

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 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., 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. Three people registered to speak.

ADDENDUM

None.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- A) New Mississippi Bridge Crossing Site Selection Presentation by Atlas Engineering – Kara Moree
- President Ourso came before the Council to introduce Ms. Kara Moree, a representative of Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC. They are the prime consultant for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Three weeks ago, all 3 location selections were announced to be in Iberville Parish for the new Mississippi Bridge. She presented a slideshow of the scoring on why and how Iberville Parish was chosen for the 3 location selections. She gave the same presentation to Capital Area Road and Bridge District at the end of May. They had a large team including several subconsultants. The ultimate objective was to construct a new crossing of the Mississippi Bridge in the Greater Baton Rouge Area. Part 1 of the contract was the Enhanced Planning Study (July 2020- Summer 2022). The study area started out very large at roughly 62 river miles, which consisted of 4 parishes. The first step was pre-screening for established plausible and reasonable alternatives, and they came up with 32

alternatives. The Round 1 screening narrowed it down to 20 preliminary alternatives then down to 10 alternatives. There were 6 public meetings with a grand total attendance of 1,198 from the public. The public meeting in Plaquemine had 353 in attendance. The Round 2 screening narrowed the selection down to 3 preliminary alternatives in Iberville Parish. She stated this will be a toll bridge. There was \$500 million dedicated for this bridge project. Their website is [www.mrbsouth.com](http://www.mrbsouth.com) for more information. Public input is important to them and they have received over 2,232 comments submitted on their website. They read through every single comment submitted. The 3 sets of data used for screening were the VHT and ATD (to address purpose and need), the Environmental (to address permitting issues) and Public Involvement. A slide was presented showing the 3 possible alternative sites. The alternative E-11-IV site always came out first in the rankings. This alternative site starts right by Old Evergreen Road by LA 1, crosses over the river, then ties in at LA 30 which is just south of the parish line in St. Gabriel. Part II of the contract is the Environmental Evaluation (Summer/Fall 2022- Summer 2024). The next steps are to finalize the Part 1 report. They are putting together the task list with the subconsultants to give over to DOTD. The next objective is to complete the NEPA process and select a preferred alternative. Then obtain the FHWA approved decision document. They are expecting to wrap of the project in 2024.

Councilman Morgan asked if it will be 2 years before the final site is selected, and she stated yes. The 3 alternative sites will each get the same level of evaluation.

Chairman Jewell asked for the preliminary cost of the whole project and she stated it was originally expected to be \$500 million for Part 1 and Part 2.

B) Announcing Candidacy for State Senator District 17 – Caleb Kleinpeter

- Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter came before the Council to officially announce his candidacy for State Senator District 17. He is a native of Grosse Tete, LA and currently resides in West Baton Rouge where he represents District IV for the West Baton Rouge Parish Council. He is the son of Paul and Kelly Kleinpeter of Grosse Tete. He is married to Kayne Daigle Kleinpeter, daughter of David “Worm” Daigle and Laura Wille Daigle of Grosse Tete. He graduated from Brusly High School. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps. and served in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been employed as a Pipeline Technician with Enterprise Products for the past 11 years. He looks forward to working with all of the other elected officials. He stated there are 2 major projects in this district which covers 9 parishes. One project is the LA 415 connector and the other is the new bridge project in Iberville. He thanked everyone for their time and consideration.

Councilman Smith thanked him for his service.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Arnold, seconded by Councilman Pierce, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of May 24, 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 a handout was provided to the Council of the Office of Community Services Public Outreach schedule for utility assistance. They are starting with over \$100,000 of funds to help residents of Iberville Parish. It may be expended due to the high utility rates. Once completed the Parish will be low on outreach funds until it gets replenished in October.
- The new bridge is a major project for the parish not only traffic wise but also economically.
- He went over slides displaying overlay patches on parish roads. He had almost \$3 million in the budget for road improvement projects. Last year at this time half of a million dollars would have only covered a mile. Now, a half of a million dollars will only cover half of a mile due to inflation. Until inflation goes down, they will only complete the critical parts of the roads. A slide was presented of Clark Road in White Castle, where they have been working on the critical parts of the road.
- The Bayou Pigeon park now has a walking trail and a new basketball court. They are currently finishing the fencing.
- There is an existing grant to close either the Dorcy railroad crossing or the Lacroix railroad crossing in Councilwoman Allen's district. The grant was for \$450,000 from the federal railroad to close one of the crossings because they are too close to each other. The parish secured the right of way along the railroad track. DOTD and the railroad company will make the decision of which crossing will be closed.
- There are 9 ft culverts installed in Bayou Manchac Road. They are waiting on barricades to be shipped and installed before reopening the road. It will be open once Ascension Parish finishes their Bayou Frog project.
- Price Street now has double barrel culvert installed instead of a single barrel.
- The Seymourville pavilion in District 6 is now complete. The parish had to previously clean up the land which cost \$600,000 to tear down the old school due

to asbestos. Once the land was cleared, the pavilion was constructed. Picnic tables and fans were installed out there today.

- His final comment was that he has no comment on any parish personnel issues with his employees because they are protected.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the Finance Department is currently working on the financial audit and it will be done by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. They will hopefully have the audit presentation in July. The Belleview Park just got its drainage pipe rerouted and the new pipe has been installed. They are starting on the fence barrier and one field is now moving on to its subservice drainage. The concession building is delayed until mid-July due to a delay in steel. They are still estimating a late September date for completion.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A) Introduction of Ordinances
  - 1) None.

### RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolution Committee met on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:15 p.m., followed by the roll call with the following Resolution Committee Members only in attendance: Smith, Vallet, Pierce, Arnold, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

Absent: None.

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. Songy:

- A) Resolution to select the Official Journal for the Iberville Parish Council for the period beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023

Councilman Vallet made a recommendation to forward the resolution 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, Kelley, Markins, Jackson, Morgan, Dominique.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

meeting.

During the Regular Meeting:

**RESOLUTION IPC# 2022-010**

**RESOLUTION TO SELECT THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR THE  
IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING  
JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Pierce and seconded by Councilwoman Easley.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 43:141 provides that a Parish Council at its first meeting in June of each year shall select a newspaper as official journal for its Parish for a term of one (1) year.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 43:142 further provides that the newspaper selected shall have been published in an office physically located in the Parish in which the governing body is located for a period of five (5) years proceeding.

WHEREAS, the Post-South newspaper is the only qualifying newspaper within the Parish of Iberville that meets the statutory criteria to be classified as the official parish journal.

WHEREAS, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of La. R.S. 43:150, the name and address, effective date of selection and the period for which the selection is effective of the official journal be filed with the Secretary of State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Iberville Parish Council as follows: "That the 'Post South' newspaper be selected as the official journal for the Iberville Parish Council for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023."

The above resolution was duly adopted in regular session on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2022 by the following votes 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2022.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Councilman Smith at 7:11 p.m., seconded by Councilman Arnold it was moved to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters involving Act No. 61 regarding the creation

of the Iberville Parish Parks and Recreation District. 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 Vallet at 7:49 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.

Chairman Jewell called on the following who registered to speak: Mack Johnson, Onis Smith, Sr., and Lexie Mendoza. Before they speak, Councilman Smith wants everyone to know that the Parish Council has no say in this matter. Chairman Jewell stated this was discussed with legal advisors during the Executive Session and the Council does not have any legal obligations regarding IPRD's personnel.

- Mr. Mack Johnson is a former volunteer coach for the IPRD Renegades football team. He stated the coaches got the kids to the Superbowl and once the season ended he was told that the volunteer coaches' services were no longer needed. He wants to know why they can't coach anymore. Chairman Jewell stated the Council will reach out to the Administration to get feedback on why they were no longer needed. Councilman Dominique said that President Ourso stated in the Executive Session he would welcome anyone to come and talk to him in his office about this.
- Mr. Onis Smith, Sr. has been a volunteer coach for 4 years. He started coaching his son, then continued volunteering coaching. He stated he was black balled and suspended from coaching. He spoke to IPRD Director Willis and he stated it was due to a personnel issue with another coach. He wants to know why he can't coach anymore. He stated he has been a resident of Iberville Parish all of his life. Councilman Dominique asked if the coaches could receive guidelines and expectation from IPRD, and he thinks that if the coach doesn't abide by the guidelines then they should be removed. Mr. Onis Smith, Sr. stated Josh Johnson should be running the program instead of Director Willis.

Councilwoman Allen asked if they were aware of the water break guidelines for the kids, and he stated yes.

- Ms. Lexie Mendoza is a resident of Iberville Parish. She was the volunteer sports medic for the Renegades football team and also the basketball team. She was informed before the playoffs that the coaches would not be asked back because they did not meet Director Willis' expectations. She stated the allegations of the coaches not giving water breaks were false. She stated she insured that the kids had ice, water, and a tub to dunk them in case of heat exhaustion. She said out of the whole season a handful of boys were sent to the emergency room due to heat exhaustion or for other reasons. She stated her son played and even when her son wasn't playing she was volunteering on the sidelines. She stated parents are pulling their kids from IPRD and going out of the district. She stated we are losing valuable players in the future, and also coaches.

Legal Counsel, Scott Stassi stated he is the attorney for the Council. He emphasized the Council and President Ourso are responsible for the safety of the children in these programs.

#### BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORT

None.

#### DISCUSSIONS

- A) Discuss Act No. 61 regarding the creation of the Iberville Parish Parks and Recreation District
- This agenda item was discussed during the executive session.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Markins, and seconded by Councilwoman Easley, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER  
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN