

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016
MATHEWS, LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH LAFOURCHE

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M., HELD AT THE MATHEWS GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, 4876 HIGHWAY 1, MATHEWS, LOUISIANA.

The Lafourche Parish Council was duly convened as the Governing Authority of said Parish by Mr. Jerry LaFont, Chairman, who then stated that the Lafourche Parish Council was ready for the transaction of business at 5:00 p.m.

Proceedings of the meeting were called to order with the following:

PRESENT: Mr. Jerry Jones – Vice Chairman Mr. Corey Perrillioux
 Ms. Luci Sposito Mr. Jerry LaFont - Chairman
 Mr. Michael Gros Mr. Daniel Lorraine
 Mr. Roy Landry Mr. James Cantrelle, Parish President

ABSENT: Mr. Aaron “Bo” Melvin
 Mr. Armand “Noonie” Autin

Chairman LaFont *announced* that the **invocation** would be led by Mr. Perrillioux. The Council then recited the **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mr. Jones.

RESOLUTIONS

5:04:55 PM **The first item (1) on the agenda was a resolution approving an agreement between Lafourche Parish Government and Top Drawer Strategies, LLC to provide governmental relations and public affairs services; and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer said agreement and any and all relevant documents.** A motion was offered by Mr. Lorraine, seconded by Mr. Jones.

Chairman Lafont asked Ms. Carleen Babin, Council Clerk to read an amendment.

Ms. Carleen Babin, Council Clerk, read the following amendment: In the agreement No. 7 Term of Contract/Compensation, paragraph 3, add “*which shall be presented to Council for approval*” at the end. A **motion** was offered to *accept* the amendment by Mr. Landry, seconded by Mr. Jones and **carried** by a vote of (7) yeas, (0) nays and (2) absent – Mr. Melvin and Mr. Autin.

Ms. Mary-Patricia E. Wray, Top Drawer Strategies, LLC, 328 East Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, came forward to address any questions.

Mr. Landry said he would like to see a report each month on the work they are doing.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray said she would be providing one when Legislature starts on a weekly basis.

Mr. Landry asked about Terrebonne Parish not paying for their part would we have to pay the full amount.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray said she believes Terrebonne Parish will be taking similar action to this on Monday.

Mr. Landry said the way the contract is written is we pay \$3,500.00 a month and if something happens that Terrebonne Parish can't pay any more you will have to come back to Lafourche Parish to readdress the amount.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray said she would like to do that. She engaged Lafourche Parish as a client first.

Chairman LaFont said he had one or two things he wasn't sure if he was reading it wrong or if it was written wrong. He questioned the second paragraph and thought it should be amended to read Lafourche Parish Council.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray said she does not anticipate coming to the Council for any additional money.

Mr. Jones said if we change it to read Lafourche Parish Council there it would have to be changed throughout the contract.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray explained that at the beginning of the contract client is representing Lafourche Parish Government and what Chairman LaFont is wanting is the Council to be the person to approve the expenses and not just the Parish President.

President Cantrelle said the DA went over it and the term client automatically means the Council. The DA has approved all of this.

Chairman LaFont moved to amend the second paragraph where it reads Lafourche Parish Government to read "Lafourche Parish Council" seconded by Mr. Gros and *carried* by a vote of (7) yeas, (0) nays and (2) absent – Mr. Melvin and Mr. Autin.

Chairman LaFont asked Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray to look at the second paragraph of the contract where it says client to be reimbursed for mileage.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray said this is a misprint. It should say Top Drawer not client. I will not ask for mileage to be reimbursed.

Chairman LaFont moved to amend the second paragraph where it reads client to read "Top Drawer" seconded by Mr. Landry and carried by a vote of (7) yeas, (0) nays and (2) absent – Mr. Melvin and Mr. Autin.

Mr. Perrillieux asked for a brief background on Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray's company.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray gave a background history on herself and her company.

Mr. Gros said he did check Ms. Wray out with other people and she came highly recommended. He asked why Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes?

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray said she was very careful when it came to the Lobbying side of her work she was very careful not to conflict herself out of work. She wanted to grow her Lobbying business and to do more Capital Outlay work. She expressed her interest in this part of the State after spending time on the campaign trail here and thinks there is a lot of potential for what can be done with more representation.

Mr. Gros asked if she picked up more work would it be more ala carte and not Capital Outlay work.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray answered it would be things that are not major conflict with her representation of our parish.

Mr. Jones said he was able to spend a couple of days in Session last year on the House floor and the Senate floor. He saw Ms. Wray moving around at these Sessions and he thought this is what we need in this Parish.

Ms. Sposito said on Ms. Wray's list of services provided it does not specifically list Capital Outlay.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray stated this was in the proposal I gave you although it was not listed in the contract and if we wanted to amend this information into the contract that was fine with her.

Ms. Sposito stated she would like it to be in the contract if Ms. Wray was going to do this for us.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray suggested wording the amendment as Monitoring and Promotion of Client's Capital Outlay Projects.

Mr. Gros asked how many people Ms. Wray had on staff.

Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray answered she had herself and one other clerical helper. She said she also brings on one law student.

Ms. Carleen Babin, Council Clerk, read to amend under Services to be provided to include Monitor and Promote Client's Capital Outlay Projects.

Ms. Sposito moved to amend under services to be provided to include "**Monitor and Promote Client's Capital Outlay Projects**", seconded by Mr. Perrillieux and **carried** by a vote of (7) yeas, (0) nays and (2) absent – Mr. Melvin and Mr. Autin.

The amended resolution then **carried** by a vote of (7) yeas, (0) nays and (2) absent – Mr. Melvin and Mr. Autin.

RES. NO. 16-059 AGREEMENT WITH TOP DRAWER STRATEGIES

ADJOURNMENT

On **motion** by Mr. Landry and seconded by Mr. Perrillieux, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Council Meeting of February 11, 2016 **adjourned** at 5:27 p.m.

JERRY LAFONT, CHAIRMAN
CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK

PATRICIA GHERE, MINUTE CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL