

**MINUTES  
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL  
February 8, 2022**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 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 JANUARY 11, 2022 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 11, 2022 regular 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:

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE FIREFIGHTER & MEMBER OF THE BOARD SHIRLEY BEST OF POINTE COUPEE PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1

Councilman Gaspard and Parish President Major Thibaut presented a certificate of recognition to the family of the late Shirley Best for 43 years of dedicated service as the first female volunteer firefighter, and board member of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 1.

ANNOUNCE CANDIDACY FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Mr. Elbert Guillory, a former member of the Louisiana State Senate, announced his candidacy for Lieutenant Governor and asked councilmembers for their support.

WESTSIDE SPONSORING COMMITTEE UPDATE ON POINTE COUPEE PARISH VACCINE EQUITY PROJECT

Ms. Lady Carlson of Westside Sponsoring Committee gave an update on the Pointe Coupee Parish Vaccine Equity Project. She reported from September - December 2021 that 429 people were vaccinated in the parish.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Chairman Boudreaux announced Economic Development Director Les Cantrell was unable to attend the meeting, and will attend their meeting in March.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Major Thibaut gave an overview of the parish finances, and presented a financial report of the monthly budget to actual comparison on the ad valorem property taxes, sales tax collections, gas collections, licenses & permits, state severance, and state & federal funds, that included total revenues received of \$2,753,965, and total expenditure of \$661,996 for the month of January; capital outlay funding, second half of ARPA funds arriving in May; conducted interviews

for two (2) full-time positions; upcoming meetings scheduled with councilmembers to discuss ARPA funds; bid opening on March 8, 2022 for improvements to the detention center that is being funded by a grant. In closing, he responded to questions from the council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Messrs. Lawrence Smith and Gregory Johnson waived their public comments until the agenda item is discussed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN INTRODUCED PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, 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, 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 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, and further provide with respect thereto was conducted at 5:59 p.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

Board Chairman and firefighter Lawrence Smith of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 5 voiced his concerns and stated it was not a good idea to establish a single consolidated board for each fire districts. He recommended the council consider appointing a coordinator to oversee all fire boards.

Firefighter Gregory Johnson & board member of Pointe Coupee Parish Fire Protection District No. 5 voiced his concerns against establishing a single consolidated board for each fire districts.

There were some objections received orally to the ordinance.

Chairman Boudreaux commented on a meeting with the fire chiefs and their progress of developing a policy and procedures and bylaws for the fire districts with the goal of presenting it to the council at their executive committee meeting this month. He clarified that the new board will be responsible for adopting the new policy and bylaws. He reported it is not the intention of the council to get into the fire business. He also corrected and stated that discussions and meetings regarding the fire boards started three years ago, and several meetings held thereafter with representatives of all fire districts, and it's untrue that discussions started with the proposed ordinance. In closing, Chairman Boudreaux commented on further discussions relative to the ordinance will be held at their executive meeting in two weeks, and tabling adoption of the ordinance until their meeting in March.

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

RESOLVED, That the adoption of a proposed ordinance to amend 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 be tabled until the council meeting on March 8, 2022.

Unanimously carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO THE CODE OF RULES & REGULATIONS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING AN ABSTAIN VOTE BY A COUNCIL MEMBER (PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 8, 2022)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to the Code of Rules & Regulations for the Parish Council regarding an abstain vote by a council member, 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, March 8, 2022 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.

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE INSTALLATION OF NEW DRIVEWAY CULVERTS

Councilman Jarreau deferred discussion about the installation of new driveway culverts until the council meeting in March.

RESOLUTION(S):

APPROVE USE OF LOCAL FUNDS AND PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES, RELATIVE TO THE LA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CORONAVIRUS (LCDBG-CV) LOVE LOUISIANA OUTDOORS PROGRAM

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

TO USE LOCAL FUNDS AND PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CORONAVIRUS (LCDBG-CV) LOVE LOUISIANA OUTDOORS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, due to the pandemic, local government entities are having to take action to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, HUD was allocated funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, Pointe Coupee Parish Government was allocated \$750,000.00 through the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (LCDBG-CV) Love Louisiana Outdoors to provide outdoor recreation and fitness opportunities to residents while enabling appropriate social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Parish certifies that it will pay all of the engineering costs associated with the implementation of the Love Louisiana Outdoors Improvements program. These costs will include but not be limited to basic design, resident inspection, topographic and/or property surveying, testing, staking, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Parish will utilize its own staff and Engineer Nathan Cobb, P.E. to perform engineering design services for this program: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Parish of Pointe Coupee, in Regular Session convened, that the engineering services be performed by Nathan Cobb, P.E.

Unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE TOURIST COMMISSION

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_:

RESOLVED, That Ms. Adrienne Williams be appointed a member of the Pointe Coupee Parish Tourist Commission for a two-year term to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Aimee Moreau.

The motion died, due to lack of a second.

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

RESOLVED, That Mrs. Mary Debetaz be appointed a member of the Pointe Coupee Parish Tourist Commission for a two-year term to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Aimee Moreau.

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.

REINSTATE THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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

RESOLVED, That the Industrial Development Board of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, Inc. be reinstated, and that Major Thibaut, Parish President, be and he is hereby authorized to execute and file with the Louisiana Secretary of State the documents required to reinstate said corporation.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

There were no announcements, etc.

Motion by Mr. Jarreau and seconded by Mr. Bazile, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Gerrie P. Martin  
Council Clerk

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Dustin Boudreaux  
Chairman