

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
February 9, 2022
Police Jury Chambers
507 West Main Street
Homer, LA 71040

The Claiborne Parish Police Jury met in regular session in the Jury Chambers of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Complex, located at 507 West Main Street in Homer, LA at 10:00 a.m. on the 9th of February. On being called to order by President, Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

James Laird, Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Paul Cook, Tommy Sanders, Gill Dowies, Willie Young, Sr., and Mrs. Mary McDaniel (attended via conference call)

Juror for District 7, Joseph Merritt was absent.

There were 27 others in attendance which included, Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, Director of Libraries Mrs. Pam Suggs, Library Historian Mr. Wesley Harris, Mr. John Monzingo of the LSU Ag-Center, CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes, OOCs Director Mrs. April Childress, Main Street Director Mr. Jimmy Hand, Regional Representative Senator John Kennedy's Office Mr. Murphy Chestnut, Homer Pelican Football Head Coach Mr. Richie Casey, Homer High School Principal Mr. Lee Sims, Homer High School Assistant Coach Mr. Louis Grant, Homer Fighting Pelicans Class 1A State Championship Football Players - Brennan Harris, Devin Champ, and Cam Winzer, Haynesville Mayor Beverlee Kilgore, Town of Homer Mayor Xanthe Seales-Mann, Claiborne Parish School Board District 8 Member Mrs. Shelley Malsam, Claiborne Parish JOP Mrs. Sharon Swearingen, Claiborne Parish Constable Mr. Kenneth Wood, Town of Homer Police Chief Mr. Van McDaniel, CPFD#3 Board President Mr. Cookie Ogden, Mrs. Kathy Hightower and Ms. Jackie Tripp of the Guardian Journal Newspaper, Mr. Jerry Whitton and Mr. Mark Crenshaw of Homer.

The meeting was opened with a word of Prayer led Rev. Willie Young, Sr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Cook.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt the Regular Agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved to amend the agenda and add the following item:

1. Request from Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, to enter into an engagement letter with Bosch & Statham, LLC for the audit of the Police Jury's 2021 annual financial statements and the Parish's 2021 AUP Report.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved the following consent agenda:

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the January 12, 2022, regular meeting minutes.
2. Payment of the January 2022 bills as approved by the Claims Committee

President Scott Davidson requested that the Jury handle the amendment to the agenda at this time.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mar Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, to enter into an engagement letter with

Bosch & Statham LLC for the audit of the Police Jury’s 2021 annual financial statements and the Parish’s 2021 AUP Report.

Regular Agenda

President Scott Davidson read aloud the notice that all Parish Employees are required to complete one (1) hour of ethics training by December 31, 2022.

President Scott Davidson reminded everyone that one (1) hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2022, by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Officers are required to have two (2) hours of training.

President Scott Davidson reminded Jurors that the registration is open for the 2022 PJAL Annual Convention to be held at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles, LA, on March 9-11, 2022.

President Scott Davidson reminded Jurors that there will be a redistricting workshop with Mr. Cedric Floyd of the Data Center at 11:00 am or immediately following today’s meeting. Members of the Claiborne Parish School Board will also be in attendance.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a Public Notice that read the Claiborne Parish Police Jury’s Housing Program has received 15 (fifteen) Emergency Housing Vouchers to provide rental assistance to four (4) types of at-risk households.

President Scott Davidson read aloud a Public Notice that read the Claiborne Parish Housing Program will be taking names of persons who are interested in placing an application on the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Applications will be given out on February 11th, 25th, and March 4th and 11th from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Section 8 Office located at 621 South Main St, Homer, LA 71040.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, Sr., the Jury unanimously adopted a Special Resolution Honoring the 2021 LHSAA Class 1A Football State Champions – The Homer High School Fighting Pelicans.

RESOLUTION 2022-005

A Special Resolution Declaring Wednesday, February 9, 2022, Homer High School Fighting Pelican Day in Claiborne Parish in Honor of Homer High School Winning the LHSAA Class A State Championship in Football on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury declares this day, February 9, 2022, Homer High School Fighting Pelican Day in honor of the Homer High School Fighting Pelican Football Team winning the 2021 Class A State Championship at the Superdome in New Orleans against the Logansport High School Tigers by a score of 41-28, which capped a tremendous 11-3 season; and

WHEREAS, this was the Pelicans’ 4th Louisiana High School State Football Championship Title and its first since 1939, a period of 82 years; and

WHEREAS, Homer High School has previously won the Louisiana Football State Championship in 1928, 1937, and 1939; and

WHEREAS, this achievement has brought great honor and recognition to Homer High School, to the Town of Homer, and to the citizens of Claiborne Parish; and

WHEREAS, this accomplishment was largely due to the team sportsmanship of the players, coaches, school administration, faculty, student body, and the support from their great fans of the Town of Homer and Claiborne Parish; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury does hereby officially recognize and congratulate the players of the Homer High Fighting Pelican Football

Team, Head Coach Richie Casey and his Coaching Staff, the Trainers and Support Staff, HHS Principal Lee Simms and the Homer High School Faculty and Student Body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a framed copy of this resolution be given to Homer High School for future display.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Rev. Willie Young, the motion unanimously carried and was officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in a regular scheduled session on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

The request from Mrs. Margaret White, 3625 Hwy 2 Alt, Haynesville, LA for backdoor garbage pickup, was not acted upon since her address resides within the Town of Haynesville. Mr. David Greene with Republic Services said he would get with the Town to see if she qualifies for backdoor pickup.

The request from Claiborne Parish Fire Protection District #3, in a letter dated January 26, 2022, requesting that the Police Jury explore the possibility of amending the boundaries of Fire District #3 to include the corporate limits of the Town of Haynesville was turned over to the District Attorney's Office for legal advice and guidance.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, for the following merit raises, effective payroll beginning February 17, 2022 - Inmate Supervisor Brent Kauffman's base rate by \$0.50 to \$13.25 per hour and Truck Driver Dennis Williams's base rate by \$0.50 to \$12.00 per hour

At this time, President Scott Davidson presented the recommendations from the Road Committee.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by James Laird, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation of the Road Committee, the hiring and promotion of Mr. Brant Cupp as South Road Foreman to replace Mr. Joseph Buggs who is retiring on March 18, 2022, at a rate of \$17.50 per hour base and final pay with bonuses being \$18.50 per hour beginning February 17, 2022.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation of the Road Committee, to post the open job Operator I position in house. All applications will be due by 4:00 pm on Friday, February 25, 2022.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation of the Road Committee, to declare the following equipment surplus and to list them on the auction website GovDeals.com for bid - 963 Cat Track Loader VIN ending 21Z0374, John Deere 5055E Tractor w/loader VIN ending CFY1108865 and Ford F750 8yd Dump Truck VIN ending V122909.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation of the Road Committee, the purchase of a new Side Cutter through Covington Sales for the estimates price of \$99,855 (This will be purchased under the current state contract.)

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes gave his monthly Coroner's report. There were 13 deaths for the month of January - (7) Hospice/ER related, (2) CMMC, (2) at other facility, (1) sent for autopsy, (1) on scene and the Parish had (0) CEC's for the month.

Dr. Mark Haynes gave an update on the COVID cases in the Parish. He stated that on January 23, 2022, in a 10-hour span, he saw 11 positive cases. On February 7, 2022, in this same time span he saw 0 positive cases. There are currently 4 or 5 cases in the hospital with COVID. The vast majority of the cases that were seen and required hospitalization have been unvaccinated

patients. Dr. Mark Haynes recommends getting your vaccinations/boosters to help avoid ER visits and possible admission to the hospital.

CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes gave an update on the hospital. She stated that over the last month the COVID variant ran thru the employees and doctors. Thankfully the 5 doctors that did get it got sick at different times. The hospital and clinics were terribly short staffed during this time. The hospital was on diversion during this time due to staffing issues, The COVID numbers are beginning to significantly drop and as well as the number of hospitalizations. Dr. Mark Haynes told the Jury that the bed crunch is still an issue in all area hospitals due to staffing issues and that he had seen a couple of critically ill patients who could not get a bed when they desperately needed one at a specialty facility.

President Scott Davidson introduced the Regional Representative of Senator John Kennedy's Office Mr. Murphy Chestnut. Anyone who needed to speak with him after the meeting may do so.

ITEM #21 – February 9, 2022 – AGENDA

SECRETARY-TREASURER – UPDATE ON GRANTS AND OTHER ITEMS

1. LGAP Projects –

No open grant contracts at this time.

2. CWEF Projects -

Lisbon Water System
Contract #1516-CWEF-CLB-0001
PO #2000288442
Amount - \$31,000
Project – Replacement of water lines
Status – Contracts signed and approved

3. LCDBG Grant

Norton Shop Water System
FY2021 LCDBG
Amount - \$381,080
Project – New water well
Status – Awarded and contracts received. Preliminary work and scope completed, project is out for bid.

4. Sales Tax Collections for December 2021 – net of \$71,993 from gross collections of \$73,839

Net sales tax collections for November 2021 – \$59,194 – increase \$12,799 (21.62%)

Net sales tax collections for December 2020 - \$59,467 – increase \$12,526 (21.06%)

5. Cash position at January 31, 2022 - \$10,813,000

Cash position at December 31, 2021 - \$8,792,045 (increase of \$2,020,955)

Cash position at January 31, 2021 - \$10,038,937 (increase of \$774,063)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown at January 31, 2022 –

6. Total Receipts for the month of January 2022 – \$2,545,525

7. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

2/24 – CPHSD#3 Board Meeting
2/28 – Committee Meetings (tentative)
3/9 – Regular Meeting

Additional Public Comments:

Sparta Board Member Mr. Jimmy Hand gave an update to the Jury on the Sparta Water Conservation. Sparta has received a couple of grants that total \$500,000 for ground water monitoring of the Sparta aquifer. This money will help do research and maintain accurate record of the recharging of our Sparta Water System in our area.

CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes also invited the Jurors and the public to the annual Minden St. Jude Auction, which is dear to her heart after losing her son to childhood cancer. She invited each one to participate on Thursday to help promote those in Claiborne Parish who support St. Jude.

Mr. John Monzingo of LSU Ag Center invited everyone out to the Minden Methodist Church master gardener program Buds and Blooms from 9:00 am-12:00 pm in Minden. Speakers will be Greg Grant of Texas A & M and Gary Stockton of LSU.

Mr. John Monzingo also gave an update on Mrs. Teresa Raley of the LSU Ag Center who has been fighting COVID related issues since August 2021. Teresa goes back to the doctor in March with hopes of getting back to normal.

Rev. Willie Young, Sr. welcomed Homer Mayor Xanthe Seales-Mann, Haynesville Mayor Beverlee Kilgore and Homer Police Chief Van McDaniel.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Paul Cook the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President