

MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
February 9, 2021

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 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, Kurt Jarreau, Edward Bazile, Charles Watkins, Paul Bergeron and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 12, 2021 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. Boudreaux and seconded by Mr. LaCoste:

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

- Introduction of an ordinance to amend Chapter 26, pertaining to Mobile Home Regulations.

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.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AWARDS TO GERRIE MARTIN, LANA RAMAGOS, RONELL ROUBIQUE & LINETTE PASCALIN

Parish President Major Thibaut presented employee anniversary service awards to employees Lana Ramagos 30 years, Ronell Roubique 20 years and Linette Pascalin 15 years of dedicated service.

Chairman Boudreaux presented an employee anniversary service award to employee Gerrie Martin for 40 years of dedicated service.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Thibaut gave updates on the finances including the sales tax and gas collections; positions available for an equipment operator (tractor driver) and a part-time animal services assistant, cross training of employees, and changes in responsibilities and duties for various staff employees; and an application submitted for a LA Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus HVAC Improvements Program for the Detention Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. George LaCour of Pointe Coupee Farm Bureau commented on the proposed development of a solar farm in the parish and questioned what economic benefits it will bring to the parish.

Chairman Boudreaux announced this is only an introduction of the ordinance, and the public can voice their concerns about the ordinance at a committee meeting in two weeks or the council meeting in March.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 25-4 OF CHAPTER 25 OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR MOBILE HOME PARKS (PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 9, 2021)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend Section 25-4 of Chapter 25 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, pertaining to minimum standards for Mobile Home Parks 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, March 9, 2021 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.

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ENACT CHAPTER 26 OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO SOLAR FARMS (RENEWABLE ENERGY) IN THE PARISH (PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 9, 2021)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to enact Chapter 26 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, pertaining to Solar Farms (renewable energy) in the parish 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, March 9, 2021 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.

In regards to Mr. LaCour’s comments, Chairman Boudreaux stated there were more options besides the Louisiana Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) incentives for developing solar farms in the parish.

In response to Mr. LaCour’s comments, President Thibaut briefly addressed the purpose of the proposed ordinance pertaining to developing and regulating solar farms in the parish.

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 25-1 (B) OF CHAPTER 25 OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO DEFINITIONS FOR MOBILE HOME REGULATIONS (PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 9, 2021)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend Section 25-1 (B) of Chapter 25 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, pertaining to definitions for Mobile Home Regulations 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, March 9, 2021 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.

RESOLUTIONS:

PC PARISH COUNCIL 2020 REAPPORTIONMENT - DISCUSSION OF TIMELINES AND CRITERIA, AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM GEOGRAPHIC PLANNING & DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES, LLC

Mr. Mike Hefner of Geographic Planning & Demographic Services, LLC gave an overview of the timelines and criteria for the 2020 reapportionment of the parish council, which their election will be held October 14, 2023. In closing, Mr. Hefner presented a proposal to perform this service for approval of the council.

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

WHEREAS, That the proposal in the amount of \$25,500.00 submitted by Geographic Planning & Demographic Services, LLC for professional services for the 2020 reapportionment of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FOR LA MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS PURCHASING & DISTRIBUTION AUTHORITY

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

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO REPRESENT THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION AUTHORITY AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 10-B OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950.

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government, State of Louisiana, has previously become a member of the Authority in accordance with the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4546.2 of the Act, the governing authority of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, State of Louisiana, desires to approve the appointment of Mr. Daryl Pritchard to serve as an alternate Director of the Authority to act in the absence of Director Nathan Cobb: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the governing authority of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, State of Louisiana, acting in such capacity:

SECTION 1. That, pursuant to the Act, the appointment of Mr. Daryl Pritchard to serve as an alternate Director of the Authority, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. John Lindsly, to act in the absence of the director is approved.

SECTION 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZING PARISH GOVERNMENT TO USE PARISH FUNDS FOR ENGINEERING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE LA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CORONAVIRUS (LCDBG -CV) HVAC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

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

TO HIRE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO THE LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CORONAVIRUS (LCDBG – CV) HVAC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Pointe Coupee Parish Government certifies that it will pay all of the engineering costs associated with the implementation of the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant

Coronavirus (LCDBG-CV) HVAC Improvements Program. These costs will include, but not be limited to basic design, resident inspection, topographic

and/or property surveying, testing, staking, etc. Payment for these services shall be in accordance with the Parish’s contract for professional services.

WHEREAS, design fees will be approved on a cost reimbursement basis only and will be based on the percentage of the estimated construction cost in accordance with the Engineering Fee Schedules for the LCDBG Program. These fees shall not exceed the maximum allowable fees for such services allowed under the Louisiana Community

Development Block Grant Program for professional engineering services that would otherwise be paid directly by the Office of Community Development. Design fees shall be paid in connection with aforementioned application, *in the event that the grant is funded*: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the engineering firm chosen for the LCDBG-CV HVAC Improvements Program shall be David Bonaventure of Salas O’Brien.

Unanimously carried.

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

TO HIRE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT FOR THE POINTE
COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO THE
LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
CORONAVIRUS (LCDBG – CV) HVAC IMPROVEMENTS
PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Pointe Coupee Parish Government intends to participate in the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (LCDBG-CV) HVAC Improvements Program, and

WHEREAS, the Parish certifies that it will pay all of the administrative costs associated with the implementation of the HVAC Improvements Program; such costs will include, but not be limited to application preparation fees, audit fees, advertising and publication fees, local staff time, workshop expenses, and/or administrative consultant fees. These fees shall not exceed the maximum allowable fees for such services allowed by the LCDBG-CV program for professional administrative services that should otherwise be paid directly by the Office of Community Development.

WHEREAS, The amount of the administration fees will be determined on the total cost of the grant with a minimum of \$30,000 to \$100,000 maximum. Payment for these services shall be in accordance with the Parish’s contract with the administrative consultant. Grant administration fees shall be paid in connection with aforementioned application, *in the event that the grant is funded*: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the administrative consultant selected to administer the LCDBG-CV HVAC Improvements Program shall be Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation.

Unanimously carried.

SUPPORT THE UPPER TERREBONNE BASIN WATERSHED PROJECT & FUNDING THROUGH LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE

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

A resolution expressing support for the Upper Terrebonne Basin Watershed Project and support for funding the project through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI).

WHEREAS, the Upper Delta Soil and Water Conservation District (UDSWC) has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to determine whether or not a federal action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Delta Soil and Water Conservation District (UDSWC) is in the final stages of completion of the Upper Terrebonne Basin Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) Document to obtain a Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to proceed to engineering, design, and construction of the Upper Terrebonne Basin Drainage Improvements project; and

WHEREAS, Pointe Coupee Parish will directly benefit from the Upper Terrebonne Basin Drainage Improvements project, which will mitigate flood risk to existing residential, commercial, and industrial development, critical infrastructure, historic sites, schools, and public facilities, reduce agricultural losses, reduce insurance and public health and safety claims, reduce public works maintenance and repairs to drainage channels and structures, and enhance water quality, aquatic habitat and recreational fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated federal funding to be administered by LWI presents an opportunity to fund major features of this critical, regional project; and

WHEREAS, Pointe Coupee Parish is within Region 6 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) regions: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council do hereby express their support for the Upper Terrebonne Basin Drainage Improvements project and urge both the LWI Region 6 Steering Committee and the Louisiana Council on Watershed Management to provide funding for the project.

Unanimously carried.

SPECIAL MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL:

DISCUSSION OF USING EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS BY THE PARISH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Richard LeBlanc of 3701 Oakland Road, Lakeland voiced concerns about the Public Works Department use of explosive devices in residential areas and behind their residence to dispose of beaver dams.

Chairman Boudreaux commented on the use of explosive devices throughout the parish to remove beaver dams.

Public Works Director Nathan Cobb gave an explanation about the use of explosive devices throughout the parish to remove beaver dams that are impeding drainage, which is legal and does not violate any local or state laws. He reported the explosives are used in the event equipment cannot reach the dams.

President Thibaut commented and agreed with PWD Cobb on this matter, and suggested scheduling a meeting with Mr. & Mrs. LeBlanc to review alternatives other than explosives to remove the beaver dams behind their residence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Chairman Boudreaux announced the closures of the parish office February 15 & 16, 2021 in observance of President Day and Mardi Gras Holidays. He read a certificate of thanks from The United States Census Bureau recognizing the Pointe Coupee Parish Council as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program and helping achieve a successful 2020 Census.

President Thibaut announced USDA will host two (2) food distribution sites in Livonia and Morganza.

Councilman Bazile announced Pointe Coupee Community Advancement will be hosting and distributing food throughout the parish, and asking assistance from the council and school board members to designate pick up locations within their districts for citizens to collect the food. He also, announced that Pointe Coupee Community Advancement received funds to assist the residents affected by COVID-19 with specific needs such as utilities, etc.

Motion by Mr. Gaspard and seconded by Mr. Bergeron, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman