

MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
September 14, 2021

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 14, 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, Sidney LaCoste, Edwin Soulier, Charles Watkins, Kurt Jarreau, Edward Bazile, Paul Bergeron and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 10 & 24, 2021 MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of August 10, 2021 regular meeting and August 24, 2021 special meeting of the Parish Council be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO FAMILY OF LATE ELLIOTT BIZETTE, JR. FOR SIX YEARS OF SERVICE AS CONSTABLE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DISTRICT 6

Parish President Major Thibaut presented a Certificate of Recognition to the family of the late Mr. Elliott Bizette, Jr. for six years of service as Constable, Justice of the Peace District 6.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO FAMILY OF THE LATE CONSTABLE ELLIOTT BIZETTE, JR.

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

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom has called to his eternal reward Mr. Elliott Joseph Bizette, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elliott Joseph Bizette, Jr. was a native and resident of Lakeland and Pointe Coupee Parish for 68 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bizette served as Constable, Justice of the Peace District 6, Parish of Pointe Coupee from January 1, 2015 through August 19, 2021 for six years; and

WHEREAS, his presence will be sadly missed by his family and friends: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Pointe Coupee Parish Council does and hereby offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Mr. Elliott Joseph Bizette, Jr. and this resolution of sympathy in the loss of their loved one.

Unanimously carried.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Thibaut gave updates on the finances, including sales tax & gas collections; completion of the collection of storm debris in the parish; information about the blue roof program;

and drawdown of False River.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

APPROVAL OF A MAP SHOWING THE FINAL PLAT OF HARVEST VIEW SUBDIVISION LOTS 1 THRU 16 BEING A PORTION OF TRACT C-4-A-3-A LOCATED OFF OF LA HWY. 978 AT OSCAR IN SECTIONS 67 & 84, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH & RANGE 10 EAST FOR POINTE PROSPECT, LLC

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

RESOLVED, That upon the recommendation of the Pointe Coupee Parish Planning & Zoning Commission, a map showing the final plat of Harvest View Subdivision Lots 1 thru 16 being a portion of Tract C-4-A-3-A located off of LA Highway 978 at Oscar in Sections 67 & 84, Township 5 South & Range 10 East for Pointe Prospect, LLC be approved.

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 AND REENACT CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE III OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO DERELICT STRUCTURES, AND THEREAFTER, DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION

A hearing to obtain public input to a proposed ordinance to amend and reenact Chapter 16, Article III of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to derelict structures, and further provide with respect thereto was conducted at 5:42 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2021 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. Soulier:

RESOLVED, That a proposed ordinance to amend and reenact Chapter 16, Article III of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to derelict structures, and further provide 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. Bergeron, Bazile, Jarreau, Watkins, Soulier, LaCoste, Gaspard and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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

BOARD OF REVIEW FOR ASSESSMENT

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met at 5:44 p.m. as a Board of Review to hear complaints and/or protests as to the value of property for parish assessment purposes.

Attorney Angela W. Adolph of Kean, Miller, LLP reported on the Notice of Appeal form Request form filed by Louisiana Generating, LLC’s Big Cajun II (Cleco Corporation) requesting the assessment on their property be reduced.

Parish Assessor James “Jimmy” Laurent, Jr. gave an overview of the assessment of Louisiana Generating, LLC’s Big Cajun II property. He reported that the industrial tax exempt program contracts were available for review at the meeting, and are being introduced as evidence for this appeal. He presented and reviewed with the council a Value Consulting Report of Cleco Corporation’s Louisiana Generating, LLC, Big Cajun II – Unit #1, Unit #2 and 58% of Unit #3 at New Roads he had prepared by Hartman Consultants, LLC. This is also being introduced as evidence for this appeal.

After further discussion, the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That the appraisal of assessment of properties, rules and regulations in the parish as presented by the Assessor be accepted.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 25, OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO ADOPT REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS; RECREATIONAL VEHICLES OUTSIDE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS (PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 12, 2021)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 25, of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, to adopt regulations with regard to recreational vehicle parks; recreational vehicles outside of recreational vehicle parks, and otherwise provide 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, October 12, 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:

SUPPORT OF RESUMING FEDERAL OFFSHORE LEASING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

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

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESUMING FEDERAL OFFSHORE LEASING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program, since its authorization by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), has provided significant energy to help fuel the great economy of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program, has been very effective in helping America achieve energy security and strengthening our National Security; and

WHEREAS, the offshore industry and government have collaborated with groups such as the Coastal Conservation Association to create innovative ways to find beneficial cooperation such as the Rigs-to-Reef Program, which benefits the recreational fishing community by repurposing obsolete structures of which nearly 600 reefed platforms in the

United States Gulf of Mexico are home to almost seven million fish and other critical marine species, enriching marine life; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program is responsible for helping to create hundreds of thousands of jobs with a significant economic impact and has generated hundreds of billions in royalty revenue for the United States Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 2020 permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year with wide bipartisan support. Relying solely on earnings from federal offshore oil and gas leasing, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has funded more than \$4 billion worth of projects since its inception in 1965 for purposes of conservation, recreation, restoration and protection of vital national resources; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, more than \$1 billion, funded exclusively by federal offshore lease revenues, has been disbursed to four Gulf energy-producing states through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to support coastal conservation and restoration projects; hurricane protection programs; and activities to implement marine coastal or conservation management plans; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent conservation legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, the United States Congress set aside up to \$1.9 billion a year from federal offshore lease revenues for the next five years to repair facilities and infrastructure in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and American Indian Schools; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the funding of these conservation, recreation, restoration and protection efforts that the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program continues; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program has been managed in such a way that it is recognized as an environmentally advantaged energy producer with approximately half (53%) of the carbon intensity per barrel of other producing regions worldwide, and

WHEREAS, United States of America Offshore Energy represents a significant opportunity to help improve the health of our planet due to its low carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden and Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland have caused regularly scheduled lease sales for offshore resources, previously authorized by administrations of both political parties, to be canceled resulting in great uncertainty for the economy, the energy, and the environment of America; and

WHEREAS, Terry A. Doughty of the United States District Court recently decided in a suit filed by the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia that the Executive Branch does not have the legal right to stop leasing Federal territory for Oil and Gas production without approval from Congress; and

WHEREAS, the future production of these oil and gas resources and consequently the funding of conservation, recreation, restoration and protection and further consequently the denial of environmentally advantaged, low carbon intensity barrels of production as a substitution for higher carbon intensity barrels of production from foreign sources; all will be negatively impacted by the continued cancellation of offshore lease sales.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pointe Coupee Parish Council meeting on September 14, 2021, petitions President Biden and Secretary Haaland to immediately schedule Lease Sales for the Gulf of Mexico, a historic energy producing province, to assist in producing a larger portfolio of some of the planet's lowest carbon intensity barrels of oil and to assist in producing a larger portfolio of natural gas which can serve the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) worldwide market; all in an effort to restore confidence, generate

economic activity, enhance environmental stewardship, create American jobs, and strengthen national and energy security.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Biden, Secretary Haaland, members of the United States Congress, the City and Parish governing authorities within the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Police Jury Association, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the National Association of Counties.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO SIGN A GRANT APPLICATION WITH LA DOTD FOR THE COUNCIL ON AGING TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

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

Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a grant under 49 CFR 5311, Formula Grant for Rural Areas and/or 49 CFR 5339, Grants for Bus and Bus Facility Program.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation and Development is authorized to make grants for mass transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, including the provisions by it of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in accord with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U. S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that minority business enterprise be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and the definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority businesses shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment, or consultant and other services: Therefore be it

RESOLVED by Pointe Coupee Parish Government:

1. That the Parish President is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Pointe Coupee Parish Government with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, to aid in the financing of operating and/or capital assistance projects pursuant to the FTA transit programs.
2. That the Parish President is authorized to execute and file with such applications an assurance or any other document required by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development effectuating the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.
3. That the Parish President is authorized to furnish such additional information as the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development may require in connection with the application or financial reimbursement of the project.
4. That the Parish President is authorized to set forth and execute affirmative minority business policies in connection with the project's procurement needs.
5. That the Parish President is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of Pointe Coupee Parish Government with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for aid in the financing of the operating or capital assistance projects.

6. This resolution is applicable for a period of one year unless revoked by the governing body and copy of such revocation shall be furnished to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

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

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OF LOUISIANA OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post those bridges under the authority of Pointe Coupee Parish in accordance with those Standards as delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Pointe Coupee Parish: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the governing authority of Pointe Coupee Parish (herein referred to as the Parish) that the Parish in regular meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for the period 1 October 2021 through 30 September 2022:

1. The Parish has performed all interim inspections on all parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.
2. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish have been structurally analyzed and rated by the Parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the LA DOTD for all bridges where the maximum legal load under the operating rating as determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural ratings.
3. All Parish owned or maintained bridges which required load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manual Directive No. 1.1.1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting.
4. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Correction to data supplies to the Parish by the LA DOTD are noted.

These stipulations are prerequisites to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Chairman Boudreaux announced a joint meeting/reapportionment workshop with the council and school board tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex 2 building.

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Soulier the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman