

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
March 10, 2020**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the Courthouse Annex in the Parish Council Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Boudreaux called the meeting to order and directed Council Clerk Gerrie Martin to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Jimmie Gaspard, Edwin Soulier, Sidney LaCoste, Charles Watkins, Kurt Jarreau, Edward Bazile, Paul Bergeron and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020 MEETING

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of February 11, 2020 regular meeting of the Parish Council be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Gaspard:

RESOLVED, That the agenda be amended for inclusion of the following:

- Proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bergeron, Bazile, Jarreau, Watkins, Soulier, LaCoste, Gaspard and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 8-0-0, the motion carried.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AWARD TO JOHN LINDSLY

Parish President Major Thibaut presented a plaque and employee anniversary service award to employee John Lindsly for 25 years of dedicated service.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 28, 2020 AS BLINDED VETERANS DAY

Mr. Gary Schoelerman of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) thanked the council for honoring their request and the blind/low vision veterans in their areas and the BVA for considering a proclamation declaring March 28, 2020, as "National Blinded Veterans Day" and the 75th anniversary of the BVA.

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

**PROCLAMATION
BLINDED VETERANS DAY**

WHEREAS, from the early beginnings, the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) members demonstrated to all veterans with visual impairments how to take their rightful place in the community creating a world built upon equality; and

WHEREAS, BVA, after 75 years still continues to advocate for veterans with combat

related, accidental or age-related vision impairments to regain independence, confidence and self-esteem through rehabilitation, training and assisting their fellow veterans with visual impairments; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the goals and ideals of BVA should be supported by citizens everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana/Mississippi affiliate of the Blinded Veterans Association is dedicated to improving blind rehabilitation services, education and benefits for blinded veterans throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, many Americans recognize March 28 of each year as Blinded Veterans Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Parish of Pointe Coupee and the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim **March 28, 2020** as **BLINDED VETERANS DAY** and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the BVA in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

**PROCLAMATION
AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH**

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross has touched many lives in Pointe Coupee Parish, as well as across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, during American Red Cross Month, we thank those who contribute to the mission of the Red Cross, whether through time, money or blood, and we invite others to support the Red Cross in helping people in need down the street, across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing so for more than 130 years. Throughout the past year, the American Red Cross launched hundreds of disaster relief operations in the United States to help people affected by fires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. The American Red Cross also supported major international disasters, including the Japan earthquake and tsunami response, while continuing its work on the 2010 Haiti earthquake response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, in Pointe Coupee Parish, the Red Cross works tirelessly through its employees and volunteers to support us when disaster strikes, when someone needs life-saving blood, or the comfort of a helping hand. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety and first aid; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 100 years, United States presidents have called on the American people to support the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission. Our community depends on the American Red Cross and because it is not a government agency, the Red Cross depends on support from the public to continue its humanitarian work. This is especially important in these challenging economic times - which impact the Red Cross and many people in our community and across the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Parish of Pointe Coupee and the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the month of **March 2020**, as **AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH** and do hereby urge all Americans to support

this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Motion by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

**PROCLAMATION
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation;

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation;

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS, American women have served our country courageously in the military;

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council do hereby proclaim the month of **March 2020**, as **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish and encourage all citizens of this parish to observe with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Unanimously carried.

POINTE COUPEE SCHOOL BOARD MILLAGE TAX PROPOSITION

Superintendent Kim Canezaro gave an overview of the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board proposed millage tax proposition that will appear on the May 9th election ballot. She reported on the need for the 9.5 mills, which 4.5 mills will fund salary adjustments and 5 mills will fund operations that will include transportation, maintenance, technology and infrastructure for the schools. In closing, she asked councilmembers for their support of the millage tax.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Thibaut gave updates on the finances including sales tax and utilities collections; employment of Mark Jarreau as the new Heavy Equipment Operator and Stacy McKnight as the new Animal Services Manager; and effective April 1, 2020, the parish will be the new operators of the Pointe Coupee Animal Shelter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN INTRODUCED PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTERS 10 THROUGH 16, TO ACCOUNT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CHARTER, AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO, AND THEREAFTER, DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION

A hearing to obtain public input to a proposed ordinance to make changes to the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapters 10 through 16, to account for the implementation of the Pointe Coupee Parish Charter, and further providing with respect thereto was conducted at 5:55 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

There were no objections received orally or written to the ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Jarreau and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

RESOLVED, That a proposed ordinance to make changes to the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapters 10 through 16, to account for the implementation of the Pointe Coupee Parish Charter, and further providing with respect thereto be adopted by the Pointe Coupee Parish Council.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Gaspard, LaCoste, Soulier, Watkins, Jarreau, Bazile, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 8-0-0, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN INTRODUCED PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO AMEND AND RE-ORDAIN THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL MANUAL TO INCLUDE SECTION 6.10: REQUEST FOR PAID TIME OFF, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS, AND THEREAFTER, DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION

A hearing to obtain public input to a proposed ordinance to amend the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances relative to amend and re-ordain the Pointe Coupee Parish Government Personnel Manual to include Section 6.10: Request for paid time off, and to provide for related matters was conducted at 5:56 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

There were no objections received orally or written to the ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. LaCoste:

RESOLVED, That a proposed ordinance to amend the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances relative to amend and re-ordain the Pointe Coupee Parish Government Personnel Manual to include Section 6.10: Request for paid time off, and to provide for related matters be adopted by the Pointe Coupee Parish Council.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bergeron, Bazile, Jarreau, Watkins, Soulier, LaCoste, Gaspard and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 8-0-0, the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM PLANNING COMMISSION:

APPROVAL OF PLAT SHOWING THE SUBDIVISION OF A 140' X 420' LOT INTO LOT A & LOT B (ST. MAURICE PLANTATION) LOCATED OFF LA HWY. 1 AT NEW ROADS, IN SECTION 6, T4S & R10E FOR LOUIS S. LOUPE

Motion by Mr. LaCoste and seconded by Mr. Bergeron:

RESOLVED, That upon the recommendations of the Planning Commission and Parish Sanitarian Carl Whittington, a plat showing the subdivision of a 140' x 420' Lot into Lot A and Lot B (St. Maurice Plantation) located off of LA Highway 1 at New Roads in Section 6, T4S & R10E for Louis S. Loupe be approved.

Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION(S):

APPROVE UP TO A \$50 BOUNTY MAY BE PLACED ON BEAVERS IN THE PARISH & REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT LIMITING 10 BEAVER TAILS PER TRAPPER

Motion by Mr. Gaspard and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That up to a \$50 bounty may be placed on beavers in the parish, and the requirement limiting 10 beaver tails per trapper be removed.

Unanimously carried.

ADOPT THE LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE 2019 AUDIT

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire with the LA Legislative Auditor for the Pointe Coupee Parish Government 2019 Audit Engagement be adopted.

Unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE TOURIST COMMISSION

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Watkins:

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Valery Dukes, nominated by the Pointe Parish School Board, be appointed to serve as a member of the Pointe Coupee Parish Tourist Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Nora Palmer.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jarreau and seconded by Mr. LaCoste:

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Roye Chenevert, nominated by the Pointe Parish Library Board of Control, be appointed to serve as a member of the Pointe Coupee Parish Tourist Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Nora Palmer.

Councilman Jarreau extended thanks to the family of Mrs. Nora Palmer, who passed away, for her support as a member of the Tourist Commission.

Councilman Jarreau voiced concerns about six of the seven members of the commission residing in New Roads, and that the members should represent all areas of the parish. He stated the new appointment of a nominee of the Tourist Commission (Mrs. Roye Chenevert) should come from another area of the parish besides New Roads.

Councilman Bergeron recommended Mrs. Betty Fontaine, who would be a great asset as a member of the commission and have an impact on economic development for the parish. He reported

she has experience with planning and generating enormous funds for the City of New Roads Harvest Festival, Market at the Mill, Fourth of July Boat Parade and Christmas events.

Chairman Boudreaux reported he spoke with Mrs. Fontaine, who contacted him, about serving on the commission. He commented on wanting to speak with the other nominees about their intentions, but was unsuccessful because no contact information was submitted in their letters.

Councilman Bazile suggested amending the ordinance to have an eight-member Tourist Commission with one member from each of the councilman districts. After discussion, the council will discuss this matter at their next Executive Committee meeting.

Parish President Thibaut agreed to research the creation and structure of Tourist Commissions in other parishes for review by the councilmembers.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Jarreau.

NAYS: Messrs. Gaspard, LaCoste, Soulier, Watkins, Bazile, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 1-7-0, the motion failed.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the original motion that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bazile, Watkins and LaCoste.

NAYS: Messrs. Bergeron, Jarreau, Soulier, Gaspard and Boudreaux.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 3-5-0, the motion failed.

Motion by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Betty Fontaine, nominated by the Centre for the Arts, be appointed to serve as a member of the Pointe Coupee Parish Tourist Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Nora Palmer.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Gaspard, Soulier, Jarreau, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: Messrs. LaCoste, Watkins and Bazile.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 5-3-0, the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CAPITAL REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

Motion by Mr. Gaspard and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

RESOLVED, That Messrs. Paul Bergeron, Kurt Jarreau and Wade O'Neal be appointed to serve as commissioners of the Capital Region Planning Commission as representatives from Pointe Coupee Parish, along with Parish President Major Thibaut.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Chairman Boudreaux announced the Executive Committee meeting will be held March 24, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Bazile, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman