

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 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 16th day of March, 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 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 March, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. Ms. Kamesha Williams registered to speak.

ADDENDUM

A) Proclamation for Red Cross Month in Iberville Parish

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved to add the addendum 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:

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 March 16, 2021.

- Chairman Jewell read aloud the proclamation proclaiming the month of March as American Red Cross Month in Iberville Parish.
- Mr. Jack Whitehead and Ms. Anne Trapey came before the Council to accept the proclamation on behalf of the American Red Cross.
- Mr. Whitehead spoke about future plans the American Red Cross has for Iberville Parish, such as Red Cross zoom classes for 7th- 12th graders and they also want to install fire detectors in the homes of higher risk residents in Iberville Parish.
- Ms. Anne Trapey also spoke and left her business card as the American Red Cross contact for Iberville Parish.
- A picture was taken for the newspaper.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- A) Candidacy Announcement for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District – Karen C. Peterson
- No one was present to speak.
- B) Presentation by Tony Clayton, District Attorney-18th Judicial District
- Mr. Clayton recently met with President Ourso and Sheriff Stassi to discuss a proposed youth dentition center in Iberville Parish. Iberville Parish has a serious problem with juvenile crimes. President Ourso suggested building a wing onto the Parish jail to facilitate the juveniles.

- They presented a slideshow of public pictures and videos of recent youth shootings in the Parish. There has been a rise in gang related shootings in the Parish.
- The surrounding parish detention centers would not take the juveniles so they are sent home with ankle monitors.
- Mr. Clayton spoke about potential gunshot detectors and drones. Once a gun shot is detected it will activate the drones in the direction of the gun shot.
- He requested help from the Parish to house these juveniles until they are convicted. He would like the opportunity to educate these juveniles to one day become educated, successful, tax payers of this Parish.

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 February 23, 2021 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 deferred his report to Legal Counsel, Scott Stassi who briefly discussed a meeting with Mr. Rodney Sparrow regarding trail rides in Iberville Parish. Mr. Sparrow was not able to be present and sent Ms. Kamesha Williams to speak on his behalf. She has worked with T Stable Riders for over 11 years. President Ourso stated the Parish does not have an ordinance in place regarding trail rides and he is not issuing a permit until an ordinance is in place. The minimum he will ask for is a \$1 million liability insurance coverage and requires a law enforcement officer for every 50 people. President Ourso is asking the Council for permission to issue a permit to them with the minimum insurance and law officer requirements.
- President Ourso spoke about the problems with the youth in our Parish, and why aren't they in school. He wants to meet with the school board and the local mayors to discuss a detention center to house these juveniles.
- A packet of pictures of Intracoastal Road was presented to the Council. There were eight bids for this project, and the lowest bid came from Rigid Contractors at \$1.34 million. They are coming in with barges and cranes to throw the rocks onto the banks to prevent further erosion. Governor Edwards (in 1973) signed off on an agreement on the work for that road. President Ourso spoke with Governor John Bell Edwards that they are responsible to uphold this maintenance agreement. If the State declines and the Parish has to pay for its repairs then the Parish will sue the State for reimbursement. Councilman Kelley spoke about the State not doing any erosion work out there and residents are continuously losing their property. The Secretary of State met with President Ourso and showed him an agreement from 1910 that the Iberville Parish Government signed off for the Bayou Plaquemine Locks; so he knows they are responsible for the 1973 agreement.
- He thanked Mr. John Clark for securing the federal funding from NRCS for the Bayou Grosse Tete debris clean up. He asked the Council members to submit any others areas that may qualify for NRCS funding for debris clean up.
- President Ourso gave an update on COVID-19. There have been 461 people vaccinated in Iberville Parish in the last 3 weeks. There were 164 vaccines issued at the volunteer fire department. The Parish asked Human Resources to issue a

form to the 160 employees. The form asked whether or not they would like to receive the vaccine, and 100 requested the vaccine or already had it, and 60 did not want to receive it.

- The Parish does not currently have a trail ride ordinance and one will be drafted for the April 20, 2021 Council meeting.
- There is a \$6.3 million reconciliation act provision. The money is coming from Washington D.C. to Iberville Parish and dispersed to its six municipalities. Some of the guidelines for the funds are for sewer, water, and revenue shortfall. Once the Federal government sends the money to the State of Louisiana, the State has 30 days to send the money to Iberville Parish to be dispersed to each municipality.
- The food bank will be distributing commodities on Friday, March 19th at North Iberville Community Center and then on Friday, March 26th in Plaquemine.
- On March 23rd and March 24th from 8:30 to 1 p.m. the Parish will be at the North Iberville Community Center for energy assistance.
- He is asking the Council for a motion to wait until Phase 4 before hiring summer workers.
- Fire Chief, John Marque came before the Council to speak on behalf of the Parish regarding the burning policy and ordinance set by Iberville Parish. He summarized the Federal and State laws and the Parish's ordinance regarding burning within Iberville Parish. A parish resident tore down a house and proceeded to burn it down without clearing the house of prohibited materials according to the laws and Parish ordinance, and without obtaining a permit to burn. They discussed controlled burning.
- Clint Moore, Director of Emergency of Preparedness came before the Council to speak on the upcoming severe weather for tomorrow from 4 - 7 p.m.
- Councilman Kelley asked President Ourso if you ever treat your yard, are you allowed to burn that tree and President Ourso answered yes.
- Councilman Bradford asked about the hours of the dumpster at the barn, which President Ourso stated 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Councilman Bradford asked if they could open them on Saturdays from 7:30 to 12 noon and President Ourso stated yes.

MOTIONS

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, seconded by Councilman Bradford, it was moved to allow President Ourso to issue a one-time permit for an upcoming trail ride with a minimum insurance requirement of \$1 million dollars and law enforcement requirement. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yeas and nays votes on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Vallet.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on March 16, 2021.

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, seconded by Councilman Bradford it was motioned to delay the hiring of summer works until Phase 4 during COVID. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yeas and nays 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated Financial statements had been sent out. He stated everything is going well.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

- 1) Ordinance to sell property previously declared to be surplus by IPC Ordinance #016-17 to neighboring property owner Enola P. Ambeau pursuant to the terms of Ordinance # 002-13
- 2) Ordinance to amend Article II, Section 2-01e (Parish Council) and Article III, Section 3-02(b) (Executive branch) of the Iberville Parish Home Rule Charter to repeal the provisions of no term limits for the Office of Parish Council and Parish President–Bradford & Kelley

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 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, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on March 16, 2021.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

DISCUSSIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Arnold, and seconded by the Council, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN