

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023
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 18th day of July, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. pursuant to a Notice of Public Hearing published on the 29th day of June, 2023 in the Plaquemine Post South and posted on the Iberville Parish website.

The Council Chairman, Matthew H. Jewell, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. followed by the roll call with the following Council Members in attendance: Shalanda L. Allen, District 1; Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; Raheem T. Pierce, District 6; Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Absent: Easley, Smith, Arnold, Markins, Bradford.

Chief Administrative Officer- Edward Songy, and Legal Counsel- Scott Stassi were also in attendance.

Mr. Songy read the following ordinance in entirety.

ORDINANCE 1 Ordinance to adopt the Millage Rates for the Tax Year 2023

The floor was opened to comments and questions. There was no opposition to this ordinance from the public.

There being no further business to be conducted, the hearing was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

/s/ MACY WILLIAMSON
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

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

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 July, 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; Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; District ; Raheem T. Pierce, District 6; Ty J. Arnold, District 7; Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Absent: Easley, Smith, Markins, Bradford.

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 Advocate newspaper on the 13th day of July, 2023. 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

A) Audit Presentation by Baxley & Associates – Ms. Margaret Pritchard

- Ms. Margaret Pritchard, representing Hugh Baxley and Associates, LLC. presented the 2022 Iberville Parish Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Ms. Pritchard began summarizing page 18 of the audit report which is the statement of net position. Total assets for the year was \$264,249,000 which increased \$19 million over the previous year. Pension asset increased by \$3.7 million, receivables increased by \$3 million, and capital assets increased by \$11.5 million. The total liabilities were \$31,710,680. The total net position was \$229,107,754 which increased \$20 million for the year.
- Ms. Pritchard began summarizing page 19 which is the statement of activities. The expenses for governmental funds was \$40,091,631 which decreased \$1.7 million over the previous year. The business type activities for water, natural gas, and sewer totaled \$8,030,127. The primary governmental total for charges for services was \$48,121,758. The total general revenues and transfers was \$51,526,905. The change in net position was \$19.9 million for the year 2022.
- Ms. Pritchard began summarizing page 150 of the financial statement audit. There were one finding for the 2022 budget. Procedures have been put in place to monitor the budget in accordance with State laws.
- Ms. Pritchard went over page 163 which was the agreed upon procedures page. There were 28 procedures with 2 findings.
- Ms. Pritchard thanked the Finance Director and the Finance Department for a great job in putting together the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

B) Announcing Candidacy for Secretary of State – Brandon Troclair

- He introduced his self to the council. He is from Gonzales and he owns 13 grocery stores across south Louisiana and Mississippi. He stated that Louisiana is the only state where elections cannot be audited. He believes the election system in Louisiana can be improved and believes the state system has failed the people of Louisiana.
- He wants to get rid of the vulnerable outdated election voting machines and move to hand marked secure paper ballots. He believes that within minutes of the polls closing he will be able to provide the public with certified voting results. His goal is to move to hand paper ballots. His goal is also to clean up voting registrations and cleaning up voter rolls.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Arnold, seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of June 20, 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, Dominique, Jackson, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Easley, Smith, Markins, Bradford.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of President Ourso Chief Administrative Officer Edward Songy reported on the following:

- Solar Farm company out of the state of Florida has leased over 2,000 acres in White Castle and they sent a letter to Parish President. The next step is that the company has to submit a permit to the Parish President and then it will be reviewed but he will keep the council up to date on the process.

- Clint Moore, OEP Director, came before the council to speak on the explosion that happened at Dow Chemical on Friday, July 14, 2023. Dow had a large explosion in the Glycol 2 unit, the chemical was ethylene oxide. He sent out the notification and set the siren off for residence in a half mile radius of Dow. They set a shelter in place out an abundance of caution until Dow personnel could insure the public was safe. He stated that Dow was very responsive during the incident.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated that this increase will not last forever and the funds will be watched closely to ensure the money is there when sale taxes go back to normal. He stated that Iberville Parish has been very fortunate.

OLD BUSINESS

- A) Ordinance to adopt the Millage Rates for the Tax Year 2023

ORDINANCE IPC# 008-23

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATES
FOR THE TAX YEAR 2023**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Iberville Parish Council, Louisiana, in an open meeting held on July 18, 2023 and conducted in accordance with the open meetings law, the provisions of Article VII, Section 23(B) and (C) of the 1974 Constitution and LSA-R.S. 47:1705(b)(1) and (2) that the following millage rates be and hereby are levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within Iberville Parish for the year 2023 for the purpose of raising revenues and appropriating to the respective funds:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
General Alimony (LLA MN 1042007)	2.49 mills
General Alimony within the City of Plaquemine, City of St. Gabriel, Town of White Castle, and the Town of Maringouin (Exempted Municipalities per Article 6, Section 26 (C) or (D) of the 1974 Constitution of the State of Louisiana.) (LLA MN 1042008)	1.24 mills
Fire District No. 2 (LLA MN 1042020) 2016 Year of First Levy	6.78 mills
Public Building Maintenance (LLA MN 1042036) 2022 Year of first Levy	3.00 mills
Parish Wide Drainage (LLA MN 1042012) 2019 Year of first Levy	5.00 mills
Library Maintenance Fund (LLA MN 1042011) 2016 Year of First Levy	4.00 mills
Recreation District (LLA MN 1042015) 2023 Year of First Levy	3.00 mills
Fire District No. 1 (LLA MN 1042021) 2016 Year of First Levy	3.95 mills

SECTION 2. Be It Further Ordained by the Iberville Parish Council, Louisiana that the method of collections of said taxes, the time of its delinquency, penalties and other matters relating thereto, shall be as now provided by the law for the collection of State Taxes.

SECTION 3. Be it Further Ordained by the Iberville Parish Council, Louisiana that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance herewith be and the same hereby are specifically repealed.

SECTION 4. Be It Further Ordained that the Assessor of the Parish of Iberville shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2023 taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of Iberville Parish shall collect and remit the same to the Iberville Parish Council in accordance with law.

The foregoing ordinance which was previously introduced at the meeting of the Iberville Parish Council on June 20, 2023 and a summary thereof having been published in the official journal on June 29, 2023, the public hearing on this ordinance held on the 18th day of July, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Meeting Room, 58050 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, Louisiana, was brought up for final passage with a motion by Councilman Kelley, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, having been duly submitted to a vote, the ordinance was duly adopted by the following yea and nay vote on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Dominique, Jackson, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Easley, Smith, Markins, Bradford.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 18th day of July, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

1. Ordinance to declare the following property to be surplus and to sell to neighboring property owner pursuant to the terms of ordinance # 002-13 (Isaac Reese; Parcel #8911378621)
2. Ordinance to authorize a cooperative endeavor agreement between the Iberville Parish Council and Iberville Parish School Board for joint use of recreational facilities

Upon a motion by Councilman Kelley, seconded by Councilman Vallet, it was moved that a public hearing be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. on the introduced ordinance.

The motion having been duly submitted to a vote, was duly adopted by the following yea and nay votes on roll call:

YEAS: Allen, Dominique, Jackson, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Easley, Smith, Markins, Bradford.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman on July 18, 2023.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Vallet, Pierce, Kelley, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

Absent: Smith, Markins, Arnold.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution to join with surrounding parishes to seek information on expenditure of funding provided by the Louisiana watershed initiative to determine if project funding has been equitably distributed to the parishes for projects to reduce future flooding risks

Councilman Kelley made a recommendation to forward the resolutions to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Vallet. 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: Vallet, Pierce, Kelley, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Smith, Markins, Arnold.

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

During the Regular Meeting:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-016

RESOLUTION TO JOIN WITH SURROUNDING PARISHES TO SEEK INFORMATION ON EXPENDITURE OF FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE TO DETERMINE IF PROJECT FUNDING HAS BEEN EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED TO THE PARISHES FOR PROJECTS TO REDUCE FUTURE FLOODING RISKS

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

WHEREAS, the “Louisiana Watershed Initiative” was created under the Louisiana Office of Community Development as an Executive Order by the Governor as a result of the \$ 1.2 Billion funding secured by the US Congress after the 2016 Great Flood to reduce flood risks;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Portion of Iberville Parish (“East Iberville Parish” - Sunshine, City of St. Gabriel, and Carville) sustained the most serious flood damage in the Parish from the 2016 Great Flood devastating the lives, homes, and properties of many residents, including local businesses, agriculture land, petrochemical facilities, two State Correctional facilities, and parish roads;

WHEREAS, all of the drainage in East Iberville Parish, including the Spanish Lake Basin depends exclusively on Bayou Manchac for drainage of floodwater that ultimately drains into the Amite River, just the same as most of the floodwater from East Baton Rouge Parish and Ascension Parish;

WHEREAS, an adequate portion of \$1.2 Billion funding administered by the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the “Louisiana Watershed Initiative” to implement both local and regional flood risk reduction projects would greatly reduce flood risk in East Iberville Parish, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and surrounding Parishes;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative has, and continues to allocate these funds, these Parishes would be better served by prioritizing both local and regional projects that will reduce the immediate flood risk to residents who face direct threats to their life and property such as in the Spanish Lake Basin, the Bayou Manchac Watershed and the Amite River Basin;

WHEREAS, after the serious devastation to life and property in East Iberville Parish by the 2016 Great Flood, Iberville Parish should be recognized, like it’s adjacent Parishes, by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Louisiana Office of Community Development as one of the “Most Impacted and Distressed” (MID) areas.

WHEREAS, the parishes comprising the Amite River Basin, of which the Spanish Lake Basin and the Bayou Manchac Watershed are located, have expressed grave concern related to the expenditures of project funding by the Office of Community Development - Louisiana Watershed Initiative considering that these areas may not be served with the true intent of the \$1.2 Billion funding provided by Congress after the 2016 Great Flood to reduce flood risk necessary to protect life and property;

WHEREAS, the parishes comprising the Amite River Basin of which East Iberville Parish is located may have to seek legal avenues to explore the proper use, allocation, and the project selection process for the \$1.2 Billion funding by the Office of Community Development – Louisiana Watershed Initiative to ensure this area has received its proportional share of funding for flood risk reduction and drainage improvement projects necessary to protect the life and property of their citizens;

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Council continues to work tirelessly to protect the Parish from flooding, it must join the efforts of the surrounding parishes in the Amite River Basin, who like East Iberville Parish, were devastated by the 2016 Great Flood in order to verify the \$1.2 Billion funding that is being spent by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative is used as intended;

WHEREAS, after a thorough review and audit of the projects that have been awarded funding by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative and after a review of the process by which they have selected projects, the Iberville Parish Council supports the institution of an audit and/or appropriate legal proceedings, if warranted, to ensure there is appropriate funding for projects within Iberville Parish and the surrounding Parishes to alleviate flood risk;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS: The Iberville Parish Council supports the efforts of its surrounding Parishes to ensure appropriate funding of projects through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to reduce flood risk to protect the life and property of residents as intended by the US Congress after the 2016 Great Flood including the filing of legal proceedings if warranted.

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

YEAS: Allen, Dominique, Jackson, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Easley, Smith, Markins, Bradford.

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

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

DISCUSSIONS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ MACY WILLIAMSON
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN