

Minutes of a special meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, held in the Belle Chasse Council Chambers, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Bldg. 203, Belle Chasse, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Council Member Mark Cognevich, Chairman  
Council Member Tyronne Edwards  
Council Member Brian Champagne  
Council Member Chris Schulz  
Council Member Stuart J. Guey  
Council Member Patricia L. McCarty  
Council Member Ronnie Newsom  
Council Member Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.  
Council Member Mitch Jurisich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

The Prayer was led by Council Member Edwards and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Champagne.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 2, "Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions". Without objection, so ordered. The following legislation was introduced:

1. An Ordinance to amend the 2023 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER GUEY
2. An Ordinance to amend the Five Year Capital Improvements Plan, Resurface Hwy 11 Empire to Triumph; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER COGNEVICH
3. An Ordinance to amend the 2023 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTY
4. An Ordinance to amend the 2023 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER JURISICH
5. An Ordinance to amend the 2023 Manpower Structure; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER LAFRANCE
6. An Ordinance to amend the 2023 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER GUEY
7. An Ordinance to amend the 2023 General Fund Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance and the Fund Balance Designated for Parishwide Sewerage; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COUNCIL MEMBER GUEY

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 3, "Ordinances and Resolutions on Second Reading and Final Passage". Without objection, so ordered.

Council Member Cognevich filled in the blanks for Items 3a, 3b and 3c.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 23-1

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member LaFrance and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution confirming the recommendation of Parish President Keith Hinkley for the appointment of Billy Wichers as the Director of the Department of Operations, pursuant to Article 5, Section 5.01 of the

Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 5.01 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines established the Department of Operations to be headed by a Director having general management and control over all matters related to the areas of local government assigned to that department; and

WHEREAS, Parish President Keith Hinkley, in accordance with Article 3.10 (F) of Section 3 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines, has recommended the appointment of Billy Wichers as the Director of the Department of Operations and the Council concurs in said recommendation;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it does hereby ratify and confirm the recommendation of Parish President Keith Hinkley's appointment of Billy Wichers as the Director of the Department of Operations for the Parish of Plaquemines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the duties, responsibilities and benefits established in the Plaquemines Parish Government Position Control System, all in accordance with established Plaquemines Parish employment policies shall remain the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT 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.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 23-2

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member McCarty, and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution confirming the recommendation of Parish President Keith Hinkley for the appointment of Jeff DiMarco as the Director of the Department of Public Service, pursuant to Article 5, Section 5.01 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 5.01 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines established the Department of Public Service to be headed by a Director having general management and control over all matters related to the areas of local government assigned to that department; and

WHEREAS, Parish President Keith Hinkley, in accordance with Article 3.10 (F) of Section 3 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines, has recommended the appointment of Jeff DiMarco as the Director of the Department of Public Service and the Council concurs in said recommendation;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it does hereby ratify and confirm the recommendation of Parish President Keith Hinkley's appointment of Jeff DiMarco as the Director of the Department of Public Service for the Parish of Plaquemines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the duties, responsibilities and benefits established in the Plaquemines Parish Government Position Control System, all in accordance with established Plaquemines Parish employment policies shall remain the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-3

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Edwards, and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution confirming the recommendation of Parish President Keith Hinkley for the appointment of Crystal M. Taylor as the Director of the Department of Administration, pursuant to Article 5, Section 5.01 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 5.01 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines established the Department of Administration to be headed by a Director having general management and control over all matters related to the areas of local government assigned to that department; and

WHEREAS, Parish President Keith Hinkley, in accordance with Article 3.10 (F) of Section 3 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines, has recommended the appointment of Crystal M. Taylor as the Director of the Department of Administration and the Council concurs in said recommendation;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it does hereby ratify and confirm the recommendation of Parish President Keith Hinkley's appointment of Crystal M. Taylor as the Director of the Department of Administration for the Parish of Plaquemines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the duties, responsibilities and benefits established in the Plaquemines Parish Government Position Control System, all in accordance with established Plaquemines Parish employment policies shall remain the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT 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 filled in the blanks for Items 3d and 3e.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-4

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Schulz and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing signatories for accounts of the Plaquemines Parish Government with Regions Bank; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT Regions Bank is

hereby authorized to honor checks, drafts, and orders of the Plaquemines Parish Government when signed with any two signatures, of which at least one signature must be the handwritten original signature, and the other signature may be an authorized machine facsimile signature, of:

Keith Hinkley

Crystal M. Taylor

Jeff DiMarco

or the Plaquemines Parish Council Chairman, only if provisions of Section 3.07A of Article 3 of the Plaquemines Parish Charter are made effective and are implemented as to the Council Chairman; for the following bank accounts:

Bond Indebtedness Fund (0906)  
CDBG for Disaster Recovery Funds Projects (8439)  
DWI Court Administered Fund (0431)  
General Pooled (0242)  
General Pooled-MMA (2086)  
General Obligation Bond Issue (8785)  
Oil, Gas & Mineral Escrow (4569)  
Parish Wide Sewer Projects Fund (3732)  
Plaquemines Gov Sales Tax and Bond Fund (1122)  
Plaquemines Gov Sales Tax Bond & Sinking Fund (1149)  
Plaquemines Gov Sales Tax Bond Reserve Fund (1157)  
Plaquemines Parish Hazard Mitigation (4087)  
Sales Tax Escrow (0180)  
Sales Tax Division (0627)  
Series 2005 Revenue Bonds (1864)  
Series 2009 Revenue Bonds (9755)  
Series 2004 Revenue Bonds (1254)  
Series 2010A Revenue Bonds (0702)  
Series 2010B Revenue Bonds (5927)  
BP Settlement (6272)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Plaquemines Parish Council, that Regions Bank is hereby authorized to honor checks, drafts and orders of the Plaquemines Parish Government when signed with any two signatures, either the handwritten original signatures or the authorized machine facsimile signatures of:

Keith Hinkley

Crystal M. Taylor

Jeff DiMarco

or the Plaquemines Parish Council Chairman, only if provisions of Section 3.07A of Article 3 of the Plaquemines Parish Charter are made effective and are implemented as to the Council Chairman; for the following bank account:

Payroll Fund (0250)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the only authorized machine facsimile signatures shall be those machine facsimile signatures of:

Keith Hinkley

Crystal M. Taylor

Jeff DiMarco

which facsimiles shall appear upon the bank's signature cards accompanied with the original signatures of those individuals and may be utilized as specified above, unless and until Regions Bank is expressly notified in writing to the contrary by resolution of the Plaquemines Parish Council and that Regions Bank shall be fully protected in recognizing as such officers the persons named in this resolution certified to by the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Council and bearing the seal of the same. All other resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Regions Bank to be kept on file in such bank as evidence of the authority as outlined in the name of the Plaquemines Parish Government on the above named accounts with Regions Bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT all other resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-5

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Champagne and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution to authorize the signatories on the Parish's checking account at Regions Bank for the Coastal Zone Management Program titled "Plaquemines Parish Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund"; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 01-326 adopted on October 11, 2001, the Plaquemines Parish Council established a checking account at Regions Bank for the Coastal Zone Management Program titled "Plaquemines Parish Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund";

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT Regions Bank is hereby authorized to honor checks, drafts, and orders of the Plaquemines Parish Government on this account when signed with any two signatures, of which at least one signature must be the handwritten original signature, and the other signature may be an authorized machine facsimile signature, of:

Keith Hinkley

John Helmers

Crystal M. Taylor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Regions Bank to be kept on file in such bank as evidence of the authority as outlined in the name of the Plaquemines Parish Government on the above named account with Regions Bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT all other resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-6

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Guey and on roll call, all members present and voting “YES”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing representatives of the Plaquemines Parish Government to invest funds of the Plaquemines Parish Government; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the following named individuals are hereby authorized as representatives of the Plaquemines Parish Government to invest funds of the Plaquemines Parish Government in any and all investment accounts in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations governing the investment of the local government funds:

Rachelle W. Morel

Kimberly S. Gurtner

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT investors are hereby authorized to recognize investment requests from the above named individuals in accordance with the provisions herein, unless and until expressly notified in writing to the contrary by resolution of the Plaquemines Parish Council certified to by the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Council and bearing the seal of the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT all other resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 4, “New Business”. Without objection, so ordered.

Under Agenda Item 4a, “Resolutions wherein Suspension is Being Sought”, Council Member Cognevich offered a Motion to Suspend the Rules to add an item to today’s agenda for consideration, titled, “ A Resolution confirming the recommendation of the President of the Parish of Plaquemines for the designation of the Lead Parish Attorney, pursuant to Article 5, Section 5.02 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”. The motion was seconded by Council Member Guey and on roll call, all members present voting “YES”, the motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-7

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Guey and on roll call, all members present and voting “YES”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution confirming the recommendation of the President of the Parish of Plaquemines for the designation of the Lead Parish Attorney, pursuant to Article 5, Section 5.02 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 5.02 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish

of Plaquemines allows the employment of a Lead Parish Attorney to serve at will of the President for the same term of office as the Parish President; and

WHEREAS, the President for the Parish of Plaquemines, Keith Hinkley, in accordance with Article 5, Section 5.02 of the Charter for Local Self-Government for the Parish of Plaquemines has recommended the appointment of Rennie S. Buras, II, as the Parish Attorney;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it does hereby ratify and confirm the recommendation of the President of the Parish of Plaquemines, Keith Hinkley's appointment of Rennie S. Buras, II, as the Parish Attorney for the Parish of Plaquemines.

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.

There being no further business before this Council, on motion of Council Member Edwards, seconded by Council member Guey, on roll call all members present voting "YES", the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

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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](http://www.plaqueminesparish.com) or on YouTube.