

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

Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 70438  
Council Chambers  
July 10, 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 Culpepper 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, and Reginald McMasters.

**Item No. 5. - Approval of Minutes** - Approval of minutes dated June 26, 2023.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to approve minutes dated June 26, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, Harry, and McMasters

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Fornea and King

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 6. - Notice of Consideration of action regarding Ad Valorem Tax** - Pursuant to LA. R.S. 42:19.1 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana will meet on Monday, August 14, 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: read the notice of consideration of action regarding Ad Valorem Tax aloud. No action or discussion this evening and a public meeting will be held on August 14, 2023, for consideration of action.

**Item No. 7. Adopt Resolution 23-1231** - A resolution authorizing the Parish President to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and any other formal agreements and documents between the Opioid Abatement Administration Corporation (Sometimes referred to as the Task Force) and the Washington Parish Government.

Chairman Rice: "This resolution has been removed from the agenda."

**Item No. 8. Adopt Resolution 23-1232** - A resolution by the parish council in support of the current approved capital outlay project through the State of Louisiana Office of facility, planning and control for the purpose of utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds up to \$800,000.00 in order to maintain the project by providing the additional funds needed to secure the low bid received on May 18, 2023, for renovating the Washington Parish Jail.

Chairman Rice: "We just held a finance meeting to discuss resolution 23-1232. Would anyone like to come forward and speak before the council votes?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Culpepper offered a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wagner to adopt Resolution 23-1232.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, Harry, and McMasters

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Fornea and King

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 9. - 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?"

Malinda White announced her candidacy for Washington Parish President.

Mary Ross resides at 45160 Sundance Lane, Franklinton: Ms. Ross thanked all the people who helped work on repairing her road and requested a copy of the finance report.

Steven Branch announced his candidacy for Council District #5.  
No one came forward.

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, Harry, and McMasters

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Fornea and King

ABSTAIN: (0)

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

President Thomas:

- On June 28<sup>th</sup> we had a round table discussion in Bogalusa to discuss the needs of Washington Parish with Congresswoman Julia Letlow.
- Senator Mizell held a luncheon and tour at the Bogue Chitto State Park to discuss economic development opportunities with State Representative District 75, Franklinton, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Chamber of Commerce, Washington Parish, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa Economic Development, Washington Parish and Tangipahoa Parish Presidents, and Tourism's from Washington Parish, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa.
- Our State Park had the largest amount of people on July 4, 2023, of all the parks in Louisiana.
- Washington Parish Watermelon Festival had a great turnout.

Donna Graham - Financial Director:

- Last month we advertised for our official journal, and we received one proposal from the Era Leader. The Era Leader will be our official journal.
- Audit has been approved by the Legislative Auditors Office and it is posted on the website. They will be here at our next meeting to present their report.
- Today, we received the first payment of the opioid abatement funding. We received two years, worth of payment for 2021 and 2022. 2023 will be coming

out in the next several days. We will need to form a committee to see what direction we will need to go with the funds received.

Danny Knight Transportation Supervisor: Month of June

- Drainage work on 24 roads covering 29 miles.
- Delivered 48 tons of cold mix on 23 roads covering 30 miles.
- Delivered 98 tons of hot mix on 8 roads covering 15 miles.
- Installed 17 culverts.
- Graded 49 roads covering 71 miles.
- Hauled 676 yards of gravel on 21 roads covering 34 miles.
- Bush hogged 185 roads covering 300 miles.
- Picked up 208 bags of trash on 23 roads.
- Installed 12 road name signs.
- Installed 34 other signs.
- Maintained 10 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew completed overlay of parking area at the Bogue Chitto State Park totaling 1,145 tons of asphalt.
- Sprayed around culverts and bridges on 5 roads.

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

Thank everyone for attending.

**Item No. 12. - Adjourn** - No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman McMasters seconded by Councilman Culpepper.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (5) Culpepper, Rice, Wagner, Harry, and McMasters

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Fornea and King

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:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, July 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).

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