

NOVEMBER 23, 2004
RACELAND, LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF LAFOURCHE

THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 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 7:15 p.m. with the following:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Michael Matherne

DISCUSSIONS

The first item (1) on the agenda was a discussion concerning the Library budget. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer asked about the amount spent on vehicle maintenance and where the fuel was being purchased. Mr. Paul Chiquet stated that the fuel comes from the parish. Mr. Atzenhoffer requested that the Administration look into fuel being purchased from the parish barns because the parish does not own the vehicles. He then asked about the offset of money in the budget pertaining to books (\$190,000) and furniture (\$1 million). Mr. Chiquet explained that new libraries are being built and will need to be furnished. Mr. Atzenhoffer asked what will be the total project cost for the Galliano Library. Mr. Chiquet responded \$1.6 million and to be aware that it will also serve as a meeting room for the Council. Mr. Phillip Gouaux asked what was the agreement with the Town of Lockport Library. Mr. Chiquet stated that the Town of Lockport agreed to extend the property on the lease. Discussions ensued in reference to the School Board. Dr. Tommy Lasseigne asked if the budget was for a calendar year and when were the audits done. Mr. Chiquet stated that it was a calendar year and the audits are done in September. Dr. Lasseigne asked if the Library Board had long range plans to maintain the libraries. Mr. Chiquet said there are long term plans. President Randolph requested that Mr. Chiquet forward her a copy of the surveys of the community.

The next item (2) on the agenda was a discussion concerning the request the District Attorney forwarded to the Bond Attorney's regarding litigation with Lafourche Parish. Mr. Phillip Gouaux stated that a letter was sent asking the Bonding Attorney, the firm of Adams and Reese, if they had any litigation with Lafourche Parish. He said that a letter was received from them stating that they did not have any current litigations pending. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Lindel Touts to forward another letter to Adams and Reese and all/any other firms that would be doing business with the parish asking if they ever had any litigations or would

be entertaining litigations in the future with the parish. The motion *failed* by a vote of four (4) yeas: Mr. Tyrone Williams, Mr. Michael Delatte, Mr. Lindel Toups, and Mr. Phillip Gouaux; four (4) nays: Dr. Tommy Lasseigne, Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, Mr. Brent Callais, and Mr. Daniel Lorraine, and one (1) absent, that being of Mr. Michael Matherne.

The next item (3) on the agenda was a discussion concerning reimbursement of cell phones. Mr. Brent Callais requested a decision be made on the cell phones in reference to the current plans or a new reimbursement plan. Mr. Cullen Curole, Parish Administrator, recommended that the Administration continue providing the Council with the cell phones or offer a cell phone allowance up to \$75 a month (\$125 for a PDA). He said to be aware that the IRS would consider this allowance as additional compensation and each Councilmen would be sent a 1099 form. A discussion ensued on privacy or public records if parish money was being spent. Mr. Brent Callais stated that the Code of Ordinance currently has a policy in the guidelines in which the Councilmen can be reimbursed up to \$100 for cell phones (\$125 for the Chairman). A **motion** was offered by Mr. Daniel Lorraine and seconded by Mr. Brent Callais for each Councilman to get with the Administration to make a decision on the cell phone plan that would best fit their needs and give the authority to the Parish President and the Parish Administrator the right to sign any and all contracts, and *carried* by a vote of seven (7) yeas, one (1) nay, that being of Mr. Lindel Toups, and one (1) absent, that being of Mr. Michael Matherne.

RESOLUTIONS

The next item (4) on the agenda was a resolution requesting the Lafourche Parish District Attorney to approve the hiring of Mr. Christopher Riviere to defend the parish regarding the lawsuit entitled, James Thomas, Sr. V. Eddie Rodrigue, et al, Case No. 04-2657, J(2), at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer. Mr. Lindel Toups asked who put this item on the agenda and wants to pay \$125 per hour. President Randolph stated that the District Attorney requested this hiring. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer asked if this would come out of the District Attorney's budget. President Randolph stated that it would come from the same budget. A discussion ensued on clarifications of the law suit. The motion *carried* by a vote of eight (8) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) absent, that being of Mr. Michael Matherne.

RES. NO. HIRING OF MR. CHRISTOPHER RIVIERE

The next item (5) on the agenda was a resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign, administer, execute the necessary document(s) to JBC/AIA to cease all plans on the Bayou Blue Library until further notice. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer and seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux. Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer explained that a change was made in the original agreement and the plans would also change. Chairman Lasseigne requested Mr. Caillouet to address the Council on the specifics. Mr. Daniel Lorraine asked Mr. Caillouet if the Library in Mr. Michael Delatte and Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer's area are the same. Mr. Caillouet responded that they were the same building design. A discussion ensued on bids and prices. Mr. Daniel Lorraine asked Mr. Chiquet how much money was already spent on the Bayou Blue Library. Mr. Chiquet replied with a little over \$20,000. Chairman Lasseigne asked for clarification on the site problems. A detailed discussion ensued. The motion *carried* by a vote of eight (8) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) absent, that being of Mr. Michael Matherne.

RES. NO. CEASE ALL PLANS ON THE BAYOU BLUE LIBRARY

The next item (6) on the agenda was a resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2 for work being performed on the Lafourche Parish Galliano Health Unit; and authorizing the Parish President to sign all pertinent documents. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Lindel Toups, seconded by Mr.

Phillip Gouaux, and *carried* by a vote of eight (8) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) absent, that being of Mr. Michael Matherne.

RES. NO. GALLIANO HEALTH UNIT, CHANGE ORDER NO. 2

The next item (7) on the agenda was a resolution requesting the Lafourche Parish Legislative Delegation support legislation that would expropriate by a declaration of taking by the Lafourche Parish Council; and that a provision be incorporated into the legislation to include coastal restoration projects and that a super majority be required of the Council to ratify said expropriation. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and seconded by Mr. Phillip Gouaux. Mr. Phillip Gouaux stated that Terrebonne Parish also had a similar resolution which he felt was working out fine and recommended that the Council vote for this one. The motion *carried* by a vote of seven (7) yeas, one (1) nay, that being of Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, and one (1) absent, that being of Mr. Michael Matherne.

RES. NO. SUPPORT LEGISLATION

PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

The next item on the agenda was the Public to Address the Committee. Mr. Charles Beasley spoke in reference to School Boards. A brief discussion ensued. Ms. Marilyn Duet reiterated what Mr. Chiquet had said and responded to a statement that was made by Mr. Lindel Toups.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next item on the agenda was Other Business. Mr. Phillip Gouaux requested that the Administration try to minimize the amount of Special Council meetings.

A **motion** was offered by Mr. Phillip Gouaux and unanimously seconded to cancel the December 28, 2004 Committee meetings.

President Randolph asked if the Council was still interested in hiring a photographer for the December 14, 2004 meeting to do a re-enactment of the "swearing in". She then asked for the Council's opinion on the new parish logos.

ADJOURNMENT

On **motion** by Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer, seconded by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Council Finance and Legislative Committee meeting of November 23, 2004, **adjourned** at 8:15 p.m.

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

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