated that prison can be the starting point for opioid addiction. Speaking from his experience at Hunts Correctional Center, the guards and employees are bringing it in. Dr. Grace summarized the Coroner's office fees regarding the strain it places on their resources. The fees for transportation is \$1,650, and the drug panels are upwards of \$400-\$800. In 2017 in Iberville Parish, there were 360 deaths, 46 autopsies, and 278 mental cases. About 70% of the mental cases were drug related. It costs about \$100 for each mental patient. Thus far in 2018, there have been 153 deaths, 28 autopsies, and 185 mental cases

in Iberville Parish. Dr. Grace thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and present this information to the public.

- Chairman Jewell stated he heard that fentanyl disappears in the bloodstream and is harder to detect, and asked if this is correct. Dr. Grace does not think that is correct.
- Pastor Kevin Snaril of True Hope Missionary Baptist Church came before the Council to speak. As a former drug addict he believes in the power of God. True Hope Missionary Baptist Church has sent 36 people to a proven rehab facility in San Antonio, Texas. They are working to establish a Miracle House here in Plaquemine to help facilitate drug addicts. Once the doors open for the Miracle House there will be home monitors that have vowed to watch the home, volunteers who are committed to teaching, and ministries will assist in drug awareness. Pastor Snaril works with West Baton Rouge probation and parole with the judge's consent, and has sent many drug addicts to rehab facilities. A house has been donated to become the Miracle House here in Iberville Parish. Councilman Markins asked where the Miracle House is located, and he stated a house on Captain T Harris Street, in Plaquemine. The house has been donated and they are waiting to hear how many people can be housed per the Fire Marshall's Inspection. Pastor Snaril stated there are many people who have gifts inside of themselves to offer the world that need to be uncovered, but are bound by drug addiction.
- Bert Allain, Director of Substance Abuse, came before the Council to speak. The Parish currently funds a drug court program and outpatient program. Those who have a felony with drugs involved are candidates for this program that screens them for at least 18 months. Judge Engolio is currently working with this program, and doing a wonderful job. They are taught about the effects of drug addiction, routinely counseled, and weekly drug screened, and taught to see themselves in reality, not through the fantasy of the drug. In the last three months there have been 5 graduates. If the person tests positive for drugs: the first time they have to do community service, the second time they are incarcerated for a weekend, and the third time they are sent to detox facility. The drug addict has to pay \$70 for the initial assessment and then they come back for free for therapy. Please call 225-687-5889.

Chairman Jewell and Vice Chairman Taylor thanked the gentlemen for coming to speak before the Council. Councilwoman Lewis stated she visited a faith based women's substance abuse facility in Nashville, TN. She commends Pastor Kevin Snaril and the True Hope Baptist Church for their efforts.

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 July 24, 2018 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, Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- President Ourso stated the Iberville Parish Substance Abuse Department is a model program that many other parishes refer to. He stated when he polled the public 20 years ago going into this office, and the number one problem people answered in the poll was substance abuse. He stated Iberville Parish has a model substance abuse program.
- President Ourso is hoping to have the Maringouin Council on Aging Facility open by the end of this year or early next year.

- The Alligator Bayou Floodgate control structure is projected to be finalized after Labor Day. Pictures were presented to the Council of the public property on the Manchac side with yellow signs. The boat ramp is a public boat ramp that belongs to Iberville Parish. There are cameras that are monitored by gate keepers and the Office of Emergency Preparedness.
- The old National's Shopping Center has been torn down except for the portion of the building where the donut shop owner leases until December. Once his lease expires, the remaining building will be torn down.
- The shopping center behind Goodyear is in deplorable condition. Pictures were presented to the Council of its condition.
- Level Construction is wrapping up the first phase of 57 lots on Enterprise Blvd. The second phase will be around 80 lots. The homes will range between \$230,000- \$280,000. We President Ourso stated we need the growth here in Iberville Parish.
- AT&T officials have contacted Parish Engineer, Jesse Thompson, regarding a proposed wireless telecommunication tower. Mr. Thompson advised them of the 200 foot fall radius per the Iberville Parish Unified Development Code. The attorneys have contacted the Council Clerk to be placed on the Planning Commission agenda, and on the Council agenda for September to request a variance. President Ourso will not be at the September 18, 2018 Council meeting and he does not support this proposed agenda item, nor does he support granting a variance.
- The Parish has an aging population. The Parish spends far more on our aging population than what the State funds. The Parish takes care of these senior citizens through its various Council on Aging facilities. The numbers are growing at these facilities. When President Ourso started 20 years ago the Town of White Castle had a small brick house that facilitated as the Council on Aging. Mr. Danny and Marlene Cedatol own Chateau Blanc and are willing to sell an acre and a half including the entire building for \$200,000. President Ourso will not be at the September Council meeting and he is asking the Council to please consider purchasing this fine facility as the new White Castle Council on Aging Facility. He would like to introduce this an ordinance to acquire this property for September.
- Exxon Mobil pipeline repairs have been completed. Enterprise Boulevard has been reopened.
- Mr. Edward Earl Commeaux is requesting to re-designate the rear of the property as a residential development instead of commercial for Belleview Quarters. He asks the Council to please support this.
- There were two top applicants for the future IPRD Director position. President Ourso would like to introduce the future IPRD Director, Mr. Dwayne Boudreaux. Mr. Boudreaux came before the Council to thank them for this honor. He was able to tour the parks in Iberville and he has plans to form new partnerships for Iberville Parish's Parks and Recreation. His cell phone number is 225-401-5072.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Mr. Hank Grace state there nothing to report tonight.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn is requesting a motion to introduce an ordinance to acquire the land and building located on K.C. Drive in White Castle from Danny and Marlene Cedatol for the future new White Castle Council on Aging facility.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Songy:

- 1) Ordinance to abandon a portion of Public Drainage Canal identified as Canal No. W4-L9A

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bradford, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. on the introduced ordinance.

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

YEAS: Taylor, Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on August 21, 2018.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 6:16 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Reeves, Vallet, Arnold, Kelley, Markins.

Absent: Lewis, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

Councilwoman Lewis is now present during the Resolution Committee meeting.

The following resolutions were read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution authorizing the Parish President to submit an application for the State of Louisiana Division of Administration Community Development Local Government Assistance Program
- B) Resolution to authorize Parish President to submit an application under the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF)
- C) Resolution authorizing a Cooperative Agreement Contract between the Iberville Parish Council and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources – Atchafalaya Basin Program for the “Bayou Plaquemine Boat Landing Improvement Project

Councilman Vallet made a recommendation to forward the resolution to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Markins. 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: Reeves, Vallet, Lewis, Arnold, Kelley, Markins.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

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

During the Regular Meeting:

RESOLUTION IPC# 2018-010

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilwoman Lewis.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Iberville has been informed that the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, Office of Community Development will be accepting applications for FY 2018/2019 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President is hereby authorized to submit an LGAP Application and to execute all assurances and certifications required for the application; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President is hereby authorized to work with Pan American Engineers, LLC on the development of the LGAP Application.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session this 21st day of August, 2018, by the following vote on roll call;

YEAS: Taylor, Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of August, 2018.

RESOLUTION IPC# 2018-011

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION UNDER THE COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND (CWEF)

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilwoman Lewis.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council has been informed by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, that under the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF), which was authorized in the 2008 Regular Legislative Session under House Bill 926 (Act 513), provided funds for local governments to utilize for rehabilitation, improvement, and construction projects for community water systems to provide safe and clean drinking water; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President is hereby authorized to submit an Application under the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) and he is hereby authorized to execute all assurances and certifications required for submission of the application; and,

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session this 21st day of August, 2018, by the following vote on roll call;

YEAS: Taylor, Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of August, 2018.

RESOLUTION IPC# 2018-012

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL AND THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM FOR THE “BAYOU PLAQUEMINE BOAT LANDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT”

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilwoman Lewis.

WHEREAS, Bayou Plaquemine located in Iberville Parish, Louisiana is an important natural and historic state waterway flowing between the Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya Basin;

WHEREAS, Bayou Plaquemine is an inland state waterway connected to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, which provides access into the Atchafalaya Basin and further south to coastal waters and the Gulf of Mexico;

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council and the City of Plaquemine have implemented numerous projects to improve the water quality and the aesthetical value of Bayou Plaquemine;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently assessed the water quality status of Bayou Plaquemine and have reported the water quality to be fully supporting of all designated public uses;

WHEREAS, public interest for access into Bayou Plaquemine for boating, fishing, hunting, eco-tourism, and other forms of outdoor activities are increasing;

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin Program approved the Bayou Plaquemine Boat Landing Improvement Project nominated by public stakeholders and have dedicated \$500,000 State Funds requiring 10% local in-kind matching funds for the project.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 570 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session, the Atchafalaya Basin Program will be transferred to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Iberville Parish Council does hereby support the Bayou Plaquemine Boat Landing Improvement Project and authorize the Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Agreement Contract and Scope of Services with the State to implement the project.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session this 21st day of August, 2018, by the following vote on roll call;

YEAS: Taylor, Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of August, 2018.

ADDENDUM

Upon a motion by Councilman Ourso, and seconded by Councilman Taylor, it was moved to go into addendum. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Taylor, Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO INTRODUCE AN ORDINANCE TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 34625 K.C. DRIVE, WHITE CASTLE, LA FOR A COUNCIL ON AGING FACILITY AND TO AMEND THE 2018 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY

Upon a motion by Councilman Ourso, and seconded by Councilman Taylor, it was moved to authorize the Parish President to introduce an ordinance to acquire property located at 34625 K.C. Drive, White Castle, LA for a Council on Aging Facility and to amend the 2018 Operating Budget for the purchase of the property. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Ourso, Jackson, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Taylor.

ABSENT: Dominique, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of August, 2018.

Vice Chairman qualified his vote, stating his wife works for the Council on Aging in White Castle, and he does support this item.

President Ourso announced to the Council that the new boom truck contract will start on September 1, 2018 until December 31, 2019 with Pelican Waste, LLC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilwoman Lewis to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN