

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
April 9, 2024**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 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 MARCH 12, 2024 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of March 12, 2024 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:

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

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

**PROCLAMATION
FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

WHEREAS, the 56th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans - individually and collectively - to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists; and

WHEREAS, this law guarantees for each citizen the critical, personal element of freely choosing a home; and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the State of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement and support of each of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the department and agencies of the State of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen to freely choose a home will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council do hereby proclaim the month of **April, 2024** as **FAIR HOUSING MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish and encourage all citizens of this parish to join in reaffirming the obligation and commitment to fair housing opportunities for all.

Unanimously carried

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

**PROCLAMATION
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong developmental difference, associated with significant alteration of an individual's ability to learn in the same way as others, which may include differences in social behaviors and communication; and

WHEREAS, autism, also known as autism spectrum disorders, affects people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status or geography; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of autism in the United States is 1 in 59 according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests autism is the result of neurological anomalies affecting the functioning of the brain and few members of the general public understand this complex syndrome; and

WHEREAS, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential, and accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and interventions, as well as community acceptance and accommodations, are vital to the future growth and development of the individual; and

WHEREAS, autism is a complex set of differences that requires increased research to one day better understand it; and

WHEREAS, the greater recognition and understanding of autism can ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DUSTIN BOUDREAUX, Chairman of the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2024 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to reach out to the Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge for support and to bring awareness of autism.

Unanimously carried.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Major Thibaut gave updates and report on the following: presented a written financial report including sales tax, ad valorem tax, severance tax, utilities collections and permits fees; total revenues of \$5,165,030, total expenditures of \$2,076,774 and total excess revenues over expenditures of \$3,088,255 as of March 31, 2024; hiring a replacement and new building & maintenance supervisor, due to employee upcoming retirement, hired a new heavy equipment operator, General Stephen Dabadie hired as the new Director of Operations/OHSEP Director, who will begin April 15, 2024; parish offices will open at 10 a.m. tomorrow, due to upcoming severe weather in the morning. In closing, he responded to questions from councilmembers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PROPOSED SALES TAX FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

District Attorney Tony Clayton appeared before the council to ask their support of the proposed one-fourth (.25 percent) of one cent sales tax for 10 years that will appear on the April 27, 2024 election ballot for approval of voters. He explained how this law enforcement district initiative would generate revenues to fund programs to fight juvenile crime, drug operations and sex crimes within the

18th Judicial District that includes Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes.

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

Louisiana Tri-Parish Alumnae Chapter President Jane S. Green of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. gave a brief overview of the organization and community services they provide. In closing, she recognized her sorority sisters from Pointe Coupee.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 27 - SOLAR FARM REGULATIONS (PUBLIC HEARING MAY 14, 2024)

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 amend Chapter 27 - Solar Farm Regulations, 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, May 14, 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.

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 25 - MOBILE HOME PARKS (PUBLIC HEARING MAY 14, 2024)

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 amend Chapter 25 - Mobile Home Parks, 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, May 14, 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.

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 - PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL (PUBLIC HEARING MAY 14, 2024)

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 amend Chapter 2 - Personnel Policy Manual, 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, May 14, 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):

ADOPT RESIDENTIAL ANTIDISPLACEMENT & RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR LCDBG

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

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government has received a Louisiana Community Development Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program requires that all grant recipients comply with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended as described in 24 CFR 570.606 (b)(1); and

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government has previously adopted the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan under previous LCDBG programs: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Parish Government hereby re-adopts the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Mr. Major Thibaut, President of Pointe Coupee Parish Government, is hereby authorized to execute the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan Certification.

Unanimously carried.

ADOPT 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR LCDBG

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

WHEREAS, the Pointe Coupee Parish Government has received a Louisiana Community Development Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program requires that all grant recipients comply with the requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8-June 2, 1988): Therefore be it

Resolved, that the Pointe Coupee Parish Government hereby adopts the following 504 Grievance Procedure:

Section 504 Grievance Procedure

The Pointe Coupee Parish Government has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the regulation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 24 CFR Part 8, implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Public Law 93-112). Section 504 states, in part:

“No otherwise qualified handicapped individual...shall, solely by reason of his handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” To further assist those who may have a grievance concerning Section 504 compliance **Mrs. Jeanne Hendrix, Policy and Procurement Administrator** has been designated to coordinate the efforts of the Parish to comply with requirements of Section 504 and its implementing regulation, 24 CFR Part 8.

1. A complaint should be in writing, contain the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describe the action alleged to be prohibited by the regulation.
2. A complaint should be filled in the office of the Section 504 Coordinator within a reasonable time after the person filing the complaint became aware of the action alleged to be prohibited by the regulation.
3. The Parish President or his/her designee shall conduct such investigation of a complaint as may be appropriate to determine its validity. These rules contemplate informal but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
4. The Parish President shall issue a written decision determining the validity of the complaint no later than thirty (30) days after its filing.
5. The Section 504 Coordinator shall maintain the files and records of the Parish relating to complaints filed hereunder. The Section 504 Coordinator may assist persons with the preparation and filing of complaints, participate in the investigation of complaints and advise the Parish President concerning their resolution.

- 6. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person’s pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a Section 504 complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development or other Federal or State Agencies. Utilization of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

Complaints may be forwarded for disposition to the:

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
 Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Washington, DC 20410

Complaints may also be filed at any Regional or Federal Office of the Department such as:

Department of Housing and Urban Development - Regional Office
 Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division
 P.O. Box 2905
 Fort Worth, TX 76113-2905

- 7. Determinations made under these procedures shall be liberally constructed to protect the substantial rights of interested persons, to meet appropriate due process standards and to assure the compliance of the Parish with Section 504 and its implementing regulation.

Unanimously carried.

AMEND PARISH’S PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR LCDBG

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

TO AMEND THE PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PROCUREMENT METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, Pointe Coupee Parish Government participates in the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, as a prerequisite to any Parish’s participation, the procurement procedures as set forth in that program need to be adopted and made a part of the guidelines for procurement procedures for the Parish as it relates to Community Development Block Grants; and

WHEREAS, the Parish has a previously adopted procurement policy in place to secure contract services. However, the policy required an update to conform to the Federal grant procurement standards. Therefore, the policy must be revised and amended accordingly; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Procurement Policy, the State also requires the adoption of Procurement Methods and Procedures in association with the Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pointe Coupee Parish Council, in Regular Session convened, that the attached amended Procurement Policy and Procurement Methods and Procedures are hereby adopted.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

There were no announcements, notices, meetings, etc.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PENDING LITIGATION GREZAFFI VS. CARROLL, ET AL, DOCKET NO. 49886 18TH 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 6:20 p.m. to discuss the matter of Grezaffi vs. Carroll, et al, Docket No. 49886, 18th 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, LaCoste, Soulier, Watkins, Bazile, Bergeron and Boudreaux.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Mr. Jarreau.

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

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

RESOLVED, That the parish council exited executive session at 6:41 p.m.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING LEGAL COUNSEL TO APPEAL THE EVIDENTIARY RULING ISSUED IN GREZAFFI VS. CARROLL, ET AL, DOCKET NO. 49886, 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, STATE OF LOUISIANA

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

RESOLVED, That Attorney Dannie Garrett, legal counsel for the Parish of Pointe Coupee, be authorized to appeal the evidentiary ruling issued in Grezaffi vs. Carroll, et al, Docket No. 49886, 18th Judicial District Court, Parish of Pointe Coupee, State of Louisiana.

Unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Watkins, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman