

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
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 21st day of September, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. pursuant to a Notice of Public Hearing published on the 26th day of August, 2021 in the Plaquemine Post South and posted on 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; Steve C. Smith District 5; Raheem T. Pierce, District 6; Hunter S. Markins, District 8; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12.

Absent: Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; Terry J. Bradford, District 9; T Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

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 two (2) lots, formerly Iberville Parish Police Jury Maintenance Barn located at 24960 and 24970 LA Highway 1, Plaquemine, Louisiana

The appraisal report for this proposed ordinance was not prepared in time for the public hearing. This item has been rescheduled for the October 19, 2021 Public Hearing.

There being no further business to be conducted, the hearing was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 21st day of September, 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; T 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 16th day of September, 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.

ADDENDUM

None.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Arnold, and seconded by Councilman Dominique, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of August 17, 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 stated the \$1.2 million completed project for the Intracoastal Roadway.
- He discussed the Parish's efforts during the flooding on both the east and west sides of the Parish. He said there was substantial tree damage in East Iberville from the storm. He signed a contract with Disaster Recovery along with City of St. Gabriel to pick up the tree debris in East Iberville. The Parish is picking up the storm debris on the west side. The debris contractor on the east side is completely funded by FEMA. He hopes to have all of the storm debris collected by October.
- Pictures were presented to the Council. During Hurricane Ida the Parish made over 20,000 sandbags. The Parish made over 75,000 sandbags post Hurricane Ida. President Ourso stated he wants to continue to spoil the Iberville Parish residents with the sandbags but not other Parishes' residents. The next time the Parish has an event to dispense sandbags they will request identification to make sure the sandbags are going to Iberville Parish residents.
- A data sheet of Alligator Bayou, Bayou Manchac, and Spanish Lake showed the water is receding.
- There were 90 National guardsmen from Kansas that stayed at the Civic Center which was being used as a staging area.
- Pictures of piles of trash and debris that is being picked up throughout the Parish. Shintech has allowed a site for the debris to be burned.
- Pictures of the Courthouse security corridor were presented. This project should be complete within the next 6-8 weeks. The hold ups are due to the glass not coming in on time.
- There is a sign at main park at the Civic Center stating the park is closed. The Parish signed a contract with JREED to proceed on October 10, 2021. DPW removed the trees and concrete slabs to save on cost and to allow the company to come in and begin construction for the IPRD maintenance facility.
- Every time we have a flood event the Parish has to do three road cuts on Manchac Road, which costs about \$50,000 to \$60,000 each. The Parish purchased vessels with gates that are around 9 ft in diameter and 40 ft long. They were transported here for \$1,500 a piece. These culverts will be installed directly in Manchac Road so the Parish never has to cut it again to let the water through.

- There was a \$500,000 budget to clean Bayou Grosse Tete. The lowest bid was \$141,000. The highest bid was \$1 million and the second highest bid was around \$800,000. He has concerns about the lowest bid which was much lower than the other bids. He has to meet with this company to make sure they are a real company. He wants to make sure that they don't want to withdraw that bid, and that they also have a surety bond. If they can do it for this price then they will be awarded the bid.
- LA DOTD is working on the centurion canal near the Enterprise Bridge because they installed an undersized culvert. They are replacing the undersized culvert with a larger sized culvert. The road will be closed Thursday, October 23rd until November 2021 for this project.
- There were 3 shelters open for the storm, he wanted to thank Gail Salvadras and Charlene Siplin for staying at the North Iberville Community Center during the storm. He thanked Superintendent Joffrion. He also thanked Monica Edmond, Cordelia Brooks, and Councilwoman Shalanda Allen for staying at the White Castle Community Center. President Ourso stated we cannot send residents to facilities that do not have a generator during a storm. He stated the facility must have a working generator for those people to go to those facilities for shelter.
- Red Cross did come into the area after the hurricane. White Castle was out of electricity the longest, and they provided ice and water in White Castle until people stopped coming for it. He also thanked the EOC Director, Clint Moore for his help distributing ice and water to those residents.
- President Ourso stated some time in February or March, Councilman Dominique asked about mandated COVID-19 vaccinations and President Ourso stated the Parish employees are now 75% vaccinated now.
- Before COVID-19 we have the finest Council on Aging facilities in the Parish with high attendance rates. Post COVID-19 the elderly attendance went down and then again when the second variant hit. There have been about 20 people attending a day in White Castle, Plaquemine, and Maringouin. The seniors are more home bound now, and the Council on Aging facilities are delivering meals to them.
- Baton Rouge Food Bank created Farm Fresh and gives fresh fruit and vegetables to senior residents. The food is boxed by the parish and serving 200 seniors currently.
- Iberville Parish has served over 1,000 residents with assistance through the Office of Community Services. Currently around 40 to 45 people a week are coming into the office for assistance. There is about \$97,000 left to last until the new funding cycle in 2022. Once a month food distribution through Community Services delivers 350 boxes to people who qualify for this food distribution.

Councilwoman Allen asked about the Farm Fresh schedule. He stated its once a month and delivered to the Council on Aging in Plaquemine, then delivered to the senior citizens. They must be registered with Council on Aging to receive the boxes.

President Ourso stated there will be an aerial spray tonight at 8 p.m. for \$175,000 to spray all of Iberville Parish. FEMA will pay 75% of this cost due to the storm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated if anyone has any questions for the report. No one had any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

- A) Ordinance to authorize the sale of two (2) lots, formerly Iberville Parish Police Jury Maintenance Barn located at 24960 and 24970 LA Highway 1, Plaquemine, Louisiana
- This agenda item as been passed on until the October 19, 2021 Public Hearing and Council meeting due to the appraisal report not being ready at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) Introduction of Ordinances

- 1) Ordinance to purchase fee title to a parcel of land located adjacent to the cul-de-sac at rear of Mendoza Drive for installation of drainage pumps
- 2) Ordinance to abandon unimproved portion of LA. Highway 69 (Augusta Road) from LA. Highway 1 to LA. Highway 405 (River Road) in White Castle area

Upon a motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Kelley it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, October 19, 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, Bradford, Markins, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on September 21, 2021.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:13 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Dominique.

Absent: Jackson, Morgan.

Councilman Morgan is now present after the roll call.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution in support of resuming offshore leasing in the Gulf of Mexico
- B) Resolution adopting the Annual Certification of Compliance with the State of Louisiana Off System Bridge Replacement Program

Councilman Kelley made a recommendation to forward the resolution 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, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Morgan, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson.

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

During the Regular Meeting:

RESOLUTION IPC# 2021-016

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESUMING FEDERAL OFFSHORE LEASING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

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

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program, since its authorization

by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), has provided significant energy to help fuel the great economy of America, and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program, has been very effective in helping America achieve energy security and strengthening our National Security, and

WHEREAS, the offshore industry and government have collaborated with groups such as the Coastal Conservation Association to create innovative ways to find beneficial cooperation such as the Rigs-to-Reef program, which benefits the recreational fishing community by repurposing obsolete structures of which nearly 600 reefered platforms in the United States Gulf of Mexico are home to almost seven million fish and other critical marine species, enriching marine life, and

WHEREAS, since its inception the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program is responsible for helping to create hundreds of thousands of jobs with a significant economic impact and has generated hundreds of billions in royalty revenue for the United States Treasury, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 2020 permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year with wide bipartisan support. Relying solely on earnings from federal offshore oil and gas leasing, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has funded more than \$4 billion worth of projects since its inception in 1965 for purposes of conservation, recreation, restoration and protection of vital national resources, and

WHEREAS, since 2006, more than \$1 billion, funded exclusively by federal offshore lease revenues, has been disbursed to four Gulf energy-producing states through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to support coastal conservation and restoration projects; hurricane protection programs; and activities to implement marine coastal or conservation management plans, and

WHEREAS, in the most recent conservation legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, the United States Congress set aside up to \$1.9 billion a year from federal offshore lease revenues for the next five years to repair facilities and infrastructure in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and American Indian Schools, and

WHEREAS, it is important for the funding of these conservation, recreation, restoration and protection efforts that the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program continues, and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program has been managed in such a way that it is recognized as an environmentally advantaged energy producer with approximately half (53%) of the carbon intensity per barrel of other producing regions worldwide, and

WHEREAS, United States of America Offshore Energy represents a significant opportunity to help improve the health of our planet due to its low carbon intensity, and

WHEREAS, President Biden and Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland have caused regularly scheduled lease sales for offshore resources, previously authorized by administrations of both political parties, to be canceled resulting in great uncertainty for the economy, the energy, and the environment of America, and

WHEREAS, Terry A. Doughty of the United States District Court recently decided in a suit filed by the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia that the Executive Branch does not have the legal right to stop leasing Federal territory for Oil and Gas production without approval from Congress, and

WHEREAS, the future production of these oil and gas resources and consequently the funding of conservation, recreation, restoration and protection and further consequently the denial of environmentally advantaged, low carbon intensity barrels of production as a substitution for

higher carbon intensity barrels of production from foreign sources; all will be negatively impacted by the continued cancellation of offshore lease sales.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Iberville Parish Council, meeting on September 21, 2021, petitions President Biden and Secretary Haaland to immediately schedule Lease Sales for the Gulf of Mexico, a historic energy producing province, to assist in producing a larger portfolio of some of the planet's lowest carbon intensity barrels of oil and to assist in producing a larger portfolio of natural gas which can serve the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) worldwide market; all in an effort to restore confidence, generate economic activity, enhance environmental stewardship, create American jobs, and strengthen national and energy security.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Biden, Secretary Haaland, members of the United States Congress, the City and Parish governing authorities within the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Police Jury Association, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the National Association of Counties.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on this 21st day of September, 2021 by the following votes 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 by the Chairman on the 21st day of September, 2021.

RESOLUTION IPC# 2021-017

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA OFF SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post those bridges under the authority of Iberville Parish in accordance with those Standards is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Iberville Parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of Iberville Parish (herein referred to as the Parish) that the Parish in regular meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022:

1. The Parish will perform all interim inspections on all Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.
2. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish will be structurally analyzed and rated by the Parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the LA DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under the operating rating as determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings or any missing structural ratings.

3. All Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing shall be load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manuals Directive No. 1.1.1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.

4. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the LA DOTD are noted. These stipulations are prerequisites to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session this 21st day of September, 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 by the Chairman on the 21st day of September, 2021.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

DISCUSSIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilman Smith, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN