

Notice of Public Meeting

Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street
Franklinton, La 70438
Council Chambers
February 13, 2023
Monday - 6:00 PM

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

Item No. 2. - Invocation - Councilman McMasters the invocation.

Item No. 3. - Pledge of Allegiance - Councilwoman Wagner 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 23, 2023.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 23, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 6. Riverside Medical Center - Tammy Magruder, Board of Commissions Chairman.

Mrs. Magruder give a brief background of our New CEO, Sean Johnson. Thanked Peter Sullivan for his great work. Introduced CEO, Sean Johnson. Mr. Johnson expressed his open-door policy for workers, citizens and Parish Government and thanked everyone.

Item No. 7. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1213 - A resolution of appointment for the Washington Parish Riverside Hospital Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: "Riverside Hospital Board recommended Mr. Grayson Ball to replace the recently vacated position of Donna Steele. Mr. Ball's term will expire on December 31, 2023."

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to adopt Resolution No. 23-1213

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 8. - 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."

Mr. Vincent Chauvin resides in Bogalusa La: Mr. Chauvin handed out pictures of roads and pictures of his three-year-old school bus of damages from our parish roads. Asking the Parish President and Council to please help with our roads.

- Ward Line Road - Trucks are destroying this road and the permit is only \$500.00. This road is a safety issue. The road is not wide enough in some areas and only wide enough for 1 vehicle. We have 5 buses that run daily on Ward Line Road. Ditches need to be dug; they are not being done right.
- Carter Road - Now has a dirt pit and the road is extremely narrow. Needs to be widened.
- Jap Little Road - Has not had anything done to it since I have been here. Just patch after patch.
- Sie Jenkins Road - Soil cement held up fine except for the bridge.
- E Thomas Road - off Hwy 16 trucks turn on E Thomas Road as a cut through by Mizell Cemetery.
- Red Bird Road - Finally fixed with an overlay road but was not properly done. It's so bad I had to get my school bus towed.
- Just to name a few, we need "No Thru Truck Routes" on
 - Stewart Evans
 - Knapp Thomas
 - Mt. Pleasant
 - E. Wilson (Wilson Magee)
 - E Thomas
 - South Choctaw
 - Jap little

Councilman McMasters: "We hear your cry and understand your frustration. We are moving forward with roads, but we have had a lot of rain. This has been the wettest winter ever. We are in the process of doing new roads and Parish President and Mr. Merritt have been very active in selecting roads and trying to move forward. We will call for a road committee meeting soon to address some of these issues."

President Thomas: "Ward Line and Carter Road are being destroyed because of new Infrastructure being done in St. Tammany. We have worked on getting those two roads worked on now for years. We cannot do anything about it because we can't even put taxes on it because the Louisiana State Constitution will not allow us. There are some rules that says, "when you tear up infrastructure to build new infrastructure the state should pay for it." We will have our state representative look into this to see if we can't get Ward Line Road back to ten times better than it was. I will go check out Jap Little myself."

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 9. President Report -

President Thomas:

- **Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 2 pm MCCA King and Queen will be honored in the Council Chambers. The King of MCCA XLIII is Leo Mickenheim, Jr. and the Queen is Julie Hayden.**
- **Friday, February 17, 2023, at 1:30 pm there will be a dedication of the Coach Gary C. Magee Track and Field Complex at Bogalusa High School.**
- **Saturday, February 18, 2023, the Krewe of MCCA parade will be held in Bogalusa.**

- Washington Parish Government offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2023, in observance of Presidents' Day and Tuesday, February 21, 2023, for Mardi Gras.
- There will be a free flu vaccination clinic available to the public on Wednesday, February 22nd beginning at 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Bogalusa Health Unit located at 626 Caroline Ave.
- Through our Tourism Commission and Keep Louisiana Beautiful grant program, the Parish will be receiving ten very nice trash cans to be placed throughout our Parish. Ms. Patty Alford, Washington Parish Tourism Director, has been instrumental in this grant and will attending a council meeting soon to give a report to the Council. Our Washington Parish Enforcement Officer, Mr. Kelvin Brown, has been assisting Ms. Alford in the placement and will continue to assist with the upkeep of the cans.

Donna Graham: Financial Director:

- Each council member was given the preliminary year to date December 31, 2022, financial report on our major funds. The report included a budget to actual financial comparison. "Again, this is preliminary, as we have not recorded our Ad Valorem tax receivables yet. All funds have a positive fund balance, which is good. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me."
- We recently paid Washington Parish Government employees the second round of ARPA premium pay which was for the year worked, 2021.
- Our staff is working on a grant to the Sherriff's Office so their staff of essential workers may receive premium pay for the COVID period. We have worked with the sheriff's office administrative staff to coordinate the amounts and verifying all documentation is in order.

Councilman McMasters: "Where are we at with the occupational license ordinance?"

Donna Graham: "We are working to have it ready for introduction at our next meeting. The Statues that pertain to the various tables had minor changes that we need to update for the ordinance."

Donnell Merritt: Transportation Supervisor: Beginning of January

- Drainage work on 31 roads covering 46 miles.
- Delivered 60 tons of cold mix on 23 roads covering 36 miles.
- Delivered 170 tons of hot mix on 18 roads covering 32 miles.
- Installed 5 culverts.
- Graded 78 roads covering 124 miles.
- Hauled 108 yards on 2 roads covering 16 miles.
- Bush hogged 258 roads covering 362 miles.
- Picked up 559 bags of trash on 58 roads.
- Installed 3 road name signs.
- Installed 31 other signs.
- Maintained 4 parish locations.

Item No. 10. Council Discussion

Thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight. Congratulated our new Riverside Hospital CEO, Mr. Sean Johnson and thanked Peter Sullivan for his great work. Milling will be going on started Wednesday from Main Street to Bickham. Remind everyone of the MCCA Parade in Bogalusa will be this Saturday and Pepe Parade in Franklinton will be this Sunday.

Item No. 11. - Adjourn - No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman Fornea seconded by Councilman McMasters.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Shawn Rice, Chairman
Washington Parish Council

Sarah Cook, Clerk to the Council
Washington Parish

Order of Voting:

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023

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