

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
April 24 , 2023
Monday - 5:45 PM

Public Hearing 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: “Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak?”

No one came forward.

Public Hearing 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 read millage rates aloud and asked if anyone would like to come forward and speak.

No one came forward.

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Notice of Public Meeting

Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street
Franklinton , La 70438
Council Chambers
April 24 , 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 - Councilwoman Wagner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item No. 4. - Roll Call - Council Clerk Sarah Cook called the roll. Present were Shawn Rice, Kim Wagner, Clark Harry, Rusty Fornea, Reginald McMasters, and Carley King. Chairman Rice: “I would like to entertain a motion to open and add an item to the agenda. Mrs. Frances Varnado, Washington Parish School Board Superintendent.”

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea to open and add an item to the agenda.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 5. - Approval of Minutes - Approval of minutes dated April 10, 2023.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to approve minutes dated April 10, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 6. Frances Varnado Superintendent - Washington Parish School Board updates.

- They started last Monday on the roof at FJHS.
- Open Bids on the interior remodeling of FJHS on April 27.
- Thomas Early Childhood Center is progressing with a projected opening date in late August or early September.
- Currently PreK roundup is going on at all Pre-K schools. Students can enroll as long as they turn 4 before September 30. Please encourage any students that you know to enroll in PreK as soon as possible. The sooner we know the count we can make sure we have teachers in place.
- Starting this year kindergarten will be required for any student turning 5 before September 30.
- Testing is currently going on in all schools' grades 3-11. Testing started on April 17 and will go through May 5.
- Seniors' last day is May 5. I would like to invite you to Senior Recognition on May 9 at FHS, PHS, and VHS. Each one starts at 6:00 p.m.
- I want to thank you for attending our graduations last year and I cordially invite you to attend again this school year. Total senior graduates 329.
 - FHS Graduation - May 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
 - PHS Graduation - May 12, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.
 - MHS Graduation - May 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
 - VHS Graduation - May 13, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.
- The students placed 10th in the Nation for JAG.
- Thanked Donnell Merritt for helping with the bus parking lot.
- Thanked Reginald McMasters for fixing the plumbing at the FPS.

Item No. 7. Toby Cortez - Update on Mountain Bike trail project at the Bogue Chitto State Park.

Mr. Cortez presented a video of all the new Mountain Bike Trails at the Bogue Chitto State Park.

Jennifer Brown: "A guy who owns a bike repair shop in Covington said he would be glad to come to the State Park and do bike repairs on the spot. Who would he need to contact?"

Toby Cortez: "Great! Have him contact me through Facebook."

Item No. 8. Adopt 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: "We just had a public hearing on ordinance 23-726. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters to adopt Ordinance No. 23-726.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 9. Adopt 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: "We just had a public hearing on ordinance 23-727. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to adopt Ordinance No. 23-727.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 10. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-728 -An ordinance to amend the 2023 Road Capital Outlay Budget.

Chairman Rice: "This is an introduction only and a public hearing will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 5:45pm."

Item No. 11. - Adopt Resolution No. 23-1225- A resolution of appointment for the Washington Parish Library Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: "The council received the recommendation from the library board for Mr. Perry Talley to fill the remaining term of Mr. Jim Adams. Term will expire on December 31, 2024. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters approve Resolution No. 23-1225.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 12. - Public Participation -

Chairman Rice: "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 McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to close public participation.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 13. - President Report -

- May 4, 2023, there will be a National Day of Prayer held at the Big Flagpole across from First Baptist Church at noon.

President Thomas presented a plaque to Mr. Donnell Merritt, Transportation Supervisor who is retiring after 38 years.

All congratulated and thanked Mr. Merritt on his retirement.

Donna Graham Finance Director:

- Our last physical year of work was recently turned over to our auditors.
- We are working on Quarterly reports for federal grants.
- The financial report for last year and an update for the current year will be presented at our next meeting.

Ken Wheat recognized Mrs. Kelsey Knight, Manager of the Animal Shelter who was one of five chosen over 100 candidates to receive a scholarship program.

Kelsey Knight: Animal Shelter Manager:

- Recently started some internal construction.
 - Painted this afternoon.
- Worked on in-house grants for the animal shelter.
 - Long term larger kennels to hold mom and puppies.
- Partnering with larger organizations
 - Best friends Animal Society
 - Teaches community-based leadership.
 - Teaches animal shelter leadership.
 - Teaches how to lead staff and volunteers.
 - Teaches shelter management of taking care of animals and the people around you.
 - A six-month online course with class every Thursday after a 5-day conference in Houston Texas. Entry fees for the conference have been paid for by a donator so the parish will not have to pay.
 - The start of weekly classes.
 - Another conference in Arkansas.
 - Graduate in February.

Donnell Merritt Transportation Supervisor: Beginning of April

- Picked up 164 bags of trash on 14 roads.
- Installed 1 Road name signs.
- Installed 11 other signs.
- Maintained 10 locations.

Item No. 14. - Council Discussion

Congratulated Donnell Merritt, Thanked Toby Cortez for the updates, Congratulated Kelsey Knight, thanked Frances Varnado for the school updates and congratulated Danny Knight.

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Shawn Rice, Chairman
Washington Parish Council

Sarah Cook, Clerk to the Council
Washington Parish

Order of Voting:

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 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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