

# **\*Notice of Public Meeting\***

Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 70438  
Council Chambers  
January 9, 2023  
Monday – 6:00 PM

## **Item No. 1. - Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman** – Attorney Kuhn.

Attorney Kuhn opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Councilman King nominated Councilman Rice for Chairman. Councilman Culpepper seconded the nomination.

No other nominations made; nominations closed.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Attorney Kuhn opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Councilman Rice nominated Councilman Culpepper for Vice Chairman. Councilman McMasters seconded the nomination.

No other nominations made; nominations closed.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

## **Item No. 2. - Call to order** – Chairman Rice called the meeting to order.

## **Item No. 3. - Invocation** – Councilman McMasters gave the invocation.

## **Item No. 4. - Pledge of Allegiance** – Councilman King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Item No. 5. - Roll Call** – Council Clerk Sarah Cook called the roll. Present were Joe Culpepper, Shawn Rice, Kim Wagner, Clark Harry, Rusty Fornea, Reginald McMasters and Carley King.

## **Item No. 6. – Approval of Minutes** – Approval of minutes dated December 27, 2022.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 27, 2022.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 7. – Adopt Resolution 23-1205** –A resolution of appointments for the Washington Parish Fire District No. 3. Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: “FD3 appointments are for Larry Magee and Justin Porche for a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2024. Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters to adopt resolution 23-1205.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 8. – Adopt Resolution 23-1206** – A resolution of appointment for the Washington Parish Gas Utility District No. 2. Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: “A resolution of appointment for Robert “Paul” Givens of the Washington Parish Gas Utility District No. 2. Board of Directors for a five-year term expiring on December 31, 2027. Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to adopt resolution 23-1206.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 9. – Adopt Resolution 23-1207** –A resolution stating the Washington Parish Government is in compliance with the Parish Transportation Fund.

Chairman Rice: “This is an annual resolution stating that Washington Parish Government has complied with provisions of the Parish Transportation Fund. Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to adopt resolution 23-1207.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 10. – Adopt Resolution 23-1208** – A resolution authorizing the signing of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Audit of Washington Parish Government for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to adopt resolution 23-1208.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 11. – Adopt Resolution 23-1209** – A resolution by the Parish Council to authorize the Parish President to administer a Capital Outlay Project through the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and control for the purpose of planning, construction and acquisition in reference to the Pearl River Navigational Canal.

Chairman Rice: Washington Parish Government has been awarded funding through the Capital Outlay Budget Act and the funds will be used for the State Capital Outlay fiscal year 2022/2023 program to fund hydrology and engineering studies to determine the impact and costs involved in removal of water control structures for public safety and acquisition of properties from the United States Corps of Engineers at the Pearl River Navigational Canal in Washington Parish. Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea to adopt resolution 23-1209.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 12. –Proces Verbal** – Proces Verbal of the canvass of the votes cast at the election held in Sales Tax District No. 3 of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 10, 2022.

Chairman Rice: “A Proces Verbal is a verbal process with no motion, no second, and no vote . This Proces Verbal states the total votes for this election with 2,031 votes in favor of and 1,390 votes against the proposition. With that being said, we now can move to item number 13.”

**Item No. 13. – Adopt Resolution 23-1210** –A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election held in Sales Tax District No. 3 of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana (the “District”) on Saturday, December 10, 2022, for the purpose of authorizing the renewal of the levy and collection of a one-third (1/3) of one percent (1%) sales and use tax within the district.

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to adopt resolution 23-1210.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 14. – Adopt Resolution 23-1211** – A resolution directing the renewal of the levy and collection of a one-third (1/3) of one percent (1%) sales and use tax for a period of the (10) years, beginning January 1, 2024, to provide, maintain, administer and operate services and facilities in the civil, juvenile and criminal justice system mandated by state statute to be funded by parish governments; and further providing for other matters in connection therewithin.

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to adopt resolution 23-1211.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 15. - Public Participation** –

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak? If so, please state your name and address for the record.”

No one came forward.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to close public participation.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

### **Item No. 16. President Report –**

President Thomas: Hoped everyone had a great holiday season and thanked everyone for their hard work in 2022. He also congratulated Shawn Rice as our new Council Chairman and Joe Culpepper as our new Council Co-Chairman for 2023. He also thanked Carley King for his hard work as Chairman in 2022.

- The President attended Tyrin Truong's inauguration as Bogalusa's new mayor this past Saturday.
- A couple of members of Congresswoman Julia Letlow's staff will be here this Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to discuss grants and special projects. If any of the council would like to attend, please contact my office.

Donna Graham: Financial Director: congratulated Shawn Rice and Joe Culpepper and thanked Carley King for his work in 2022.

- Calling for a finance meeting in the next week or so.
- Occupational License will be coming up for discussion soon.
- Presentation with Fire Districts regarding ARPA Funding.
- Projects starting soon:
  - LGAP Grant awarded in the amount of \$75,000.00 for Animal Shelter.
  - LGAP Grant pending approval for mechanic shop for \$80,000.00
  - Three Capital Outlay projects:
    - Courthouse exterior renovations of \$400,000.00
    - Parish Jail renovations of \$1,000,000.00
    - Poole's Bluff Navigational canal hydrology study and planning, \$500,000.00
  - DOTD Sidewalk Project of \$400,000.00, both sides of Main Street to the fairgrounds.
  - A Preliminary Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2022, will be presented at the next council meeting.

Ken Wheat: Congratulated Shawn Rice and Joe Culpepper and thanked Carley King.

Donnell Merritt: Transportation Supervisor: Month of December

- Drainage work on 21 roads covering 32 miles.
- Delivered 90 tons of cold mix on 33 roads covering 48 miles.
- Delivered 78 tons of hot mix on 8 roads covering 14 miles.
- Installed 10 culverts.
- Graded 32 roads covering 58 miles.
- Hauled 398 yards on 5 roads covering 12 miles.
- Bush hogged 174 roads covering 328 miles.
- Picked up 243 bags of trash on 25 roads.
- Installed 18 road name signs.
- Installed 25 other signs.
- Maintained 2 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew has overlaid 2 roads using 2,137 tons of asphalt:
  - Dan Seals
  - Chess Gerald

President Thomas: "We also have 30 miles of asphalt that will be contracted out this year. This is something we are trying to do every year."

**Item No. 17. Council Discussion**

Congratulated Shawn Rice and Joe Culpepper and look forward to a successful 2023. Thanked Carley King for a successful 2022 year. Thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight and welcomed Chairman Rice's family.

**Item No. 18. – Adjourn** – No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman McMasters seconded by Councilman King.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, and Rice

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

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Shawn Rice, Chairman  
Washington Parish Council

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Sarah Cook, Clerk to the Council  
Washington Parish

**Order of Voting:**

Kim Wagner	Carley King
Clark Harry	Joe Culpepper
Rusty Fornea	Shawn Rice
Reginald McMasters	

Next meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023

In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Sarah Cook, Clerk to the Council at 985-839-7825 Ext. 313 describing the assistance that is necessary. (All Ordinances, Resolutions and Attachments in its entirety are available at the office of Clerk of the Council at 909 Pearl Street, Franklinton, Louisiana or at (985)839-7825 or [washingtonparishalerts.org](http://washingtonparishalerts.org))

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