

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 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 21st day of March, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. pursuant to a Notice of Public Hearing published on the 9th day of March, 2023 in the Plaquemine Post South and posted on the Iberville Parish website.

The Council Chairman, Matthew H. Jewell, called the hearing to order at 6:06 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; Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12.

Absent: Arnold, Bradford, Vallet, Morgan.

Councilman Ty Arnold arrived after roll call.

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 amend section 3-22 of the compiled ordinances of Iberville Parish pertaining to rabies vaccination

ORDINANCE 2 Ordinance to amend the Iberville Parish Council personnel policy handbook related to annual leave

ORDINANCE 3 Ordinance to increase the commercial gas meter deposit for the Iberville Parish Utility Department

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 6:17 p.m.

/s/ MACY WILLIAMSON
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 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 21st day of March, 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; 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; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12.

Absent: Vallet, Morgan.

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 Plaquemine Post South newspaper on the 16th day of March, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. Les Ann Kirkland registered to speak.

ADDENDUM

A) Dan Garret from Strategic Demographics

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved that he would be added to the agenda as agenda items 13 A. 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.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

None.

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 February 28, 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, Jackson, Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Markins, Bradford, Kelley.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- He presented the council with a presentation about the ongoing street light identification project. Steven Stein and Clint Moore have tracked and identified all the street lights in the parish, which company the light belongs to, and which lights are out.
- He stated that he will work to get streets lights on LA-1 by the old Mike's Club and truck stop.
- He gave the council the proposed dates for summer worker employment, applications will be given out at April meeting.
- There will be a job fair at the civic center on March 30.
- The Parish donated 3 used vehicles from the auction to the school board.
- He was called by pastor Butch Labauve from the River church in Addis would like to hold national day of pray in the courthouse parking lot on May 5. He asked for the council's approval.
- The Belleview park grand opening will be March 28, at 5 pm. He asked that all Council members attend the ribbon cutting.
- The CPRA approached the parish to make upgrades to the Bayou Pigeon boat landing and the upgrades will cost around \$1.2 million. CPRA has applied for wet lands permit and the parish has not spent any money on this project.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn was unable to attend the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE IPC# 002-23

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3-22 OF THE COMPILED ORDINANCES OF
IBERVILLE PARISH PERTAINING TO RABIES VACCINATION**

WHEREAS, Section 3-22(d) of the Compiled Ordinances of Iberville Parish currently provide as follows: “Rabies tags shall be renewed annually during their anniversary month.”

WHEREAS, current acceptable veterinarian practice allows a licensed veterinarian to vaccinate dog or cats either annually or tri-annually. The current Iberville Parish Ordinance does not allow a licensed local veterinarian to utilize a three (3) year rabies vaccine.

WHEREAS, Section 3-22(b) should be amended to provide that a licensed veterinarian may utilize an annual or tri-annual rabies vaccination for dogs and cats.

NOW, THEREFORE, IBERVILLE PARISH ORDINANCE NUMBER 3-22(b) shall be amended to read as follows:

“ It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, maintain, harbor or possess any dog or cat in the Parish unless such dog or cat, if it is over four (4) months old, is vaccinated with an annual or tri-annual rabies vaccine by a licensed veterinarian either annually or tri-annually on the anniversary month the vaccine was administered and a tag evidencing such annual or tri-annual vaccination is affixed to the animal’s collar or harness.”

The foregoing ordinance which was previously introduced at the meeting of the Iberville Parish Council on February 28, 2023 and a summary thereof having been published in the official journal on March 9, 2023, the public hearing on this ordinance held on the 21st day of March, 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 Bradford, having been duly submitted to a vote, the ordinance was duly adopted by the following yea and nay vote on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of March, 2023.

ORDINANCE IPC# 003-23

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL PERSONNEL
POLICY HANDBOOK RELATED TO ANNUAL LEAVE**

WHEREAS, the Revised Personnel Policy Handbook for Council employees was adopted on February 21, 2017.

WHEREAS, the Personnel Policy Handbook provides permanent Parish Council employees with Annual Leave and Sick Leave.

WHEREAS, this amendment is to clarify the use of Annual Leave and Sick Leave by Parish Council employees.

WHEREAS, the current Personnel Policy Handbook on Page 8 entitles Annual Leave, Section C, provides... This provision does not modify the Parish’s position on accumulated annual leave as

stated in prior publications, it merely clarifies the Parish’s original policy as it regards accumulated annual leave.”

WHEREAS, the above provision is being clarified to clearly state the Parish Council policy related to “Annual Leave” for Parish employees to provide as follows: “Accumulated Annual Leave shall NOT be utilized by Parish employees for Sick Leave EXCEPT when a Parish employee is out on approved qualifying Family and Medical Leave(FMLA) and all available sick leave has been used then only then may available annual leave be utilized in lieu of sick leave while the employee is out on approved qualifying Family and Medical Leave.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL as follows:

SECTION C. ANNUAL LEAVE:

The following sentence shall be REMOVED from the Personnel Policy Handbook, “**This provision does not modify the Parish’s position on accumulated annual leave as stated in prior publications, it merely clarifies the Parish’s original policy as it regards accumulated annual leave.**”

The following sentence shall be ADDED to the Personnel Policy Handbook, “**Accumulated Annual Leave shall NOT be utilized by Parish employees for Sick Leave EXCEPT when a Parish employee is out on approved qualifying Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) and all available sick leave has been used, then and only then may available annual leave be utilized in lieu of sick leave while the employee is out on approved qualifying Family and Medical Leave.**”

The foregoing ordinance which was previously introduced at the meeting of the Iberville Parish Council on February 28, 2023 and a summary thereof having been published in the official journal on March 9, 2023, the public hearing on this ordinance held on the 21st day of March, 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 Bradford, having been duly submitted to a vote, the ordinance was duly adopted by the following yea and nay vote on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of March, 2023.

ORDINANCE IPC# 004-23

ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE COMMERCIAL GAS METER DEPOSIT FOR THE IBERVILLE PARISH UTILITY DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, there has been a substantial increase in the number of commercial gas customers that have closed the commercial establishment without payment of the outstanding natural gas account balance due.

WHEREAS, the Iberville Parish Utility Department is obligated to collect all outstanding commercial natural gas accounts in accordance with established accounting and auditing regulations.

WHEREAS, the current residential natural gas meter deposit is the sum of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) and the current commercial natural gas meter deposit is the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

WHEREAS, in view of the number of defaulting payments by commercial gas customers, the gas meter deposit for commercial customers should be increased from one hundred dollars to five hundred dollars for each commercial gas customer effective immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Iberville Parish Council as follows:

“That effective immediately the meter deposit for commercial natural gas customers shall be increased from one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00)”

The foregoing ordinance which was previously introduced at the meeting of the Iberville Parish Council on February 28, 2023 and a summary thereof having been published in the official journal on March 9, 2023, the public hearing on this ordinance held on the 21st day of March, 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 Bradford, having been duly submitted to a vote, the ordinance was duly adopted by the following yea and nay vote on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

The ordinance was declared adopted by the Chairman on the 21st day of March, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Ordinances

a. None.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique.

Absent: Vallet, Morgan.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

A) Resolution for ITEP Approval for Magnolia Power

Councilman Markins made a recommendation to forward the resolution to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Kelley. 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, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

B) Resolution supporting Second Amendment and declaring Iberville Parish as a Second Amendment sanctuary parish

Councilman Markins made a recommendation to forward the resolution to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Kelley. 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, Pierce, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Dominique.

NAYS: Arnold.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

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

During the Regular Meeting:

- Les Ann Kirkland came before the council in opposition of the resolution for Magnolia Power. She stated that our area is prime for industrial plants due to the Mississippi River. She doesn't believe that big corporations should get tax breaks because the possible pollution they cause because the people that live in the area suffer.

RESOLUTION IPC# 2023-007

RESOLUTION OF THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL APPROVING MAGNOLIA POWER, LLC FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM IN IBERVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article 7, Section 21(F) pursuant to the administrative procedure act, LA R.S. 49:950, et seq and LA R.S. 36:104 provide for the Board of Commerce and Industry (BCI) with approval of the Governor to approve contracts for the exemption of ad valorem taxes of a new manufacturing facility or an addition to an existing manufacturing facility, on such terms and conditions as the BCI with the approval of the Governor deems in the best interest of the State;

WHEREAS, MANGOLIA POWER, LLC has applied for an Industrial Tax Exemption APPLICATION (ITE), No. 20220115-ITE-\$280,692,788.00 and has the approval of the BCI for a contract granting the exemption;

WHEREAS, ITE contracts should be premised upon job and payroll creation or retention at new or expanded manufacturing facilities and that the percentage of exemption be 80% for a term of five years, and renewable for an additional term of five years from "ad valorem taxes" in accordance with Louisiana law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Iberville Parish Council as follows, after public discussion held on March 21, 2023, the Iberville Parish Council approves the terms of the ITE contract (Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the State of Louisiana, Office of Economic Development and Magnolia Power, LLC to the exemption contract between the BCI and Magnolia Power, LLC with respect to the Magnolia power generation facility located in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, based on the conditions contained in Contract For Exemption of Ad Valorem Taxes, Application Number 20220115, a copy of said contract is attached to this resolution and made a part hereof.

WHEREAS, the ITE Iberville Parish Impact Summary for All Affected Taxing Bodies for the ten-year tax abatement at 80% exemption rate prepared by the Iberville Parish Assessor's Office is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

WHEREAS, in the event Magnolia Power, LLC fails to complete its project, or fails to timely meet its performance objectives, job creation positions or, job retention positions requirements or maintaining payroll amounts as contained in ITE Contract No. 20220115 within the time and for the term agreed, or if Magnolia Power, LLC reduces its employment number or payroll amount to less than 90% of the required amount, such shall constitute a default under the award agreement and LED and the Iberville Parish Council shall retain the rights to modify or terminate the terms and conditions of the ITE incentive according to Louisiana law.

The Iberville Parish Council authorized the LA Department of Economic Development and BCI to include this resolution to the ITE contract between the BCI and Magnolia Power, LLC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the LA Department of Economic Development and BCI.

WHEREAS, the foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted in regular session this 21st day of March, 2023 by the following vote on roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on March 21, 2023.

RESOLUTION IPC# 2023-008

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SECOND AMENDMENT AND DECLARING IBERVILLE PARISH AS A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY PARISH

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Firearms is guaranteed as an Individual Right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 11 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

WHEREAS, the Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms for the defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an Inalienable Right by the law-abiding citizens of Iberville Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Iberville Parish, Louisiana derive benefits from all safe and lawful forms of firearms for recreational purposes including hunting and target practice at the Iberville Parish Council Firing Range and gun collections.

WHEREAS, the members of the Iberville Parish Council, being elected to represent the Citizens of Iberville Parish, Louisiana and being duly sworn by their Oath of Office to uphold the United States Constitution and Constitution of the State of Louisiana

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Citizens of Iberville Parish, Louisiana, do hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the Right of law-abiding Citizens to keep and bear arms and oppose any legislation which restricts the Right of law-abiding Citizens to keep and bear arms.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Government shall infringe upon the Right to Bear Arms granted by the U. S. Constitution and Louisiana Constitution, Iberville Parish, Louisiana shall become a "sanctuary Parish" for all lawfully owned firearms possessed by its Citizens.

WHEREAS, the foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote was adopted in regular session this 21st day of March, 2023 by the following vote on roll call:

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

NAYS: Arnold.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Vallet, Morgan.

The resolution was declared adopted by the Chairman on March 21, 2023.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

DISCUSSIONS

Dan Garret with Strategic Demographics came before the council to give them information about the consolidation of voting precincts and the redistricting of the Justice of Peace and Constables. The first portion of the project will be merging voting precincts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilman Pierce, to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ MACY WILLIAMSON
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN