

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, held in the Belle Chasse Council Building Chambers, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Bldg. 203, Belle Chasse, Louisiana on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.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 Patricia L. McCarty
Council Member Ronnie Newsom
Council Member Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Council Member Mitch Jurisich

ABSENT: Council Member Stuart J. Guey

The Prayer was said and Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Item 2, "New Business". Without objection, so ordered.

a. Interview of Applicants for the Registrar of Voters position:

- 1) Debra Rhodes
- 2) Leann Jenkins
- 3) Michelle Wilcox

Each applicant made opening statements and provided information on their background and experience. Council Members then asked questions of each of the applicants.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 3, "Executive Session". Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-8

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL it hereby resolves itself into Executive Session at 10:06 a.m. pursuant to LRS 42:17(A)(1) to discuss the character and professional competence of the following individuals:

- 1) Debra Rhodes
- 2) Leann Jenkins
- 3) Michelle Wilcox

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 10:42 a.m. with no final or binding action taken.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 4, "Resolutions wherein suspension is being sought". Without objection, so ordered.

Council Member Cognevich offered a Motion to Suspend the Rules to add an item for consideration at today's meeting titled, "A Resolution appointing Debra A. Rhodes as the Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto". Council Member Edwards seconded the motion and on roll call, all members present voting "YES", except Council Member Guey who was "ABSENT", the motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-9

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

A Resolution appointing Debra A. Rhodes as the Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Plaquemines; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the State Election Code (R.S. 18:51 C) provides that the parish governing authority appoint the Registrar of Voters in the event of a vacancy in the office; and

WHEREAS, Sharon A. Branan resigned as the Plaquemines Parish Registrar of Voters on November 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, after all applicants have been offered an interview and/or have been interviewed, the Plaquemines Parish Council has chosen Debra A. Rhodes to replace Sharon A. Branan as the Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Plaquemines;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT in accordance with the applicable provision of the State Election Code, (Louisiana Revised Statute 18:51, et seq.) the Plaquemines Parish Council, as governing authority of the Parish of Plaquemines, hereby appoints Debra A. Rhodes as Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Plaquemines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Council is hereby authorized to forward certified copies of said Resolution to Governor John Bel Edwards, Lieutenant Governor William “Billy” Nungesser, Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin, and the State Board of Election Supervisors for their immediate attention and consideration.

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 to come before this Council, on motion Council Member Newsom, seconded by Council Member Schulz and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Member Guey who was “ABSENT”, meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary