

Minutes of a meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, held in the Pointe-a-la-Hache Courthouse Council Chambers, 18055 Highway 23, Pointe-a-la-Hache, Louisiana on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 3:35 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Council Member Mark Cognevich, Chairman
Council Member W. Beau Black
Council Member Corey Arbourgh
Council Member Stuart J. Guey
Council Member Benedict Rousselle
Council Member Trudy Newberry
Council Member Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Council Member Richie Blink

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Council Member John L. Barthelemy, Jr.

The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were dispensed with.

Charter Directors, Crystal Taylor, Scott Rousselle and Todd Eppley were present representing the Administration.

The following items were deferred:

- 7b, “Crescent Excavation, LLC, Application No. 2021-763, dated October 5, 2021, commercial trailer for storage use only, in a FP (Flood Plain) Zoning District, 840 West Ravenna Road, Belle Chasse, Louisiana”;
- 7c, “Crescent Excavation, LLC, Application No. 2021-764, dated October 5, 2021, commercial trailer for storage use only in a FP (Flood Plain) Zoning District, 850 West Ravenna Road, Belle Chasse, Louisiana”;
- 9a(1), “An Ordinance to amend and as amended, readopt the Plaquemines Parish Code of Ordinances Chapter 6, “Boats, Marinas, Marine Vessels and Terminals” to prohibit all boats, except Plaquemines Parish Government boats and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office boats, from driving between telephone poles during Tropical Storms and Hurricanes; establishing fines and penalties for violation thereof; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto” was offered by Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Rousselle, temporarily passed over and then deferred;
- 9e, “An Ordinance to amend the 2021 General Fund, Operating Expenditure Budget, Flood Control-General Department; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto” was offered by Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Blink, discussed and then deferred;
- 9j, “A Resolution electing the Vice-Chairperson of the Plaquemines Parish Council for the year 2022; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- 9n, “An Ordinance to amend the Five Year Capital Improvements Plan, Walker Road Boat Launch Project and otherwise to provide with respect thereto” was offered by Council Member Rousselle, seconded by Council Member Cognevich, discussed and then deferred;
- 9o, “ A Resolution electing the Chairperson of the Plaquemines Parish Council for the year 2022; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- 11b, “District 9 update”;
- 11c, “District 8 update”; and
- 11i, “Coastal Update”.

The following items were withdrawn:

- 9c, “A Resolution of the Plaquemines Parish Council to revoke the dedication and abandon a portion of Last Cast Lane; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”; and
- 9m, “An Ordinance to amend the Five Year Capital Improvements Plan, Walker Road Boat Launch Project and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”

There being no items for Executive Session, no Proclamations, no Status Report by the Parish President and nothing to report under the Director's updates, Council Member Cognevich advanced to Agenda Item 11j, "Presentation on Coast Guard Road by George Pivach and Renee Cross". Without objection, so ordered. Mr. Pivach and Mr. Cross addressed the Council, presented their evidence regarding the road being a "public road" and the history of upkeep of the road.

Council Member Arbourgh left the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Council Member Cognevich reverted back to Agenda Item 5, "Bids and Advertisements". Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-239

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Blink and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Members Barthelemy and Arbourgh who were "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing the acceptance of bids for furnishing Bulk Diesel Fuel for a period of one year for Parish Wide use.

WHEREAS, after due advertisement bids were received on September 28, 2021, for furnishing Bulk Diesel Fuel for Parish Wide use: Tri State Oil Co., P.O. Box 220, Belle Chasse, LA 70037; and Retif Oil & Fuel, 1840 Jutland Drive, Harvey, LA 70058; all bids on file in the Parish Purchasing Agent's Office and made a part hereof by reference to; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Stanifer, Parish Purchasing Agent, recommends the acceptance of the overall low bid of Tri State Oil; and the Council concurred in said recommendation; and

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby authorizes its Parish Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders to Tri State Oil, P.O. Box 220, Belle Chasse, LA 70037, for furnishing Bulk Diesel Fuel for Parish Wide use, all in accordance with bids submitted by said vendor on September 28, 2021, on file in the Parish Purchasing Agent's Office.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT Kirk Lepine, Parish President, be and hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Plaquemines Parish Government to enter into a contractual agreement with Tri State Oil, for furnishing Bulk Diesel Fuel for Parish Wide use, beginning October 14, 2021, and ending October 13, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby authorizes its Parish Fiscal Officers to issue check in payment of material, upon approval of invoices by Brenda L. Stanifer, Parish Purchasing Agent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish officials and employees are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 6, "Beer and Liquor Licenses". Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-240

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Rousselle, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Members Barthelemy and Arbourgh who were "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the following special event/temporary beer/liquor permit is hereby issued to Kim C. Benoit for the Plaquemines Parish Fair and Orange Festival beginning on November 26, 2021, at 7:00 a.m. for set up through December 6, 2021, for teardown, located at Fort Jackson, Buras, LA, 70041. The festival dates are December 3rd through 5th, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish officials and employees are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 7, "Building Permits". Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-241

On motion of Council Member Guey, seconded by Council Member Blink, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Member Cognevich who "ABSTAINED" and Council Members Barthelemy and Arbourgh who were "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the following application for construction permit in the Parish of Plaquemines is hereby approved: Kinder Morgan, Application No. 2021-749, dated September 24, 2021, to remove existing rock berm and replace it with a bulkhead and install two additional bulkheads along the pipeline canal, West of Bay Law area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 8, "Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions". Without objection, so ordered. The following legislation was introduced:

1. A Resolution establishing the dates, times and places of public hearings on the proposed 2022 Operating Budget and on the proposed Capital Improvements Budget covering a period of at least five years as submitted by the Parish President; to authorize the Council Secretary to place the necessary Public Notice in the Plaquemines Gazette pursuant to Section 7.02 A and Section 7.05 C of the Charter for Local Self-Government, Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER COGNEVICH
2. A resolution confirming an election date change pursuant to Executive Order of the Governor; establishing a new date to canvass the returns of the elections; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. COUNCIL MEMBER COGNEVICH
3. A Resolution authorizing the Parish President, on behalf of the Plaquemines Parish Council, to certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development that the Plaquemines Parish Government has complied with all FHWA/DOTD requirements in 2021 relative to bridges located in Plaquemines Parish under the Plaquemines Parish Government's jurisdiction. COUNCIL MEMBER COGNEVICH
4. An Ordinance authorizing the placement of three "Stop" signs at the corners of Oak Tree Road and Woodchase Drive, Belle Chasse; to establish penalties for the violation thereof; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER GUEY

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 9, "Ordinances and Resolutions on second reading and final passage". Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-242

On motion of Council Member Black, seconded by Council Member Guey, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution assigning Buildings 1000, 1001, 1002 and the adjacent green space on the Belle Chasse Government Complex, located at 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, to the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office and furthermore authorizing the Parish President or his designee, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Sheriff’s Office for such purposes and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Belle Chasse Government Complex on F. Edward Hebert Blvd. is suited to serve as a consolidated complex to house numerous departments of the Plaquemines Parish Government as well as other political subdivisions in order to make the best possible use of government owned property to best serve the people of Plaquemines Parish in a more efficient and professional way; and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office currently occupies parish property located at 104 Ave G in Belle Chasse, LA, commonly referred to as the “Belle Chasse Lockup,” for their district command office as well as the temporary housing of detainees and/or arrestees. It is their intention to vacate the Belle Chasse Lockup and return the full use of the property to the Plaquemines Parish Government, as well as relocate various public services provided by them to the Belle Chasse Government Complex; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.03 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines states that the Parish Council may designate public buildings to the administrative offices and the employees necessary for the proper administration of the government of the Parish of Plaquemines;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT pursuant to section 5.03 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines, that it hereby assigns office space in the Belle Chasse Government Complex on F. Edward Hebert Blvd, Buildings 1000, 1001, 1002 and the adjacent green space bordered by Buildings 1001 and 1002, F. Edward Hebert Blvd, and Building 1100 on the Belle Chasse Government Complex, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, to the following political subdivision:

Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement shall specify that all maintenance, improvements, upkeep, and modifications are to be paid for and done by the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office with no further burden or expense to the Plaquemines Parish Government. All utilities associated shall be in accordance with the current policies in effect at any and all other buildings owned by the Plaquemines Government that are occupied or utilized by the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish officials and employees are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-243

On motion of Council Member Guey, seconded by Council Member Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution granting conditional approval for a plan of subdivision of Rennie S. Buras, Map of re-subdivision of Lot 5-Y1E into Lots 5-Y1E1, 5-Y1E2 and 5-Y1E3, Belle Chasse Section “D”, Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, as shown on map of re-subdivision by Bryant Hammett and Associates, certified by Hugh McCurdy, III PLS, dated June 22, 2021, without cost to Plaquemines Parish Government or the Parish of Plaquemines.

WHEREAS, Rennie S. Buras is the owner of the property as shown on map of re-subdivision by Bryant Hammett and Associates, certified by Hugh McCurdy, III PLS, dated June 22, 2021, herein attached; and

WHEREAS, Rennie S. Buras as owner of the property, plans to subdivide said property into 3 lots shown as Lot 5-Y1E into Lots 5-Y1E1, 5-Y1E2 and 5-Y1E3, Belle Chasse Section “D”, Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish Louisiana, as shown on map of re-subdivision by Bryant Hammett and Associates, certified by Hugh McCurdy, III PLS, dated June 22, 2021, a copy of which is on file in the Permits, Planning & Zoning Department of Parish of Plaquemines; and

WHEREAS, the design of all public utilities, services and facilities to be provided in the subdivision according to said plan have been approved by all Department Superintendents or Boards charged with the responsibility of maintaining and inspecting said public utilities, services and facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the above described plan of re-subdivision of the property of Rennie S. Buras, Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Lot 5-Y1E into Lots 5-Y1E1, 5-Y1E2 and 5-Y1E3, Belle Chasse Section “D”, Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish Louisiana, as shown on map of re-subdivision by Bryant Hammett and Associates, certified by Hugh McCurdy, III PLS, dated June 22, 2021, a copy of which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof, be conditionally approved, and the approval of all appropriate Parish Department Heads of the above described plan of subdivision be ratified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the President of Plaquemines Parish Government be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all acts and all acts and documents necessary and property in the premises to give full force and effect to the Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT conditional approval of the plan shall be authority for the owners of the subdivision only to proceed with construction and installation of the improvements and work in order to comply with the requirements of the Ordinance No. 96-41, as amended, Plaquemines Parish Subdivision Ordinance, and shall not authorized said owners to sell any lots in the proposed subdivision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Black left the meeting at 4:46 p.m. The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Guey who moved its adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-102

The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Cognevich who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance amending the 2021 General Fund, Operating Revenue and Expenditure Budgets, Judges 25th JDC Division B & Juvenile Division Department; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish Government has received funding in the amount of \$1,110 from the Metropolitan Human Services District to be utilized by the Judges 25th JDC Division B & Juvenile Division Department; and

WHEREAS, amending the 2021 General Fund, Operating Revenue and Expenditure Budgets, Judges 25th JDC Division B & Juvenile Division Department is requested;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT:

SECTION 1

The 2021 General Fund, Operating Revenue and Expenditure Budgets, Judges 25th JDC Division B & Juvenile Division Department is amended as follows:

Fund: 001 General Fund			
Dept/Div: 310-2070 Judges 25 th JDC Div B & Juv Div			
Object	Description	Inc/Dec	Amendment
427.705	Fed Grant – MHSD Judges Division B	Inc	1,110
541.240	Supplies Food	Inc	1,110

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Council Member Rousselle seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Council Members Stuart J. Guey, Benedict Rousselle, Trudy Newberry, Carlton M. LaFrance, Richie Blink and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr., W. Beau Black and Corey Arbourgh

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 14th day of October 2021.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-103

The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Cognevich who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance to amend the 2021 Public Health Fund, Operating Expenditure

Budget, Mosquito Control Department; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, after a review of the 2021 Operating Expenditure Budget, an amendment is necessary for the Mosquito Control Department;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT:

SECTION 1

The 2021 Public Health Fund, Operating Expenditure Budget, Mosquito Control Department, is amended as follows:

Fund: 004 Public Health Fund			
Dept/Div: 542-2655 Mosquito Control Department			
Object	Description	Inc/ Dec	Amendment
510.005	Salaries & Wages Regular	Dec	(30,000)
541.120	Supplies Chemicals	Inc	30,000

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Council Member Blink seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Council Members, Stuart J. Guey, Benedict Rousselle, Trudy Newberry, Carlton M. LaFrance, Richie Blink and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr., W. Beau Black and Corey Arbourgh

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 14th day of October 2021.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-104

The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Cognevich who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance to declare the malapportionment status of the current districting

plan of the 9 single member districts of the Plaquemines Parish Council utilizing the population data from the 2020 Federal Decennial Census; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Council is elected from 9 single member districts; and

WHEREAS, interposing the population data from the 2020 Federal Decennial Census into the current districting plan for the Plaquemines Parish Council discloses that there are districts within plan to exceed the acceptable population deviation under the principal of one-person-one-vote; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law requires the Plaquemines Parish Council to declare whether its existing districting plan is malapportioned following a federal decennial census;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT:

SECTION 1

The current districting plan of the 9 single member districts of the Plaquemines Parish Council is malapportioned utilizing the population data from the 2020 Federal Decennial Census, and the Council shall adopt a new districting plan for use in the next regularly scheduled election.

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Council Member Rousselle seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Council Members Stuart J. Guey, Benedict Rousselle, Trudy Newberry, Carlton M. LaFrance, Richie Blink and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr., W. Beau Black and Corey Arbourgh

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 14th day of October 2021.

At the request of Council Member Blink, Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 11a, "Resolutions wherein suspension is being sought". Without objection, so ordered.

Council Member Blink offered a Motion to Suspend the Rules to add an item to the agenda for consideration today entitled, "A Resolution expressing the Plaquemines Parish Council's support of the Southern Levee Closure at La Resuitte; urging the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegations to provide the necessary funding for this project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto". The motion was seconded by Council Member Cognevich, and on roll call, all members present voting "YES", except Council Members Barthelemy, Black and Arbourgh who were "ABSENT", the motion was adopted by a vote of 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-244

On motion of Council Member Blink, seconded by Council Member Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Member LaFrance voting “NO” and Council Members Barthelemy, Black and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution expressing the Plaquemines Parish Council’s support of the Southern Levee Closure at La Resuitte; urging the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegations to provide the necessary funding for this project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the levee system in the La Resuitte area is not fully constructed; and

WHEREAS, this flood resilience project would serve to protect 2200 households and approximately \$300,000,000 worth of homes and businesses, many of which are insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and it would prove to be fiscally prudent over time; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the levee system would reduce the risk of flooding and devastation to this area; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish Government appreciates the hard work the delegation has done on behalf of Plaquemines Parish; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish has had many Flood Control improvements as a result of the delegation’s work; and

WHEREAS, funding is needed to complete this project, as well as, placing the project as a priority within the United States Army Corp of Engineer’s scope of work; and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Council urges its State and Federal delegation to provide the necessary funding to complete the Southern Levee Closure at La Resuitte;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby expresses its support of the construction of the Southern Levee Closure at La Resuitte.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it urges the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegations to provide the necessary funding to complete this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it requests that this project be made a priority within the United States Army Corp of Engineer’s scope of work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegation members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Blink offered a Motion to Suspend the Rules to add an item to the agenda for consideration today entitled, “A Resolution expressing the Plaquemines Parish Council’s support of construction of the Empire Tidal Gate; urging the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegations to provide the necessary funding for this project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”. The motion was seconded by Cognevich, and on roll call, all members present voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy, Black and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the motion was adopted by a vote of 6-0

RESOLUTION NO. 21-245

On motion of Council Member Blink, seconded by Council Member Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy, Black and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution expressing the Plaquemines Parish Council’s support of construction of the Empire Tidal Gate; urging the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegations to provide the necessary funding for this project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Empire Harbor located at Empire, Louisiana, due to natural sinking and the sea level rise, it is becoming unusable; and

WHEREAS, the flood gate closes up to 100 days a year, which causes an undue burden and hardship on harbor users causing economic losses that are a detriment to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor is of great economic importance to the region, employs many individuals, and is a top seafood providing port according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Commercial Fishing Industry supports many small businesses, it is an economic cornerstone of the region and many sectors including, the oyster, shrimp, crab and menhaden industries will benefit from the installation of a tidal gate; and

WHEREAS, the Empire Harbor is also a productive harbor for Charter Guides and Recreational Anglers; and

WHEREAS, the Empire Harbor is utilized as a Safe Harbor during hurricanes and this addition would increase the amount of time for vessels to seek shelter; and

WHEREAS, the current floodgate could be modified to make the project economical; and

WHEREAS, funding is needed for this project as well as, placing the project as a priority within the United States Army Corp of Engineer’s scope of work; and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Council urges it’s State and Federal delegation to provide the necessary funding of the Empire Tidal Gate project;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby expresses its support of the construction of the Empire Tidal Gate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it urges the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegations to provide the necessary funding to complete this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it requests that this project be made a priority within the United States Army Corp of Engineer’s scope of work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Plaquemines Parish State and Federal delegation members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Cognevich resumed with the order of the agenda moving to Item 9i.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-246

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Rousselle, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy, Black and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution declaring Friday, November 12, 2021, “Employee Appreciation Day,” an approved holiday for Plaquemines Parish Government employees; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, many parish employees were deemed “essential personnel” and required to work long hours under grueling conditions or evacuated or severely impacted by Hurricane Ida’s wake and devastation, employees were unable to enjoy their Labor Day holiday; and

WHEREAS, Parish President Kirk Lepine and the Council desire to acknowledge and express their appreciation to all Parish employees for their hard work and dedication to the Parish and its residents, even during the most difficult of times;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby declares Friday, November 12, 2021, “Employee Appreciation Day,” an approved holiday for Plaquemines Parish Government employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purpose of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-247

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Rousselle, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy, Black and Arbourgh who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution to cancel the November 25, 2021, and December 23, 2021, regularly scheduled Council Meetings due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and the Christmas Holiday; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby cancels the November 25, 2021, and December 23, 2021, regularly scheduled Council Meetings due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and Christmas Holiday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Blink left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-105

The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Guey who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance to amend the Five Year Capital Improvements Plan various projects; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, various amendments to the Five Year Capital Improvements Plan budget are necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT:

SECTION 1

The Five Year Capital Improvements Plan is amended by appropriating \$722,430.17 to the BC WTP-Raw Water Intake Pump Station Project from the following projects:

\$157,638.75 from Sewer Line-T –Wall Project (SWR.130003.441)
\$473,735.14 from Line Russell Drive to Booster Station Project (WTR.120005.321)
\$40,533.43 from Line Russell Drive to Booster Station Project (WTR.120005.441)
\$3,367.79 from Upgrade-BC WTP Project (WTR.130001.441)
\$37,385.77 from Water Main Repairs-K Street (WTR.140001.441)
\$9,769.29 from Repairs-PS WTP Project (WTR.140004.441)

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Council Member Cognevich seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Council Members Stuart J. Guey, Benedict Rousselle, Trudy Newberry, Carlton M. LaFrance and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr., W. Beau Black, Corey Arbourgh and Richie Blink

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 14th day of October 2021.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 10, “Approval of Minutes”. Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-248

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Newberry, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy, Black, Arbourgh and Blink who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby approves the minutes of the September 23, 2021, regular Council Meeting, as recorded by the Secretary of this Council

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Port employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 11, “New Business”. Without objection, so ordered.

Under 11d, “District 1 update” one resident was in attendance who wanted to address the Council in regard to the flooding on the East Bank.

Under 11e, “District 7 update”, Council Member LaFrance stated he met with Senator Cassidy in Ironton today in regard to the destruction in Ironton and West Pointe-a-la-Hache. Cassidy promised support and help in the clean up and rebuilding of these areas. He also spoke regarding elevation grants, housing, levees and the Infrastructure bill in Washington. The Senator spoke to some of the Ironton residents and he asked how things were going with FEMA and Council Member LaFrance told him FEMA was moving too slow. Council Member LaFrance said he is looking forward to working with Senator Cassidy and anyone else who can help his constituents. He then asked the Directors to send a note of thanks to all the employees who helped with the recovery from Hurricane Ida. In response to the public comment submitted via email for Council Member LaFrance, which stated that Martin Lane is in bad shape and it needs to be graded, he stated that it was graded and limestone has been ordered. As soon as the limestone comes in it will be placed on the road.

Under 11f, “District 5 update”, Council Member Rousselle deferred Item 2, “upgrades to the Belle Chasse Water Plant and Intake” because it had already been discussed prior to the adoption of Council Member Guey’s legislation. In regard to Item 1, “Update and discussion of the Fort Saint Leon Drainage project, Mr. Eppley said they will start advertising on November 21, 2021. Item 3, “Discussion and update on the Plaquemines Off-Road Vehicle track”, Council Member Rousselle asked if there had been any progress on trying to get volunteer work Scott Rousselle said not since the storm. He also said that DEQ closed down the track because the site is being used for Hurricane Ida debris.

Under 11g, “District 6 update”, Council Member Newberry stated that the debris has been picked up in her District but the trash needs to be picked up. She then asked for a timeline for trash pickup along Hwy. 23 and other lanes. Scott Rousselle said they are moving south and then will come back north. Council Member Newberry said she feels they are wasting time by going up and down streets where there is no trash.

Under, 11h, “Status of the Latter & Blum contract and the marketing of Parish property”, Council Member Rousselle said he did not see a “For Lease” sign on the Government property and Todd Eppley said he didn’t have time to put up a sign. Council Member Rousselle said to get the Realtor to put it up. He then asked if there has been any more interest in Port Eads and was told by Mr. Eppley that John Burrell, with High Adventures, and maybe two others are interested. They need to advertise and go out for bids.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on motion Council Member Rousselle, seconded by Council Member LaFrance , and on roll call all members present voting “YES” except Council Members Barthelemy, Black, Arbourgh and Blink who were “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

For a full transcript of discussions and presentations, a video of this meeting is available for viewing on the Parish website www.plaqueminesparish.com or on YouTube.