

## **\*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  
September 25, 2023  
Monday - 5:45 PM

### **Public Hearing - Board of Review -**

1. There were no appeals received during the 2023 assessment.

Chairman Rice: "Are there any questions or comments?"

No one came forward.

2. Close board of review.

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

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Harry

ABSTAIN: (0)

## **\*Notice of Public Meeti ng\***

Washington Parish Council  
Regular Meeting  
Washington Parish Courthouse  
908 Washington Street  
Franklinton , La 70438  
Council Chambers  
September 25, 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 Alle giance** - Councilman Fornea 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 Minu tes** - Approval of minutes dated September 11, 2023.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to approve September 11, 2023, minutes.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 6. Larry Frieman** - Candidate for Judge Division A.

Mr. Frieman gave a brief background along with some great points. He closed by asking Washington Parish for their vote.

**Item No. 7. Gloria Kates** - Candidate for State Senator District 12.

Mrs. Kates briefly hit topics of concern and asked for your vote.

**Item No. 8. Consider a motion to enter into executive session under La. R.S.**

**42:17A(2)** In the matter of “St. Tammany Parish Government, a Political Subdivision of the State of Louisiana versus Warren Montgomery, et al., Docket No. 202215504, Div. A., 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana”

Attorney Kuhn discussed the issue at hand and all agreed. No action taken in executive session.

**Item No. 9. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1245** - A resolution employing and providing compensation for special legal counsel in the matter of “St. Tammany Parish Government, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, versus Warren Montgomery, ET AL., Docket No. 20221504, Div. A, 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Tammany”.

Chairman Rice: “We are back from executive session and no action was taken. I would like to entertain a motion to close the executive session.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to close executive session.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Chairman Rice: Read Resolution aloud and asked Attorney Kuhn to speak about Resolution 23-1245

Attorney Kuhn: “This is a suit by the St. Tammany Parish against the District Attorney of the 22<sup>nd</sup> JDC, which we are a part of. This is over mandate expenses and as a result we were also named as a defendant. Our charter states that the District Attorney is your legal advisor and the District Attorney’s Office cannot represent you due to a conflict. The charter allows for you to retain special counsel.”

Chairman Rice: “Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak before the council votes?”

No one came forward.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to approve Resolution 23-1245.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 10. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1246** - A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the parish president to sign agreements and memorandums of understanding between the Washington Parish Government, The City of Bogalusa and the Parish of Plaquemines for Washington Parish inmates housing due to overcrowding in the Washington Parish Jail.

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 Harry to approve Resolution 23-1246.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 11. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1247** - A resolution expressing the intent of the Washington Parish Council to re-adopt the residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan for Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Programs, for the parish's fiscal year 2023 Louisiana Community Development Program until such time as the requirements for the plan change under the LCDBG Program.

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

No one came forward.

Councilman King offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Culpepper to adopt resolution 23-1247.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 12. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1248** - A resolution expressing the intent of the Washington Parish Council to re-adopt the section 504 grievance procedure or the equitable resolution of complaints regarding the requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8-June 2, 1988) in compliance with requirements of a Louisiana Community Development Block Grant for Fiscal Year 2023.

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 King to adopt resolution 23-1248.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 13. - Public Participation -**

Chairman Rice: "Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak? Please state your name and address for the record."

Patricia Harvey resides in Hackley: "I am not a person that will come and argue at council meetings. No offense to Ms. Kates or Brother Larry that has just spoken but someone brought it to my attention that a Mr. Magee came to your last meeting and President Thomas said, well you can take up some of my time to speak. He wasn't on the agenda to speak and he is Councilman McMasters opponent. I think that was very rude and disrespectful to do something like that, and all of you are supposed to work together. God knows that me and him are probably the worst of the worst but right is right and wrong is wrong. I don't feel like that was right and to be considered you all as a team to do. Reginald, you know for a fact, you were not getting my vote. But I just need to know your election number, what is your number?"

Councilman McMasters: "Number 89."

Patricia Harvey: "I will make sure that you get my vote and others. That is not right how that transpired, and you all need to work together. One last thing, I have a friend that I always visit. I don't care what road you all fix in Franklinton but there is no road worse than Sundance Lane in the Green Valley Subdivision. It is like going on a rollercoaster without having to pay for a ride. Next year when you start paving roads, will you please consider paving that road. Thank you."

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

No one came forward.

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

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

**Item No. 14. - President Report -**

- The Washington Parish Flag Raising Ceremony will be Friday, September 29, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Franklinton Courthouse
- The Washington Parish Flag Raising Ceremony will be Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10:00 am at Bogalusa City Hall
- Washington Parish Free Fair will be October 18<sup>th</sup> - October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Early voting starts this Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 7<sup>th</sup>
- Primary Election Day is Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- General Election Day is November 18<sup>th</sup>

Donna Graham: Financial Director

- Handed out the budget actual comparison
- Started the process of amending 2023 budget
  - Received more money than budgeted for
    - Sales tax revenue has projected to be substantial high
    - The Interest Revenue that we earned in our checking account has been substantially high. The last few years we were earning .5% interest and now we are earning close to 5% and we have not budgeted for that increase.
  - We had several revenues to come in that we did not expect
    - OPIOD Law Settlement revenue. We added a new fund #16 and so far, we have received \$465,800.00. It would be nice if we could form some kind of commission to help advise us on how we should spend those funds. They are not budgeted at this time, so will need to budget them.
  - We received money from the sports gaming that we had not budgeted for.
  - Leftover ARPA money that is not budgeted.

- A few Expenditure items will need to be adjusted
- Capital outlay project at the jail will be 25% to 30% complete and we budgeted for 100%
- Really shooting for, at our next meeting, to be ready to introduce an ordinance to amend 2023 budget
- Requesting Finance committee meetings to start discussing the 2024 budget.
- This year we have been working with the Equan at Bogue Chitto State Park. They have been working on a project and have received the blessing from the state parks to build a barn that would be individual horse stalls adjacent to the area where they have camper sites at the Equan Center. The State Parks gave the Friends of Bogue Chitto State Park all commissioned to, and there is a CEA Agreement between the two parties, allowing them to build this facility. They came to us to ask for help in funding that. It's a \$25,000.00 project and we would like to be able to move forward with that out of our infrastructure and parks money. We are working on an agreement between the Parish Government and the Friends of Bogue Chitto State Park. There will be water and electricity. We will have a resolution at our next meeting to allow the parish president to sign the CEA agreement.

Danny Knight: Transportation Supervisor: September

- Picked up 252 bags of trash on 17 roads.
- Sprayed around signs and bridges on 27 roads.
- Asphalt Crews completed overlay of the following:
  - A portion of Mt. Pisgah Road
  - Tob Wilson Road

**Item No. 15. - Council Discussion**

The council thanked everyone for attending. Reminder of the Blues and Heritage Festival this weekend at Cassidy Park, Bogalusa.

**Item No. 16. - Adjourn** - No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman King seconded by Councilman McMasters.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

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:**

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, October 9, 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.”