

Notice of Public Meeting

**Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street
Franklinton, La 70438
Council Chambers
October 9, 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 Fornea 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.

Item No. 5. - Approval of Minutes - Approval of minutes dated September 25, 2023.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman McMasters to approve September 25, 2023, minutes.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Chairman Rice: "I would like to entertain a motion to open the agenda and add Resolution 23-1250 to the agenda as line-item Number 8. A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the parish president to sign an intergovernmental agreement with Northshore Technical Community College."

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Harry to open the agenda and add resolution 2-1250.

Roll call of vote as follows:

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 6. Introduction of Ordinance No. 23-730 - An ordinance to amend the 2023 Annual Operating Budget for the Washington Parish Government.

Chairman Rice: "This is an introduction only and a public hearing will be held on October 23rd at 5:45pm."

Item No. 7. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1249 - A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the Parish President to sign a cooperative endeavor agreement with Friends of Bogue Chitto State Park, Inc.

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

Maurice McCraney resides in Bogalusa La: expressed being against giving money to the Friends of Bogue Chitto State Park horse stalls.

Councilman Fornea offered a motion, seconded by Councilman King to adopt resolution 23-1249.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 8. Adopt Resolution No. 23-1250 - A resolution by the Washington Parish Council to authorize the parish president to sign an intergovernmental agreement with Northshore Technical Community College.

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 Councilwoman Wagner to adopt resolution 23-1250.

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 9. - Public Participation -

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

John Brown resides in Franklinton: Mr. Brown noticed the solar project having some movement on Hwy 16 and questions why there are no signs up as promised.

Ken Wheat: "I personally take responsibility of the signs not being put out. We have been dealing with denials on this ordinance for the past 4 months making sure they abide by our laws. They have agreed to put out the signs and they are in the process of getting them done now. Adding signs on the property of proposed sites has not been addressed by the council to approve and therefore it is not a law as of now."

John Brown: "This was discussed, and all parties agreed to have this in the ordinance, will this be done soon?"

Councilman King: "Yes."

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

Letisha Desmares: "Attorney Kuhn has been working on getting the proper paperwork in order for us to help Fire District 1. He asked me to bring this form needed to move forward with Fire District 1 being able to do annual commercial inspections. Fire marshal will do their inspections, but we will do all annual inspections after. This will help lower our PLI Rating which will lower homeowner insurance \$500 dollars each year in our district. We can get our rating down to a 5 or 4."

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

No one came forward.

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

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

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 10. - President Report -

- The Washington Parish Recreation District will be receiving a \$341,225 grant for the Atoka Park Development this Thursday, October 12th in the Council Chambers from the Land & Water Conservation Fund. The check will be presented by Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser at 11:00 a.m.
- The Washington Parish Government offices will be closed next Wednesday, October 18th through Friday, October 20th for the Washington Parish Fair.
- The Parish Government received the “Business of the Month” from the Home and Garden Club and the Franklinton Chamber of Commerce.

Donna Graham: Financial Director handed out the budget actual report. “If any questions, please contact me any time.”

Ken Wheat: Public Works Director

- We received a grant plus ARPA money for the jail renovations. Some of the staff had to relocate their office for at least 8 months to a year for this project. Renovations will be on for the roof, elevator, new holding facility, nurses’ station and administrative office.

Danny Knight: Transportation Supervisor: September

- Drainage work on 18 roads covering 32 miles.
- Delivered 48 tons of cold mix on 23 roads covering 30 miles.
- Delivered 155 tons of hot mix on 14 roads covering 24 miles.
- Installed 13 culverts.
- Graded 51 roads covering 73 miles.
- Hauled 448 yards of gravel on 9 roads covering 20 miles.
- Bush hogged 135 roads covering 253 miles.
- Picked up 352 bags of trash on 41 roads.
- Installed 12 road name signs.
- Installed 32 other signs.
- Maintained 12 parish locations.
- Asphalt crew working on overlaying roads:
 - Church Street overlay for the City of Bogalusa

Item No. 11. - Council Discussion

The council thanked everyone for attending. Wish everyone a happy and safe Washington Parish Free Fair.

Item No. 12. - 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: (6) King, Rice, Wagner, Harry, Fornea, and McMasters

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Culpepper

ABSTAIN: (0)

Shawn Rice, Chairman
Washington Parish Council

Sarah Cook, Clerk to the Council
Washington Parish

Order of Voting:

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

Next meeting will be held on Monday, October 23 , 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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