

## **\*Notice of Public Hearing\***

Notice is Hereby Given a  
Public Hearing  
will be held by the  
Washington Parish Council  
In the Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 7 0438  
Council Chamber s  
March 27, 2023  
Monday - 5:45 PM

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

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak?"

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea to close public hearing.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

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

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

**Item No. 2. - Invocation** - Councilman McMasters 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, Kim Wagner, Clark Harry, Rusty Fornea, Reginald McMasters, and Carley King.

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

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to approve minutes dated March 13, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "We just had a public hearing on ordinance 23-725. 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 Ordinance No. 23-725.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 7. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1222** - A resolution to adopt the 2023 Annual Operating Budget of the Washington Parish Tourism Commission.

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

No one came forward.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King approve Resolution No. 23-1222.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 8. - Adopt Resolution No. 23-1223** - A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the Parish President to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Franklinton concerning Franklinton Rural Fire Service Response Area.

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

No one came forward.

Councilman Rice offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea approve Resolution No. 23-1223.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

### **Item No. 9. - Public Participation -**

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak? Please state your name and address for the record."

No one came forward.

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

YEAS: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

### **Item No. 10. - President Report -**

- A good meeting with Northshore Business Council from St. Tammany Parish on March 17<sup>th</sup> for them to learn more about our priority for the year and how they might be able to assist.
- Broadband update by AT&T met on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the council chambers. A lot of public comment and informant information from AT&T.
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>, I attended an AT&T laptop chrome book distribution at Franklinton Community Family Center on Greenlaw Avenue, and I applaud the work being done there.
- Thursday, March 30, 2023 there will be a DOTD Federal Off System Program meeting in Hammond at the central office with several employees attending.
- Washington Parish Government Office will be closed Friday, April 7, 2023, for Good Friday.
- The Franklinton Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to attend a ribbon cutting for "Almost Famous Dinner" located at 27163 Hwy 62 in Pine on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 4pm.

Donna Graham Finance Director:

- Each council member was given a financial report for the first two months of 2023. All funds have a positive fund balance. "We are working to get 2022 closed out. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me."

Donnell Merritt Transportation Supervisor: Beginning of March

- Picked up 199 bags of trash on 20 roads.
- Installed 9 Road name signs.
- Installed 10 other signs.
- Parish asphalt crew has overlaid 4 parish roads using 3,765 tons of asphalt on:
  - Wilks Road
  - Leo Miller Road
  - Silas Schilling Road
  - Burch Road
- Replaced a small bridge on Moore Cemetery Road off Hwy 60.

President Thomas: "Mr. Donnell Merritt will be retiring less than a month after 38 years to the Parish Government."

### **Item No. 11. - Council Discussion**

Thanked everyone for attending. Thanked and congratulated Donnell Merritt on his 38 years with the Parish Government. Councilman Fornea reminded everyone that they have free training with Narcan and provide Narcan for free.

Councilman Fornea: Announced he will not be seeking re-election.

**Item No. 12. - 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: (6) Culpepper, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, and King

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

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Joe Culpepper, Vice Chairman  
Washington Parish Council

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Sarah Cook, Clerk to the Council  
Washington Parish

**Order of Voting:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 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).

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”