

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

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 February, 2020.

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: Shalanda L. Allen, District 1; Chasity B. Easley; District 2; Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; Steve C. Smith District 5; Raheem T. Pierce, 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: None.

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

A quorum was present and due notice had been posted and published in the Plaquemine Post South newspaper on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020. 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**

**A) Ordinance to Adopt Proposed Sewer Rate Fees**

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved to add the addendum item to the agenda as #3 under New Business. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

**PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**A) Presentation to Michael W. "RICO" Rivet**

- A Resolution of Recognition was read aloud by President Ourso to Mr. Michael "Rico" Rivet in honor of his 15 years of public service as a City of Plaquemine Board Selectmen of District 4.
- Councilman Smith read aloud a framed Proclamation proclaiming Mr. Rivet as an Honorary Parish President.
- Mr. Rico thanked the Parish President and Council. A picture was taken for the newspaper.

**B) Presentation by David Boldt, LSU Ag Center 4-H State Shooting Sports Coordinator**

- Mr. David Boldt came before the Council to request permission to use the Parish's Rifle Range for an upcoming 4-H State Shooting Tournament. Over 1,000 children compete at the Southern Regional Tournament.

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved to grant the request of the use of the Iberville Parish Rifle Range for the 4-H State Shooting Tournament. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on February 18, 2020.

C) Presentation for Iberville Parish Parks and Recreation by Duplantis Group

- Duplantis Group presented a slideshow summarizing the last four years of audits, findings, and renovations made to the Parish's parks.
- The Framework Guide was created in 2017 by Duplantis Group, and focused on the Belleview District Park. The stake holders group submitted input on what the community would like to see in the future at the Belleview District Park, such as sensory play areas, movies in the park, fitness areas, areas for social engagement, and a designated park entrance.
- The master plan also includes a potential multi-use athletic field with synthetic turf, covered bleachers, dugout, scoreboard, batting cages, and bull pen.
- The slides reviewed an Inclusive Playground Area, New Concession / Bathroom Facility, Open Space Areas, Stage Area, and a Multi-Purpose Field.
- The proposed development cost would be \$12 million. The Parish will decide what the budget will be and which projects will be developed.
- Councilman Smith asked if there will be a pavilion for when it rains, and Duplantis Group answered there will be a variety of pavilions and covered areas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Easley, and seconded by Councilman Smith, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of January 21, 2020 and approve as written. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following ye and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- President Ourso stated the current showcase park in Iberville Parish is the Belleview District Park and it is currently at the bottom 10 of the State. He will come back to the Council with recommendations for the park. He is working with the Finance Department to determine a budget for the proposed changes for the Parks & Recreation. Photographs were presented to the Council showing the progress being made on the clearing the land that was acquired near IPRD. President Ourso wants Iberville Parish Parks & Recreation to be in the top 5 of the State.
- President Ourso appreciates the Council's support in granting the LSU Ag Center permission to use the Parish's Rifle Range for an upcoming 4-H Shooting Tournament. The Parish will monitor the facility during this event.
- The bids for Eureka Road will be opened on Thursday, February 20, 2020.
- The new Council on Aging Facility in Maringouin is complete. It was opened on Valentine's Day and pictures were presented to the Council. The official ribbon cutting ceremony will be set for a later date. The old Council on Aging building is currently being demolished.

- President Ourso stated there is an ordinance being introduced tonight regarding the Sewer Rate Fees. He asked the Council to please review the proposed ordinance to see where the Parish ranks on its rates. The Parish lost over \$25 million because of the sewer. Iberville Parish is way below the curve on the sewer rates. There will be a public hearing on the proposed ordinance in March.
- A picture packet was presented to the Council of Sparks Road and Bayou Road in Maringouin. The end of the road is being used as a dumping site and firing range by the residents in that area. Chairman Jewell requested this ordinance to abandon this portion of Bayou Road. The Parish will notify the property owners in this area.
- Councilman Pierce asked President Ourso why there isn't a park in True Hope, and how can they get a park. President Ourso stated he lived on Kirtley Drive and there wasn't a park there. Councilman Pierce stated True Hope is the only neighborhood without a park, and he wants to see how we can get True Hope a park.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the financial statements have been sent out. He asked if there were any questions, and there were none. The Finance Department is currently closing out the fiscal year. They will be also be working on the annual audit for the next few months.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Kelley and Councilman Morgan are no longer present.

#### A) Introduction of Ordinances

The following ordinances were introduced by Mr. Songy:

- 1) Ordinance to declare the following property to be surplus and to sell to neighboring property owners pursuant to the terms of Ordinance #002-13 (Rev. Allen O'Bear, Sr.)
- 2) Ordinance to abandon a portion of Bayou Road from Sparks Street south to the dead end in Maringouin, Louisiana
- 3) Ordinance to Adopt Proposed Sewer Fee Rates

Upon a motion by Councilman Vallet, seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 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: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

### RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

Absent: None.

The following resolutions were read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Parish of Iberville to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax
- B) Resolution to negotiate terms of sale of Iberville Industrial & Technology parcel for Divco, Inc. and for survey and appraisal of parcel within park

There were no questions from the Council or the public.

Councilman Vallet made a recommendation to forward the resolutions 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: Smith, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

DURING THE REGULAR MEETING:

#### **RESOLUTION IPC# 2020-002**

#### **RESOLUTION ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE PARISH OF IBERVILLE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF A SPECIAL TAX THEREIN; MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Arnold and seconded by Councilman Bradford.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Iberville Parish Council (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 32 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on **SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

#### **PROPOSITION (MILLAGE RENEWAL)**

Shall the Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), continue to levy a special tax of three (3) mills on all property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$2,100,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2022 and ending with the year 2031, for the purpose of maintaining and operating public buildings in the Parish?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the *Plaquemine Post South*, a newspaper of general circulation within the Parish,

published in Plaquemine, Louisiana, and being the official journal of the Parish, once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Clerk is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Council Meeting Room, 2nd floor, Courthouse Building, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said elections, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Parish will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Chairman and/or Clerk of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Iberville Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Iberville Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020 by the following vote on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Morgan.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

**RESOLUTION IPC# 2020- 003**

**RESOLUTION TO NEGOTIATE TERMS OF SALE OF IBERVILLE INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGY PARCEL FOR DIVCO, INC. AND FOR SURVEY AND APPRAISAL OF PARCEL WITHIN PARK**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Arnold and seconded by Councilman Bradford.

WHEREAS, DIVCO, INC. is seeking to acquire a parcel of land in the Iberville Parish Industrial & Technology Park for construction of a warehouse facility.

WHEREAS, currently located in the Industrial Park is Diamond Plastics (40-acre tract) and Petrologistic, LLC (5-acre tract) and 55 acres remain undeveloped in the Park.

WHEREAS, prior to approval of an Ordinance by the Iberville Parish Council to transfer a parcel of land within the Iberville Parish Industrial & Technology Park, the Parish shall provide all terms and conditions of the sale to the Park donor, Dow Chemical Company.

WHEREAS, in order proceed with the transfer of a parcel of land within the Industrial Park, the Parish must obtain a survey of the plat necessary for the proposed project and also obtain a current appraisal of the parcel being requested by the proposed purchaser.

WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED by the Iberville Parish Council as follows:

That Parish President, J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., be and is hereby authorized to have a current commercial appraisal conducted on the parcel and to have a land surveyor prepare a plat of the parcel of land to be acquired by the prospective purchase, and to negotiate the terms and conditions of the prospective sale to be approved by Dow Chemical and submitted to the Parish Council through an Ordinance to Transfer Land within the Iberville Parish Industrial & Technology Park.”

The above resolution was approved in regular session this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020 by the following vote on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Morgan.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER  
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN