

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009  
MATHEWS, LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH LAFOURCHE

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009 AT 3:00 P.M., TO BE HELD AT THE OLD WAL-MART BUILDING, 4876 HIGHWAY 1, MATHEWS, LOUISIANA.

The Lafourche Parish Council was duly convened as the Governing Authority of said Parish by Mr. Jerry Jones, Chairman, who then stated that the Lafourche Parish Council was ready for the transaction of business at 3:10 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jerry Jones, Chairman  
Mr. Joseph "Joe" Fertitta  
Mr. Lindel Toups  
Mr. Phillip Gouaux  
Mr. Rodney Doucet  
Mr. Daniel Lorraine, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Parish President

**ABSENT:** Mr. Michael Delatte (*arrived at 3:13 p.m.*)  
Mr. Louis Richard  
Mr. Matt Matherne

Chairman Jones announced that the invocation would be led by Mr. Rodney Doucet. The Council then recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Phillip Gouaux.

### PROPOSED ORDINANCES

The first item (1) on the agenda was a proposed ordinance rescinding Ordinance No. 4443, adopted at the January 13, 2009 Lafourche Parish Council meeting, Supplemental Appropriation 09-001 for the LA 1 Highway Project. A motion was offered by Mr. Lorraine to introduce the above stated proposed ordinance.

### RESOLUTIONS

The next item (2) on the agenda was a resolution authorizing the Parish President to transfer from the Leon Theriot Lock Project \$1,700,000 within the 2009 Capital Projects Budget and create the Louisiana Highway 1 Project at \$1,200,000 and an engineering study for the South Lafourche Levee DFIRM at \$500,000 and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer said transactions as provided for by Article VI of the Lafourche Parish Home Rule Charter. A motion was offered by Mr. Gouaux and Mr. Doucet; and seconded by Mr. Toups.

Mr. Lorraine briefed the Council in regards to past agreements and expressed his opinions on said transfer. He first mentioned that back in 2005, 2006, and 2007 there were Cooperative Endeavor Agreements signed by the South Lafourche Levee District, of up to \$2 million for the locks. Mr. Lorraine said that they will be completed with the locks sometime in June or July. He further explained that at the time the Levee District needed some money, but since then the State has stepped in, which had said that they would contribute up to \$18 million. Mr. Lorraine then stated that since then, there has been Change Orders amounting up to \$18,500,000. He said that his way of thinking was that they should complete the locks before they decide to take the money and spend it anywhere else. Mr. Lorraine referred to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that was voted on by the previous Council, which was signed by the South Lafourche Levee District and Administration, and was then recorded at the Clerk of Courts Office. He then commented that they would have the right to rescind the agreement; but requested that everyone remember that the money was locked in by the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; in that no one knows if there would be any major changes, being that it was such a huge project. Mr. Lorraine continued by saying that next year \$1.2 million would be taken from the Road Royalty Funds; with about \$500,000 down from the last quarter of last year; in that they would be lucky to bring in \$3 million for this year, pending on the economy, which did not look good. He then said that they would be taking \$1 million out of the General Fund the following year. Mr. Lorraine commented that the Levee District was covered, no matter what; that it was a good State project, costing approximately \$3.6 million; in that it was time for the State to help the Parish and not the Parish helping the State. He next mentioned various other projects throughout the Parish that needed desperate repairing; so, to just say that if the Parish gave away the money, worst case scenario, in that the stimulus package does not pass with these projects in it; in which he continued to explain said scenario. Mr. Lorraine questioned what would happen if the Parish would invest \$3.6 million and they then do not get the stimulus package; expressing that it was a lot of money. He reiterated his point of the Levee District getting their money, no matter what happens, for the locks, because of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Mr. Lorraine went on to say that it was written in black and white, in that the money was just sitting there, whether it was spent or not.

President Randolph commented that it was obvious that a majority of the people in the Parish recognized the importance of the LA 1 Project, to the future of this Parish, and were not serving as obstruction as to getting said project done. She exclaimed that the \$3.6 million that Lafourche Parish would dedicate to this project was for a \$360 million project; in that in order for it to be considered for the stimulus package, it has to be shown already. President Randolph further explained that it would mean working with the State for the engineering of the project, so as to move it forward. She said that delaying it, again and again, that they would then most definitely be out of the running for the stimulus package. President Randolph mentioned that they had received some encouraging news the past weekend, in that it was a very high priority in the Senate, in the House; saying that she also assumed that it was a high priority for the Council as well. She said to continue to build LA 1, whenever the money becomes available; in that the only way the money was going to become available was if the Parish puts up the money for the engineering for this particular study. President Randolph stated that the Parish can not submit a project that has not been engineered; that the State was saying that if the Parish was willing to put up its share, to do the engineering and design on said project, that in turn what would happen would be that the Parish would be prominent among the stimulus packages/projects. She expressed that this was very, very, very important. President Randolph went on to say that if it was necessary to rescind the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, that they can do so at the next Council meeting. She said that the reason she spoke to Chairman Jones about having a special meeting was because of how important this item was; not only to the Parish, but of the message that it would send to the Country.

President Randolph explained that the second part of this resolution was for the Levee's DFIRM; in that if the levee systems were not certified that it could potentially halt the growth of the South Lafourche area. She stated that the LRA and CPRA had offered to pay for a study, which the Parish does not have in-hand; also knowing the Charter, one can incumbent the Parish without identifying the funding

for certain projects. President Randolph expressed that this was a chance of a life-time, to get this portion of the project done; being done at a special meeting to send the right message to the rest of the State; that the Parish was serious about getting these projects done in the area; knowing their importance and that they must be done.

President Randolph further stated that the South Lafourche Levee District has told her at a meeting and also in a letter that they were satisfied with the reserved \$300,000. She then urged the Council to understand the importance and urgency of this resolution, in that it was so critical to Lafourche Parish and the State of Louisiana.

Questions, answers, detailed explanation, and discussion briefly ensued in regards to the LA 1 Project, in which **Mr. Henri Boulet** from the **LA 1 Coalition** replied to some concerns; but *all was not completely audible*.

Mr. Delatte asked President Randolph if there were plans to rescind resolution 05-123; in which President Randolph replied that if it was necessary, that they could do so, possibly at the next Council meeting. A brief discussion continued in regards to funding.

Comments were made by several Councilmen, some in favor of the resolution. Mr. Lorraine exclaimed that there was still six months remaining on this project; reiterating that nobody can guarantee that there would not be any Change Orders. He then referred back to the Road Royalties, reiterating what he had said previously, and further expressing his concerns. Councilmen continued to express their opinions and concerns, some for and against.

President Randolph commented that perhaps this may be a good time to remind the Council of the \$300 million that the State was giving the Parish for coastal projects, that they were going to help build a new bridge in Larose. She said that she has seen the State step-up for the Parish on numerous occasions; in that they might not have striped a particular road, but they had indeed put up a light at Percy Brown Road. President Randolph further expressed her opinions, mentioning other upcoming projects. She then said that this project was to assist a road that was a key element to the entire system of Port Fourchon; continuing to make statements in regards to said project and its benefits.

Discussion and debate briefly continued in regards to funding planned for said project.

The resolution then *carried* by a vote of (5) yeas; (2) nays, that being of Mr. Fertitta and Mr. Lorraine; and (2) absent, that being of Mr. Richard and Mr. Matherne.

**RES. NO. 09-043      TRANSFER - LA 1 PROJECT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On **motion** by Mr. Lorraine and seconded by Mr. Doucet, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Council Special Meeting of **February 2, 2009 adjourned 3:35 p.m.**

JERRY JONES, CHAIRMAN  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL