

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, September 20, 2022**

The Parish Council of Iberville Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session, in the Council Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse Building, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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.

Parish President- J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., and Chief Administrative Officer- Edward Songy were also in attendance.

A quorum was present and due notice had been posted and published in the Plaquemine Post South newspaper on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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.

**ADDENDUM**

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved to add the hiring of a Council Clerk to the resolutions. 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.

**PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

A) Announcing candidacy for Iberville Parish School Board at Large - Polly D. Higdon

- Mrs. Polly Higdon came before the Council to officially announce her candidacy for Iberville Parish School Board at Large. She is a retired teacher from the public-school system and has been a School Board member representing District E for the last 10 years. Mrs. Higdon expressed that her years of experience as a teacher and school board member will help her to continue to improve the schools in the parish. She asked for the support of the Council for the upcoming election. She thanked everyone for their time and consideration.

B) Announcing candidacy for Iberville Parish School Board District A - Jan Drinkwater

- Mrs. Jan Drinkwater came before the Council to officially announce her candidacy for Iberville Parish School Board District A. Mrs. Drinkwater reviewed her background, experience, and qualifications. She thanked the Council for their time and consideration.

C) Announcing Candidacy for State Senator District 17 - Caleb Kleinpeter

- Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter came before the Council to announce his candidacy for State Senator District 17. He is a native of Iberville Parish. He stated that there is a need for more vocational job training for those that do not attend college. He looks forward to working with all of the other elected officials. He thanked everyone for their time and consideration.

D) Announcing Candidacy for State Senator District 17- Dr. Kirk Rousset

- Dr. Kirk Rousset came before the Council to officially announce his candidacy for State Senator District 17. Dr. Kirk Rousset has been a practicing OBGYN for the last 40 years. He is a resident of Pointe Coupee parish, married with 4 grown children and 3 grandchildren. Dr. Rousset stated that healthcare and education go

hand in hand with one another. He also stated that job creation is important. Dr. Rousset thanked the Council for their time and consideration.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Markins, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of August 16, 2022 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:

- He stated that the parish and the Office of Community Services received grant money from the federal government through American Rescue Plan starting in January to assist in the payment of energy bills throughout the parish. A total of \$750,000 has been used and there are no more funds as of September 12<sup>th</sup>. The funds are expected to be replenished at the end of October.
- He stated that on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup> and there was a barge collision near Water District 3 intake and the parish was not notified until 9 am the next morning. State Police, DHH, and DEQ did not show up to the accident to determine if the barge was leaking. The US Coast Guard sent out a third party that determined the barge was not leaking and there was no hazard to the water supply.
- Magnolia Power is a power plant that is building between SNF and Shintech. They have started construction on their main road off of 405. They have not begun construction on the main unit because there are some issues with the drainage canals that have to be worked out.
- He advised that there is a solar farm company that is looking at 2,000 acres between Plaquemine and White Castle for the land to be converted from cane farming to a solar farm.
- He stated that a company Ambercycle based out of Houston, that wants 30 acres in the industrial park. More information on the company and their business plan at the next meeting.
- He advised Councilwoman Allen that DOTD and the railroad company have decided to close the Lacroix railroad crossing but do not have a date of when that will be done.
- He stated they are working to get a walking trail and splash park at the Bayou Blue park. The Bellevue park has been delayed due to the weather.
- Councilman Smith asked what was the status on a drainage study for the construction behind the church. The job has been shut down until they can provide the parish a drainage impact study to show that the new building will not affect the houses in that area.
- The Courthouse security project is at a standstill because the contractor that won the bid has not been paying one of their suppliers. The contractor has been paid by the Parish and the Parish has \$40,000 in retainage. The job is shut down until everything can be worked out by the Parish attorney.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the Bellevue park continued to move forward and they have begun working to turf the first field and continue to work on the drainage of the second field. Sales taxes are up, as well as property taxes.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A) Introduction of Ordinances

- 1) Ordinance to amend Iberville Parish Council Sales and Use Tax ordinances to provide for interest rate on unpaid taxes in compliance with the amendment to LA. R.S. 47:337.69 contained in Act number 87 of the 2022 regular legislative session

Upon a motion by Councilman Bradford, seconded by Councilwoman Easley, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, October 18, 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 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.

- 2) Ordinance to redistrict the parish governing authority after the 2020 Federal Decennial Census

Upon a motion by Councilman Arnold, seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, October 18, 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 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 September 20, 2022.

## RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Kelley, Jackson, Morgan, and Dominique.

Absent: None.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution adopting the Annual Certification of Compliance with the State of Louisiana Off System Bridge Replacement Program
- B) Resolution to provide for participation in the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program to provide for temporary housing assistance during declared disaster events
- C) Resolution authorizing Parish President, J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., to act on behalf of Iberville Parish in all matters related to the Manchac Roadway Improvement Project, Facility Planning & Control Project Number 50-J24-22-01
- D) Resolution for LCDBG Program Street Improvements- Grant Administration fees

E) Resolution for LCDBG Program Street Improvements- Engineering fees

Councilman Kelley 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, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Kelley, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

During the Regular Meeting:

**RESOLUTION IPC# 2022-014**

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

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by Councilman Markins.

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, 2022 through September 30, 2023:

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 on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

#### **RESOLUTION IPC# 2022-015**

#### **RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE DURING DECLARED DISASTER EVENTS**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by Councilman Markins.

WHEREAS, Act No. 526 (HB 1070) of the 2022 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session authorized the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to develop a program to provide additional funding and resources for temporary housing and shelter assistance to parish governing authorities within the first fourteen (14) days following a presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency which shall include the following;

- GOHSEP shall enter into prepositioned contracts for temporary housing and shelter services and a Parish is eligible for participation in the program provided the following conditions are met:
  - a) The Parish is included in a presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency.
  - b) The Parish submits a request to GOHSEP within seven (7) days after the presidential disaster declaration.
  - c) The Parish governing authority has submitted a certification to GOHSEP that the local governing authority will waive any land use regulations relative to permitting for mobile homes, recreational vehicles and other temporary housing **directly adjacent to the survivor's damaged dwelling to allow for expedited temporary housing assistance in the Parish.**
  - d) If the Parish governing authority submits the certification of waiver of parish land use restrictions but the municipal governing authorities within the Parish fail to submit the certification, the temporary housing assistance shall only apply for parish residents residing outside of any Parish municipality.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council in order to ensure that its residents may have available the necessary temporary housing which may be provided by GOHSEP after a Presidential declared disaster or emergency does opt to participate in the program to provide expedited temporary housing for its residents to have access to such housing directly adjacent to a survivor's damaged dwelling after a Presidential declared disaster or emergency event in Iberville Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS the Parish will work cooperatively with GOHSEP to ensure that the emergency temporary housing placed adjacent to a resident survivor's damaged dwelling complies with the necessary health and safety regulations to ensure the safety of Parish residents who qualify for such emergency temporary housing after a declared disaster or emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Iberville Parish Council does express its intent to participate in the Louisiana GOHSEP temporary emergency housing program provided by Act 526 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

#### **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-016**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT, J. MITCHELL OURSO, JR., TO ACT ON BEHALF OF IBERVILLE PARISH IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANCHAC ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FACILITY PLANNING & CONTROL PROJECT NUMBER 50-J24-22-01**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by Councilman Markins.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council, as governing body for the Parish of Iberville has been awarded State funding for the Manchac Roadway Improvement Project through the State Capital Outlay budget.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council does hereby designate, J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Parish President, to act on behalf of Iberville Parish in all matters pertaining to FP&C Project No. 50-J24-22-01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Parish President, J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., be and is hereby authorized to act on behalf of Iberville Parish in all matters pertaining to the Manchac Roadway Improvement Project, FP&C Project No. 50-J24-22-01, including certification of requests for State disbursements.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

#### **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022 -2017**

#### **RESOLUTION FOR LCDBG PROGRAM STREET IMPROVEMENTS- GRANT ADMINISTRATION FEES**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by Councilman Markins.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Iberville intends to submit a FY 2023 Application for funding under the LCDBG Program for Street Improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the LCDBG regulations provide that two (2) additional ranking points can be secured if an applicant agrees to pay for all technical assistance, administration and grant application fees; and,

WHEREAS, because of the competitive nature of the LCDBG Program, it is believed that as a strategy to improve the Parish's rating for grant funds it is advisable to make the financial commitment to locally provide the funds for these costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parish of Iberville hereby commits a sum, not to exceed \$50,000, for technical assistance, administration and grant application fees, if funded, in an effort to raise the competitiveness of the Parish's LCDBG application by securing two (2) additional points in the rating process; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Pan American Engineers, LLC is hereby selected to provide the required technical assistance, administration and grant application services for fees in accordance with LCDBG guidelines; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Parish President is hereby directed to include a copy of this resolution in the project file related to the LCDBG application to serve as documentation as to the Parish's commitment to obligate itself to pay for all technical assistance, administration and grant application services, etc. utilizing local funds, when and if the LCDBG Grant Application is awarded.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

#### **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022 – 018**

#### **RESOLUTION FOR LCDBG PROGRAM STREET IMPROVEMENTS- ENGINEERING FEES**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by Councilman Markins.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Iberville intends to submit a FY 2023 Application for funding under the LCDBG Program for Street Improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the LCDBG regulations provide that two (2) additional ranking points can be secured if an applicant agrees to pay for all related non-construction fees; including topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations, engineering services, observation of construction, etc.; and,

WHEREAS, because of the competitive nature of the LCDBG Program, it is believed that as a strategy to improve the Parish's rating for grant funds it is advisable to make the financial commitment to locally provide the funds for these costs and thereby utilizing LCDBG grant funds, if awarded, only for construction costs; and,

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the expenses that are non-construction and related to the technical services required for a LCDBG grant would total approximately 15% of the amount of grant funds awarded; excluding grant administration and technical assistance services, which are considered as a separate category in the LCDBG Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parish hereby obligates and commits, as part of the LCDBG application process, to pay for engineering, observation of construction, topographic survey, geotechnical investigations, and miscellaneous related costs all in an effort to raise the competitiveness of the Parish's LCDBG application by securing two (2) additional points in the rating process; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Pan American Engineers, LLC is hereby selected to provide the required engineering services for fees in accordance with LCDBG guidelines; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Parish President is hereby directed to include a copy of this resolution in the project file related to the LCDBG application to serve as documentation as to the Parish's commitment to obligate itself to pay for all related non-construction fees; including topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations, engineering services, observation of construction, etc. utilizing local funds, when and if the LCDBG Grant Application is awarded.

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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 the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith at 7:38 p.m., seconded by Councilman Markins it was moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the four candidates for the hiring of the Council Clerk. 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.

Upon a motion by Councilman Markins at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Councilman Bradford it was moved to go out of Executive Session. 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.

### Appointment of the Council Clerk for the Iberville Parish Council

Chairman Jewell opened the floor for nominations for the appointment of the new Council Clerk for the Iberville Parish Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Arnold, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved to nominate Ms. Deandria Johnson as the Council Clerk.

Upon a substitute motion by Councilman Smith, and seconded by Councilman Bradford, it was moved to nominate Ms. Macy Williamson as the Council Clerk.

Upon a third substitute motion by Councilwoman Easley, and seconded by Councilman Jackson, it was moved to nominate Ms. Ashley Hebert as the Council Clerk.

Upon a third substitute motion by Councilwoman Easley, and seconded by Councilman Jackson, it was moved to nominate Ms. Ashley Hebert as the Council Clerk. The substitute motion having been duly submitted to a vote by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Easley, Dominique, Jackson

NAYS: Allen, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The substitute motion **fails**.



Upon a substitute motion by Councilman Smith, and seconded by Councilman Bradford, it was moved to nominate Miss. Macy Williamson as the Council Clerk. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

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

NAYS: Pierce, Arnold.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

Ms. Macy Williamson is appointed and declared the new Council Clerk for the Iberville Parish Council.

Chairman Jewell thanked all of the applicants who applied.

#### BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

#### DISCUSSIONS

None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman read aloud the following announcement.

A)The Registrar of Voters Office provided the Council with Voter Registration Week packets. The packets included important voter registration deadlines to announce to the public for the November 8, 2022 election. The last day to register in person or by mail is October 11, 2022. The last day to register to vote online at [www.geauxvote.com](http://www.geauxvote.com) is October 18, 2022.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Morgan, and seconded by Councilman Bradford, to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

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/s/ MACY WILLIAMSON  
COUNCIL CLERK

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/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN