

Minutes of a meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, held in the Pointe-a-la-Hache Courthouse Council Chambers, 18055 Highway 23, Pointe-a-la-Hache, Louisiana on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 5:05 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Council Member Mark Cognevich, Chairman
Council Member W. Beau Black
Council Member Corey Arbourgh
Council Member Stuart J. Guey
Council Member Benedict Rousselle
Council Member Trudy Newberry
Council Member Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Council Member John L. Barthelemy, Jr.
Council Member Richie Blink

The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were dispensed with.

Charter Directors Crystal Taylor and Todd Eppley were present representing the Administration.

All items, unless specifically addressed in these minutes, were deferred.

Council Member Barthelemy joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Council Member Cognevich advanced to Agenda Item 9b. Without objection, so ordered. Council Member Cognevich offered the legislation and it was seconded by Council Member Arbourgh. The floor was opened to Ruth Lawson, Executive Director of the Jefferson Parish Financial Authority. She explained the program for low to moderate income borrowers of Plaquemines Parish to participate in their Southern Mortgage and Assistance Program and the Lagniappe Advantage Program. After the presentation and public comment was made the resolution was put to a vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-196

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Arbourgh, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Member Blink who was "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing the Parish President, Kirk M. Lepine, for and on behalf of the Plaquemines Parish Government to enter into an agreement with Jefferson Parish Finance Authority for the purpose of allowing low to moderate income borrowers of Plaquemines Parish to participate in the Authority's Southern Mortgage Assistance Program and Lagniappe Advantage Program; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish is a political body organized pursuant to Article III(d) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 and ratified and confirmed by Article VI Section 6 of Louisiana Constitution of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is a public trust established for public purposes for the benefit of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana (the "Beneficiary"), created pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Public Trust Act, Chapter 2-A of Title 9 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended La. R.S. 9:2341-2347, inclusive (the "Act"), and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto and by that certain Trust Indenture dated the 9th day of February, 1979 and all amendments thereto (the "Indenture"); and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 14(A) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and Sections 9020 through 9037, inclusive, of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, authorizes the parties to enter into this Agreement for the purpose of engaging in or encouraging economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Indenture empowers the Authority to promote, encourage and further the accomplishment of all activities which are or may have a public purpose, including, but not limited to, the social welfare for the aid and support of the needy by providing for the development of safe, sanitary single family housing for the low and moderate income families of the Beneficiary, for projects authorized under the Act and the Indenture which shall be deemed an authorized public function under the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Authority and Plaquemines Parish desire to enter into this Agreement for the benefit of the citizens of both Plaquemines Parish and the Beneficiary, for the purposes of allowing low to moderate income borrowers of Plaquemines Parish to participate in the Authority's Southern Mortgage Assistance Program and Lagniappe Advantage Program (the "Program") and for the Authority to earn an administrative fee in accordance with the terms of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Program will be administered by the Authority on behalf of Plaquemines Parish in accordance with the terms of the attached Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby authorizes Kirk M. Lepine, Parish President, to enter into an agreement with the Jefferson Parish Finance Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and the Parish President and employees are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

There being no Bids and Advertisements under Agenda Item 5, Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 6, "Beer and Liquor Licenses". Without objection, so ordered. Council Member Cognevich offered a liquor permit renewal application and it was seconded by Council Member Newberry. Council Member Cognevich spoke about the complaints received from residents and that the Police shut down the daiquiri shop due to selling alcohol to minors. Mr. Dean St. Pierre, owner of the daiquiri shop, addressed the Council. Council Member Cognevich said that he would defer this matter and meet next week with Mr. St. Pierre and the residents who had complaints.

Council Member Cognevich reverted back to Agenda Item 2, "Executive Session". Without objection, so ordered.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

On motion of Council Member Rousselle and seconded by Council Member Cognevich, a Motion to Suspend the Rules to add an item to today's Executive Session entitled, "Attorney client privileged communications in regard to Agenda Item 7a(1) as per LRS 42:17(A)(10)-Attorney Rennie Buras" was adopted by a vote of 8-0 with Council Member Blink being "ABSENT".

RESOLUTION NO. 21-197

On motion of Council Member Rousselle, seconded by Council Member Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Members Blink who was "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby resolves itself into Executive Session at 5:43 p.m. for the purpose of hearing a report and recommendations and strategy advice for the management of litigation from its attorney concerning: Attorney client privileged communications in regard to the law and processes related to the purchase by the Parish of property owned by the State of LA. (LRS 42:17(A)(10))-Attorney Dannie Garrett and Attorney client privileged communications in regard to Agenda Item 7a(1) as per LRS 42:17(A)(10)-Attorney Rennie Buras.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 6:18 p.m. with no final or binding action taken.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 11j, "Discussion on the Belle Chasse Bridge". Without objection so ordered. Council Member Rousselle said that this item is one the agenda because Council Members have been trying to get representatives from the Plenary and DBI to attend a meeting and have public discussions. He feels they owe the public a meeting to address the issues and it is starting to really annoy the public. Council Member Rousselle also said he has gotten a lot of comments about this matter. Council Member Cognevich said he and Council Member Newberry met with Plenary on Tuesday and they are willing to come to a meeting, make a presentation and answer some questions; however, they did say they will not answer all questions. Council Member Newberry said they did offer to hold townhall meetings. The floor was then opened to the public wherein comments and questions were made regarding the bridge operations and maintenance, the legislation to issue summons to have representatives from the companies to attend a council meeting and questioning what public questions they will really answer.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 9i. Without objection, so ordered.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-77

The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Arbourgh who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance to amend the 2021 Library Services Fund, Operating Expenditure Budget, Libraries General Department; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, after a review of the operating expenditure budget for the Library Department, an amendment is necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT:

SECTION 1

The 2021 Library Services Fund, Operating Expenditure Budget, Libraries General Department, is amended by appropriating \$15,000 from the Library Services Fund Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance as follows:

Fund: 006 Library Services Fund			
Dept/Div: 675-4240 Libraries General Department			
Object	Description	Inc/Dec	Amendment
568.505	Property-Major Repairs	Inc	15,000

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Council Member Cognevich seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr., W. Beau Black, Corey Arbourgh, Stuart J. Guey, Benedict Rousselle, Trudy Newberry, Carlton M. LaFrance, and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Council Member Richie Blink

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 22nd day of July, 2021.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 7, "Building Permits". Without objection, so ordered.

Council Member LaFrance offered Agenda Item 7a(2), "Plaquemines Dirt & Clay, LLC, Application No. 2021-335, dated April 16, 2021, continuation of existing borrow pit operation, 22222 Highway 23, Port Sulphur" for discussion only and it was seconded by Council Member Cognevich. The floor was given to George Pivach who was representing Plaquemines Dirt & Clay, LLC. After he addressed the Council the item was deferred.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 10, "Approval of the Minutes". Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-198

On motion of Council Member Arbourgh, seconded by Council Member Newberry, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Members Blink and Rousselle who were "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby approves the minutes of the July 8, 2021, regular meeting, as recorded by the Secretary of this Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on motion Council Member Arbourgh, seconded by Council Member Black, and on roll call all members present voting "YES" except Council Members Rousselle and Blink who were "ABSENT", the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

For a full transcript of discussions and presentations a video of this meeting is available for viewing on the Parish website www.plaqueminesparish.com or on YouTube.