

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

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 19th day of January, 2021.

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

A quorum was present and due notice had been posted and published in the Plaquemine Post South newspaper on the 14th day of January, 2021. 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.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

CAO, Edward Songy, Jr. opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Iberville Parish Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Pierce, and seconded by Councilman Vallet, it was moved to nominate Councilman Matthew Jewell for Council Chairman.

Councilman Kelley moved to close the nominations, for Council Chairman, seconded by the Council. The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

Councilman Matthew Jewell is declared Council Chairman. Chairman Jewell thanked the Council for this honor and their support. He also stated the Council will soon be working on its Reapportionment Plan once the census data comes in.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Jewell opened the nominations for Council Vice Chairman.

Upon a motion by Councilman Dominique and seconded by Councilman Smith, it was moved to nominate Councilman Leonard Jackson, Sr. for Council Vice Chairman.

The Council unanimously closed the nominations for Council Vice Chairman. The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

Councilman Leonard Jackson, Sr. is declared Council Vice Chairman. Vice Chairman Jackson thanked the Council for this honor, and promised to carry out all of his duties as Vice Chairman.

ADDENDUM

- A) Candidacy Announcement for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District – Troy Carter
 - This agenda item was passed on in the absence of Mr. Troy Carter.
- B) Candidacy Announcement for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District – Gary Chambers
 - Mr. Gary Chambers came before the Council to announce his candidacy for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District. Mr. Chambers briefly spoke about his background, his plans for the future, and what he stands for. He stated Louisiana

requires strong leadership that will seek representation and job opportunities, and that is what he plans to do. He asked the Council for their support and vote.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

A) Resolution of Condolence for Gerald “Lightning” Williams

- A Resolution of Condolence was read aloud by Councilman Pierce and presented to the family of the late Mr. Gerald “Lightning” Williams. A picture was taken for the newspaper.

B) Resolution of Condolence for Henry “Bucket” Scott, Jr.

- A Resolution of Condolence was read aloud by Chairman Jewell and presented to the family of the late Mr. Henry “Bucket” Scott, Jr., a former Policy Juror and Councilman for District 3. A picture was taken for the newspaper.

C) Resolution of Recognition for White Castle High School, East Iberville High School, and Plaquemine High School for making it to the 2020 LHSAA Football Playoff

- A Resolution of Recognition was read aloud to the Coaches of White Castle High School, East Iberville High School, and Plaquemine High School on their achievement of making in into the 2020 LHSAA Football Playoff. A picture was taken for the newspaper.

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 December 15, 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, 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 congratulated Chairman Jewell and Vice Chairman Jackson on their re-elections.
- President Ourso previously spoke with Councilman Vallet about acquiring funds to clean up Grosse Tete to its pre-hurricane conditions. President Ourso stated a letter was presented to the Council in which he requests the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist in completing the Damage Survey Reports. Councilman Kelley asked President Ourso to look into NRSC cleaning up in his District as well.
- President Ourso wrote a letter of objection to the Corps of Engineers regarding East Baton Rouge’s water discharging into Bayou Manchac.
- There is orange fencing around the front of the courthouse due to the pavers buckling and becoming a liability. The Parish is looking into bomanite as a solution to this problem.
- The Parish made a donation to Baton Rouge Food Bank of \$25,000 last year and also this year. This year the food bank will be traveling to the areas once a month instead of once a quarter with 100 boxes. Flyers of distribution were handed out for the January distribution. He will give the Council a final schedule of the areas they will be distributing the food boxes for 2021.
- The sales taxes in 2019 pre-Covid was \$75 million parish wide, then 2020 hit with the Covid pandemic at \$71 million parish wide. The Parish was around \$4 million short for 2020. President Ourso will re-evaluate projects for 2021.

- The Parish's road contractors evaluated the roads within the parish and he stated if a Council member has a road in their area that needs repair to please let him know. Overall, the Parish roads are in great shape.
- Councilman Markins asked President Ourso if the Parish parks are closed, and he stated yes. President Ourso stated the Parish parks are closed per the CDC's guidelines until Phase 2.
- OEP Director, Clint Moore came before the Council to present a slideshow on Covid-19. There are 3,080 total cases, 77 total deaths, and a positivity rate of 10.3%. The total completed State vaccinations are 35,589, with only 3 vaccine locations: Gaudeau's Pharmacy, Vaillon Drug Co. Pharmacy, and Walgreens. Elliots Pharmacy in Maringouin refiled their paperwork and are eligible now but waiting on the State to provide the vaccines. The vaccines are just not readily available yet.
- Chairman Jewell asked about Maringouin's pharmacy Arbor. He asked when will the Parish get that allotment of vaccines, and can we send some of those vaccines to Maringouin and St. Gabriel to host those administrating the shots. The Parish asked LDH for 5,000 vaccines due to the 70 and over population in the parish. The Parish has not received those requested vaccines.
- Councilman Dominique asked if the Parish employees are going to be required to take the vaccine, and President Ourso stated he can not mandate employees to take the shot, and that's their constitutional right.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn congratulated Chairman Jewell and Vice Chairman Jackson on their re-elections. Financial statements had been presented.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) Introduction of Ordinances
1) None.

- B) Motion reschedule the Iberville Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 to Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Upon a motion by Bradford, seconded by Pierce, it was moved to reschedule the Iberville Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 to Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 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, Dominique, Morgan.

Absent: None.

The following resolutions were read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) 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
- B) Resolution to authorize the Parish President to submit an FY 20/21 CWEF Application
- C) Resolution to authorize the Parish President to submit FY 20/21 LGAP Application

There were no questions from the Council or the public.

Councilman Kelley 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, Dominique, Morgan.

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 #2021-001

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 Smith and seconded by Councilman Markins.

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, APRIL 24, 2021**, 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 tax of three (3) mills on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$2,200,000 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, commencing with the year 2023 and ending in the year 2032, for the purpose of continuing support of the maintenance, operation, and capital expenditures necessary to administer the parishwide recreational program in the Parish, and further authorized should the proposition carry, to levy and collect said tax?

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, MAY 18, 2021**, 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 19th day of January, 2021, by the following vote on roll call;

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The resolution was declared adopted on the 19th day of January, 2021.

RESOLUTION IPC #2021-002

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

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

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) for the purchase and installation of water quality monitoring equipment for the Parish's potable water system 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 19th day of January, 2021, by the following vote on roll call;

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The resolution was declared adopted on the 19th day of January, 2021.

RESOLUTION IPC #2021-003

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 Smith and seconded by Councilman Markins.

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 2020/2021 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President is hereby authorized to submit an LGAP Application for the purchase of a pick-up truck and associated equipment for the Parish's Utility Department 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 19th day of January, 2021, by the following vote on roll call;

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The resolution was declared adopted on the 19th day of January, 2021.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

DISCUSSIONS

Chairman Jewell stated before the Council meeting adjourns he would like to thank the Council Clerk for a job well done.

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by the Council, it was motioned to give the Council Clerk a raise. Mrs. Kirsha Barker thanked the Council for their kind words.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by the Councilman Pierce, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN