

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
September 12, 2023**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 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 8 & 22, 2023 MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of August 8, 2023 regular meeting and August 22, 2023 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:

PROCLAMATION - DECLARING OCTOBER AS DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. Carmen Gonzales of Dysautonomia Louisiana, Inc., gave a brief summary of Dysautonomia and stressed the importance of bringing awareness to the parish.

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

**PROCLAMATION
DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Dysautonomia is a group of medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system, which is responsible for “automatic” bodily functions such as, but not limited to: respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, bone marrow production, and temperature control; and

WHEREAS, Dysautonomia affects people of any age, gender, race or background, negatively impacting over 70 million people around the world, including many individuals living right here in our wonderful state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, there are 15 different forms of dysautonomia that include Neuropathy, Vasovagal Syncope, Pure Autonomic Failure, and Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (commonly known as POTS), just to list a few, and people who have been diagnosed with some form of dysautonomia often have secondary conditions such as: Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, Sjogren's syndrome or Diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Dysautonomia can be very disabling and is a life changing diagnosis; this chronic illness can result in the inability to work or attend school, may cause social isolation, depression and/or anxiety, and it's not just physically affecting people, it's an emotionally and financially draining ailment as well, and extremely stressful on the families of those impacted; and

WHEREAS, Dysautonomia Louisiana Inc. is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia and those individuals suffering from its symptoms and still struggling for a diagnosis. Their goal is to bring much needed awareness to the community and information to the medical professionals across Louisiana, increased awareness about dysautonomia will help patients obtain an earlier diagnosis and treatment plan, save lives, and foster support for individuals and families already coping with dysautonomia in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **October, 2023** as **DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to celebrate and bring awareness of Dysautonomia.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION - DECLARING SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2023 AS CONSTITUTION WEEK

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

**PROCLAMATION
CONSTITUTION WEEK**

WHEREAS, September 17, 2023 marks the two hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, do hereby proclaim the week of **September 17 - 23, 2023** as **CONSTITUTION WEEK** in Pointe Coupee Parish and do hereby encourage all citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the framers of the constitution in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

Unanimously carried.

PROCLAMATION HONORING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**PROCLAMATION
HONORING ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

WHEREAS, St. Augustine Catholic Church will be celebrating their 100th year Anniversary on Sunday, December 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, many years ago a Josephite Priest, a native of Pointe Coupee Parish, Father Pierre Lebeau, visited monthly and strongly recommended the opening of a mission in Pointe Coupee Parish, New Roads, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, the Josephites established the St. Augustine Mission and assigned Father Edward Hartnett, and the first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day in 1922 in a rented store; and

WHEREAS, in August 1923, property on the east side of New Roads Street was donated by St. Mary Catholic Church for the construction of a permanent church; and

WHEREAS, on Christmas Day 1923, St. Augustine celebrated their first Mass in their newly built and what is now St. Augustine Catholic Church, and “To God Be the Glory,” is a significant acknowledgment of the blessings God have bestowed on said church parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council do hereby proclaim **Sunday, December 17, 2023** as a day of honoring **ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH** in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to participate in activities and ceremonies celebrating their 100th year anniversary.

Unanimously carried.

PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Parish President Major Thibaut gave updates and PowerPoint presentation on the following: one new hired in the accounting department; presented a financial report outlining the total revenues each taxing district will received as a result of the Kirby Barge Line leaving the parish and impact on their millages, finances including sales tax, ad valorem tax, severance tax, utilities collections and permits fees, total revenues, total expenditures and total excess of revenue as of August 31, 2023; public works projects, developing a bridge replacement policy; bridge repairs; PC Rec improvements at False River and Batchelor Recreation Parks; events scheduled in September at multi-use center; improvements at the detention center; roadside grass cutting; finalizing the hazard mitigation plan; courthouse & courthouse annex improvements; permits & licenses issued in August; planning & zoning; and complaints received about solid waste and bulky waste collections. In closing, he responded to questions from council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6, SECTIONS 6-26 & 6-27 OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO PIERS, WHARVES, BOATHOUSES, BOAT RAMPS, BULKHEADS OR OTHER WORKS OVER FALSE RIVER, AND THEREAFTER, CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION

Discussion of a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 6, Sections 6-26 & 6-27 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to piers, wharves, boathouses, boat ramps, bulkheads or other works over False River was held by the council. Councilman Bergeron gave an overview of the revisions made to ordinance since the last meeting.

President Thibaut commented on the additional proposed amendments being made to the ordinance. He asked the council to revisit the removal of the turbidity mitigation section that was recommended placing in the ordinance years ago by the False River Watershed Commission, which is comprised of members from the LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and LA Department of Natural Resources.

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

RESOLVED, That an amendment to a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 6, Sections 6-26 & 6-27 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to piers, wharves, boathouses, boat ramps, bulkheads or other works over False River, and further provide with respect thereto be accepted by the Pointe Coupee Parish Council.

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. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That the proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 6, Sections 6-26 & 6-27 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to piers, wharves, boathouses, boat ramps, bulkheads or other works over False River, and further provide with respect thereto be adopted with amendments by the Pointe Coupee Parish Council.

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 THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO THE MERGER OF CERTAIN QUALIFYING VOTING PRECINCTS & ASSIGNING POLLING LOCATIONS FOR THE PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.S.18:532.1, 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 the merger of certain qualifying voting precincts & assigning polling locations for the Parish of Pointe Coupee in accordance with R.S.18:532.1, and further provide with respect thereto was conducted at 6:09 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023 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. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Soulier:

RESOLVED, That the proposed ordinance to amend the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to the merger of certain qualifying voting precincts & assigning polling locations for the Parish of Pointe Coupee in accordance with R.S.18:532.1, 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. Gaspard, LaCoste, Soulier, Watkins, Jarreau, Bazile, Bergeron 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 6:11 p.m. as a Board of Review to hear complaints and/or protests as to the value of property for parish assessment purposes. Assessor James “Jimmy” Laurent, Jr. reported there were no appeals received.

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

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

Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION(S):

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

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

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 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. That the Parish President is authorized to sign and submit financial activity reports 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.
7. 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. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Bergeron:

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 2023 through 30 September 2024:

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.

SPECIAL MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL:

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF PERMIT APPLICATION FOR MONDU SOLAR PROJECT (NEXTERA ENERGY)

Mr. Steve Loupe of Glynn voiced his concerns against the issuance of a permit for Mondu Solar Project (NextEra Energy) in the parish, and any other permits for solar farms on crop land in the parish.

President Thibaut gave an overview of the permit application for Mondu Solar Project (NextEra Energy).

Mr. Karl Kremser of NextEra Energy gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Mondu Solar Project near Livonia in the parish. In closing, Mr. Kremser responded to questions from the council.

After further discussion, Councilman Bergeron asked for 30 days to further review the permit application and other data for consideration at their council meeting in October.

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

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Council deferred action on the permit application for Mondu Solar Project (NextEra Energy) for further review and consideration at the council meeting in October.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

There were no announcements, notices, meetings, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Soulier, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman