

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

Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 70438  
Council Chambers  
February 27, 2023  
Monday - 6:00 PM

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

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

**Item No. 3. - Pledge of Allegiance** - Councilman McMasters 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, and Reginald McMasters.

**Item No. 5. - Approval of Minutes** - Approval of minutes dated February 13, 2023.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 13, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 6. Dr. Roger Casama** -

Chairman Rice: "Dr. Casama's office called this morning to cancel speaking tonight. Apologizes for any inconvenience and will reschedule soon."

**Item No. 7. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1214** - A resolution of appointment for the Washington Parish Riverside Hospital Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: "The Hospital Board submitted reappointments for Randall Magee and Lori Schilling for a 6-year term; term to expire on December 31, 2028."

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to adopt Resolution No. 23-1214

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 8. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1215** - A resolution extending Herbert Sumrall Road on the Washington Parish Inventory List.

Chairman Rice: "A request was made to accept an extension of Herbert Sumrall Road by extending a portion approximately 528 feet in length on the Washington Parish Government Road Inventory List."

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to adopt Resolution No. 23-1215.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 9. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1216** - A resolution of appointment for the Bogue Lusa Waterworks Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: "James (Jimmy) Willis has retired, and the board submitted their recommendation of Mr. Josh Pounds to fill in Mr. Willis's term. Term will expire on December 31, 2026."

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 23-1216.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 10. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1217** - A resolution of appointment for the Washington Parish Riverside Hospital Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: "The board submitted their recommendation of Arthur Westbrook, Jr. to fill in Dr. Ferrante's term. Term will expire on December 31, 2023."

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to adopt Resolution No. 23-1217.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 11. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1218** -A resolution to adopt the 2023 Annual Operating Budget for the Washington Parish Tourism Commission.

Chairman Rice: "We received an email from the WP Tourism Office Manager asking us to pull this from the agenda until further notice."

**Item No. 12. - Public Participati on -**

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

Mark McMorris Jr. resides in Mt. Hermon La: Mr. McMorris runs the animal rescue in Mt. Hermon. He came before the council with a second request to help our parish by passing an ordinance for spading and neutering animals. "We need help in our parish!"

Chairman Rice: "Would anyone else 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 McMasters to close public participation.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

ABSTAIN: (0)

### **Item No. 13. President Report -**

- Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Attorney General Jeff Landry's office will be providing civil law trainings covering fundamental topics for state and local governments entitled, Good Government Program, in the Council Chambers from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- March 8-10 is the annual Police Jury Association Conference in Shreveport, La.
- Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. will be a Broadband Update meeting open to the public in the Council Chambers. On the same day, Senator Mizell will be hosting a Broadband Update meeting at the Giddy Up in Folsom at 5:00 p.m.

Donna Graham: Financial Director:

- Occupational License will be ready to introduce at our next council meeting.

Ken Wheat: Public Works Director:

- 1151 Dobson Street facility will have fuel delivered to the tanks this week and generator up and running. We are almost 100% complete.
- Preconstruction meeting will be soon on the sidewalk project down Main Street to the Fairgrounds.
- Applying for another sidewalk grant, a new application, starting at Jackson Street to Riverside Hospital.

President Thomas: assured Mr. Mark McMorris he will work on an ordinance for the Animals in our parish.

Ken Wheat: Stated the occupational License, when passed, will help fund our animal shelter to help with animals in Washington Parish.

Donnell Merritt: Transportation Supervisor: Beginning of February

- Picked up 223 bags of trash on 20 roads.
- Installed 4 road name signs.
- Installed 9 other signs.
- Maintained 6 parish locations.

### **Item No. 14. Council Discussion**

Thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight.

**Item No. 15. - Adjourn** - No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman Culpepper seconded by Councilman McMasters.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) McMasters, Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, and Harry

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) King and Fornea

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:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, March 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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