

Notice of Public Meeting

Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street
Franklinton, La 70438
Council Chambers
June 26, 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 June 12, 2023.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters to approve minutes dated June 12, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Harry

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 6. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1230 -A resolution of appointment for the Washington Parish Fire District No. 7. Board of Directors.

Chairman Rice: "District 7 recommended Jason "Bear" Pierce to be replace Sidney Warren's term expires December 31, 2023. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to adopt Resolution 23-1230.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 7. - 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?"

Rebecca Abron resides at 45716 Arbor Lane, Franklinton - Ms. Abron asked when will her road be blacktopped because they have been waiting on this for years and they finally got approved to maintain it. "The other two roads were blacktopped but we are still waiting on ours also. Can we get an answer tonight? This is very important as I have a handicapped child and this road has caused problems for us."

Ken Wheat: "We will look at it tomorrow to see what needs to be done to get it maintained."

President Thomas: "We are trying to get them done and we were fortunate to get the funds to do those roads. I know it will be really hard to do that road this year but if we have any money left over somewhere, I promise we will get in there."

Jackie Tate resides at 2641 Greenlaw Ave, Franklinton: "I have a heart for handicapped children, and she is struggling with her grandchild on that dirt road. The school bus wouldn't come out because the road was in bad condition, and they made that handicapped child go all the way to the main road."

President Thomas: "Twin Oaks has the same situation, and we are hoping to get out there too."

Councilman McMasters: "I do remember the situation with the bus and that is when you and I, Mr. President Road out there. She does have a problem that really needs to be addressed."

Mary Ross resides at 45160 Sundance Lane, Franklinton: "Did you all run out of asphalt? I have been working on this for 14 years for this and was left out."

President Thomas: "A lot of people were left out."

Mary Ross: "No, no, no! I understand that but I had been pushing for 14 years, and you told me back in the spring that we were going to have a paved road."

President Thomas: "Your road is on the list and if I have enough money left over, I will come and do it. We weren't expecting to get the roads done we have been doing. I have been working 15 years on getting Twin Oaks and they have a handicapped child there as well and is in Councilman McMasters district. Your road is in Councilman Rice's district."

Mary Ross: "I fully aware of who is my councilman."

President Thomas: "We are moving from the state park and going to do West McCain Road which has been on the list for many years."

Mary Ross: "It was a slap in my face to see these other two roads done after I was the one coming in here fighting for the roads to be maintained and blacktopped but yet you did these other roads for people who never showed their face. A mans word goes a long way after you told me what you were going to do."

President Thomas: "I do apologize for that."

Ken Wheat: "On this subdivision regarding the parish taking over the roads, it was nothing the parish held up, it was legal requirements that held us up. We just got those roads on our maintenance list last year but all I ask now is to be patient as we try and get them asphalted."

Attorney Kuhn: "I appreciate Mrs. Ross and I know she is a very dedicated person. In the defense of our administration, unfortunately this area where you are talking about was a poorly developed subdivision. Prior to our adoption of the comprehensive development ordinances where we created some requirements to stop developments that were like the ones that occurred to them. If you read their restrictions, they passed the responsibility onto the property owner once everybody bought their own lots and the developer just walked away, which was common at the time. We haven't had any problems with any newer subdivisions. Let me point out that when the roads are

accepted, there is no guarantee they will be asphalted. It does mean that the parish will maintain their road”

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone else like to come forward and speak?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fornea 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. 8. - President Report -

President Thomas:

- Washington Parish Government Offices will be closed on Monday July 3rd and Tuesday July 4th for the holiday.

Donna Graham - Financial Director:

- Handed out a major fund report through May of this year.
- The top cover is a recap for each of the funds.
- All funds are in a positive fund balance at this point.
- Our Audit has been submitted to the Legislative Auditors Office.
- Auditors will be here at one of our meetings in July.

Danny Knight Transportation Supervisor: First Part of June

- Picked up 91 bags of trash on 11 roads.
- Installed 12 road name signs.
- Installed 24 other signs.
- Maintained 11 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew overlaid 3 roads using 1,200 tons of asphalt:
 - Delos Thomas
 - Delta Lane
 - Tammy Lane
- Barrier Construction has completed the overlay of the 23 contracted roads. Now in the process of striping the roads.
- George Jenkins bridge repair is complete.

Item No. 9. - Council Discussion

Thank everyone for attending and participating. Wish everyone a happy and safe fourth of July and Geaux Tigers.

Item No. 10. - Adjourn - No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman McMasters 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, July 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.

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