

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
October 22, 2024**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in special session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 22, 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, Kurt Jarreau, Edward Bazile, Paul Bergeron and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: None.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

EVALUATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE PARISH

Chief H. "Butch" Browning EFO, CFO of Browning Associates, LLC presented and reviewed the Governance/Operational Assessment providing a thorough evaluation of the governance and operational practices of the fire departments within the parish. In closing, he reviewed recommendations in the report and responded to questions from the council.

Chairman Boudreaux thanked Chief Browning for preparing the report, and the fire board and fire chiefs for working together in providing fire protection in the parish.

RESOLUTIONS:

AWARD RFP TO JSJ CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR CUTTING & CLEARING OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN THE PARISH & AUTHORIZE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN CONTRACT

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

RESOLVED, That the award of the Request for Proposals for cutting and clearing of blighted properties in the parish to JSJ Construction, LLC be approved; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Parish President Major Thibaut, on behalf of the Pointe Coupee Parish Government, be authorized to sign the contract agreement and all necessary documents for said project.

Unanimously carried.

HONORING 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER HARNETT COUNCIL 41 OF KNIGHTS OF ST. PETER CLAVER

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

WHEREAS, Father Edward Hartnett S.S.J. came to Pointe Coupee Parish in 1922 and spearheaded the building of St. Augustine Catholic Church by securing land to build the first church for African American Catholics in New Roads, Louisiana, and was named the first pastor; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1909, the Noble Order was founded by four priests of St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart and three laymen of the Diocese of Mobile, Alabama

who initiated the first band of forty colored men, the nucleus of a fraternal society with Saint Peter Claver as their Patron Saint, and were committed to render service to God and his Holy Church; and

WHEREAS, Saint Peter Claver was a Jesuit missionary known as the patron saint of slaves, African missions and interracial justice that spent his life serving enslaved Africans; and

WHEREAS, the Josephite Fathers did all their power to organize and increase the membership in the Knights of Peter Claver by opening councils along the coast of New Orleans, Louisiana, including Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware; and

WHEREAS, during Father Hartnett administration, he organized the first Knights of Peter Claver fraternal order in New Roads, Louisiana and on December 19, 1923, established Father Hartnett Council 41; and

WHEREAS, Brother Arthur Fabre served as the First Grand Knight of Father Hartnett Council 41; and

WHEREAS, Brother Christopher Battley served as the longest serving Grand Knight of Father Hartnett Council 41; and

WHEREAS, Father Hartnett Council 41 has helped to feed the homeless and sheltered at St. Vincent de Paul in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and assisted with the monthly feeding of the elderly and sick and shut-ins in our church parish of St. Augustine Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, the council has served our community as a commitment to St. Peter Claver as their charitable works and principal concerns that we must serve the poor with gentleness, kindness, love, and represent the greatness and goodness of God in our hearts and eyes and through the charitable works of St. Peter Claver: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Father Hartnett Council 41 of the Knights of Peter Claver celebrates its Centennial Anniversary on October 26, 2024, at St. Augustine Catholic Church Hall, New Roads, Louisiana, in the Parish of Pointe Coupee; and be it

RESOLVED further, That Saint Peter Claver, who became an example for us, showed us the Love of God, the Light of Christ, and the strength of the Holy Spirit and we thank you.

Unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Jarreau and seconded by Mr. Watkins, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Gerrie P. Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman