

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
March 29, 2022**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in special session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, 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, Paul Bergeron and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: Messrs. Kurt Jarreau and Edward Bazile.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

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

- Authorize the Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Finance as certified grantees for disbursement with LA Division of Administration, Office of Facility Planning & Control for the Courthouse Restoration – Phase 2 Planning & Construction Project (50-J39-21-01)

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

YEAS: Messrs. Gaspard, LaCoste, Soulier, Watkins, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Jarreau and Bazile.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

AWARD BID – RENOVATIONS TO THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH DETENTION CENTER

Sheriff Rene` Thibodeaux reported on the bids received for renovations of the Pointe Coupee Parish Detention Center. He asked the council to consider awarding Alternate Bid No. 4 to replace the security system and cameras at the detention center that he feels is a priority, instead of awarding Alternate Bid No. 1.

Parish President Major Thibaut gave a PowerPoint presentation about renovations of the Pointe Coupee Parish Detention Center, and the five (5) bids received. He gave an overview of the base bid and the four (4) alternates received, funding sources of \$2,000,000.00 for renovations & \$1,000,000.00 for improvements to the HVAC system, bid process, and seeking future grants to support additional renovations of the center. He reported that they could only afford to award the base bid and one alternate bid at this time, which the bidding requirements allows awarding alternate bids in the order they are bidden. In closing, he recommended awarding the low base bid and Alternate No. 1 to Percy J. Matherne Contractor, Inc. of Baton Rouge.

After further discussion with councilmembers, Sheriff Thibodeaux and his staff and President Thibaut, the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That the low Base Bid in the amount of \$1,238,000, and Alternate Bid No. 1 in the amount of \$431,000.00 submitted by Percy J. Matherne Contractor, Inc. for renovations to the Pointe Coupee Parish Detention Center be accepted.

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

YEAS: Messrs. Bergeron, Watkins, Soulier, LaCoste, Gaspard and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Jarreau and Bazile.

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

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH ATTORNEY HENRY OLINDE AND PARISH GOVERNMENT

Chairman Boudreaux presented the following resolution for approval of the council:

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

A RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE SPECIAL COUNSEL RELATIVE TO PARISH FIRE SERVICE

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council (“the Council”) was present on this date for a properly advertised, special meeting;

WHEREAS, the Council finds that a real necessity exists to engage special legal counsel to provide advice on, and handle, the matters that are regularly encountered by the Parish and the Council relating to the fire service in the Parish including, but not limited to: general advices, organizational recommendations, creation of fire districts, public records law, open meetings law, purchases and acquisitions, public bid law, taxation, policies and procedures, intergovernmental relations and agreements, employment issues, litigation and related matters;

WHEREAS, the Council has performed an investigation and determined that Attorney Henry D. H. Olinde, Jr. and the law firm of Olinde & Mercer, L.L.C. (collectively “O & M”) have significant experience representing, and consulting with, emergency service organizations and the fire service; and,

WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Parish and Council to engage O & M as special legal counsel to provide necessary legal services on an as-needed basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The foregoing recitations and findings are made part of this Resolution.
2. O & M is hereby engaged and retained as special legal counsel to the Council and Parish to handle (on an as-needed basis), the matters that are regularly encountered by the Parish and Council including, but not limited to: general advices, organizational recommendations, creation of fire districts, public records law, open meetings law, purchases and acquisitions, public bid law, taxation, policies and procedures, intergovernmental relations and agreements, employment issues, litigation and related matters.
3. The fees of O & M’s attorneys, which the Council finds are reasonable and in accord with the Attorney General’s February 8, 2016 Maximum Hourly Fee Schedule, shall be as follows:
 - (a) \$225/hour for all work performed by attorneys with 10 or more years of experience;
 - (b) \$175/hour for all work performed by attorneys with 5-10 years of experience;
 - (c) \$150/hour for all work performed by attorneys with 3-5 years of experience;
 - (d) \$125/hour for all work performed by attorneys with less than 3 years of experience; and,

- (e) All legal work shall be billed in 1/10th hour increments.
- 4. In addition to the foregoing fees, the Council shall pay to O & M all reasonable costs and expenses (including, but not limited to, charges for advertising notices, copies, postage, long distance, filing fees, courier fees, legal research, travel, expert fees and court costs) associated with providing legal services to the Council and Parish.
- 5. The Parish President and O & M are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Resolution, including but not limited to complying with any and all applicable statutory requirements and obtaining approval of this Resolution by the Louisiana State Attorney General.
- 6. Insofar as any prior resolutions are inconsistent with this Resolution, those prior resolutions are hereby repealed and superseded.
- 7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION OF WAIVER OF STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR RV PARKS

President Thibaut discussed waiver of the state requirements for RV Parks to construct bathrooms and washeterias in the parks. He reported now that the state has waived the requirements, they are allowing each parish to determine whether to grant waivers if they desire. He reported the parish ordinance does not allow long term stay of a RV in parks.

DISCUSSION OF CULVERT REPLACEMENT POLICIES AS IT PERTAINS TO CULVERTS THAT DRAIN FROM UNDER A STATE HIGHWAY TO FALSE RIVER, BAYOU OR WATERSHED CANAL

President Thibaut and Public Works Director Nathan Cobb discussed culvert replacement policies as it pertains to culverts that drain from under a state highway to False River, bayou or watershed canal in the parish.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Council recommends the nomination of Mr. Vance J. “Joey” Normand, Jr to represent Pointe Coupee Parish for appointment by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as a member of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission for a four-year term, due to the resignation of Mr. Jens Aubin “J.A.” Rummler.

Unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AS CERTIFIED GRANTEES FOR DISBURSEMENT WITH LA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF FACILITY PLANNING & CONTROL FOR THE COURTHOUSE RESTORATION – PHASE 2 PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (50-J39-21-01)

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

RESOLVED, That on behalf of Pointe Coupee Parish, Mmes Tonilyn R. Guidry and Rebecca L. Mayeux are hereby authorized as certified grantees for the request for disbursement with the LA Division of Administration, Office of Facility Planning & Control for the Courthouse Restoration - Phase 2 Planning & Construction Project 50-J39-21-01.

Unanimously carried.

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Motion by Mr. LaCoste and seconded by Mr. Gaspard, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman