

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

**Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 70438  
Council Chambers  
January 23, 2023  
Monday – 6:00 PM**

**Item No. 1 - Call to order** – Chairman Rice called the meeting to order.

**Item No. 2. - Invocation** – Councilwoman Wagner gave the invocation.

**Item No. 3. - Pledge of Allegiance** – Councilman King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item No. 4. - 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. 5. – Approval of Minutes** – Approval of minutes dated January 9, 2023.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 6. – Adopt Resolution 23-1212** – A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the Parish President to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with LA Sharks Baseball for a lease on property located on Highway 60 in the Plainview area.

Chairman Rice: “Washington Parish Government is the owner of the immovable property, commonly known as Plainview ballfields. LA Sharks will use the ball fields located on Hwy 60 in Plainview for scheduled practices in exchange for the LA Sharks maintaining the premises and making improvements to the ball fields at the expense of the LA Sharks. Agreement will be effective January 23, 2023 and terminates on December 31, 2024. The Parish President may extend the Agreement for an additional one-year periods upon the Parish President being satisfied that the premises are being properly maintained and any improvements are satisfactory. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

Mitchell Castleberry and Clay Morgan were present to represent the LA Sharks.

Mitchell Castleberry: “There are four teams that have been practicing for about one year. We would like to have this agreement to ensure we have access to the field. This will only be a practice field with no games played. We have our own insurance through OTC and there will be no liability to the parish. The ages are 10U, 9U, 8U, and 7U. We thank you for having us and appreciate your help with this matter.”

Councilman Fornea: “Attorney Kuhn, does the parish have insurance as well?”

Attorney Kuhn: “Yes there is additional insurance with the parish.”

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone else like to come forward and speak?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea to adopt resolution 23-1212.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 7. - 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 Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to close public participation.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 8. President Report –**

President Thomas:

- Ribbon Cutting on January 24, 2023, at 3:30pm for Keller Williams Realty Services Franklinton Branch at 1049 Main Street.
- Attorney General Jeff Landry’s Office will be providing a Good Government Program and is civil law trainings for elected officials, their members, staff, boards and commissions. Training here in our courthouse soon. Date and time will be determined.
- We interviewed for a supervisor position for one of our locations and had enough good employees that we could promote inside parish government instead of seeking outside personnel.

Donna Graham: Financial Director:

- We will have a preliminary financial report for last year at the first meeting of February.

Donnell Merritt: Transportation Supervisor: Beginning of January

- Picked up 225 bags of trash on 22 roads.
- Installed 2 road name signs.
- Installed 21 other signs.
- Maintained 1 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew has overlaid 3 roads using 650 tons of asphalt:
  - Bruce Ladner Road
  - Hickory Lane
  - Herbert Sumrall Road

**Item No. 9. Council Discussion**

Thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight. Congratulated LA Sharks and commended Mitchel Castleberry and Clary Morgan for bringing good things for our children in our parish. Please lift Councilman King and his son up in prayers.

**Item No. 10. – Adjourn** – No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman King seconded by Councilman Culpepper

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

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:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 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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