

OCTOBER 26, 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, OCTOBER 26, 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.

Dr. Tommy Lasseigne, Chairman, stated that the Finance and Legislative Committee was ready for the transaction of business following the close of the Board of Appointments and Permits Committee. Proceedings of the meeting were called to order at 6:52 p.m. with the following:

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

**ABSENT:** None

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine and unanimously seconded to *deviate* to item (3) on the agenda, which was a **Discussion** concerning speed bumps. Mr. Lorraine stated that the Sheriff was present and requested that he address the Council on the speed bump issues. Mr. Lorraine said an Ordinance was passed concerning speed bumps on February 23, 1989 and that a second Ordinance (No. 3145) was passed on May 13, 2003. Sheriff Craig Webre thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to bring the issue before the Council and then briefed the Council on why he thought the speed bump issue was important. Sheriff Webre spoke of property, how they were divided, how streets became streets and why they are so long. He stated that the speeding problems are being addressed through enforcement, but it does not eliminate them. Sheriff Webre said that he had his staff do some research and they found a technique called "traffic calming". He explained that the system suggests that Government (the Sheriff and the Parish) access an area's traffic volume, congestion, speed, and other related issues. Then, a compressive program would need to be created that would involve: input, public hearings, and petitions from the residents of the area to discuss different "traffic calming" devices. Sheriff Webre stated that he would like to meet with the appropriate people, staff, or departments to further research this technique. He asked for consideration from the Council to take part into this study and maybe incorporate the concept. Mr. Lindel Toups offered a **motion** for the Administration to work with the Sheriff's Office and to report back to the Council on their

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

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and unanimously seconded to return to the regular agenda.

### **DISCUSSIONS**

The first item (1) on the agenda was a discussion concerning cell phones. Mr. Lindel Toups asked the Administration for an explanation on the cell phone bills of the Parish employees, which departments have cell phones and who pays for them. He then asked specifically about the cell phones used by Head Start. Mr. Cullen Curole, Parish Administrator explained that the Parish pays the cell phone bills for Head Start and gets reimbursed by the Federal programs. Mr. Toups stated that he would like more information on the Parish cell phones and the plans (now and if they ordered new phones). Mr. Curole stated that the order was pulled, waiting to hear what the discussions were going to be about at this meeting. He then answered that some phones could be turned in to receive the new Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) phones. Discussions ensued about itemized statements, public record, allowances, and reimbursements options. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer to get a legal opinion from the District Attorney about the rights and responsibilities of the cell phone usages (allowances versus reimbursements) to clarify public record concerns, and *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (2) on the agenda was a discussion concerning travel reimbursement. Mr. Phillip Gouaux explained that he wanted to submit an ordinance on how the expenses are considered and who has the authority to approve them. A long discussion ensued in reference to the excerpt from the state travel guidelines.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

The next item (4) on the agenda was a resolution approving the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Lafourche Parish Government and the City of Thibodaux for the sum of \$130,000 for the planning, design and construction of the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer said cooperative endeavor agreement and all relevant documents. President Randolph explained that this was just part of the process for the money to be transferred from the City's account to the Parish's account to pay for the animal shelter. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups and seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine. A brief discussion ensued about the funding of the shelter. The motion *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

### **RES. NO. APPROVING THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT**

### **PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE**

The next item on the agenda was the Public to Address the Committee. Mr. James Wayne with Capital Area Legal Services was present to address the Committee regarding funding. Mr. Wayne said that he serves as the Executive Director of Capital Area Legal Services (Head quarters in Baton Rouge). He stated that they provide free legal services for Lafourche

Parish. Mr. Wayne stated that he had been before the Council previously requesting funding and that this time he was begging. He said that there is an office in Houma, one in Gonzales, one in Donaldsonville, and one in Baton Rouge, but not enough personnel to continue to service the whole Parish. Mr. Wayne said they need financial support to send an outreach person down to Golden Meadow, Galliano, and the most southern parts of the Parish. He said that they had to cut back on services because of their lack of funding. Mr. Michael Delatte asked Mr. Wayne if it would be possible to get an accurate report of constituents from Lafourche Parish that uses the services out of Terrebonne. Mr. Wayne stated over 200 people was served out of his office in Terrebonne Parish. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer to support the Capital Area Legal Services Corporation in the amount of \$5,800. A brief discussion ensued. An **amendment** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, seconded by Mr. Lindel Toups, to recommend that the Administration pay the \$5,800 and **carried** by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays. The original motion **carried** by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

Mr. Cecil Watts was present to address the committee regarding the speed bump issues. He said to put the emergency vehicles into consideration, having to go down the streets with speed bumps, and how it affects their jobs.

Mr. Dwayne LeBouef, Constable, was present to address the committee regarding open containers in public. He stated that he was approached by several people in his area requesting that he bring this issue to the Council to ask for an ordinance such as the City of Thibodaux and the Town of Lockport has. Mr. LeBouef said the ordinance would assist in eliminating the loitering in front of the convenience stores. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer asked for the Council Clerk to get copies of the Ordinances from the City of Thibodaux and the Town of Lockport, and that he would forward them to the other Council members.

Mr. Lindel Toups mentioned that Halloween was the next Sunday, the burning law is in affect and asked if a resolution could be passed for everyone to be allowed to burn that evening. President Randolph said that all they had to do is alert the local fire chief.

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, seconded by Mr. Michael Matherne, and **carried** by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays to **open** a Two-Third Agenda.

### **TWO-THIRD AGENDA**

The first item (1) on the two-third agenda was a resolution requesting an opinion from the Lafourche Parish District Attorney to determine whether or not it is a conflict of interest for the nine Council members to serve as the Board of Commissioners for the Veteran's Memorial District. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Brent Callais, seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, and **carried** to adopt said resolution by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

The next item (2) on the two-third agenda was a resolution hereby stating that the Lafourche Parish Council does hereby support the Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana tax rededication of proceeds of a special 2.64 mills tax in the Parish, and the rededication of Road Lighting District No. 1 tax revenues in the name of Special Service District No. 1 of the Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups, seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux, and **carried** to adopt said resolution by a vote of seven (7) yeas and two (2) nays, that being of Dr. Tommy Lasseigne and Mr. Daniel Lorraine.

The last item (3) on the two-third agenda was a resolution approving the acceptance of the low bid of Sea-level Construction in the amount of \$64,686.00 for the new gravel parking lot at the Emergency, Recreation, and Community Center in Raceland; and authorizing the Parish President to administer, execute and sign all relevant documents. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups and seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer. Mr. Toups said that he was contacted by the Raceland Recreation Center and was told that if the money was not spent (by signing the contract) that they would lose the money. Mr. Toups asked for clarification from the Finance Department. Mr. Cullen Curole, Parish Administrator, stated that it depended on where the money was assigned to. He gave an example of the different Recreation Districts, the funds are under the Parish Recreation Funds and if it is not used by the end of the year it is lost (it does not roll over). Mr. Curole then stated that some districts do have their own funds. Explanations continued. Mr. Danny Mayet, Chairman of Recreation District No. 2, stated that the policy in the past was not "use it or lose it". He said that the balances, in the past twelve years that he has been in the district, were always rolled over to the following year and has never lost any money. Discussion ensued. The motion *carried* to adopt said resolution by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays.

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux, seconded by Mr. Michael Delatte, and *carried* by a vote of nine (9) yeas and zero (0) nays, to *close* the Two-Third Agenda.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next item on the agenda was Other Business. There was no other business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On **motion** by Mr. Phillip Gouaux, seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Council Legislative and Finance Committee meeting of October 26, 2004, **adjourned** at 8:05 p.m.

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

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