

**MINUTES
POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL
September 9, 2025**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 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, Charles Watkins, Kurt Jarreau, Edward Bazile, Paul Bergeron, and Dustin Boudreaux.

ABSENT: Mr. Edwin Soulier.

APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2025 MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of August 12, 2025 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 - PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AWARDS TO WILBERT COOLEY, JR & SHANIKA OLINDE & RETIREMENT AWARD FOR GERRIE MARTIN

Parish President Major Thibaut and Chairman Dustin Boudreaux recognized several employees for their outstanding commitment and years of service to the parish:

- **Wilbert Cooley, Jr.** - 5 Years of Dedicated Service
- **Shanika Olinde** - 25 Years of Dedicated Service, not present
- **Gerrie Martin** – 44 Years of Dedicated Service

Chairman Boudreaux presented Council Clerk Gerrie Martin with her retirement award and recognized her 44½ years of dedicated service, highlighting her commitment to family, friends, and the parish.

Mrs. Martin delivered a speech reflecting on her 44.5 years journey with the Parish and her various roles. She expressed gratitude to all who shaped her path and supported her throughout her career. In closing, she cited her favorite quote: *“To achieve all that is possible, we must attempt the impossible.*

To be as much as we can be, we must dream of being more.” – Gerrie Martin. She also encouraged the incoming Council Clerk Courtney Hurst, to continue running the race with the tools she has and to always strive to impact the world positively.

SPECIAL BUSINESS – PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER AS DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH

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

**PROCLAMATION
DYSAUTONONMIA 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, 2025** as **DYSAUTONOMIA AWARENESS MONTH** in Pointe Coupee Parish, and encourage all citizens to celebrate and bring awareness of Dysautonomia.

Unanimously carried.

SPECIAL BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL CLERK

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

RESOLVED, That Ms. Courtney Hurst be appointed Council Clerk for the Pointe Coupee Parish Council.

Unanimously carried.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Thibaut gave updates and reported on the following: presented a written financial report including sales tax, ad valorem tax, severance tax, utilities collections and permits fees; total revenues of \$14,335,161, total expenditures of -\$15,502,193, fund balances 2025 of \$18,932,408, and available funds end of year of \$17,765,376 as of August 31, 2025; and open positions for Mechanic; two new hires; Operator and Laborer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Janet Vosburg expressed her gratitude for Mrs. Martin and commended her strong work ethic during both her and her husband's time on the Police Jury.

Mr. Kevin Gravois reflected on the years he and Mrs. Martin worked together, thanking her for the support she extended to family and co-workers throughout her career. He stated, *"You are a treasure to Pointe Coupee Parish."*

Mr. Greg Martin congratulated his wife on her retirement, noting her love for her job and her daily dedication to her work.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 6-1 OF CHAPTER 6 RELATIVE TO PROVIDING FOR ROOF PERMIT FEES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance to amend Section 6-1 of Chapter 6 of the Pointe Coupee Parish Code of Ordinances relative to providing for roofing permit fees, and to provide for related matters; 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, October 14, 2025** 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.

BOARD OF REVIEW FOR ASSESSMENT

Chairman Boudreaux stated there were no appeals.

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

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

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSS EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY AND BUDGET COMPLAINEE REGARDING FIRE COORDINATOR POSITION

Councilman Jarreau read the following statement at the meeting:

“Put my agenda item back how I initially had it sent into the office

Discussion on the Legality of the Parish President Creating a Fire Coordinator position and associated budget without council adoption

Good evening, fellow council members, and residents of Pointe Coupee Parish. I rise to oppose the Parish President’s unilateral attempt to create a Fire Coordinator position—a role not included in our organizational chart, not budgeted for, and lacking the approval of this Council, as required by our Home Rule Charter. As a council member, I am compelled to uphold transparency, accountability, and our governing laws, and I cannot remain silent when these principles are undermined.

This Parish Council, by Ordinance 7-12-22(2), Section 9-31, created the Pointe Coupee Fire Districts Board of Commissioners as the sole governing authority for all fire protection districts in our parish, pursuant to R.S. 40:1491. This ordinance grants the Board full authority to govern all aspects of our fire districts, including hiring, firing, and disciplining fire chiefs, and overseeing district operations. The Parish Council appoints the Board’s members, and neither this ordinance nor the referenced state law, R.S. 40:1491 et seq., mentions any role for the Parish President in fire district governance. The decision to create any position affecting fire district operations, such as a Fire Coordinator, rests solely with the Fire District Board or this Council—not the Parish President acting on an ill-advised recommendation by Butch Browning.

Last night, President Thibaut raised this position again at the Fire Board meeting, only to face heavy criticism and clear disapproval from our Fire Chiefs. The Fire District Board took no action to approve any aspect of this proposal, further underscoring the lack of support for this initiative. This follows a previous meeting where the President presented the position as a done deal, citing a recommendation from Mr. Butch Browning. I found his two-page proposal lacking substance, and I question his claim of investing 25 hours in it. Worse, we were initially told all Fire Chiefs supported the position, only to learn the next day that the majority of them did not. This repeated misrepresentation erodes trust in our leadership.

President Thibaut referenced Attorney General Opinion 12-0078 from Iberia Parish, as noted by Attorney Danny Garrett, to justify his actions. However, this opinion is inapplicable. The Iberia Parish Charter differs significantly from Pointe Coupee's, particularly in defining presidential authority, rendering the AGO moot. The AGO addressed a part-time advisory position that did not require council approval because it was not a department or office. In contrast, the proposed Fire Coordinator role exercises repetitive activities over fire district business, duties already performed by our Fire Chiefs under the Board's oversight. This makes it similar to a new office, requiring Council approval per our Charter and AGO 12-0078. Moreover, even if advisory, the position cannot be created without budgeted funds, which our 2025 budget, approved by this Council, does not include.

The President's attempt to create this position usurps the authority of the Fire District Board that we established. If he lacks confidence in the Board's ability to govern, he should propose changes to this Council—perhaps adjusting its composition or operations—not create a position to bypass it. Financially, this proposal is unsustainable. The 2025 budget does not allocate funds for a Fire Coordinator. Where will the money come from? Our fire districts are funded by five separate millages, yet District 2 (Morganza) faces a financial crisis. If the upcoming millage vote for them fails again, we will need significant resources to prevent drastic increases in homeowners' insurance rates. Diverting parish funds to an unbudgeted position is irresponsible when we must prioritize supporting District 2.

There is no demonstrated need for this position. The Fire Chiefs, as expressed last night, disapprove and have not requested a Fire Coordinator nor the fire board; they seek better communication with this Council, which can be achieved without added bureaucracy. The proposed job duties duplicate work already performed by our Fire Chiefs and their teams. Spending money on redundant roles offers no operational benefit.

I am concerned this position is a step toward consolidating our fire districts, undermining the Fire District Board's autonomy and this Council's intent. If such a position is needed, it must be proposed transparently through the Board or this Council, included in the budget, and aligned with our ordinances. Bypassing these steps disrespects our role and the voters who elected us.

I urge this Council to reject this unauthorized and unbudgeted position. We must uphold our Charter, protect the Fire District Board's authority as established by Ordinance 7-12-22(2), and focus on real solutions—like supporting District 2's funding needs. If changes to the Board are needed, let the President propose them to us, not create a workaround that subverts our authority. Let's do this the right way, with transparency and accountability to the people of Pointe Coupee Parish. Thank you."

President Thibaut responded to Councilman Jarreau's statement regarding the Fire Coordinator position. He referenced the Home Rule Charter, Article III, Section 3.01 – Powers and Duties of the Parish President, stating that the position is under the Administration and must be a budgeted item or have funds allocated in the budget. Currently, funding exists to support the part-time position, and he has the authority to make that decision. In 2026, the Council will need to vote to approve funding for the position, which is where the Council's authority lies in agreeing with the position. He clarified that

the position is not under the Fire Board and will not manage the Fire Board. President Thibaut noted that the concept of a Fire Coordinator originated five years ago with Butch Browning's report and that he was asked to create the tasks, responsibilities, and framework for the part-time position. He stated that the charter governs the hiring of the position and, with the budget in place, the Parish has the authority to fill it. He also provided a synopsis of the health of the Fire Districts and explained that he presented the proposed job duties at the Fire Board meeting on September 8, 2025. Thibaut states, "I took offense to an email sent to the public and media to respond to the agenda being posted where you assert, I was intentionally doing something illegal. This is not new. We have been talking about Fire Districts and Fire Coordinators for a very long time. I do not appreciate how that was done and I would not do that to you. If I thought you were doing something that was not right, I would call you and ask questions."

Councilman Jarreau stated that his intention was not to imply that President Thibaut had done anything criminally wrong, but that he believed the President was overstepping his boundaries. He reiterated that under the Home Rule Charter, Article III, Section 3.01, the Parish President does not have the authority to create positions, as it is not listed in his duties and responsibilities. Councilman Jarreau

further stated that the President's proposal would create a float position reporting directly to him and acting as a liaison to all parties, making him the direct supervisor, even though he has no authority over the Fire Board. He stated that the Parish President did not come to the board for their approval of this position.

President Thibaut stated that he believes it would be in the best interest of the fire chiefs, council, administration, 911 board, and other entities involved in public safety to provide input on the qualifications and duties of the Fire Coordinator. He reiterated that the Fire Coordinator is not an employee of the Fire District. He read Article III, Section 3.01 of the Home Rule Charter, which states: *"The Parish President shall be the chief executive officer of the Parish and exercise general executive and administrative authority over all departments, offices, and agencies of the Parish, except as otherwise provided for herein. The Parish President shall be considered a full-time position."* He also read Section 3.05(M), which provides the authority to *appoint, suspend, discipline, or remove any employee of the Parish in accordance with the personnel ordinance adopted by the Council, or as otherwise provided by the Charter or Louisiana law.* He stated that if the Administration seeks to hire a position and there are funds in the budget, it should be able to do so.

Chairman Boudreaux clarified that the Fire Coordinator position is intended to serve as a liaison between the Parish President and the Fire Board, providing a point of communication among the groups. He stated that he, President Thibaut, and the Fire Chiefs met a few weeks ago, and the main topic of discussion was communication, as gaps had been identified. He noted that all but one Chief agreed on the need for administrative support, which this position is intended to provide, emphasizing that the position will not run any fire districts. The fire districts will continue to be managed by their respective CEOs, the Chiefs. Chairman Boudreaux also addressed the financial situation of Fire Districts 1 and 2, stating that consolidation will ultimately be their only choice, as no upcoming millages are currently scheduled. He then questioned Councilman Jarreau's involvement in Fire District meetings, noting that Mr. Jarreau had not attended a meeting in three years, since the consolidation. He encouraged Mr. Jarreau to begin attending meetings and become more actively involved.

Attorney Garrett stated he had been asked by Chairman Boudreaux to review the authority issue and, after further research, prepared a memorandum on the matter. He explained that Iberia Parish was the only parish with an opinion closely aligned with what the Pointe Coupee Parish Administration was seeking. While Iberia's Charter contained similar language, there was one notable difference: Iberia's Charter requires council action to create a department, agency, or office, whereas Pointe Coupee's Charter requires an ordinance to create or reorganize a parish department.

Garrett noted that he cited the Attorney General's opinion because it provides a clear explanation of the analysis needed to determine whether the executive has authority to create a position. The opinion essentially concluded that if the position is considered a parish office, then it must be created by charter. However, if the position is not a parish office, as in Iberia Parish, it falls under the general authority of the Parish President. He emphasized that this authority is supported not only by Section 3.01 of the Charter but also Sections 3.05(J) and (M), which address the general appropriation of funds available to the Parish President.

He reiterated that the proposed position would be an employee of the Administration, not of the Fire District, and clarified that his memorandum reflected only his legal opinion—not a binding decision for the Council.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MOVING HALLOWEEN OBSERVANCE TO OCTOBER 30TH

Further discussion of time and date for moving Halloween Observance will be determined at the Executive Meeting on September 23, 2025.

DISCUSS MEETING TIME AND DATE FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

All Council members will have to take required training.

Councilman Boudreaux suggested that the Board of Adjustments meeting be before Executive Committee Meetings.

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

RESOLVED, That the all meetings of the Board of Adjustments are hereby scheduled on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Executive Committee Meetings, and first meeting will be September 23, 2025.

Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZE PRESIDE 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

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 managed

through Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development.

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:

NOW, 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.

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.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE NAMING PRIVATE ROADS “MR. BUDDY’S AIRPORT ROAD” OFF LA HWY 1. AT LETTSWORTH FOR E-911 PURPOSES

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

RESOLVED, That a private road be named **Mr. Buddy’s Airport Road** off LA Hwy. 1 at Lettsworth for E-911 purposes.

Unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

There were no announcements, notices, meetings, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. LaCoste, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Gerrie Martin
Council Clerk

Dustin Boudreaux
Chairman