

MINUTES
Of the Regular Meeting, of
The Claiborne Parish Police Jury
10:00 a.m.
November 10, 2021
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 10th of November. On being called to order by Vice-President Mark Furlow, the following Jurors were present:

James Laird, Kevin Gray, Paul Cook, Joseph Merritt, James Laird, Kevin Gray, and Gil Dowies.

The following Jurors were absent: Scott Davidson, Mary McDaniel, Rev. Willie Young.

There were 10 others in attendance which included Secretary-Treasurer Dwayne R. Woodard, Parish Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett, CPL Historian Mr. Wesley Harris, District Attorney Danny Newell, Parish Coroner Dr. Mark Haynes, Tax Assessor Mr. Bob Robinson, Parish Engineer Mr. Randal Smoak, CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes, Mrs. Kathi Hightower and Ms. Jackie Tripp with the Guardian Journal, and Mr. Jerry Whitton of Homer.

A public hearing was held at 9:00 am on the Abandonment and Removing the Entirety of the Duke Drive (Parish Road No. 421) from the Parish Road System. There were no comments or questions by email or in person concerning the abandonment of Duke Road from the Parish Road System.

Upon motion by Paul Cook, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously voted to exit the Public Hearing and move to the Road Committee Meeting.

A Road Committee Meeting was held at 9:00 am in the Police Jury Conference Room.

Vice-President Mark Furlow called the meeting to order.

The meeting was opened with a word of prayer led by Joseph Merritt, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Paul Cook.

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

Upon motion by Joseph Merritt, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously voted to adopt and approve the following Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the October 6, 2021, regular meeting minutes.
2. Payment of the October 2021 bills as approved by the Claims Committee.
3. Setting of the 2021 Thanksgiving Holiday – lunch Tuesday, November 23rd at the Road Barn on Hwy 2, off Wednesday, November 24th thru Friday 26th – return to work on Monday, November 29, 2021.
4. Setting of the 2021 Christmas Holiday – lunch Wednesday, December 22nd at the Road Barn on Hwy 2, off Thursday the 23rd thru Friday, December 31st, return to work Monday January 3, 2022.
5. Setting of the 2021 buy-back date – December 3, 2021 – request form will go out with the 11/26/2021 payroll checks and are due back on Wednesday 12/1/2021.

6. Request to advertise for bid – sealed bids are hereby invited by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for the purchase of CRS-2, CRS-P2, CSS-1, AEP and AC-10 asphalt cement necessary for the maintenance of the Claiborne Parish roads for the year of 2022.
7. Request to advertise for bid – sealed bids are hereby invited by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for the purchase of Hot Mix and Colay (Cold Mix) necessary for the maintenance of the Claiborne Parish roads for the year of 2022.
8. Request to advertise for bid – sealed bids are hereby invited by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for the purchase of pit run, sand clay gravel and maintenance rock necessary for the maintenance of the Claiborne Parish roads for the year of 2022.
9. Request to advertise for bid – sealed bids are hereby invited by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for the purchase of sizes LA C-1 “modified”, LA C-2 and LA C-3 granite crushed stone necessary for the maintenance of the Claiborne Parish roads for the year of 2022.
10. Request to advertise for bid – sealed bids are hereby invited by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for the purchase of 87 Octane Unleaded Gasoline and Diesel Fuel (off road & highway use) for use in Claiborne Parish Police Jury owned vehicles and equipment for the year of 2022.
11. Request to advertise for bid – sealed bids are hereby invited by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for the purchase of various culvert types and sizes (Galvanized and HDPE type) for the maintenance of the Claiborne Parish roads for the year of 2022.
12. Request from the Village of Junction City, in a fax received 10/21/2021 – requesting assistance from the Hwy Dept. with spraying an over-grown alley way on Hwy 9 behind the old Family Dollar Store building. The work is to be performed under the Village’s ad valorem tax credit.
13. Request from the Claiborne Parish CASA Community Coordinator Denna Curtis, in a letter received October 8, 2021, requesting their budgeted amount of \$1,000 for support of the 2021 Claiborne CASA Office and to be included in the Parish’s 2022 budget for the same amount.

Regular Agenda

President Scott Davidson read aloud a notice that all Parish Employees are required to complete one (1) hour of ethics training by December 31, 2021.

President Scott Davidson reminded everyone that one (1) hour of Preventing Sexual Harassment Training is required to be completed by December 31, 2021, by all Parish Employees – Department Heads and Jury Officers have a two (2) hour training requirement. There will be a Sexual Harassment Class at the Library on October 12, for those needing their hours.

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the Jury unanimously accepted the letter of resignation, received on October 21, 2021, from Mr. Steve Koskie, CPA of the Claiborne Parish Economic Development Board. This resignation will take effect December 31, 2021.

Upon motion by James Laird, duly seconded by Gil Dowies, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2021 – 022– A Resolution to Abandon the Entirety of Duke Drive (Parish Road No. 421) and removing it from the Parish Road System.

RESOLUTION 2021-022

A RESOLUTION TO ABANDON THE ENTIRETY OF PARISH ROAD No. 421, DUKE DRIVE, SITUATED IN SEC. 34 ALL IN T23N, R5W OF CLAIBORNE PARISH

WHEREAS, the Parish of Claiborne has deemed the entirety of Parish Road No. 421, the Duke Drive to be unmaintainable in its current condition and due to the increase of criminal activity and illegal dumping in the area, the Parish intends to abandon and remove the entirety of Parish Road No. 421, the Duke Drive, from the Claiborne Parish Road System; and

WHEREAS, the Parish plans to abandon and remove the entirety of the road beginning at the intersection of the Cupps Crossing Road (Parish Road No. 20) until its dead end, a total of approximately 0.18 miles; and

WHEREAS, the section of road is not presently, nor will it be in the future, used for school bus pickup, trash pickup, and mail delivery; and

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury will not continue to maintain the afore mentioned Parish Road No. 421; and

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, duly advertised and held a public hearing concerning proposed abandonment of the entirety of Parish Road No. 421, the Duke Drive; and

NOW, THERE FOR BE IT RESOLVED, by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Parish of Claiborne does hereby abandon the afore mentioned Parish Road No. 421, the Duke Drive, and will not maintain the said road in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon a motion by James Laird and duly seconded by Gil Dowies this motion was carried and officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Yeas – (7) Laird, Furlow, Gray, Cook, Merritt, Sanders, and Dowies

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – (3) McDaniel, Davidson and Young

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

Upon motion by Gil Dowies, duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously approved the request from LA DOTD in an email received on November 3, 2021, requesting that the Police Jury enter into an intergovernmental agreement to use Keen Road as a detour route during the bridge replacement project H.013979 on LA Hwy 518.

Upon motion by Kevin Gray, duly seconded by Tommy Sanders, the Jury unanimously approved Resolution 2021 – 025 – A Resolution Authorizing the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Housing Program to Participate in and Issue 15 Emergency Housing Vouchers Under the ARP Act of 2021.

RESOLUTION 2021-025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY HOUSING PROGRAM TO PARTICIPATE IN AND ISSUE 15 EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS UNDER THE ARP ACT OF 2021

WHEREAS, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Housing Program is eligible for and has been issued fifteen (15) emergency housing vouchers to administer under the American Rescue Plan of 2021;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Claiborne Parish Police Jury AUTHORIZES the participation in and administration of these fifteen (15) EHV's through its Housing Program and agrees to abide by and follow all HUD requirements and PHA policies set forth in Notice PIH 2021-15 concerning these vouchers.

Upon a motion by Kevin Gray and duly seconded by Tommy Sanders this motion was carried and officially adopted by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury meeting in regular session convened on Wednesday, November 08, 2021.

Yeas – (7) Laird, Furlow, Gray, Cook, Merritt, Sanders and Dowies

Nays – (0) None

Abstain – N/A

Absent – (3) McDaniel, Davidson, Young

/s/Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/Scott Davidson
President

At this time, Vice-President Mark Furlow gave a report on the Road Committee Meeting.

Upon a recommendation from the Road Committee and upon motion by Gil Dowies, and duly seconded by Paul Cook, the Jury unanimously voted to introduce proposed Parish Ordinance No. 792 – An Ordinance Setting Forth the 2020 Census Counts and Determining if Redistricting of the Police Jury Districts is Required. Vice-President Furlow read aloud the proposed ordinance. The Police Jury plans to adopt the Ordinance at the December 8, 2021 meeting of the Police Jury.

CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY
ORDINANCE NO. 792

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE 2020 CENSUS COUNTS IN EACH PARISH
POLICE JURY DISTRICT AND DETERMINING WHETHER REDISTRICTING IS
REQUIRED.

WHEREAS, The 2020 US Census count has been completed and the PL 94-171 redistricting data was delivered to the State of Louisiana in August 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Claiborne Parish Police Jury under LA RS: 33:1411, must make a determination whether redistricting is necessary with the 2020 US Census population count; and

WHEREAS, The Claiborne Parish Police Jury authorized a study to calculate the 2020 US Census population in each police jury district; and

WHEREAS, The current police jury districts have the following 2020 US Census population numbers without using the Forcht-Wade Correctional Facility in one census block with a population of 1,649. The Wade Correctional Facility population will not be used in this Redistricting process.

WHEREAS, The overall deviation of the ten-member police jury districts is 25.00%, which is more than double the legal limit of ten (10%) percent mandated in Federal Law.

CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY 2020 US CENSUS BENCHMARK PLAN									
Total Population – 14,170			Ideal District Size – 1,252			Plan Deviation – 25.00%			
District	Population	Dev.	% Dev	White	% White	Black	% Black	Other	% Other
	1,649	397	31.71%	1,105	67.01%	406	24.62%	125	7.58%
1	1,207	-45	-3.59%	760	62.97%	397	32.89%	6	0.50%
2	1,237	-15	-1.20%	637	51.50%	527	42.60%	20	1.62%
3	1,210	-42	-3.35%	844	69.75%	297	24.55%	4	0.33%
4	1,200	-52	-4.15%	280	23.33%	862	71.83%	4	0.33%
5	1,257	5	0.40%	796	63.33%	388	30.87%	24	1.91%
6	1,462	210	16.77%	975	66.69%	420	28.73%	16	1.09%
7	1,153	-99	-7.91%	349	30.27%	761	66.00%	0	0%
8	1,149	-103	-8.23%	414	36.03%	683	59.44%	3	0.26%
9	1,367	115	9.19%	847	61.96%	448	32.77%	4	0.29%
10	1,279	27	2.16%	256	20.02%	995	77.80%	3	0.23%
Source: 2020 US Census Bureau-PL 94-171 Datafile - Compiled by Data Center LLC, P.O. Box 141, Kenner, LA 70063 (504) 450-3474									

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury hereby declares that a redistricting of the police jury districts must commence to adjust the district populations to be within ten (10%) percent deviation of the ideal district population of 1,252.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury.

This ordinance having been offered by _____ and seconded by _____ after being read and considered section by section and notice having been published in accordance with law and having been heard in a public hearing in Homer, Louisiana on this 8th day of December, 2021:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Dwayne R. Woodard, Secretary Treasurer

Scott Davidson, President

Upon recommendation from the Road Committee and upon motion by James Laird, and duly seconded by Joe Merritt, the Jury unanimously approved the back door pickup service for Mrs. Velma Calloway of 932 Hightower Rd, Bernice, LA. Ms. Calloway has been approved due to old age and medical conditions that prevent her from safely rolling her can to the edge of the road.

At this time Claiborne Parish Coroner, Dr. Mark Haynes, gave his reports for the months of September and October for the Coroner’s Office: September (13) Deaths – (8) ER with no autopsies, (3) other, (2) on scene, and no CEC’s. October (14) Deaths – (9) ER with no autopsies, (4) other, (1) on scene (6) CEC’s and (1) hospital.

Dr. Haynes informed those in attendance that Covid cases were significantly down; however, he recommends that everyone take the flu shot which is available at any of the parish pharmacies, clinics and health unit. Dr. Mark also still stressed the importance of having the Covid booster shot and that if you have not been vaccinated, he stressed that you still need to consider it.

CMMC CEO Mrs. Tina Haynes gave her report on the hospital. She stated that even though COVID cases are down, the census is still high. The hospital is staying full busy other illnesses. Mrs. Haynes reiterated what Dr. Haynes stressed about the importance of the flu shot this winter. She stated that the CDC is concerned about an increase in positive flu cases after very few last fall and winter, which can mainly be attributed to masking and social distancing. Mrs. Haynes gave an update on the grant that was submitted for telemedicine in the school systems and nursing homes. CMMC was awarded \$707,000 in grants to purchase equipment that will allow the students in all Claiborne Parish Schools to have access to medical treatment thru their school nurse and the CMMC clinics without the need for transportation. This technology will also help boost the care in our nursing homes, as well. Jackson and Bienville Parish Schools already have this in place, so CMMC will be working with Jackson to help get our set up by next school year.

Mrs. Haynes also informed the Jurors that CMMC is holding out until the very last minute for action concerning the new government vaccine mandate for medical employees. She stated that at this moment CMMC does not feel that employees should be forced to take the vaccine to keep their jobs; however, if it comes down to losing federal and state Medicare or Medicaid monies then the hospital will have no other choice but to mandate it. She stated that if this happens, it will cause CMMC to lose valuable employees.

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 started.

4. Sales Tax Collections for September 2021 – net of \$66,854 from gross collections of \$68,757
Net sales tax collections for August 2021 – \$53,191 – increase \$13,663 (25.69%)
Net sales tax collections for September 2020 - \$56,529 – increase \$10,325 (18.26%)

5. Cash position at October 31, 2021 - \$9,617,894
Cash position at September 30, 2021 - \$9,675,861 (decrease of \$-57,967)
Cash position at October 31, 2020 - \$8,866,935 (increase of \$750,959)

See Deposit Balances by Institution for breakdown at October 31, 2021 –

6. Total Receipts for the month of October 2021 – \$668,637

7. Upcoming important dates and meetings –

11/12 – LRPIC Meeting, Monroe
11/15 – OOCs Board Meeting - 5:30 pm
11/22 – Library Board of Control
11/29 – Committee Meetings – Finance (Budget - tentative)
11/30 – CMMC Board Meeting
12/8 – Regular Meeting

Additional Public Comments:

Vice-President Furlow let everyone know that the Claiborne Parish Sheriff’s Office has moved into the newly renovated CID Building. He also voiced his concern about the security at the Courthouse and sees a need for better, more secure way for traffic entering the Courthouse thru the multiple access points.

Road Superintendent Tommy Durrett informed the Jury that back in September that he had inspected Mae Road and upon his inspection of the road he discovered that AT&T had cut a trench down our newly chip sealed road. Superintendent Durrett has tried multiple times to contact them with no response. He told the Jury that he will be sending a certified letter and then turning it over to District Attorney Newell to handle if he gets response.

Upon motion by Tommy Sanders, duly seconded by Kevin Gray, the meeting was adjourned.

Dwayne R. Woodard
Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Davidson
President