

MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
April 14, 2020

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2020 via video conferencing.

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

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

ABSENT: Messrs. Jimmie Gaspard and Charles Watkins.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2020 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of March 10, 2020 regular meeting of the Parish Council be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

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

YEAS: Messrs. LaCoste, Soulier, Bazile, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Gaspard, Watkins and Jarreau.

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

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

PROCLAMATION
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong developmental difference, associated with significant alteration of an individual's ability to learn in the same way as others, which may include differences in social behaviors and communication; and

WHEREAS, autism, also known as autism spectrum disorders, affects people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status or geography; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of autism in the United States is 1 in 59 according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and few members of the general public understand this complex syndrome; and

WHEREAS, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential, and accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and interventions, as well as community acceptance and accommodations, are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex set of differences that requires increased research to one day better understand it; and

WHEREAS, the greater recognition and understanding of autism can ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2020 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to reach out to the Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge for support and to bring awareness of autism.

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

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

NAYS: Messrs. Watkins and Gaspard.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 6-0-2, the motion carried.

PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Parish President Thibaut gave an overview of the coronavirus in the parish reporting there were 49 confirmed cases, four confirmed deaths, 250 people have been tested, approximately 75 outstanding tests, and 10-15 people are being tested daily. The main office is closed to the public with limited staff working in the office & others working from home; the public is allowed access via email or telephone, and use of the drop box to submit any payments to the office; the Public Works Department is still operational with social distancing plan in place for employees and the public. He signed a proclamation authorizing the Planning and Zoning Commission President and Vice President to sign and approve plats without having a meeting, due to the social distancing guidelines. He gave an overview of the finances including sales tax and utilities collections, which reflect the months of December – February, and collections from March will show the affect the Covid-19 will have on the parish financially. There are three employees retiring in 2020; the cost of living salary adjustments for employees, and hiring of new employees have been postponed; purchases of large items have been suspended; and the litter abatement program has been suspended. In closing, he responded to questions from councilmembers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Council Clerk Martin read a public comment statement received via email from Dr. Marianne Fairchild of Veterinary Medicine regarding agenda item No. 9 relative to a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Parish Code of Ordinances relative to animals and fowl in the parish that is being introduced at the meeting. Dr. Fairchild proposed the parish adopt a three-year rabies vaccination and purchase of rabies tags for dogs in the parish.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO ANIMALS AND FOWL IN THE PARISH. (PUBLIC HEARING MAY 12, 2020)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances relative to animals and fowl in the parish, and further providing with respect thereto has been introduced before the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, and that a public hearing will be held relative thereto at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, after which said ordinance may be considered for adoption. All interested persons are urged to attend.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO SUBDIVISION IN THE PARISH. (PUBLIC HEARING MAY 12, 2020)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances relative to subdivision in the parish, and further providing with respect thereto has been introduced before the Pointe Coupee Parish Council,

and that a public hearing will be held relative thereto at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, after which said ordinance may be considered for adoption. All interested persons are urged to attend.

RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

APPROVAL OF PLAT SHOWING THE SUBDIVISION OF TRACT E-2-A-1 INTO TRACT E-2-A-1-A & Tract E-2-A-1-B OF THE ROBERT RICE SMITH TRACT LOCATED OFF OF LA HIGHWAY 418 AT LETTSWORTH IN SECTION 59, T2S & R7E FOR JOSEPH W. MCHAND, JR.

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

RESOLVED, That upon the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Parish Sanitarian Carl Whittington, a plat showing the subdivision of Tract E-2-A-1 into Tract E-2-A-1-A & Tract E-3-A-1-B of the Robert Rice Smith Tract located off of LA Highway 418 at Lettsworth in Section 59, T2S & R7E for Joseph W. McHand, Jr. be approved.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Gaspard and Watkins.

On a vote of 6-0-2, the motion carried.

RESOLUTION(S):

REAPPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE ATCHAFALAYA TRACE COMMISSION

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

RESOLVED, That Mr. Jens “J.A.” Rummler be reappointed to serve as a member of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission for a three-year term.

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

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

NAYS: Messrs. Watkins and Gaspard.

ABSENT: None.

On a vote of 6-0-2, the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Chairman Boudreaux urged all citizens to complete their 2020 census form either by the mail, online or telephone. He explained the importance of being counted and submitting the form that will determine the amount of federal funding the parish receives and political representation needed in the future.

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Soulier, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman