

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
May 6, 2026
Police Jury Chambers
507 West Main Street
Homer, LA 71040

The Road Committee met in the Conference Room of the CPPJ at 9:00 a.m.

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 morning of the 8th of April 2026, on being called to order by President Scott Davidson, the following Jurors were present:

Larry Ford, Mark Furlow, Kevin Gray, Mary McDaniel, Paul Cook, Malcolm Cooper, Gil Dowies, and Rev. Willie Young, Sr.

District Seven Juror Joe Merritt was absent.

There were seventeen (19) others in attendance which included Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendents Mr. Chad Verdin and Mr. Brant Cupp, Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, Claiborne Parish Assessor Katie B. Coburn, Claiborne Parish Director of Libraries Pam Suggs, CPPJ-OOCS Executive Director April Childress, Hardy Attorney Andrews of Foley and Judell, LLC, David Greene of Republic Services, John Monzingo with the Claiborne Parish LSU AgCenter Extension Office, Claiborne Parish Digital Liaison Jerry Hilledge, Claiborne Parish OEP Director Dennis Butcher, Claiborne Parish Fire District #5 Chief Tommy Sanders, Volunteer Firefighter Tucker Harris, Town of Homer Council Member Jimmy Hand, Second JDC District Judge Division A Candidate Attorney Rachel Bays, f Claiborne Electric Co-Op Director of Communications EmmaLee Tingle, and Mrs. Barbara Morris of Homer.

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

President Scott Davidson welcomed everyone.

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

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the Jury unanimously voted to amend the regular agenda and add the following:

1. Letter of Resignation from Frank T. Speer, Constable for the 3rd Justice of the Peace Court, as of April 30, 2026.

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

Consent

1. Approval of April 8, 2026, regular meeting minutes as published in the Official Journal.
2. Payment of the April 2026 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.
3. Request from the Claiborne Parish School Board, in a letter received on April 23, 2026, requesting assistance with a bus turn around in the Summerfield area at the Holly Ridge Church located on Holly Ridge Road. The work will be done on a reimbursement basis.

4. In a letter received on April 29, 2026, from the Claiborne Parish Fair Board, requesting the Parish's annual support in the amount of \$4,000 and requesting to be included in the 2027 budget for the same amount.

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

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously accepted a letter received May 2, 2026, the resignation as of April 30, 2026, from Constable Frank Speer, of the 3rd Justice of the Peace Court.

Regular Agenda

Reminder – one (1) hour of ethics training is required to be completed by December 31, 2026, for all Jurors and Parish Employees. - <https://laethics.net/EthicsTraining/login.aspx>

Reminder – one (1) hour of Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2026, by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Officers have a two (2) hour training requirement. - https://www.lma.org/LMA/LMA/Programs/Online_Training.aspx

Reminder – one (1) hour of Cybersecurity Training is required for all employees who have access to the Police Jury's computer network system. - https://www.lma.org/LMA/LMA/Programs/Online_Training.aspx

Reminder – Jurors' personal financial disclosure statements for 2025 are due by May 15, 2026.

At this time, Attorney Rachel Bays of Homer, Candidate for District Judge - Division A of the 2nd Judicial District introduced herself to those in attendance and gave a brief background of her personal life and work career, along with her platform and why she feels she should be the candidate of choice for Judge for the 2nd Judicial District Court – Division A.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously approved, upon request from Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin, the following step raises, effective May 7, 2026: Truck Driver Phillip Farris increase from \$16.00 to \$16.50 per hour and Truck Driver Steve Scruggs from \$16.00 to \$16.50 per hour. (\$0.50 per hour) for completion of their six (6) month probationary period.

Upon motion by Mary McDaniel, duly seconded by Larry Ford, the Jury unanimously approved the request from Road Superintendents Brant Cupp and Chad Verdin, the one (1) year anniversary step raise for Operator II Marcus Hudson from \$16.75 to \$17.00 per hour. (\$0.25 per hour)

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Malcolm Cooper, the Jury unanimously adopted Resolution 2026-009 – A Resolution Approving the Holding of an Election in the Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to authorize a levy of a Sales and Use Tax therein –

The following resolution was offered by Gil Dowies and seconded by Malcolm Cooper:

RESOLUTION 2026-009

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District, to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District (the "District"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 29 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the District on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026**, between the hours of six o'clock (6:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION
(SALES TAX)

Shall Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District (consisting of the entire Parish of Claiborne except those portions of the Parish contained within the corporate boundaries of the municipalities of Homer or Haynesville) (the "District"), under the provisions of Louisiana law, be authorized to levy and collect a sales and use tax of 1.375% (the "Tax") (an estimated \$1,084,600 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year) upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the District, all as defined by law, for a period of 10 years from January 1, 2027, with the proceeds of the Tax (after paying the expenses of collecting and administering the Tax) to be dedicated and used for the purposes of paying the costs of (i) providing for solid waste collection and disposal in the District, including acquiring, improving, maintaining and/or operating the necessary land, facilities and equipment required in connection therewith, and (ii) materials required for surfacing and maintaining public roads within the boundaries of the District?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the District once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the President is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Jury Chambers of the Police Jury Complex, 507 West Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places set forth in the aforesaid Notice of Special Election are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the District will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms

and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the President and/or Secretary-Treasurer of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Claiborne Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Claiborne Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to levy the sales and use tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

SECTION 9. Employment of Counsel. This Governing Authority finds and determines that a real necessity exists for the employment of special counsel on matters related to the special election, and accordingly, Foley & Judell, L.L.P., is hereby employed as special counsel for said purpose for a term not exceeding one (1) year from the date of this resolution. The fee to be paid said special counsel shall be an amount computed at hourly rate based on the Attorney General's then current Maximum Hourly Fee Schedule, not to exceed \$2,000 in the aggregate, together with reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, and payment for the work herein specified is hereby approved without further action of this Governing Authority as and when invoices are presented. The scope of this legal representation does not involve federal claims.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: (9) Ford, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Cooper, Dowies, and Young

NAYS: (0) None

ABSENT: (1) Merritt

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 6th day of May, 2026.

/s/ Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Scott Davidson
President

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District (the "District"), on May 6, 2026, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the District qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION (SALES TAX)

Shall Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District (consisting of the entire Parish of Claiborne except those portions of the Parish contained within the corporate boundaries of the municipalities of Homer or Haynesville) (the "District"), under the provisions of Louisiana law, be authorized to levy and collect a sales and use tax of 1.375% (the "Tax") (an estimated \$1,084,600 reasonably expected at this

time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year) upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the District, all as defined by law, for a period of 10 years from January 1, 2027, with the proceeds of the Tax (after paying the expenses of collecting and administering the Tax) to be dedicated and used for the purposes of paying the costs of (i) providing for solid waste collection and disposal in the District, including acquiring, improving, maintaining and/or operating the necessary land, facilities and equipment required in connection therewith, and (ii) materials required for surfacing and maintaining public roads within the boundaries of the District?

The said special election shall be held at the polling places for the following precincts, which polls will open at six o'clock (6:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, to-wit:

PRECINCTS

01
03(PART)
05
07
08(PART)
10
11A
21
31(PART)
34(PART)
35(PART)
36(PART)
37(PART)
41
42
51
81
84A(PART)
87(PART)
88(PART)
91
92(PART)
93(PART)
96(PART)

The polling places at the precincts in the District are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of the election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$4,100.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Jury Chambers of the Police Jury Complex, 507 West Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the District are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CLAIBORNE

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), the governing authority of Claiborne Parish Sales Tax District (the "District"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings taken by the Governing Authority on May 6, 2026, ordering and calling a special election to be held in the District to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 6th day of May, 2026.

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

At this time, a Notice of Special Election was read in its entirety. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the District qualified and entitle to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to wit -

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously adopted by show of hands, Ordinance No. 810 – An Ordinance creating Sales Tax District No. 2 of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana. (all unincorporated areas of the Parish)

The following ordinance was offered by Paul Cook and seconded by Kevin Gray:

ORDINANCE No. 810

An ordinance creating Sales Tax District No. 2 of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, defining and describing the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, this Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Police Jury"), as governing authority of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), desires to create a sales tax district with boundaries containing all the territory presently within the boundaries and corporate limits of the Parish, less and except those portions of the Parish contained within the corporate boundaries of any municipality within the Parish as such boundaries currently exist; and

WHEREAS, Section 338.54 of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 47:338.52) authorizes the creation of sales tax districts at the discretion of the Governing Authority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. Acting under and by virtue of the authority conferred by Section 338.54 of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, there is hereby created a sales tax district, which sales tax district shall contain within its boundaries all of the territory within the Parish, less and except those portions of the Parish contained within the corporate boundaries of any municipality within the Parish as such boundaries currently exist.

SECTION 2. The sales tax district hereby created shall be known and is hereby designated as "Sales Tax District No. 2 of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana", and, as such, shall constitute a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana (the "State") and shall have all powers and enjoy all the rights, privileges and authority granted by the Constitution and statutes of the State, including the authority to incur debt, to issue bonds and to levy taxes.

SECTION 3. The governing authority of Sales Tax District No. 2 of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana (the "District") shall be the Police Jury, the domicile of the District shall be the regular meeting place of the Police Jury, and the officers of the Police Jury shall be the officers of the District.

SECTION 4. The official seal of the Parish is hereby designated and adopted as the official seal of said Sales Tax District No. 2.

SECTION 5. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, except that this ordinance shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the corporate existence of any existing underlying school district.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: (9) Ford, Furlow, Gray, McDaniel, Cook, Davidson, Cooper, Dowies, and Young

NAYS: (0) None

ABSENT: (1) Merritt

ABSTAIN: N/A

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 6th day of May, 2026.

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Scott Davidson
President

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CLAIBORNE

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, the governing authority, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the Police Jury of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana on May 6, 2026, creating Sales Tax District No. 2 of the Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, defining and describing the boundaries thereof, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Homer, Louisiana, on this, the 6th day of May, 2026.

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

At this time, President Scott Davidson announced that a Public Meeting will be held on June 10, 2026 - Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on June 10, 2026 at 10:00 am at its regular meeting place, the Jury Chambers of the Police Jury Complex 507 West Main Street, Homer, Louisiana, the Police Jury of Parish of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Sales Tax District No. 2 of the Parsh of Claiborne, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein.

At this time President Scott Davidson asked for the recommendations from the Road Committee meeting -

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, the tabled item from the April 8, 2026 meeting of the Census Tract Recommendation for the LED OZ 2.0 due to NLEP by May 1, 2026 for submission to the Governor's Office of the selection of census tract #22027950400 that includes the Town of Homer and certain outlying areas.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Mark Furlow, the Jury unanimously approved, upon recommendation from the Road Committee, the extension of a water line on Ed White Road which shall be paid for by exiting line-item appropriations from Act 397 of 2023 and any grant funding that was awarded for the project. The line will be extended as the funds will allow. The Pine Hill Water System and the individual families along the extension will be responsible for obtaining the required funding to complete the project.

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes gave the April 2026 report for the Coroner's Office. There were eleven (11) total deaths: six (6) hospice/ER related, none at (0) other facilities, one (1) on scene with autopsy required, two (2) on scene with no autopsy required, and two (2) at CMMC and there was one (1) CEC in the parish for the month.

Dr. Mark Haynes gave a monthly update on the illnesses that they are treating in the clinics and at the hospital. He stated that COVID cases are sporadic, ER is brisk and hospital census is medium.

ITEM #24 –May 6, 2026 – AGENDA

SECRETARY-TREASURER – UPDATE ON GRANTS AND OTHER ITEMS

1. LGAP Projects –

Claiborne Parish Police Jury

FY2022-2023 LGAP Grant

Amount \$100,000

Project – Roof rehab/repair CPPJ Admin Building

Status – Bids received and accepted – Brazos Industries was awarded the bid.

Construction is completed as of 11/4/2024. Certificate of completion filed and recorded.

Preparing reimbursement for submittal to the State and working on close-out documents.

Claiborne Parish Police Jury

FY2023-2024 LGAP Grant

Amount \$62,500

Project – Purchase of John Deere Tractor w/Loader

Status – awarded on September 18, 2024.

The tractor has been delivered. In the process of filing the reimbursement.

2. CWEF Projects -

Pinehill Water System

FY2020-2021 CWEF Grant

Amount - \$21,225

Project – Water line extension E D White Road area

Status – Contract signed and approved by the State. (Seeking additional funding)

South Claiborne Water System

FT2022-2023 CWEF Grant

Amount - \$100,000

Project – Owens Booster Station Project (Hwy 146)

Status – Contract received and approved by the State. Project construction is completed as of 10/31/2024. Certificate of completion filed and recorded. Preparing reimbursement for submittal to the State and working on close-out documents

3. Sales Tax Collections for March 2026 – net of \$66,995 from gross collections of \$68,739

Net sales tax collections for February 2026 – \$60,146 – increase \$6,849 (11.39%)

Net sales tax collections for March 2025 - \$66,579 – increase \$416 (0.62%)

4. Cash position on April 30, 2026 - \$11,928,807

Cash position on March 31, 2026 - \$12,432,286 (decrease of \$-503,479)

Cash position on April 30, 2025 - \$11,425,622 (increase of \$503,185)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown on April 30, 2026 –

5. Total Receipts for the month of April 2026 – \$271,695

6. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

5/15 – Personal financial disclosure statements due

5/21 – CPHSD #3 Board Meeting

5/25 – Memorial Day (offices closed)

6/1 – CP Tourism Commission meeting

6/3 – Agenda items due for 6/10 meeting

6/10 – Regular meeting

6/25 – CPWSD meeting

6/30 – Audit due

Public Comments:

Claiborne Parish Director of Libraries Pam Suggs gave a brief update of programs that will be held at the library. On May 7th Judge Walter May will speak on the upcoming amendment at 6:00 pm. on May 26th Mary Claire Kettler will be speaking about WWII pilot Warren W Sutton from Mt. Lebanon, LA who was KIA in the Burma Theatre during WWII in 1944.

District Three Juror Mark Furlow questioned the status of the old bank building owned by the CP Library. Secretary-Treasurer Woodard informed updated that it is available for sale since it has been declared surplus.

Upon motion by Mark Furlow, duly seconded by Mary McDaniel, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary–Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President