

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018**

The Parish Council of Iberville Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session, in the Council Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse Building, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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; 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; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Absent: Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4.

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018. 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.

**ADDENDUM**

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

- A) Ordinance to accept a portion of LA Highway 69 (Augusta Road) from the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development and to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the transfer of portion of roadway and to amend 2019 Operating Budget to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Shintech Louisiana, LLC to provide for funding improvements to said portion of Augusta Road

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Jackson.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

**PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

None.

## 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 October 16, 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, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Jackson.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- President Ourso stated the addendum item is for the Shintech Plaquemine Plant III (SPP III) which is the \$1.5 million addition that is being built on the south side of the existing Plant on the 2,400 acres of acquired land. The construction workers will be entering into the new site on Hwy 405. President Ourso was able to convince the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to donate a portion of LA Highway 69 (Augusta Road) to the Parish and to provide a \$216,417.65 road transfer credit to Iberville Parish. The donated road will allow Shintech workers to exit the Plant. The Parish is proposing an Intergovernmental Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Shintech Louisiana, LLC to provide funding to complete construction and overlay this portion of Augusta Road. President Ourso is requesting the Council's support for this agenda item. There was a slideshow presentation regarding this matter.
- The holiday schedule for garbage pickup was presented to the Council. President Ourso stated the Council will receive a package relating to garbage services sometime in the first quarter of 2019.
- Pictures of the Plaquemine Boat Landing were presented to the Council. President Ourso stated with the help of our State Representatives and the Governor's Office, the Parish will receive \$500,000 from Coastal Restoration. The Parish will also put up \$125,000 for improvements to the Plaquemine Boat Landing's ramp, walkway and the addition of a pavilion over the dock. This project is out for bid, and will be a 90 day project. He thanked Senator Ward and Representative Brown for their efforts on this project.
- Pictures of the cement slab being poured for the Parish's Rifle Range were presented to the Council. The modular building is set for delivery on January 7, 2019. Councilman Markins asked if the range would be open by the summer, and President Ourso stated yes. Councilman Vallet asked if they hired a range master yet, and President Ourso said yes.
- Pictures of the completed Rose Drive project were presented to the Council.
- The Bayou Sorrel / Bayou Pigeon Fire Department consolidation project on Hwy 404 is ongoing. The cement slab is complete and pictures were presented.

- The Plaza Drive Canal project funded by GOSHEP funds is now 99% complete. The bridge was taken out and completely replaced, bank erosion has been put all along Tenant Road.
- The 150 foot flag pole that will be installed in front of the Ocshner Medical Facility is currently being made. The flag is going to be 80 ft. by 40 ft., and weigh 270 pounds. The flag will not interfere with the helicopter landing.
- A Huey UH1 Helicopter that was used during the Vietnam War will be located next to the Iberville Veterans Memorial. The surplus helicopter will be pedestal mounted for display. The 2019 Veterans Ceremony will honor the Vietnam veterans.
- The Parish took ownership of Chateau Blanc in White Castle. Improvements and upgrades will be made on the building and then it will be named the “Iberville Parish Council- Council on Aging, White Castle, Louisiana”. By the first quarter of 2019 the seniors will be moved to the new facility.
- President Ourso wrote a letter to the Corps of Engineers objecting the closing in of wetlands in East Baton Rouge. East Baton Rouge’s drainage puts pressure on East Iberville. The Parish has applied for Jersey barriers through mitigation money. Jersey barriers are concrete walls that you see along the interstate. President Ourso said the aqua dams would have worked well during the 2016 Flood if we would have had them at that time. However, the aqua dams would not hold up during a hurricane, if a tree comes down on the aqua dam, it would be compromised. If Iberville Parish is granted the permit and receives the mitigation money, the Parish will have to build a wall to prevent flooding for East Iberville residents.
- The rear parking lot of the courthouse is under construction. There will be a gate and an identification marker on the cars that will automatically open the gate and track when the employees come into and out of the parking lot. This should free up the 30 minute parking spots along the courthouse for the public.
- The final phase of the courthouse project is to be replace the glass along the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- The Bayou Bridge Pipeline runs 24 miles through Iberville Parish. The 24 inch pipe runs through Iberville Parish and the final place where the pipe lies in the ground is where the pipeline company pays the taxes. The Parish did not receive the 5% tax payment. The company paid the taxes to West Baton Rouge and not Iberville Parish. CAO, Edward Songy went to speak with the WBR Sales Tax Director and she refused to issue a refund. The Parish has filed suit against West Baton Rouge for the \$400,000 - \$500,000 owed taxes from the pipeline. The court date is set for January 28, 2019.
- President Ourso said the Walgreens construction and Wendy’s construction are both coming up just fine.
- Taco Bell will not be renewing its lease for next year.
- The Goodyear shopping center has a condemnation hearing set for January 28, 2019.
- The Parish Christmas party will be held at the Council on Aging Facility on Friday, December 21, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
- President Ourso has served the Parish for 21 years and he is saddened to say the Community Services Director, Mr. Randy Ware and the Emergency Office of Preparedness Director, Mrs. Laurie Doiron will both be retiring. The new Community Services Director will be Ms. Monica Edmond, who worked as the City of Plaquemine’s Director of Customer Service for 31 years until her retirement. President Ourso will come before the Council to ask for her appointment once Mr. Ware retires in December

of 2019. Ms. Edmond came before the Council to introduce herself. The new EOP Director will be Mr. Clint Moore, who has been in training with Mrs. Doiron. Mr. Moore also came before the Council to introduce himself.

- In 1996 when President Ourso stepped into office, the Police Jury had a cooperative endeavor agreement in place with the Iberville Parish Chamber of Commerce. Each year the Parish provides a \$140,000 check to help fund the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hank Grace is resigning as the Chamber of Commerce Director. President Ourso asked Mr. Grace if he would be the Director of Economic Development for Iberville Parish. Mr. Grace accepted the position and he will begin working for the Parish after January 1, 2019. The Parish Council has funded over \$3 million in the last 20 years for economic development through the Chamber of Commerce. President Ourso and Mr. Hank Grace will be contacting the local municipalities help fund the Chamber of Commerce. The Parish has no input on who the new Chamber Director will be as that is handled by the State of Louisiana. He did however ask that the new Director be a local resident of Iberville Parish.

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Mr. Hank Grace thanked the Parish President for the opportunity to become the Economic Development Director for Iberville Parish. He is really excited about economic development and has new ideas for Iberville Parish.

President Ourso said the West Baton Rouge's Chamber of Commerce is supported by its municipalities. At the beginning of next year, President Ourso will begin contacting the Mayors of Iberville's municipalities.

Lastly, Parish President said there are two new Iberville Parish Council water parks being developed in Bayou Goula and Bayou Sorrel. The parks are estimated at \$150,000 each, and will be the Parish's parks not IPRD parks.

President Ourso is still waiting on the closure of the Bayou Pigeon Church and ball park. The Wilbert Corporation would like to give the Parish the lease for the grounds for the ball park, and the Parish will make enhancements. The Diocese of Baton Rouge and the Wilbert Corporation are still in discussion.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated Financial statements were sent out. Mr. Dunn asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A) Introduction of Ordinances

The following ordinances were introduced by Mr. Songy:

- 1) Ordinance to Amend the boundaries of the Shintech Louisiana, LLC Industrial Area in Iberville Parish
- 2) Ordinance to Grant a Telecommunication Line Servitude to Uniti (Hunt Telecommunications, LLC) along a portion of Aloysia Road and Evergreen Road
- 3) Ordinance to declare the certain properties as surplus and to sell to neighboring property owners pursuant to the terms of Ordinance #002-13
- 4) Addendum- Ordinance to accept a portion of LA Highway 69 (Augusta Road) from the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development and to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the transfer of portion of roadway and to amend 2019 Operating Budget to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Shintech Louisiana, LLC to provide for funding improvements to said portion of Augusta Road

Upon a motion by Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, January 15, 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, Ourso, Smith, Lewis, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Dominique, Jackson.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on December 18, 2018.

None.

## RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by the Council to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER  
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN