

**IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019**

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 19th day of March, 2019.

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: Warren Taylor, District 1; Mitchel J. Ourso, Sr.; District 2; Thomas E. Dominique, Sr., District 3; Leonard Jackson, Sr., District 4; Steve C. Smith District 5; Ty J. Arnold, District 7; Hunter S. Markins, District 8; Louis R. Kelley, Jr., District 10; Timothy J. Vallet, District 11; Matthew H. Jewell, District 12; Bart B. Morgan, District 13.

Absent: Courtney P. Lewis, District 6; Terry J. Bradford, District 9.

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

A quorum was present and due notice had been published on the 14th day of March, 2019. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A moment of silence was held for Councilwoman Lewis' mother, Gisele Pierce.

Council Chairman Jewell called for anyone wanting to make public comments to register with the Clerk. No one registered to speak.

ADDENDUM

- A) Resolution to contract with Redistricting, LLC to conduct the process of Reapportionment of the Iberville Parish Council upon receiving the official publication of the U.S. Census Report for Iberville Parish, Louisiana
- This agenda item was passed on.

PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- A) Proclaiming April 2019 as Autism Awareness Month in Iberville Parish
- Chairman Jewell read aloud a proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Autism Awareness Month in Iberville Parish.
 - Ms. Teresa Harlan, representing Families Helping Families came before the Council to accept the proclamation and speak. Ms. Harlan stated their 10th Annual Active for Autism 5K Run/Walk & Fun Fest to help bring awareness of Autism will be on April 27, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.
 - Ms. Sharese Morton, a resident of Iberville Parish, who is also representing Families Helping Families came before the Council to speak about her son with autism, and how Families Helping Families has tremendously helped her and her family.

- A picture was taken for the newspaper.
- B) Proclamation expressing condolences for Gerald Emile “J” Trent
- President Ourso read aloud a Resolution of Condolence to the family of the late Gerald “J” Trent.
 - Mrs. Eunice Trent, wife of the late Gerald Trent, thanked the Parish President, Parish Council, and Mr. Randy Ware for recognizing her late husband.
 - A picture was taken for the newspaper.
- C) Requesting action to be taken to provide a location on the East Bank of Iberville Parish to allow for in person early voting for all future elections- Mr. Isaac Jackson, Jr.
- Mr. Isaac “Ike” Jackson, Jr. came before the Council to speak. Mr. Jackson, representing the Iberville Democratic Parish Executive Committee (IDPEC) formally requests that the Parish Council take action to provide a location to allow for in person early voting in East Iberville.
 - Chairman Jewell stated the Council will take this under advisement, and are currently waiting on more information from the Secretary of State’s Office, then a presentation will be held by the Registrar of Voters, Ms. Melissa Bourgoyne.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Councilman Taylor, and seconded by Councilman Arnold, it was moved to wave the reading of the minutes of February 26, 2019 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: Taylor, Ourso, Dominique, Jackson, Smith, Arnold, Markins, Kelley, Vallet, Morgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Lewis, Bradford.

The motion was declared adopted by the Chairman.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Ourso reported on the following:

- President Ourso stated pictures were presented to the Council on the following items of the President’s Report.
- The 150 ft. American flag will be raised in the next 20-30 days at the Ochsner Medical Facility. The flag pole’s base has been poured.
- The 750,000 gallon water storage tank’s base has also been poured for Water District No. 3.
- Pictures of the rifle range show the archery base, rifle base, and pistol base.
- The drainage improvement project on Hebert Street in District 6 has been finalized.
- The next picture is of the walking / bike path along Enterprise Boulevard. The State funded 98% of the bike path. Forte and Tablada performed the final inspection last week.

- The Plaquemine Boat Landing across from the Parish jail, was shut down on Monday. This project is expected to take four months, and was funded by the State. President Ourso thanked Senator Ward, III and Representative Brown for their efforts on this project.
- The Parish's Pet Awareness Event will be on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Mike Zito Multi-Purpose Center.
- The \$2.3 to \$2.5 million road maintenance program will make improvements to 35-40 roads. The Parish's Facebook page listed the roads that will receive improvements.

Chairman Jewell said he was looking at the utility poles along Enterprise Boulevard, and he asked if some of the poles were for Entergy, and some for the City. President Ourso stated the Parish granted Entergy the right of way to allow them to install the poles.

Councilman Markins asked about the status of the old shopping center behind Goodyear Tire. President Ourso stated it was sold to a businessman from Baton Rouge. President Ourso stated Saurage Realtors bought the property that was condemned, and will begin taking the building down on Monday, with the exception of the Goodyear Tire building and Tom's Seafood.

President Ourso is also talking to the owner of the former Mike's bar about cleaning up that building as well.

President Ourso stated he has been a lifelong Democrat for 47 years, and he is taken aback by the letterhead on the letter submitted by Mr. Isaac Jackson, Jr. on behalf of the Iberville Democratic Parish Executive Committee in which two members were not listed. Mr. Edward Songy, Jr. and Mr. Jessel Ourso, III were both elected to this Committee and sworn in by the Honorable Judge Alvin Batiste, and both were exempted from the letterhead as Committee members. The letter submitted by Mr. Isaac Jackson, Jr. on behalf of the Iberville Democratic Parish Executive Committee requests that the Parish Council take action to provide a location to allow for in person early voting in East Iberville. This letter was addressed to the Parish Council, and President Ourso takes exception to this letter that exempted two Committee members from the letterhead.

Legal Counsel, Scott Stassi came forward and read aloud Revised Statute 18:1309.2 regarding early voting. He also read aloud how to petition for a mail in ballot. Mr. Stassi stated the Council is not the body to move this forward, it would be between the Secretary of State's Office and the Registrar of Voters Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Randall Dunn stated the Financial statements were mailed out. The Finance Department is currently working on the annual audit. There were no questions from the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Vallet, and seconded by the Council to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. The motion was unanimously adopted.

/s/ KIRSHA D. BARKER
COUNCIL CLERK

/s/ MATTHEW H. JEWELL
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN