

Notice of Public Meeting

Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street
Franklinton, La 70438
Council Chambers
March 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 gave the invocation.

Item No. 3. - Pledge of Allegiance - Councilman Fornea 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 February 27, 2023.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Chairman Rice: "Public Works Director, Ken Wheat, asked if the council will open the agenda to add Resolution 23-1221. A resolution by the Parish Council authorizing the Parish President to administer a Community Project Funding appropriations request through the committee on appropriations subcommittee on agriculture, rural development for the purpose of replacing the Washington Parish Communications 911 tower and communications equipment. I would like to entertain a motion to add a line item as number 9 to the agenda."

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 6. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-725 - An ordinance to amend the 2023 Washington Parish Government Annual Operating Budget - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Fund.

Chairman Rice: "This is an introduction only and a public hearing will be held on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 5:45 pm."

Item No. 7. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1219 - A Resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the Parish President to sign agreements between the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and Washington Parish Government for funding of sidewalks in downtown Franklinton through the Louisiana DOTD 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Chairman Rice: "This is for another sidewalk grant, a new application, starting at Jackson Street to Riverside Hospital. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea to adopt Resolution 23-1219.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 8. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1220 - A Resolution authorizing the Washington Parish Government (herein referred to as this "Governmental Unit") to join with the State of Louisiana and other local governmental units as a participant in the Louisiana State-Local Government Opioid Litigation Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") and any subsequent formal agreements necessary to implement the MOU, including but not limited to, the execution of the settlement participation forms of the National Settlement Agreements, releases and other documentation approved by the counsel representing the Washington Parish Government.

Attorney Ross Lagarde gave a brief discussion and answered all questions of the council and citizen, Tammy Adams.

Chairman Rice: "Would anyone 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 23-1220.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 9. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1221 - A resolution by the Parish Council authorizing the Parish President to administer a Community Project Funding appropriations request through the committee on appropriations subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development for the purpose of replacing the Washington Parish Communications 911 tower and communications equipment.

Chairman Rice: "Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to adopt Resolution 23-1221.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 10. 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 Councilwoman Wagner to close public participation.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 11. President Report -

- Last week we had a good turnout of the civil training held by Attorney General’s Office.
- Washington Parish Health Unit held an open house on Thursday, March 9th with various tables of information and handouts.
- Washington Parish Health Unit will soon be celebrating their 100th Anniversary and preparations are being made for this milestone and information will be forthcoming.
- Friday, March 17, 2023, at 1:30 pm will be meeting with the Northshore Business council from St. Tammany Parish for them to learn more about our priorities for the year and how they might be able to assist.
- Washington Parish Permit Office will be short, staffed Monday/Tuesday, March 20th and 21st as most of the staff will be attending a DOL Conference.
- Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 2:00 pm a broadband update will be held in the council chambers.
- Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 5:00 pm a broadband update will be held by Senator Mizell in Folsom, at the Giddy up.

Donna Graham: Financial Director:

- LCDBG block grant program made a couple of announcements at the Police Jury Convention last week.
 - 2023 street improvements, of which we applied for, we have a \$1.6 million dollar project in the hopper for consideration. It is 6.2 miles of contracted asphalt. They are reviewing these applications now and will make awards in April. We should be hearing something soon on whether we get that project.
- There is a new program called the “Clearance Program” and it will be open for application in April 2023. This grant is for clearance, demolition, and removal of residential or commercial structures found to be detrimental or endangering public safety, health or welfare. This program is open to municipalities as well as the parish. The grantee should have a process in place to adjudicate properties and a list of properties that are ready for demolition when they apply for the grant. This could be a good project to investigate for the Parish, Bogalusa, and Franklinton.
- There has been a nonprofit corporation formed, it’s called “LITA Corp” and it is established to assist rural parishes with obtaining funds from the Infrastructure and Jobs act. This is the big federal infrastructure bill that recently passed. It provides 5 years of federal funding to local government projects. Projects like broadband, water, sewer, and bridges. This is to help rural parishes like us, that don’t have large grant writing departments. They are still getting their guidelines together and we should hear more about it in April.

Ken Wheat: Public Works Director: Thanked the council for adding Resolution 23-1221.

Donnell Merritt: Transportation Supervisor: February

- Drainage work on 20 roads covering 14 miles.
- Delivered 58 tons of cold mix on 25 roads covering 36 miles.
- Delivered 156 tons of hot mix on 10 roads covering 18 miles.
- Installed 7 culverts.
- Graded 102 roads covering 186 miles.
- Hauled 294 yards on 5 roads covering 12 miles.
- Bush hogged 180 roads covering 35 miles.
- Picked up 385 bags of trash on 35 roads.
- Installed 11 road name signs.
- Installed 40 other signs.
- Maintained 6 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew overlaid 2 roads using 1980 tons of asphalt:
 - Westmoreland Road
 - Lewis Rogers Road
- Asphalt crew is currently working on:
 - Wilks Road
 - Leo Miller Road
 - Silas Schilling Road
 - Burch Road

Item No. 12. Council Discussion

Thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight.

Item No. 13. - Adjourn - No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman King seconded by Councilman Fornea.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Shawn Rice, Chairman
Washington Parish Council

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 27, 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

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