

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 Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 3:30 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

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

Kim M. Toups, Secretary

ABSENT: Council Member Corey Arbourgh

The Prayer was said and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no one present representing the Administration.

Council Member LaFrance explained how the meeting would be run and then he advanced to Agenda Item 4, "New Business". Without objection, so ordered.

All applicants for the Registrar of Voters position left the Council Chambers except Sharon Branan who was the first applicant to be interviewed.

Under Agenda Item 4a, the following applicants were interviewed:

Council Member Arbourgh joined the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

- 1) Sharon Branan: Ms. Branan made an opening statement and then Council Members Newberry, Black, Rousselle and Barthelemy posed questions to her. She answered all their questions and then made a closing remark. Council Member LaFrance informed the applicant that after the interviews were conducted the Council would go into Executive Session to discuss her character. He then asked if she had any objection and she said she did not. After the interview Ms. Branan left the Council Chambers;
- 2) Although, the Council Secretary notified Mrs. Sheila Celentano via email and by leaving a message on her voice mail on November 2, 2020, at 3:37 p.m., Mrs. Celentano did not attend the meeting;
- 3) Victoria Frierson: Ms. Frierson entered the Council Chambers, made an opening statement and then Council Members Black, Rousselle, Newberry and Barthelemy posed questions to her. She answered all their questions and then made a closing remark. Council Member LaFrance informed the applicant that after the interviews were conducted the Council would go into Executive Session to discuss her character. He then asked if she had any objection and she said she did not. After the interview Ms. Frierson left the Council Chambers;
- 4) Jennifer Gray: Ms. Gray entered the Council Chambers, made an opening statement and then Council Members Newberry, Black, Rousselle and Barthelemy posed questions to her. She answered all their questions and then made a closing remark. Council Member LaFrance informed the applicant that after the interviews were conducted the Council would go into Executive Session to discuss her character. He then asked if she had any objection and she said she did not. After the interview Ms. Gray left the Council Chambers;
- 5) Leann Jenkins: Mrs. Jenkins entered the Council Chambers, made an opening statement and then Council Members Black, Rousselle, Newberry and Blink posed questions to her. She answered all their questions and then made a closing remark. Council Member LaFrance informed the applicant that after the interviews were conducted the Council

would go into Executive Session to discuss her character. He then asked if she had any objection and she said she did not. After the interview Mrs. Jenkins left the Council Chambers; and

- 6) Brian Van Haverbeke: Mr. Van Haverbeke entered the Council Chambers, made an opening statement and then Council Members Black, Rousselle and Barthelemy posed questions to him. He answered all their questions and then made a closing remark. Council Member LaFrance informed the applicant that after the interviews were conducted the Council would go into Executive Session to discuss his character. He then asked if he had any objection and he said he did not. After the interview Mr. Van Haverbeke left the Council Chambers;

All the applicants came back into the Council Chambers for the remainder of the public meeting.

Council Member LaFrance opened public comment and two residents addressed the Council.

Council Member LaFrance reverted back to Agenda Item 2, "Executive Session". Without objection, so ordered.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 20-272

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL it hereby resolves itself into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m. pursuant to LRS 42:17(A)(1) to discuss the character and professional competence of the following individuals:

- 1) Sharon Branan
- 2) Victoria Frierson
- 3) Jennifer Gray
- 4) Leann Jenkins
- 5) Brian Van Haverbeke

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 4:58 p.m. with no final or binding action taken.

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

Council Member Rousselle made a motion to add the name "Sharon Branan" to fill in the blanks in the resolution listed under 3a. The motion was seconded by Council Member Blink.

Council Member Black made a substitute motion to add the name "Brian Van Haverbeke" to fill in the blanks in the resolution listed under 3a. The motion was seconded by Council Member Arbourgh. On roll call, and all members present voting "YES", except Council Members Barthelemy, Rousselle, LaFrance, Blink and Cognevich voting "NO", the substitute motion FAILED by a vote of 4-5.

Council Member Rousselle offered the name "Sharon Branan" to fill in the blanks for item 3a.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 20-273

On motion of Council Member Rousselle, seconded by Council Member Blink, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Council Member Arbourgh voting "NO", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution appointing Sharon A. Branan 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, Kathleen Ketnor retired on September 10, 2020, after serving as the Registrar of

Voters for 7 ½ years; and

WHEREAS, after all applicants have been offered an interview and/or have been interviewed, the Plaquemines Parish Council has chosen Sharon A. Branan to replace Kathleen Ketnor 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 Sharon A. Branan 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 Barthelemy, seconded by Council Member Blink and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary