

**MINUTES**  
**POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 25, 2022**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council Executive Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at the Courthouse Annex in the Parish Council Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Boudreaux called the meeting to order and directed Executive Assistant Jeanne Hendrix 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.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2021 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of November 23, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments on agenda items.

DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE IV OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO CREATING AND REESTABLISHING A SINGLE CONSOLIDATED BOARD TO SERVE AS THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY FOR EACH OF THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS IN EXISTENCE AND IN THE FUTURE CREATED IN POINTE COUPEE PARISH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LRS 40:1504

Chairman Boudreaux clarified the meaning and purpose of the proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 9, Article IV of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to creating and reestablishing a single consolidated board to serve as the governing authority for each of the fire protection districts in existence and in the future created in Pointe Coupee Parish, in accordance with LRS 40:1504. He explained the ordinance is to only consolidate the boards, and not the districts.

LA State Fire Marshal Butch Browning spoke about fire protection and the importance of allowing fire chiefs the opportunity to run their departments, as well as, the importance of the board roles. He explained that without the vote of the people the districts cannot merge, but the ordinance allows one board to serve as authority over the districts, and allows firefighters to operate more effectively.

Mr. Marvin Losavio of Batchelor expressed concerns about the ability of his district to answer calls and obtain the necessary equipment. He supports the consolidation of the boards.

Mr. Greg Johnson of New Roads expressed his concerns and objections against the consolidation of the boards. He voiced concerns about the formation of the board.

Mr. Robert Allen of Batchelor voiced concerns about the consolidation of the boards and whether a plan has been developed for the consolidation, and would the citizens be given a copy of the plan. He expressed concerns about the control and representation for each fire district, and time the chairman would need to devote to the needs of all districts.

Firefighter Jessica Canning of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 gave her support of the unified board, and recognizes the benefits of the consolidation of the boards. She feels the needs of the districts would be better understood with the consolidated board.

Chief Paul Pinsonat of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 4 voiced concerns about the consolidation of the boards, and having an issue with the lack of communication with the fire chiefs regarding the ordinance. He questioned the membership of the board, and fair representation for all the districts on the board.

Mr. Tommy Montgomery of Lottie reported on a recent fire that occurred at his barn and the firefighters did an excellent job in putting out the fire. He is opposed to the consolidation of the boards.

Councilman Jarreau voiced concerns about the consolidation of the boards, fire ratings, issues that needs to be corrected, and number of members on the board. He stated that he is not comfortable with the proposed plan for consolidation, and there is a need for more discussion on this matter.

Councilman Soulier inquired if any input was received from the fire boards and chiefs about the proposed ordinance. He stated the goal should be united among all fire districts.

Chairman Boudreaux expressed his appreciation to the fire departments for their services. He reported on his attendance at the fire boards meetings and issues he saw at the meetings. He feels the consolidation of the boards will only make the districts better. He commented on the potential hiring of a fire coordinator, addressed concerns of the audience, and number of members on the board.

Parish President Thibaut thanked the council for introducing the ordinance, and thanked the board

members and firefighters for their services. He commented on the goal to be better, and the dialogue is important for the creation of the consolidated board, and recognizes the efficiency of one board.

Chief Cary Manuel of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 commented on the ordinance to consolidate the boards being introduced as a result of issues with some of the fire boards. He gave an overview of the role of the fire chiefs and boards to improve their districts.

At the request of Councilman Jarreau, Chief Manuel gave clarification and explanation about the background of purchasing and training.

At the request of President Thibaut, Chief Manuel and Messrs. Allen and Johnson gave an overview of how the fire ratings are determined.

After further discussions, a public hearing and proposed adoption of the ordinance will be at the council meeting February 8, 2022.

#### DISCUSSION OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Parish President Thibaut recognized the importance of creating a board after the PILOT/ITEP process when dealing with industry. He reported that Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) is being paid to be the third party, which the parish could create this board and retain those savings. He reported the parish previously created an industrial board in 1982.

Parish Attorney Stephen Jewell determined that the Industrial Development Board of Pointe Coupee Parish, Inc. could be reinstated by resolution, along with the appointment of three (3) members to the board.

Parish Assessor James Laurent and Parish President Thibaut recognized other parishes who have these types of boards, which is an important tool to attract industry, and the savings could be used for economic development purposes.

#### PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT/DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Parish President Thibaut gave updates on the following:

Recreation and multi-use center; parish road, drainage and bridge projects; permits and occupational licenses issued in December; courthouse and detention center repairs; solid waste and bulky waste collections complaints; blighted and derelict properties cleanup; Rapid COVID test distribution to fire departments for public; ARPA funds meeting with staff on Thursday with follow up meetings with council in February; PC Parish Waterworks District No. 1 awarded funds for water improvements from the water sector program, and State Representative Jeremy LaCombe will be meeting with various entities to review applications that did not receive funding

in the first round; increase in gas rates that will appear on customers’ bills in January and February, and customers will be notified of the increase on their bills, The Banner and Facebook; council will receive an invitation to attend a grant presentation to Livonia High School by Nexterra on February 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.; annual Police Jury Association of LA convention will be held in March at Lake Charles; Ventress solar project is hosting job fairs in March to hire 250 people; consider a culvert committee to develop a policy regarding False River drainage culverts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION--PENDING LITIGATION POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT VS. ORKIN, CASE NO. 49860, DIV. D, 18<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, STATE OF LOUISIANA; AND PENDING LITIGATION HOLMES VS. POINTE COUPEE PARISH POLICE JURY

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

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee convened in executive session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss pending litigation Pointe Coupee Parish Government vs. Orkin, Case No. 49860, Div. D, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of Pointe Coupee, State of Louisiana; and pending litigation Holmes vs. Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury.

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.

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

RESOLVED, That the Parish Council exited executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

There were no announcements, notices, meetings, etc.

Motion by Mr. Soulier and seconded by Mr. Gaspard, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Jeanne Hendrix  
Executive Assistant

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Dustin Boudreaux  
Chairman