

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH LAFOURCHE

AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL, PARISH OF LAFOURCHE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 AT 5:00 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. Michael Delatte, 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-Chair
Mr. Michael Delatte, Chairman
Mr. Louis Richard
Mr. Joseph "Joe" Fertitta
Mr. Matt Matherne
Mr. Lindel Toups
Mr. Rodney Doucet
Mr. Daniel Lorraine
Ms. Charlotte Randolph, Parish President

ABSENT: Mr. Phillip Gouaux (*arrived at 6:03 p.m.*)

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

PUBLIC WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

[The first item on the agenda was the Public wishing to address the Council.](#)

Mr. Roger Busch with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Loan Program addressed the Council, informing them and the Public of the low interest rate loans being offered to homeowners, renters, and small businesses. He mentioned where they would be located and the days and hours they would be there; further explaining the application process.

Mr. Mark Atzenhoffer from Silver Street in Bayou Blue next addressed the Council in regards to debris removal and of flooding in the area. He expressed his concerns with the debris not being removed, also stating figures being charged for doing so. Mr. Atzenhoffer made a suggestion of Citizens being able to bring their debris to the Recreation Center, instead of having it in their front yards for months. He then spoke of houses down Hollywood Canal that had flooded; saying that he had called numerous people, but had not received an answer from anyone. Mr. Atzenhoffer continued to state his opinions and concerns in regards to the area flooding. A discussion then ensued in regards to the flooding situations and of the phone lines being down; also of the debris removal contract. Further discussion continued in regards to using the Recreation Center for piling up debris removal; with Mr. Matherne saying that he would like consider using the debris to fill in the hole in the center of the running track, in which they have been trying to fill it in for years. Mr. Matherne continued by saying that he would wish

that the Department of Public Works look into utilizing the debris as fill material, to check with EPA to see if they can do so. Detailed discussions again ensued in regards to the phones not working properly during the storm, and still not working correctly.

Ms. Peggy Bailey from St. Ann Street in Raceland addressed the Council in regards to concerns with the lack of garbage pickup; exclaiming that there were field rats all over. She then asked when they would expect getting back on schedule. President Randolph replied that they had worked on the weekend to catch up, in that they had just begun their regular schedule on this day.

Mr. Brent Story from Smith Willow Street in Bayou Blue addressed the Council in regards to flooding in the area, expressing his concerns, then stating that he had a solution that would not cost the Parish a penny, going into detail of his solution and of previous situations of flooding; *but all was not clearly audible*. A very detailed discussion then ensued in regards to building a levee, using the dirt from the digging of the Hollywood Canal, going into specific detail of such a project.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT(S)

The next item (1) on the agenda was an update on the financial conditions of the Parish regarding Hurricane Gustav. President Randolph stated that the meeting was called to keep the Councilmen posted of the finances of the Parish and what has been done. She reported figures of what had been purchased and spent so far: \$472,400 for fuel and sand for six offices; \$16,000 for the Thibodaux generator rental as of September 3rd; purchases of \$30,000 as of September 12th and \$339,459 for the Emergency Operations Center; salaries and fringes for employees were \$185,287 as of September 12th; and estimated preliminary out of pocket costs for debris was about \$6.7 million, being the Parish's match for the entire project, in which at 12 ½% it would be \$847,000, but may be lower than the 12 ½%; giving a total being at \$1.890 million. President Randolph went on to say that they were also anticipating other costs, which she wanted to address the Council in regards to, one being the rent for the old Wal-Mart building that they were currently occupying. She explained that they had a contract/license agreement with the current owners, which was Wal-Mart Realty; in that the rent would be free until Thursday, September 18th. President Randolph further explained that on Thursday that there was going to be a sale of the building to another a company, in that at that point they would be asking for \$20,333 a month, which would not include utilities. She then reported that they would also have to relocate three of the Judges into another building from the Historical Courthouse because of mold in the building, clearing the building from any potential health hazard. President Randolph stated that they would be moving the Judges into the District Attorney's old office; in which the rent for that will be \$5,500 a month. She further reported that they were also looking at sheet pilings to be put at a site where levees breached, south of Lockport; in which it was at an estimated cost of \$158,000 to install them, with the pile driver costing \$753 an hour. President Randolph stated that was all of the expenditures that they currently had in place, saying that she wanted to bring them before the Council to keep them updated. She said that there will be additional financial costs; with one particularly being expensive was going to be the AT&T invoice for rewiring the building for all of the computers and telephones. President Randolph explained that all the wiring was going to be removable, so that they can take the wiring with them when they would move from that location. She stated that it would not be considered as improvement to the building.

Mr. Lorraine stated that he spoke to Jerome Danos with Solid Waste earlier, in regards to debris removal, mostly being tree branches; in which he was told that they can not touch anything along the State Highways and that the State has to remove it. He expressed his amazement of the pile of trees along the highways from his house to the meeting, saying that they should have been picked up already. Mr. Lorraine stated that he was told that was the way that it read in the contract; but whether it was the State or not he would wish that they would work on getting the debris picked up.

President Randolph stated that the debris contract for the Parish streets was what she had referred to in her cost estimates; in that the Parish was being charged \$9 a cubic yard. She said that the reason that

it can not be delivered anywhere else was because it was agreed that it was a non-monitoring contract, in that in the contract they have people that makes certain that they have no hazardous materials mixed in with anything else. President Randolph further explained that it all has to be separated prior to disposal, which was they could not allow other people to go to the landfill and dispose of what they have in front of their houses. She went on to explain that the State Contractors were under the same obligations, in that they pick up what was on the side of the road, bringing it to various sites throughout the Parish and dispose of it in the same way. President Randolph continued to explain the processes in detail. She then said that the Parish did indeed still have a burn ban in affect; informing the Public that the debris disposal companies had DEQ permits to burn, in that they had controlled burning situations, as to where they have bulldozers to continuously feed the fires and also monitor them. President Randolph next reiterated that SWDI was going to be back on schedule, as they did work the weekend to do so. She said that she has heard concerns of every type from numerous people, in which they were all big concerns; particularly the debris on side of the roads, being that they were becoming safety hazards. A brief discussion then ensued in regards to debris removal and of the damages some of the Contractors were causing; with President Randolph requesting that they please report those sort of problems. Discussion continued in regards to debris along side the roads and who to contact to get it removed. A very brief discussion then ensued in regards to buildings that were damaged and what was told to the entities to do to minimize damage.

The next item (2) on the agenda was an update on Hurricane Ike. President Randolph stated that Hurricane Ike caused problems Saturday, Sunday, and Monday; especially for four separate areas in the Parish. She said that they were concerned about Bayou Blue along Lake Long Drive, Des Allemands, Gheens, and Lockport to Larose; stating that there were Field Employees and National Guardsmen that were filling sandbags and dispersing them everywhere that they could. President Randolph reported that they anticipated that they would have helicopters dropping large sandbags to help fill the breach in the levee this morning, mentioning the Bayou Blue Levee. She reported that the weather had not allowed them to do so, but they would be there the next day. President Randolph continued to report on area levee updates, *but all was not clearly audible*. She also reported that the Barrios building was going to be assessed and that she would get that information to the Council once it was available, reiterating that they were also addressing the mold issue at the old Courthouse building. President Randolph stated that the Larose Civic Center was the only Parish shelter remaining, having 105 people in the shelter, some being from Grand Isle and others from Terrebonne Parish. She said that there were currently two Food Stamp Offices opened in Lafourche Parish, one at the Galliano Centroplex and one in Thibodaux at Peltier Park. President Randolph then mentioned that there was another issue that they were addressing, which may be very expensive as well; in that Gustav and Ike sent in oil barrels from offshore that landed up against the South Lafourche Levee. She said all told that the assessment on that was probably \$1,000; in that each one of them has to be handled separately, further explaining same, mentioning EPA and DEQ.

President Randolph then added that she would like to thank all of the Lafourche Parish Employees who worked during both of these storms, in that they had proved themselves and their dedication to the Parish time and time again. She expressed that they had worked very, very long hours to secure property; saying that it was because of the employees that they had won the war, in that they lost a couple of battles, but still won the war.

A brief discussion then ensued in regards to opening the floodgate in Larose; with President Randolph explaining the reason why it has stayed closed so far. Discussion continued concerning the water still rising, in that they were not out of the woods just yet.

Mr. Toups also thanked the employees and members of the public for their assistance, stating that they have all done a good job. Chairman Delatte then agreed with Mr. Toups and President Randolph in regards to both the public and the employees doing a great job.

Discussion again continued of the water coming in and still rising, in which had never been seen before in this Parish; with several Councilmen sharing what they have seen and expressed amazement.

President Randolph then thanked the Volunteer Firemen who helped with bagging sand and then dispersing them, saying that Mr. Chris Boudreaux with OEP Commander would do an all call and they would all show up, as well as the National Guardsmen. She stated that she did not want to go any further with thanking individual people or entities because she would mistakenly leave someone out and she would not want to do that. President Randolph did thank the Councilmen for being the eyes and ears out there, knowing that they have been receiving a lot of complaints. She said that even with the horrible phone conditions they were able to find means of communicating the problems throughout the Parish.

President Randolph updated everyone of the current condition of the water; briefly mentioning that the debris caused by Gustav was being released in Bayou Lafourche. She reported that the water has begun to flow, but it has not been completely cleared up just yet. President Randolph stated that by the weekend everyone may have normal looking and smelling water again. She said that the Parish has assisted the School Board in getting water for the children to start school this week. A brief discussion then ensued in regards to the water condition and as to what may be done.

Mr. Fertitta asked President Randolph if she had any idea when the burn ban may be lifted. President Randolph replied that they may do so the next day, if there was not any wind; reminding everyone of the new ordinance which would make the individual entirely responsible. Mr. Fertitta stated that he had been receiving complaints from Farmers with the ban not being lifted, not being able to function properly in their fields. President Randolph then commented that it could be lifted now, as it was being mentioned.

A brief discussion then ensued in regards to curfews, which had already been lifted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

The next item (3) on the agenda was a proposed ordinance to change the location of Polling Precinct: Ward 7, Precinct 4; to further establish the effective date of same; and to provide for other matters thereof. A **motion** was offered by Mr. Toups to introduce the above stated proposed ordinance.

DISCUSSION

The next item (4) on the agenda was a discussion on whether a mandatory ban on the sale of liquor exists during a State of Emergency. Mr. Gouaux expressed his concerns with alcohol consumption during a State of Emergency; asking if there was an ordinance banning the sale of liquor during such an emergency situation. A detailed discussion and debate then ensued in regards to having one or making it mandatory to do so; with several Councilmen expressing their views for it and against having one. Mr. Gouaux stated that he would propose an ordinance, if there was not one.

ADJOURNMENT

On **motion** by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Fertitta, and with no further business, the Lafourche Parish Council Emergency Meeting of **September 15, 2008 adjourned 6:17 p.m.**

MICHAEL F. DELATTE, CHAIRMAN
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL