

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020
PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

The Parish Council of Iberville Parish, State of Louisiana, held a Public Hearing in the Council Meeting Room, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, on the 16th day of June, 2020 at 6:04 P.M. pursuant to a Notice of Public Hearing published on the 28th day of May, 2020 in the Plaquemine Post South and the Iberville Parish website.

The Council Chairman, Matthew H. Jewell, called the hearing to order 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; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Absent: Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11.

Chief Administrative Officer- Edward Songy, and Legal Counsel- Scott Stassi were also in attendance.

Mr. Songy read the following ordinances in entirety.

ORDINANCE 1 Ordinance to authorize the sale of three Lots, NOS. 4,5, & 6, of Block A of Gay Subdivision NO. 1 identified on plat prepared by John G. Dunlap, PLS

The floor was opened to comments and questions. There was no opposition to this ordinance.

There being no further business to be conducted, the hearing was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020**

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 June, 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; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Absent: Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11.

Chief Administrative Officer- Edward Songy, and Legal Counsel- Scott Stassi were also in attendance.

A quorum was present and due notice had been posted and published in the Plaquemine Post South newspaper on the 11th day of June, 2020. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. The following people registered to speak: Malcolm Dotson, Keithen Pugh, Les Ann Kirkland, and Vessie Pierce.

ADDENDUM

- A) Resolution to authorize removal and storage of confederate statute located on grounds of former Iberville Parish Courthouse
- The Resolution Committee unanimous voted to added this item to the agenda as Resolution B.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Jackson, and seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of May 19, 2020 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: Allen, Easley, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Vallet.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

CAO, Edward Songy, Jr. reported on the following in the absence of President Ourso:

- The Tropical Storm “Cristobal” was expected to come through Iberville Parish. The City of Baton Rouge filed a temporary restraining order against Iberville Parish regarding the aqua dam deployment. The hearing is scheduled for June 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Federal Court in Baton Rouge. The Council will be updated in July on the outcome.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated financial statements have been sent out. The collections for the month of April were down \$1 million. He will continue to keep an eye on sales tax collections and let the Council know if any adjustments need to be made.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE IPC# 004-20

ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THREE LOTS, NOS. 4, 5, & 6, OF BLOCK A OF GAY SUBDIVISION NO. 1 IDENTIFIED ON PLAT PREPARED BY JOHN G. DUNLAP, PLS,

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council received a donation of land from the Iberville Free Fair Association, Inc., a Louisiana non-profit corporation on December 22, 2015.

WHEREAS, a copy of the plat survey of the donated property prepared by John L. Dunlap, PLS, and dated January 12, 2016 is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

WHEREAS, this parcel of land is not needed for a public purpose and is surplus property and should be sold at public sale and the proceeds dedicated to a public purpose in accordance with law. LA R.S. 33:4712 provides that the Parish may sell or dispose of property with other governmental agencies or private persons which is in the opinion of the governing authority not needed for a public purpose.

WHEREAS, the Parish must adopt an ordinance to alienate this public property and shall establish the minimum price and terms of the sale with reference to this parcel of public property.

WHEREAS, a certified appraisal dated January 5, 2020 was prepared for this parcel of surplus public property and is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. The estimated fair market value of this parcel of public property is the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$275,000.00). The Parish Council herein sets the minimum bid acceptable for this parcel of surplus public property at the sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$275,000.00) and said property shall not be sold as less than this appraised value.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council through the Iberville Parks & Recreation District has approved a parish wide master plan for the betterment and improvement of the Parish's parks and recreational areas, including the Belleview Park located in Plaquemine, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Belleview Park is the most utilized public park in Iberville Parish and an additional 4.19 acre tract of land was purchased to expand the Belleview Park to provide for expansion to meet the needs of Parish recreation as determined by the Parish Recreational Master Plan previously approved by the Parish Council and all six (6) municipalities located within the Parish.

WHEREAS, the sale of this surplus parcel of property will provide funding for improvements to the Belleview Park as suggested by the Parish Wide Recreational Master Plan.

WHEREAS, the sale of this parcel of surplus public property shall be sold by sealed bids in accordance with Louisiana law and said bid process shall be conducted by the Parish's auditing firm, Hugh Baxley, CPA, and public notice of said sale shall be in accordance with Louisiana law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Iberville Parish Council as follows: "That the parcel of surplus public property identified as follows

"Those three (3) certain tracts of parcels of ground, together with all the improvements thereon and all rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the Parish of Iberville, State of Louisiana, designated at LOTS NOS. 4,5 and 6 of BLOCK A of GAY SUBDIVISION NO. 1 located in Section 22, T.9S, R.12E, and more specifically shown on map thereof recorded in the Parish of Iberville in Conveyance Book 80, Entry 89; said lots having such dimensions and measurements along such bearings and being subject to such servitudes, building lines, restrictions, and dedications as more fully shown on said map.

Being the same property shown on that map attached hereto and made a part hereof by John G. Dunlap, PLS, entitled, "PLAT SHOWING THE SURVEY OF LOTS 4, 5 AND 6 LOCATED IN SECTION 22, T-9-S, R-12-E, SOUTHEASTERN LAND DISTRICT, WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, IBERVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA FOR THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL."

LESS AND EXCEPT that 0.010 ac. Parcel 2-5 sold to the State of Louisiana (but including the subsurface mineral rights thereto) at COB 316, Entry 235 of the Iberville Parish Public Records.

Be sold by sealed public bids in accordance with Louisiana law and the proceeds of said sale to be utilized solely for the improvement of Belleview Park.

The above ordinance being submitted for public hearing on the 16th day of June, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. was approved by the following vote on roll call:

The foregoing ordinance which was previously introduced at the meeting of the Iberville Parish Council on May 19, 2020 and a summary thereof having been published in the official journal on June 25, 2020 the public hearing on this ordinance held on the 16th day of June, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Meeting Room, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, was brought up for final passage with a motion by Councilman Dominique, and seconded by Councilwoman Easley, having been duly submitted to a vote, the ordinance was duly adopted by the following yea and nay vote on roll call:

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

NAYS: Allen.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Vallet.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 16th day of June, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

The following ordinance were introduced by Mr. Songy:

- 1) Ordinance to abandon a portion of drainage canal identified as W17-L3 located within in St. Gabriel, Louisiana
- 2) Ordinance to accept donation of immovable property from Patrick W. Pendley and Helen Pendley located at 58005 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana
- 3) Ordinance to Adopt the Millage Rates for the Tax Year 2020

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Markins, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, July 21, 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, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Vallet.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 16th day of June, 2020.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:10 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

Absent: Vallet, Kelley.

ADDENDUM

- A) Resolution to authorize removal and storage of confederate statute located on grounds of former Iberville Parish Courthouse

Upon a unanimous recommendation by the Resolution Committee members, it was moved to add the addendum resolution to the agenda as Resolution B. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

The following resolutions were read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution to select the Official Journal for the Iberville Parish Council for the period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021
- B) Resolution to authorize removal and storage of confederate statute located on grounds of former Iberville Parish Courthouse

There were no questions from the Council or the public.

Councilman Arnold made a recommendation to forward the resolutions to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Pierce. 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, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Kelley.

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

DURING THE REGULAR MEETING:

RESOLUTION IPC# 2020-005

**RESOLUTION TO SELECT THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR THE IBERVILLE
PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020
AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Arnold, and seconded by Councilman Jackson.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 43:141 provides that a Parish Council at its first meeting in June of each year shall select a newspaper as official journal for its Parish for a term of one (1) year.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 43:142 further provides that the newspaper selected shall have been published in an office physically located in the Parish in which the governing body is located for a period of five (5) years proceeding.

WHEREAS, the Post-South newspaper is the only qualifying newspaper within the Parish of Iberville that meets the statutory criteria to be classified as the official parish journal.

WHEREAS, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of La. R.S. 43:150, the name and address, effective date of selection and the period for which the selection is effective of the official journal be filed with the Secretary of State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Iberville Parish Council as follows: “That the ‘Post South’ newspaper be selected as the official journal for the Iberville Parish Council for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.”

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on this 16th day of June, 2020 by the following votes on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Vallet.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 16th day of June, 2020.

Chairman Jewell stated the following people registered to speak on the next resolution: Malcolm Dotson, Keithen Pugh, Les Ann Kirkland, and Vessie Pierce.

B) Resolution to authorize removal and storage of confederate statute located on grounds of former Iberville Parish Courthouse

- Mr. Malcolm Dotson came before the Council to speak in favor of Resolution B. Mr. Dotson stated everyone in this room should be offended by this statue, and if we are going to move forward together then the statue should be removed.

- Mr. Keithen Pugh came before the Council to speak in favor of Resolution B. He stated he would like the sugar kettles in the Courthouse's flowerbeds removed as well as the statue.
- Ms. Les Ann Kirkland came before the Council to offer an alternative regarding Resolution B. She asked that the Council consider adding a counter-point of another monument of a black soldier to meet the gaze of the existing soldier. She believes that an installation of a double monument would be proof of history, a chance to educate, evidence of change, and an expansion of truth.
- Chairman Jewell stated he worries about the Parish's military memorial monuments honoring those who fought and died for this country.
- Ms. Vessie Pierce came before the Council to speak in favor of Resolution B. She stated she does not want a double monument or a black statue added. She stated we had a history in Plaquemine too but all of our history is gone. She said its time for come ups.
- Councilwoman Easley asked if the statue is removed, can it be put back with another monument and made into something showing we are united together? Chairman Jewell stated yes. The museum did not want it. He said the statue does not belong to the Parish, it belongs to the Daughters of the Confederacy, and should they want it back they can have it.

RESOLUTION IPC# 2020-006

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF CONFEDERATE STATUTE LOCATED ON GROUNDS OF FORMER IBERVILLE PARISH COURTHOUSE

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Pierce, and seconded by Councilman Arnold.

WHEREAS, there is a confederate statute located on the grounds of the former Iberville Parish Courthouse erected in 1912.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council understands the current situation related to citizens across this nation expressing concern for Confederate memorial statutes located in public places serving as objects of division and causing racial inequities nationally and locally.

WHEREAS, Iberville Parish is a place of peace, love and unity and the location of a Confederate statute on the grounds of the former Iberville Parish Courthouse only serves to promote divisive feelings among Parish residents.

WHEREAS, although historically significant, Iberville Parish citizens would be better served if the Confederate statute located on the grounds of the former Iberville Parish Courthouse was removed immediately and stored in an appropriate location.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council wishes to prevent and end debate on the placement of this Confederate statute on public property of the Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Iberville Parish Council as follows:

“That J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Parish President, is hereby authorized to enter into a professional service contract for the removal and storage of the Confederate statute located on the grounds of the former Iberville Parish Courthouse.”

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on this 16th day of June, 2020 by the following votes on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Vallet.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 16th day of June, 2020.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

The Boards and Commissions Committee met on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:14 p.m. followed by the roll call with the following Committee Members only in attendance: Jackson, Markins, Pierce, Smith, Arnold.

Absent: Vallet.

A quorum was present.

- A) Appointment of Mr. Edward Songy, Jr. as a nominee board member to the Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD) Board
- B) Appointment of Mr. David Hall as a nominee board member to the Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD) Board
- C) Appointment of Mr. John Barlow as a nominee board member to the Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD) Board

Upon a recommendation by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Smith, it was recommended to nominate Mr. Edward Songy, Jr., Mr. David Hall, and Mr. John Barlow to the Capital Area Human Services District Board. 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, Pierce, Smith, Arnold.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet.

The recommendation was declared adopted by the Chairman.

During the Regular Meeting:

Upon a motion by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved to nominate Mr. Edward Songy, Jr., Mr. David Hall, and Mr. John Barlow to the Capital Area Human Services District Board. 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, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Kelley, Vallet.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 16th day of June, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Jewell read the following announcement aloud.

Notice hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:17059(B) that a public hearing of the Iberville Parish Council in Iberville Parish will be held at the Iberville Parish Council Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse Building, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to consider and adopt the millage rates, the public meeting will immediately follow at 6:30 p.m. in the Iberville Parish Council Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse Building, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana to consider and adopt the millage rates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Arnold, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN