

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

**Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton, La 70438  
Council Chambers  
September 11, 2023  
Monday - 6:00 PM**

**Item No. 1. - Call to order** - Vice Chairman Culpepper called the meeting to order. Please stand for a moment of silence in honor of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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, Kim Wagner, Clark Harry, Rusty Fornea, Reginald McMasters, and Carley King.

**Item No. 5. - Approval of Minutes** - Approval of minutes dated August 28, 2023.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to approve minutes dated August 28, 2023.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 6. Casley Allen**- Candidate for Judge Division B.

Casey Allen announced candidacy and asked for your vote.

**Item No. 7. Tara Zeller**- Candidate for Judge Division B.

Tara Zeller announced candidacy and asked for your vote.

**Item No. 8. Washington Parish Animal Shelter** - Manger, Kelsey Knight.

Kelsey Knight presented a presentation of updates for the animal shelter.

**Item No. 9. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1242** - A resolution for annual certification of compliance with the State of Louisiana Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "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 resolution No. 23-1242.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 10. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1243** - A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the Parish President to sign agreements and all other necessary documentation between the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and Washington Parish Government for funding of sidewalks in downtown Franklinton through the Louisiana DOTD 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for Washington parish Sidewalks Segment D&E.

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

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to adopt resolution No. 23-1243.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 11. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1244** - A resolution authorizing the Washington Parish Government to execute documents for and administer a grant through the 2022/2023 Louisiana Governor's Assistance Program (LGAP) for the upgrade of the Washington Parish Government Fleet Maintenance Shop.

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "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 resolution No. 23-1244.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 12 - Public Participation -**

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak, if so, please state your name and address for the record?"

Kendall Amacker resides at 20551 Lee Rd, Franklinton: Expressed his concerns of a proposed mobile home park next door to him. Asked the council for help to stop this mobile home park from entering our parish.

Charles Fussell resides at 21237 Lee Rd, Franklinton: Also, against the mobile home park. Asked the council if they would want this next door to them!

Councilman McMasters, let it be known, that no permit has been issued at this point. The land developer has reached out for rules and regulations from the permit office. The citizens' concerns need to go before the planning commission.

Vice Chairman Culpepper: "Would anyone else like to come forward and speak?"

No one came forward.

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Rice

ABSTAIN: (0)

### **Item No. 13. - President Report -**

President Thomas:

Gave the floor to Dwayne Magee, candidate for Council District #6 who announced his candidacy for Council District 6.

President Thomas: Thanked all the candidates for coming and asked for extra prayers for all the victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Donna Graham, Financial Director:

- Handed out a recap on funds through July 31, 2023.
- Our first allocation from the proposition on sports wagering was \$53,000.

Councilman Fornea: "Could some of this money be dedicated to sports and recreation."

Donna Graham: "Speaking of sports and recreation, ATOKA received an extra \$300,000.00 in federal grant money and we should be seeing groundbreaking soon."

Ken Wheat, Public Works Director: Thanked Kelsey for all her hard work at the animal shelter.

Danny Knight, Transportation Supervisor: Month of August

Councilman McMasters: " Mr. President, the road transfer program you were just discussing, is that where we have taken on the state roads?"

- Drainage work on 14 roads covering 26 miles.
- Delivered 20 tons of cold mix on 9 roads covering 15 miles.
- Delivered 131 tons of hot mix on 12 roads covering 20 miles.
- Installed 9 culverts.
- Graded 47 roads covering 97 miles.
- Hauled 204 yards of gravel on 5 roads covering 12 miles.
- Bush hogged 141 roads covering 256 miles.
- Picked up 356 bags of trash on 42 roads.
- Installed 24 road name signs.
- Installed 32 other signs.
- Maintained 14 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew completed three road projects:
  - Wade Bahm Road
  - One mile section of Sunlight Road
  - ½ mile section of Mt. Pisgah Road

### **Item No. 14. - Council Discussion**

Thank everyone for attending and wish good luck to all candidates. A big thank you of appreciation to Kelsey Knight for a great job with our animal shelter. Continued prayers for September 11<sup>th</sup> families.

**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) Fornea, McMasters, King, Culpepper, Wagner, and Harry

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:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 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.”