

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

Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 70438  
Council Chambers  
April 10, 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 March 27, 2023.

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 6. Notice of Consideration of action regarding Ad Valorem Tax** - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana will meet on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, Washington Parish Courthouse, 1st Floor, Franklinton, Louisiana, at which time there will be consideration of action regarding the calling of an election to authorize the levy and collection of an ad valorem tax dedicated to operation and maintenance of the Washington Parish Coroner's Office, including the creation of a morgue and vital community education center focused on preventive, premature deaths.

Chairman Rice: "No action or discussion on this notice."

**Item No. 7. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-726** - An ordinance adding E. Thomas Road, Wilson Magee Road, Knapp Thomas Road, and Leo Mizell Road to the "No Thru Truck Routes" ordinance as per Ordinance No. 13-577.

Chairman Rice: "This is an introduction only and a public hearing will be held on April 24, 2023."

**Item No. 8. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-727** - An Ordinance to levy taxes for the 2023 Millage at the same rate as prior year on property subject to taxation in Washington Parish.

Chairman Rice: "This is an introduction only and a public hearing will be held on April 24, 2023."

**Item No. 9. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1224** - A resolution designating the week of April 10 - April 14, 2023, as National Community Development Week.

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 23-1224.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Harry

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Harry

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 11. President Report -**

- Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> we had a nonmandatory 2023 roads Prebid meeting. Two asphalt companies attended the meeting to discuss the bid process with our staff. Bids will proceed by 2pm next Tuesday, April 18, 2023, and officially open the same day in the parish government Conference room.
- Presented a proclamation stating April 10 - 13 is National Community Grant Week.
- Presented a proclamation stating the month of April is Fair Housing Month.
- A Parish Presidents of Louisiana meeting will be held this Thursday in Port Allen to meet with the candidates for Governor.

Ken Wheat: Public Works Director:

- We received a letter from Congresswoman Letlow informing she has submitted the Washington Parish Government's 911 Communications Tower, equipment, and building project for \$921,197.50 to the House Appropriations Committee for further consideration. This is the first step in a long process. Congresswoman will continue to advocate for the project with the Committee as fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills are being developed. The exact timing of the final completion of the bills is yet to be determined but expects the House Appropriations Committee will seek to move its version of funding bills sometime this spring.
- We met with DOTD last week to discuss the off-system bridge program. Our bridge ratings are all at 1, which is the best you can get.

Alex Sumrall:

- We met with DOTD in Hammond about the off-system bridge program. We learned that we have a project number for Cleve Kennedy bridge along with project numbers for two additional bridges.
  - Mitch Road
  - George Jenkins Road

Donnell Merritt: Transportation Supervisor: Month of March

- Drainage work on 23 roads covering 26 miles.
- Delivered 48 tons of cold mix on 19 roads covering 26 miles.
- Delivered 196 tons of hot mix on 11 roads covering 18 miles.
- Installed 14 culverts.

- Graded 165 roads covering 286 miles.
- Hauled 668 yards on 15 roads covering 26 miles.
- Bush hogged 181 roads covering 308 miles.
- Picked up 366 bags of trash on 36 roads.
- Installed 18 road name signs.
- Installed 28 other signs.
- Maintained 6 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew overlaid 4 roads using 3765 tons of asphalt:
  - Wilkes Road
  - Leo Miller Road
  - Silas Schilling Road
  - Burch Road
- Laid Webb Street and City Hall for the Town of Franklinton.
- Sprayed around culverts and bridges on 8 roads.

President Thomas: “Next meeting will be the last meeting for Mr. Donnell Merritt. He will be retiring after 38 years. I would like to introduce Mr. Danny Knight. He will be filling in as the new Transportation Supervisor.”

**Item No. 12. Council Discussion**

Thanked all the citizens for coming out tonight. Congratulated Donnell Merritt on his retirement after 38 years of work and expressed their appreciation. Congratulated Danny Knight on his new position.

**Item No. 13. - 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) Rice, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, McMasters, King, and Culpepper

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:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 24, 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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