

**MINUTES  
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL  
February 27, 2024**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 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 JANUARY 9 & 23, 2024 MEETINGS**

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 9, 2024 regular meeting and January 23, 2024 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:**

**PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AWARDS**

Parish President Major Thibaut announced presentation of an award to employee John Keith David for 15 years of service, who was not present at the meeting. He presented anniversary service awards to employees Nathan Cobb, Jeanne Hendrix, Tonilyn Guidry & Mark Ward for five years of dedicated service with the parish.

**ACADIANA WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Planner II & Watershed Coordinator Kelia Bingham of the Acadiana Planning Commission gave a brief overview of the LA Watershed Initiative, which includes Pointe Coupee Parish in Regions 5. The district promotes drainage and flood-risk reduction within the boundaries of the district, to promote & support a unified effort to address drainage and flood issues in the region in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies. In closing, she asked the parish to participate in the Acadiana Watershed District and presented a resolution for approval of the council at their next meeting.

**PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In observance of Black History Month, Parish President Major Thibaut announced and revealed the design of a plaque, provided by The Pointe Coupee Banner, honoring Pointe Coupee native and the late Author Ernest J. Gaines. He reported a presentation of the plaque will be presented to his wife, Mrs. Diane Gaines and the area schools that was.

Parish President Major Thibaut gave updates and PowerPoint presentation on the following: finances including sales tax, ad valorem tax, severance tax, utilities collections and permits fees; total revenues of \$2,449,380, total expenditures of \$1,629,908 and total excess of revenue of \$819,473 as of January 31, 2024; gave brief overview of developing the strategic plan for the parish focusing on five important components that includes infrastructure, economic development, efficiency, emergency management and communications; resignation of Director of Administration/OEP Director Mark Ward, effective March 14, 2024, three positions filled and advertising for three positions; changes in the process for ITEP by executive order of the governor; Business Opportunity Development

Zone; and proposed addition of a basketball court at the new Batchelor Park. In closing, he responded to questions from the council.

Councilman LaCoste left the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

RESOLUTION(S):

NAME PRIVATE ROAD AMOND LANE OFF BIGMAN LANE AT OSCAR FOR E-911 PURPOSES

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

RESOLVED, That a private road be named **Amond Lane** located off Bigman Lane at Oscar for E-911 purposes.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO ADD A FOURTH MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & APPOINTMENT OF A FOURTH MEMBER

Councilman Bergeron commented on adding a fifth member to the Board of Directors of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) to include a member of the council.

Chairman Boudreaux reported on being in favor of a fifth member to the IDB and not necessary a member of the council.

Attorney Dannie Garrett commented on the process of the IDB amending the Articles of Incorporation to add a fifth member to the board of directors.

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

A RESOLUTION BY THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL APPROVING THE FORM OF AMENDMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, LOUISIANA, INC.

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Council (the “*Parish Council*”) is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana (the “*State*”); and

WHEREAS, the Industrial Development Board of the Parish of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, Inc. (the “*IDB*”), a public nonprofit corporation and instrumentality of the Parish Government organized and existing under the laws of the State, wishes to amend its Articles of Incorporation to increase to four (4) the number of Directors to the Board of Directors of the IDB and to elect Michael Chad Soprano as the fourth Director (the “*Amendment*”); and

WHEREAS, after considering the basic terms of the proposed Amendment, the Parish Council determines that the Amendment is wise, expedient, necessary and advisable and will be in the best interest of Pointe Coupee Parish and the IDB by continuing to allow the IDB to generate positive, long-term and sustainable economic benefits for Pointe Coupee Parish and have a positive impact on Pointe Coupee Parish residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Council wishes to approve the form of the Amendment attached hereto and authorized the IDB to adopt the Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE

PARISH GOVERNMENT, THAT:

SECTION 1. The form of the Amendment is hereby approved and the IDB is hereby authorized to adopt the Amendment.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. LaCoste and Jarreau.

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

AUTHORIZE PARISH PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER TO THE ZACHARY TAYLOR PARKWAY COMMISSION

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

RESOLVED, That Parish President Major Thibaut be authorized to appoint a Commissioner and an Alternate Commissioner to the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission for two-year terms.

Unanimously carried.

SUPPORT PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT (RBDG) PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government intends to submit an application for assistance from the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government certifies that they are a legal governmental entity under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and thereby has the authority to apply for assistance from the RBDG Program and administer said program: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Government hereby appoints Mrs. Jeanne Hendrix to act as the applicant's official representative in signing and submitting an application for assistance from the RBDG Program; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Government hereby dedicates the required in-kind staff match to execute the administration of the project.

Unanimously carried.

SPECIAL MATTER(S) TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL:

APPEAL FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE CONDEMNATION & REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS ABANDONED MOBILE HOMES LOCATED AT 7666, 7676 & 7801 MOREL LANE, VENTRESS, LOUISIANA THE JAMES RONALD LABATUT

Mr. James Ronald Labatut appealed and requested a nine-month extension of time to repair the condemn and removal of dangerous abandoned mobile homes located at 7666, 7676 & 7801 Morel Lane, Ventress, Louisiana. He commented on repairs being made to the mobile homes, and reported two of the mobile homes had been vandalized. After further discussion, the following resolution was offered:

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

RESOLVED, That a 45-day extension of time for the condemnation and removal of a dangerous abandoned mobile home located at 7676 Morel Lane, Ventress, Louisiana for James Ronald Labatut be granted; and be it

RESOLVED further, That a 90-day extension of time for the condemnation and removal of dangerous abandoned mobile homes located at 7666 & 7801 Morel Lane, Ventress, Louisiana for James Ronald Labatut be granted.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Chairman Boudreaux announced the State Fire Marshal has issued a burn ban in the parish.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO RECEIVE ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS IN REGARD TO THE MATTER OF GREZAFFI VS. CARROLL, ET AL, DOCKET NO. 49886, 18<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, STATE OF LOUISIANA

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

RESOLVED, That the parish council convened in executive session at 6:55 p.m. to receive attorney client privileged communications in regard to the matter of Grezaffi vs. Carroll, et al, Docket No. 49886, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of Pointe Coupee, State of Louisiana.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. LaCoste and Jarreau.

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

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

RESOLVED, That the parish council exited executive session at 7:09 p.m.

Unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. Gaspard, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Gerrie P. Martin  
Council Clerk

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Dustin Boudreaux  
Chairman