

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

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 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, Edward Bazile, Paul Bergeron and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: Mr. Kurt Jarreau.

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2023 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of November 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Parish Council be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

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:

- Discussion of proposed special millage taxes for Fire Districts No. 2, 3 & 5.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Jarreau.

On a vote of 7-0-1, the motion carried.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POINTE COUPEE MULTI-USE CENTER

Dr. Bill Davis gave a presentation and submitted a report on the economic impact of Pointe Coupee Multi-Use Center generated by the equine events held in the parish. He reported two equine associations received \$45,000 in grant funds that hosted the events at the center.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Major Thibaut gave updates and PowerPoint presentation on the following: one new hired in the utilities collections office; finances including sales tax, ad valorem tax, severance tax, utilities collections and permits fees; total revenues of \$16,644,913, total expenditures of \$15,994,285 and total excess of revenue of \$650,628 as of November 30, 2023; public works projects, bridge replacements/repairs projects, Gravity Drainage District project; improvements and events scheduled at multi-use center; ribbon cutting event held December 10, 2023 at new Batchelor Recreation Park, improvements at PC Rec and the football program, and master plan for recreation and parks; improvements at the detention center; roadside grass cutting; qualifying for election in spring of 2024 for three Justices of the Peace is December 13 - 15, 2023; and permits & licenses issued in November; complaints received about solid waste and bulky waste collections, and will return to twice per week collection of solid waste January 1, 2024; commented on the budgets and gave a brief overview of the financial accomplishments the parish has made for the past five years, thanked Finance Director Tonilyn Guidry and Assistant Finance Director Becky Mayeux for preparing the budget, along with assistance from the staff, and thanked councilmembers for their support and assistance; and

congratulated the councilmembers on being reelected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN INTRODUCED PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO AMENDING THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT 2023 OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, ADOPTING THE 2024 OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND ADOPTING THE 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET, 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 amending the Pointe Coupee Parish Government 2023 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures, adopting the 2024 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures and adopting the 2024 Capital Budget, and further provide with respect thereto was conducted at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Boudreaux commended and thanked the staff, administration and council on their hard work and dedication in presenting outstanding budgets for the past five years.

There were no objections received orally or written to the ordinance.

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

RESOLVED, That a proposed ordinance to amend the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to amending the Pointe Coupee Parish Government 2023 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures, adopting the 2024 Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures and adopting the 2024 Capital Budget, 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, Bazile, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Jarreau.

On a vote of 7-0-1, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN INTRODUCED PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE II, SECTION 21-20 OF THE PC PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATIVE TO AMENDING SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL FEE, AND THEREAFTER, DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION

A hearing to obtain public input to a proposed ordinance to amend and reenact Chapter 21, Article II, Section 21-20 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to amending the solid waste collection and disposal fee, and further provide with respect thereto was conducted at 6:03 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Boudreaux reported the ordinance will allow the parish to return to twice per week collections at a cost increase of \$26 per household, effective January 1, 2024.

There were no objections received orally or written to the ordinance.

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

RESOLVED, That a proposed ordinance to amend and reenact Chapter 21, Article II, Section 21-20 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, relative to amending the solid waste

collection and disposal fee (\$26.00 per household), 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, Bazile, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Jarreau.

On a vote of 7-0-1, the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

APPROVE REZONING REQUEST FOR GUIDRY LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Mr. Randy Tassin of Island Road at Jarreau made public comments and voiced concerns about the plan and rezoning request for a development for Guidry Land Development, LLC, and asked that it be approved with certain conditions granting the single family development as the intended use.

Mrs. Sally Nungesser of Jarreau thanked the council for having zoning requirements in the parish.

Engineer Travis Laurent of Paul Miers Engineering, LLC, representing Guidry Land Development, LLC, commented on the proposed rezoning request, and agreed if the use changes that it would be presented back to planning & zoning and the council for approval.

After a lengthy discussion, the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That the rezoning request for Guidry Land Development, LLC be approved as recommended by Pointe Coupee Planning and Zoning Commission, subject to conditional use of complying with the residential subdivision submitted at time of application.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE VARIANCE REQUEST FOR GUIDRY LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC

P & Z Administrator Sal Genusa gave an overview of the variance request for the need for a retention pond on a lot located off LA Highway 413 at Jarreau, and adjustment of a 5ft sideline setbacks for Riverside Grove Subdivision for Guidry Land Development, LLC.

Public Works Director Nathan Cobb gave an overview of the retention pond not being needed for said development.

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

RESOLVED, That upon recommendations of Public Works, the variance request for a lot located off LA Highway 413 at Jarreau to omit the retention pond and no future spoil material will be placed on lot be included on final plat for Guildry Land Development, LLC be approved.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR GUIDRY LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC (RIVERSIDE GROVE SUBDIVISION)

Chairman Boudreaux commented on the variance request for a 5ft sideline setbacks for the Riverside Grove Subdivision at Jarreau for Guidry Land Development, LLC.

President Thibaut commented on the size of the proposed lots for new subdivision and the ability of homeowners having adequate space and access to the back of their lot.

After lengthy discussion, the following resolutions were offered:

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

RESOLVED, That the approval of the preliminary plat for Guidry Land Development, LLC for Riverside Grove Subdivision be denied.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Jarreau.

On a vote of 7-0-1, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ENACT CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2-9, OF THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO SETTING SALARY OF PARISH PRESIDENT (PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 9, 2024)

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to enact Chapter 2, Section 2-9, of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances, pertaining to setting salary of Parish President, 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, January 9, 2024 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.

RESOLUTION(S):

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PARISH PRESIDENT EXPENSE & VEHICLE POLICY

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

RESOLVED, That amendments to the Pointe Coupee Parish Expense and Vehicle Policy for the Parish President be adopted.

Unanimously carried.

SUPPORT PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANT PROGRAM (LGAP) FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE PARISH

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

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government is in dire need of purchasing new equipment that is needed to perform the daily maintenance and operations in the parish; and

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government does not have the necessary funds to purchase the equipment: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Council hereby supports the Pointe Coupee Parish Government’s application and request of funds in the total amount of \$100,000 from the Louisiana Office of Community Development, Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) to fund the purchase of various equipment to include mowers, a tractor loader and a gator.

Unanimously carried.

SUPPORT PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY WATER ENRICHMENT FUND (CWEF) PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SYSTEM FOR PC WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1

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

A resolution to support preparation and submittal of an application for funding through the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program

WHEREAS, the Office of Community Development is accepting applications for funding through the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the requirements for submission of an application for funding under this program requires a resolution of support from the parish governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to submit an application for the benefit of the citizens of the Parish and Waterworks District No. 1 of Pointe Coupee for proposed water system improvements to include water meters, curb stops, boxes and connections to existing service lines on the old M&S Water Supply area in Ventress, as well as additional fire hydrants and connections along the Island Road and Ventress Road: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Parish President and Council of Pointe Coupee acting as the governing authority of said Parish does hereby support the preparation and submittal of an application for funding through the Office of Community Development, Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF).

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SPECIAL MILLAGE TAXES FOR FIRE DISTRICTS NO. 2, 3 & 5

Chairman Boudreaux discussed attending a meeting of the Pointe Coupee Fire Districts Board of Commissioners where PC Fire Districts 2, 3 & 5 are proposing additional millage taxes for their districts to be placed on election ballots in spring of 2024. He reported District 2 is proposing 15 mills, District 3 is proposing between 15 or 20 mills and District 5 is proposing 3 mills. He reported on informing the board about funds allocated in the 2024 parish budget to hire a third-party consultant firm to conduct a comprehensive tax study of all taxing districts in the parish to determine if additional taxes are needed. Chairman Boudreaux stated that he suggested they tabled their request for additional millages until the study is completed, but some expressed need for additional funds. The calling of elections for the fire districts will be considered for approval of council at their meeting in January. He encouraged councilmembers to review this matter further.

Parish President Thibaut commented on review of consultant firms to conduct study of ad valorem taxes for the parish.

RECONSIDER VOTE DENYING PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR GUIDRY LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC (RIVERSIDE GROVE SUBDIVISION)

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

RESOLVED, That the parish council reconsider the vote denying preliminary plat for Guidry Land Development, LLC for Riverside Grove Subdivision.

Unanimously carried.

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

RESOLVED, That the parish council deferred action until their meeting in January 2024 to approve the preliminary plat for Guidry Land Development, LLC for Riverside Grove Subdivision.

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Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

There were no announcements, notices, meetings, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. LaCoste and seconded by Mr. Gaspard, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman