

**JUNE 22, 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 TUESDAY, _JUNE 22, 2004, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERMITS COMMITTEE MEETING, IN THE COUNCIL MEETING 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 9:39 p.m. with the following:

PRESENT: Mr. Tyrone Williams
Mr. Michael Delatte
Mr. Michael Matherne
Mr. Tommy LasseigneBChairman
Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer
Mr. Lindel Touts
Mr. L. Phillip Gouaux, IIBCo-Chairman
Mr. Brent Callais
Mr. Daniel Lorraine

ABSENT: None

MOTIONS

The first item (1) on the agenda was a motion to authorize the purchase of \$20,000 of limestone for the Clovelly Road. Mr. Brent Callais began by saying that this item was an agreement with the Greater Lafourche Port Commission to give \$25,000 a year for 4 years to place limestones on the Clovelly Road, not \$20,000. Mr. Callais stated that Mr. Ray Cheramie, Director of Department of Public Works, will handle this matter.

The next item (2) on the agenda was a motion to set an August 31, 2004 deadline for the Veteran=s Memorial District to implement plans for the purchase of land and the memorial, and if not reached by deadline, the bonds be sold back, minus the funds necessary to purchase and maintain the vans previously approved and the millage rolled back to support the van program only. When said plan is enacted, the millage can be increased to support the payment of plan. Item (2) was *deferred* until next month=s meeting.

The next item (3) on the agenda was a motion to request the Administration to move the \$100,000 from the A10th Ward Drainage@ to ADistrict No. 8 Drainage@, and the \$48,000 from AClearing 40-Arpent Canal@ to ADistrict No. 8 Drainage@, totaling \$148,000 to be used for drainage in District No. 8. Mr. Brent Callais stated that this money was in the budget and he is requesting the Parish President to move the funds into one account, to be used for drainage in

District No. 8. He also spoke to some engineers and contractors in the Parish who will try to get a matching grant, another \$150,000 from FEMA. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Brent Callais and seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer to move the funds into an account for use of drainage in District No. 8. Mr. Lindel Toups stated some concerns he had about moving money before plans were considered on how the money was going to be spent. Mr. Brent Callais clarified that the money will be used for the clearing of the 40 Arpent Canal on the east side of Bayou Lafourche and that matching funds could not be requested without first getting this money approved. Mr. Phillip Gouaux asked if this is for the same grant that T. Baker Smith was presently working on, which is for District No. 1, not District No. 8. Mr. Gouaux then suggested that the Administration should be in coordination with the moving of money and asking for grants. Mr. Callais said that he did speak with members of the Administration about moving the funds to be used in his District and that is why he was requesting the funds to be moved. Mr. Michael Matherne agreed with Mr. Callais and said that there would be an advantage of being able to be eligible to receive matching funds. The motion *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

DISCUSSIONS

The next item (4) on the agenda was a discussion concerning the \$100,000, Line Item #420300338 in the 2004 Maintenance and Operations Budget, for drainage work in District No. 9. Mr. Daniel Lorraine asked the Administration to look at the budget in order to hire an engineer to get a price on some flooding streets that need drainage work. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine and seconded by Mr. Brent Callais to give a list of streets to the Administration that \$100,000 could benefit, and for the Administration to get an engineer to find out how much of the work could be done. The motion *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (5) on the agenda was a discussion to determine a professional services rotation. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer suggested a professional service rotation list to determine where engineering work could spread by using all of the professional services on a rotation. He mentioned the rotation from the Water District and that he thought it was working really well. Mr. Michael Matherne agreed with Mr. Atzenhoffer that it would be fair and equitable to embrace a rotation like the Water District, and that he would help put something together. Mr. Atzenhoffer stated that at the beginning of the fiscal year, an ad should be put in the Parish Journal requesting qualifications on architects, engineers, or any other professional service that could be included in the rotation. Mr. Phillip Gouaux stated that some engineers do preliminary work on grants free of charge and when the Parish gets the grant, the engineer loses the job and the Parish loses that advantage. Mr. Tommy Lasseigne mentioned his thoughts on a leap frog technique, that may work to be fair and to get the best qualified for a particular job. Mr. Phillip Gouaux stated that if the Council did the rotation in the Parish, it would have to be done with all of the boards. He then went on to say that some of the boards are governed by state statute, having their own personal engineer, and that would not be a fair and equitable rotation process. Mr. Atzenhoffer suggested that all the Council members contribute their concerns to create something workable and come back to the next Committee meeting. Mr. Lindel Toups said that he thought that the Council should let the Administration use who they want and approve of what they would do. Mr. Daniel Lorraine suggested that in the proposal, it should have a clause to read that if a firm goes out for a grant and the Parish receives it, that they would do the job.

The next item (6) on the agenda was a discussion concerning the updating of the By-Laws of the Lafourche Parish Council. Mr. Phillip Gouaux discussed the updated/more correct version of the By-laws that was given to the Council members a few months back. He stated that the By-laws has not been updated in over the last 6 years and that the Council is governed by the By-laws. Mr. Gouaux suggested that Council review the revisions of the By-laws before it is submitted as an ordinance to be adopted and to come back at the next meeting to make any necessary changes.

The next item (7) on the agenda was a discussion concerning the \$50,000, Line Item #400640671 in the 2004 Maintenance and Operations Budget, for the Galliano Annex. Mr. Brent Callais spoke about the Galliano Annex and that he filed a tall grass order complaint on the Annex. He went on to say that the grass has been cut a couple of months ago by some of the employees who work there and that the inmates or community service individuals who used to maintain the buildings are no longer there. Mr. Callais said that the grass is cut every six months or so by an employee who volunteers their time on the weekends to cut the grass. Mr. Callais asked if the Council needed a resolution to send a request to the Sheriff=s Office requesting inmates to clean the Annex building. He said that it could be painted after getting some power washers, the grass cut, and the work could all be done with as little as \$2,000, making a major difference in appearance. Mr. Daniel Lorraine brought up possibilities of the spending of the \$50,000. He suggested that some of the money be used for the Wal-Mart location, if it would not be used for the Annex. Mr. Brent Callais asked if the Administration would go out to get quotes from contractors to do a basic face lift of the Annex building or what was the procedures of doing so. President Randolph suggested trying in-house first and if that is not sufficient, another option could be taken. Mr. Callais asked if it was possible that Mr. Cullen Curole, Parish Administrator, send a letter to the Sheriff=s Office asking for inmates to help maintain the building every so often. Mr. Curole stated that he already spoke with Ed Savoie, with Building and Maintenance, and he said that he was promised some community service workers and had not received them as of yet. Mr. Curole then stated that a letter would be appropriate. He also mentioned that the Health Unit was cleaned. Mr. Daniel Lorraine suggested that some trustees cut the grass at the Annex and get the flag pole white again so that the flag could be flown. Mr. Michael Matherne stated that he had the opportunity to visit the area, accompanied by Mr. Callais, and that \$50,000 could do the Annex building a lot of good. President Randolph agreed that the Annex needed to be cleaned because a lot of important functions/services are held there.

RESOLUTIONS

The next item (8) on the agenda was a Resolution requesting a legal opinion from the Lafourche Parish District Attorney to determine whether or not Resolution No. 04-044, authorizing the change in budget notations detailing expenditures in the Drainage Maintenance Fund #104 of the 2004 Maintenance and Operations Budget under the Line Item, AConstruction - Pump Stations and Improvements@ as follows: Adding a notation for APump Station Improvements - Edgar Guidry Pump Station - \$406,000" and increasing the originally approved dollar amount from A\$50,000 to \$115,000" for the Fantastic Acres Pump Station, is legal. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine. Discussions continued on the matter at hand. Mr. Lindel Toups asked if work will be delayed by waiting for legal opinions. President Randolph responded saying no, that it would not delay any work. An **amendment** to the resolution to change the word Alegal@ to Aproper@ was offered

by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, and *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (9) on the agenda was a Resolution rescinding Resolution No. 04-031 that authorized the hiring of Cheramie/Whitney Architect=s to redesign the Galliano/Cut Off Library. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Brent Callais, seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine to resend Resolution No. 04-031, and *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (10) on the agenda was a Resolution hiring the firm of Joseph B. Caillouet Architects, (JBC/AIA), to redesign the new Galliano/Cut Off Library building for use as a public Library; and authorizing the Parish President to sign all necessary documents. Mr. Brent Callais asked that item (10) be *deferred* under the advice of the District Attorney until or if Mr. Caillouet accepts the new contract. Item (10) will be on the July Lafourche Parish Council meeting agenda.

The next item (11) on the agenda was a Resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into negotiations to purchase the Galliano Centroplex, and that the final purchasing agreement is subject to approval by the Council by Ordinance. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups. Mr. Lindel Toups seconded for discussion purposes only, and then asked what were in the plans for buying the Galliano Centroplex? Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer stated that the Parish uses the building for recreation, the building is presently in financial difficulties, and if it forecloses, anyone could buy it for very little. He also said that the Parish does not own any recreational facilities, except for the residual ownership of the Larose Civic Center, so why not buy the Centroplex. Mr. Phillip Gouaux asked if the Centroplex is indeed for sale? Mr. Atzenhoffer asked the Administration to authorize authority to negotiate to find out if it is for sale. He suggested passing the resolution, enter into negotiations to ask about it, and then come back to the Council with a response. Mr. Gouaux asked if there were any business plans or long term plans for it besides having a place to play ball. Mr. Atzenhoffer responded that the facility can be rented out, meetings could be held there, and individual organizations hold meetings there. Mr. Tommy Lasseigne suggested that the Administration find out first if it is for sale. Ms. Rosie Galjour, with the Galliano Centroplex, stated that she had ten officers and legionnaires that she would need to consult with to make a decision about this matter of the Centroplex. Her opinion was that it is one of the largest buildings in the Parish, that it does need help, and that it should be sold. She stated that a price could be disclosed after consulting with the legionnaires, that she did not have that information yet. Mr. Lindel Toups asked if it was definitely for sale? Ms. Galjour stated that common sense says that the best decision is to sell and that an offer was made to sell land to help the situation. She then stated that she would be open to negotiations. Mr. Daniel Lorraine stated his opinions on what should be done before considerations should be made. The resolution *carried* by a vote of seven (7) yeas and two (2) nays, that being of Mr. Phillip Gouaux and Mr. Lindel Toups.

PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

The next item on the agenda was the Public to Address the Committee. Hearing none, Mr. Tommy Lasseigne, Chairman moved to the next item.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next item on the agenda was any other business needing to be addressed.

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux to go to the 2/3 agenda, and *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Mr. Brent Callais recused himself from voting on the issue on the 2/3 agenda because he works for the company that it will mention. The 2/3 agenda is that of a resolution granting Edison Chouest Offshore, Inc. a reasonable amount of time (four (4) to six (6) months) to vacate the premises of the Old Galliano Wal-mart and in return, Edison Chouest Offshore, Inc. has agreed to carry insurance on all of their contents in the building. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer for an amendment to read that the Parish would receive a hold harmless clause from ECO, and also to provide the Parish with an inventory of items stored in the building, and *carried* by a vote of eight (8) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) abstained, that being of Mr. Brent Callais. A **motion** was offered Mr. Daniel Lorraine, seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer to approve the amendment, and *carried* by a vote of eight (8) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) abstained, that being of Mr. Brent Callais.

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux, seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer to go back to the regular agenda, and *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Next, Mr. Ray Cheramie, Director of Public Works, said that it is tough to decide where to place some of the machines because plans need to be made ahead of time. He said that Councilmen are getting engineers to do work that was already in his schedule to have done. Mr. Cheramie said that he needs to prioritize the work, and that he needs the Council to let him know what other work will be taking place, so that he could have his machines where they need to be. Mr. Tommy Lasseigne agreed that work needs to be coordinated and that he encourages the Council members to do so because of the benefits. Discussions continued about submitting work to be done. President Randolph briefly stated that a priority list for the 2005 budget was requested and Council needs to send it in.

ADJOURN

On motion by Mr. Lindel Toups, seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Finance and Legislative Committee meeting of June 22, 2004, adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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

**SHEILA B. BOUDREAUX, COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**