

**FEBRUARY 25, 2004  
RACELAND, LOUISIANA**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF LAFOURCHE**

**THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2004, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERMITS COMMITTEE MEETING, IN THE COUNCIL ROOM AT THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL BARRIOS CENTER, 1612 HWY. 182, SUITE 100, RACELAND, LOUISIANA.**

Mr. Tommy Lasseigne, Chairman, stated that the Finance and Legislative Committee was ready for the transaction of business following the Board of Appointments and Permits Committee. Proceedings of the meeting were called to order at 7:55 with the following:

**PRESENT:** Mr. Tyrone Williams  
Mr. Mike Delatte  
Mr. Michael Matherne  
Mr. Tommy Lasseigne–Chairman  
Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer  
Mr. Lindel Toups  
Mr. L. Phillip Gouaux, II–Chairman  
Mr. Brent Callais  
Mr. Daniel Lorraine

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTIONS**

The next item (1) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning the updating of the Code of Ordinances. Mr. Phillip Gouaux suggested that the new Council Clerk put to Code of Ordinances on a CD.

The next item (2) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning the updating of the Lafourche Parish Council’s By-Laws. Mr. Phillip Gouaux mentioned that he, along with pass councilman Mr. Joseph Fertitta and Council Clerk Sheila Boudreaux, worked on updating the By-Laws, which have not been updated in five years. He requested that Ms. Boudreaux furnish the council with corrections that have been made, but not passed, within the past 5 years. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Tommy Lasseigne to distribute the work that was done on updating the By-laws to the current Councilmen for their review and have the councilmen make recommendations for changes to the By-laws at the next committee meeting. The committee **adopted** the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (3) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning zoning.

Mr. Phillip Gouaux *deferred* this item until the next committee meeting.

The next item (4) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning parish-wide recreation. Mr. Phillip Gouaux *deferred* this item until the next committee meeting.

The next item (5) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning the subdivision ordinance (drainage and driveways). Mr. Phillip Gouaux mentioned that people are pouring driveways and sidewalks with no expansion joint on the parish line and said that the cement has to be cut if the parish has to remove a culvert. He said that he will introduce an ordinance at the next full council meeting that states that an expansion joint must exist at or near the parish line/servitude to avoid major damage when removing a culvert. Mr. Gouaux said that this issue did not fall under the Planning Commission's jurisdiction. A discussion ensued regarding how the cement contractor would know where the line was.

The next item (6) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning parish employees. Mr. Daniel Lorraine discussed the issue of salary increases for parish employees. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine and seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups requesting the administration to look into giving parish employees a 10% raise, excluding the employees that were just hired. A discussion ensued regarding the percentage of the salary increase and the option of the allowing the Parish President, along with the Finance Department to come up with a figure. Mr. Michael Matherne reminded that committee that the council only hires two employees—an auditor and the Council Clerk, and added that he was not in the position to tell the Parish President what to pay her employees. Several Councilmen spoke in favor of the raise but in opposition to the 10%. An **amendment** was offered by Mr. Brent Callais, seconded by Mr. Michael Matherne, and *carried* requesting the Parish President to looking into the possibility of giving parish employees a pay increase, excluding the amount of 10% by a vote of eight (8) yeas and one (1) nay, being that of Mr. Daniel Lorraine. The **motion died** since the amendment, to exclude the 10%, passed.

The next item (7) on the agenda was a motion to enter into discussion concerning a millage for the Lafourche Parish Council on Aging. Charlene Rodriguez, the Executive Director for the Council on Aging, discussed a proposal she sent to the council regarding a millage for the Council on Aging. She elaborated on home meal deliveries, transportation services, salaries, and the elderly residents who receive and do not receive services. Mr. Toups suggested that the Council on Aging request that the Sheriff's office lower the meal prices. Mrs. Rodriguez mentioned that they are United Way funded, which does not allow them to do business with some of the big, local businesses. She then discussed the issue of liability insurance.

The next item (8) on the agenda was a motion to discuss the Thibodaux-Raceland-Savoie Project. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer mentioned that the committee discussed at the last meeting the possibility of spending \$1 million of parish money on this project. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups that public meetings be held in the next 30 days to allow for public comment on this project, prior to the council making a decision as to whether or not to fund the project. A discussion ensued regarding where to hold the meetings and who would attend the meetings to provide information. Mr. Phillip Gouaux discussed other drainage problems with several of the Pump Stations and protection levees in his area, stating that an attempt needs to be made to fix these problems before spending money on this project. Mr. Atzenhoffer stressed that the motion was just to hold public meetings. The committee *adopted* the motion to hold a public meeting to discuss the Thibodaux-Raceland-Savoie Project in the Bayou Blue, Lockport,

Thibodaux, and Raceland area by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

## RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Lasseigne requested that the committee deviate from the agenda, discussing item (9) after item (12).

The next item (10) on the agenda was a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 04-006 and stating that all checks issued by the Lafourche Parish Government shall be signed by any two of the following three individuals: Parish President Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish Administrator Cullen Curole, and Executive Assistant Arlene Toups; and that these individuals are authorized to sign on all accounts dealing with the transfer of funds. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux. Mr. Lindel Toups requested that the Parish President's signature be on all checks. The committee **recommended approval** of said resolution by a vote of by a vote of eight (8) yeas and one (1) nay, being that of Mr. Lindel Toups.

### **RES. NO. 04-020**

The next item (11) on the agenda was a resolution to declare parish property on attached list as surplus. A Point of Order was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, stating that according to the Home Rule Charter, any property abandoned by the parish needs to be introduced as an ordinance, opposed to a resolution. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer **deferred** this item until the next council meeting, where it will be placed on the agenda as a proposed ordinance by the Council Clerk.

The next item (12) on the agenda was a resolution approving the holding of an election in Recreation District No. 3 of the Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, July 17, 2004, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein, pending a resolution from Recreation District No. 3, which will be provided to the Lafourche Parish Council before the next full council meeting to be held on March 9, 2004. Mr. Brent Callais **abstained** from voting on this item, as advised by the District Attorney and the Board of Ethics, due to his father being one of the beneficiaries of this tax. A Point of Order was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, cited the Home Rule Charter, stating that levees, taxes, or assessments require the adoption of an ordinance. He referred to a letter from the District Attorney's office stating such. He requested that this item be placed on the full council agenda as a proposed ordinance. Mr. Daniel Lorraine then read aloud a letter received from the District Attorney regarding this issue, advising the council to introduce this item at the next council meeting, which would in no way delay the holding of the election in July. Mr. Lorraine then referred to resolutions that were adopted over the years, such as resolutions approving tax calls and the holding of elections to authorize the renewal of a special tax or the levying of a special tax. He just asked that an election be held to let the people vote on whether or not they want the tax. He then comment on the issue of the one year moratorium, stating that in his opinion, it was just a delay tactic. He agreed to put this item on the next full council agenda as a proposed ordinance. Mr. Toups suggested that the millage be dropped and that the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward use a sales tax, so that everyone pays for it. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer stated that because something was done wrong in the past does not make it right and added that the council should follow the Home Rule Charter, which states that any increase in tax requires an ordinance. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer **withdrew** item (9), a resolution placing a one year moratorium on any new millages. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine requesting that **item (12) and item (9)**, respectively, **be placed on the next full council agenda as proposed ordinances** by the Council

Clerk. The committee *approved* the motion by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

The next item (13) on the agenda was a Presentation of financial report by the individual in charge or individual with knowledge of present and ongoing matters and the highest ranking individual internally to whom the Finance Staff/Employees report to in the Lafourche Parish Finance Department, (that person prior to reporting to the President) as required by the Lafourche Parish Home Rule Charter, Article II, Section B, Item 2, which states: "The president shall submit monthly reports to the governing authority on parish finances and may require any parish officer or employee to report to the governing authority when necessary for the proper administration of the parish. President Randolph mentioned that this presentation is made at the full council meeting. A motion was offered Mr. Lindel Toups, seconded by Mr. Tommy Lasseigne, and *carried* to *defer* this report until the full council meeting, where this report will always be presented, by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next item (14) on the agenda was Public to address the Committee. Steve LeRay addressed the committee regarding the Thibodaux-Raceland-Savoie Project and mentioned the drainage problems on the west side of Thibodaux.

The next item (15) on the agenda was any other business. A motion was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups and *unanimously seconded* to reschedule the March full council meeting, due to an election, to Monday, March 8, 2004.

#### **ADJOURN**

On motion by Mr. Lindel Toups, seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux, and with no further business the Lafourche Parish Council Legislative and Finance Committee of February 25, 2004, was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

**TOMMY LASSEIGNE, CHAIRMAN  
LAFOURCHE PARISH FINANCE  
AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**STACIE GRAVOIS, INTERIM COUNCIL CLERK  
LAFOURCHE PARISH**