

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022**

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 18th day of January, 2022.

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.

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 13th day of January, 2022. 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

Legal Counsel, Scott Stassi opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Iberville Parish Council.

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

Councilman Dominique moved to nominate Councilman Terry Bradford as Chairman. Councilman Bradford respectfully declined the nomination.

Councilman Vallet moved to close the nominations, for Council Chairman, seconded by Councilman Pierce. The nominations were closed by acclimation.

Councilman Matthew Jewell is declared Council Chairman. Chairman Jewell thanked the Council for this honor and their support.

Councilman Dominique qualified his motion by stating Chairman Jewell has been nominated for several years and there are other good members on the Council to take on the role of Chairman and represent the Council.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

Legal Counsel, Scott Stassi opened the nominations for Council Vice Chairman.

An original motion was made by Councilman Morgan, seconded by Councilman Vallet, to nominate Councilman Leonard Jackson, Sr. for Council Vice Chairman.

A substitute motion was made by Councilwoman Allen, seconded by Councilman Pierce to nominate Councilman Ty Arnold for Council Vice Chairman.

Councilman Vallet moved to close the nominations, for Council Vice Chairman, seconded by Councilman Markins. The nominations were closed by acclimation.

The substitute motion having been duly submitted to a vote, was not adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Jackson, Pierce, Arnold.

NAYS: Easley, Dominique, Smith, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The substitute motion fails.

The original motion having been duly submitted to a vote, was 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 original motion passes.

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. He stated we are all elected to serve this Parish and we all have to work together to serve effectively. He stated he is dedicated to every resident of Iberville Parish.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

A) Resolution of Condolence for Janice Dickerson

- A resolution of condolence was read aloud and presented to the family of the late Janice Dickerson by Councilman Pierce and Councilman Dominique.
- 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 21, 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

- CAO, Edward Songy Jr. spoke on behalf of President Ourso's absence.
- The Bayou Grosse Tete Clean-up project is nearing completion.
- The Courthouse security renovation was delayed due to items being on back order but they have now been received. The project is nearing completion.
- The canal project in District 4 is also near completion.
- There will be a Spring Job Fair on March 15, 2022 at 1 p.m. held at the Addis Community Center. The job fair is sponsored by the Iberville Chamber of Commerce and the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce.
- The latest COVID-19 statistics were presented to the Council. From December 13, 2021 to January 13, 2022 Iberville Parish has had 1,223 cases of COVID-19. The Iberville Parish Health Unit administers COVID-19 vaccinations on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the Finance Department is currently closing out the year to begin working on the financial audit. He stated the federal government is raising the interest rates to combat inflation, which means the cost of doing business is getting higher and higher. Once inflation goes up, the rates go up and the chemical plants may start pulling back because the demand for their product is goes down during inflation. The federal government is planning to raise rates three times this year.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

- 1) Ordinance to provide for guidelines for residential, commercial and industrial development of land located within the unincorporated areas of Iberville Parish east of the Mississippi River to provide for safety & welfare of life and property of residents
- 2) Ordinance to authorize the purchase of a 2.5-acre tract of land from Plaquemine Elks Lodge No. 1398

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, seconded by Councilman Bradford it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. on the introduced ordinances.

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 on January 18, 2022.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Vallet, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique, Morgan.

Absent: Pierce.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution authorizing Star Communications and the Iberville Parish Council to partner to increase broadband service to Iberville Parish's unserved and underserved areas

Councilman Vallet made a recommendation to forward the resolutions to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Kelley. The recommendation having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following ye and nay votes on roll call by Resolution Committee Members only:

YEAS: Smith, Vallet, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Pierce.

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

During the Regular Meeting:

RESOLUTION IPC# 2022-001

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAR COMMUNICATIONS AND THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL TO PARTNER TO INCREASE BROADBAND SERVICE TO IBERVILLE PARISH'S UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Vallet and seconded by Councilman Kelley.

As the elected councilmen and representatives of the citizens of Iberville Parish, Louisiana we recognize the ever-expanding need for and importance of highspeed broadband. High speed broadband has become a necessary part of everyday life. High speed broadband, or the lack thereof, impacts the life of nearly every citizen of Iberville Parish.

We also recognize the digital divide that exist throughout Louisiana as well as in our own parish and among our residents. As the council we are actively seeking ways to bridge this digital divide. Whether those be public/private partnerships, state or federal funds, and other creative sources.

Whereas the state of Louisiana has made grant funds available through the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities, GUMBO for short program for the express purpose of making highspeed broadband available to the most underserved areas of the state. We the council feel that it is our responsibility and opportunity to seek partnerships and opportunities to take advantage of these funds.

Whereas Star Communications, a local ISP, has approached the Iberville Parish Council about working with the Parish to bring Highspeed Broadband service to some of the unserved areas of the parish.

Whereas Star Communications has demonstrated an acceptable history of service in parishes similar in size and scope to Iberville Parish, have demonstrated a successful history of pursuing, applying for, and winning similar grants, and have demonstrated an ability to meet the requirements of most state and federal grants.

Wherefore let it be resolved that Iberville Parish, Louisiana agrees to work with Star Communications in pursuit of a Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities, GUMBO for short Grant from the State of Louisiana. We agree to lend our support to this Grant, including, but not limited to, providing reasonable access to rites of ways, lending knowledge of infrastructure, location of existing utilities, compliance with State and local laws, and all other reasonable means necessary to secure the above referenced grant.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted on the 18th day of January, 2022, 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 January 18, 2021.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

DISCUSSIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilman Markins, to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN