

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023**

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 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

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; 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: Jackson.

Parish President- J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., 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 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. Desiree Lemoine, Maurice Bolotte Jr., and Richard Callegan registered to speak.

ADDENDUM

- A) Resolution in opposition to carbon dioxide sequestration projects in Iberville Parish, Louisiana for the safety of area residents and their property and to protect the economic livelihood of parish residents (Chasity Easley)

Upon a motion by Councilman Dominique, seconded by Councilwoman Easley to add the Addendum as item 11-B on the regular meeting 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, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Arnold, and seconded by Councilman Kelley, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of March 21, 2023 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, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- President Ourso had nothing to report to the council. He asked for the council to go into an Executive session later on in the meeting to discuss some legal issues.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the finance department is working on the audit and it is due by June 30, 2023. The sales taxes are still up and so is the interest on deposits. He stated he doesn't think anything will change until the end of the year.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A) Introduction of Ordinances

- 1) Ordinance to geographically merge precincts and establish polling locations for Iberville Parish

Bill Blair with Strategic Demographics, came before the council to explain the proposed changes in the ordinance. Due to the reapportionment in 2020 twenty-two new voting precincts had to be established. This ordinance will reduce that number to fourteen. He would like to do more but there are laws that affect which changes can be made. Some voting precinct numbers will change but the location where the voters go to vote will not change. There will be a total of 46 voting precincts in the parish.

Upon a motion by Councilman Bradford, seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 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, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson.

## RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Kelley, Morgan, Dominique.

Absent: Jackson.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution to authorize Parish President to execute intergovernmental agreement between State of Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority & Iberville Parish Council for engineering, design, and construction of Bayou Pigeon boat launch improvement project (at-0032)
- B) Resolution in opposition to carbon dioxide sequestration projects in Iberville Parish, Louisiana for the safety of area residents and their property and to protect the economic livelihood of parish residents (Chasity Easley)

Councilman Smith made a recommendation to forward the resolution to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Dominique. 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, 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# 2023-009**

### **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY & IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL FOR ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF BAYOU PIGEON BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (at-0032)**

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

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana will provide the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in Capital Outlay Funding for the Engineering, Design and Construction Phases of the Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvement Project as provided by Act 117 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session.

WHEREAS, this project will greatly enhance the safe access to the waterways for recreational and commercial fishermen and also for research and other commercial uses.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council will assume responsibility for the operation, maintenance and repairs associated with the improved Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Project (State Project Number AT-0032).

WHEREAS, this improved public boat launch will improve access to the waterways for State and Parish agencies as well as the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Parish President, J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., be and is hereby authorized to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board & the Iberville Parish Council for the Engineering, Design and Construction of the Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvement Project (AT-0032).

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, by the following vote on roll call;

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on April 18, 2023.

Desiree Lemoine, representing Industry Makes, came before the council to speak in opposition of the proposed resolution that opposes carbon sequestration. She wants to educate the council and the public on carbon sequestration. The development of these technologies goes a long way to meet the goals of reducing the carbons in the air. Some form of CSS has been around since the 1970s and the technology used to capture carbon dioxide has evolved. Research over the last

decade has shown that it is safe to permanently harbor carbon dioxide. Industry Makes is asking the council to take the time to learn about the science of carbon sequestration, its benefits, and the economic impact this resolution would have on Iberville Parish.

Chairman Matt Jewell expressed his concerns for what putting something in the ground would do to the area and his concerns for the safety of the residence in the area. Councilman Pete Kelley said he spoke with people from different chemical plants in the area and they stated they do not want or would not use carbon sequestration. Councilwoman Easley and Councilman Dominique both expressed that they could not support carbon sequestration because their residences do not want it in their background.

Maurice Bolotte Jr., came before the council in support of the proposed resolution that opposes carbon sequestration. The area that is under lease for a carbon sequestration is right in his backyard and he is concerned what the wells would do to the land around the lease. He thanked the council for proposing a resolution to protect the people in that area.

Richard Callegan, came before the council in support of the proposed resolution that opposes carbon sequestration. He says that he has been in communication with someone from Talos Energy to answer some questions he had about the proposed project. He thanked the council for their support on opposing the carbon sequestration projects.

### **RESOLUTION IPC# 2023-010**

#### **RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION PROJECTS IN IBERVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA FOR THE SAFETY OF AREA RESIDENTS AND THEIR PROPERTY AND TO PROTECT THE ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD OF PARISH RESIDENTS**

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

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council has been informed of potential carbon sequestration projects on both State and Private land tracts located within the boundaries of Iberville Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council had a presentation made at its February 28, 2023 meeting regarding the process for obtaining permits related to carbon sequestration projects.

WHEREAS, the public meeting at the February 28, 2023 Parish Council meeting was attended by numerous Parish residents who expressed their opinions related to the rejection of Carbon Sequestration projects in Iberville Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, there are many unknown risks associated with underground carbon sequestration including well failure, contamination of fertile farm land and waterways used for commercial and recreational fishing and potable water well for residents.

WHEREAS, in February of 2020 a Carbon Dioxide pipeline ruptured in Satartia, Mississippi which resulted in residents being evacuated and treated for exposure to high concentrations of Carbon Dioxide. This Carbon Dioxide pipeline rupture released over 31,000 barrels of Carbon Dioxide into the surrounding atmosphere of a residential area of the town.

WHEREAS, this Parish Council recognizes that Class VI wells for carbon sequestration are currently regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, however the residents of Iberville Parish are concerned for their safety and welfare associated with the potential risks associated with carbon sequestration.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council is opposed to the location of underground carbon sequestration storage caverns as such process is filled with uncertainty and has the potential to lead to catastrophic consequences in the event there is some type of failure associated with the carbon sequestration site.

WHEREAS, the residents recognize the right of landowners to utilize their land for economic benefit, however, such land use should not be to the potential detriment of residents who own property and reside within the immediate vicinity of any proposed Carbon Sequestration project site.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council opposes to location of Carbon Sequestration projects within Iberville Parish, Louisiana at the current time due to uncertainties of this type of project to store vast amount of carbon dioxide in underground storage caverns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Iberville Parish legislative delegations serving in the Louisiana legislature and U.S. Congress.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, by the following vote on roll call;

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Smith.

ABSENT: Jackson.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on April 18, 2023.

#### BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilman Dominique at 7:06 p.m., seconded by Councilman Markins it was moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. 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, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith at 7:19 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Easley it was moved to go out of Executive Session. 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, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Jackson, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

#### DISCUSSIONS

##### A) Rodney Sparrow Trail Ride Appeal

- Rodney Sparrow came before the council because he applied for a permit for a trail ride on April 22, 2023. Chairman Jewell asked if Mr. Sparrow was still on probation. Councilman Kelley said he could not support giving Mr. Sparrow who was prosecuted for cruelty to animals, a permit for a trail ride due to the conditions of the animals that were once in the care of Mr. Sparrow.

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, seconded by Councilman Vallet it was moved to deny Rodney Sparrow a trail riding permit to Rodney Sparrow. The motion having been duly submitted to a vote was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Easley, Smith, Markins, Bradford, Kelley, Vallet.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Allen, Dominique, Pierce, Arnold.

ABSENT: Jackson, Morgan.

ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Bradford, to adjourn at 7:27 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