

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
February 6th, 2018

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in regular session in the Police Jury meeting room, Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana with the following present: Lanny Parker, Jerry W. Taylor, Derek S. Kennedy, Nathan Futch, Mike Jones, Stan Smith and John Watley. Absent: Charles Sawyer and Glenn Hutto. Also present was Bruce Hampton, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Reverend Kurt Auger, Pastor at the Farmerville First Baptist Church, offered the invocation and Mr. Futch led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Taylor asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. The public was given the opportunity to comment on any item shown on the agenda. No comment was made.

After the opportunity for public comment was given, a Motion was made by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Watley and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the Jury to approve the agenda with no changes.

Motion Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Futch to adopt the minutes of the January 2nd Regular Meeting and the January 26th, 2018 Special Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Jones to adopt the Revenues and Expenditures Report for the month of January 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Jones approving the annual assurance letter to Louisiana DOTD regarding the Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act and authorizing the President to execute the necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer addressed the jury concerning the 2017 audit engagement letters. The engagement letter from Bosch and Statum was received on December 7, 2017 and executed by Mr. Sawyer on December 11, 2017. The engagement letter from Kenneth Folden & Co was received on December 29, 2017 and executed by Mr. Sawyer on that date. Both engagement letters were received after the regular December meeting. According to the contracting policy, the audit engagement letters must be jury approved. Motion Mr. Futch, seconded by Mr. Watley to ratify the audit engagement agreements and authorize the president at that time to execute said agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the request for the use of the Courthouse Parking Lot on February 17th, 2018 for the annual Black Heritage Festivities. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph Cusimano addressed the jury concerning the Union Parish Tourist Commission. Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance 417 created the Union Parish Tourist Commission. Section VII calls for the Union Parish Police Jury to levy and collect a tax upon the occupancy of hotel rooms and overnight camping facilities with the jurisdiction of the commission. The tax is not to exceed 2%. President Taylor states that when Ordinance 417 was created the parish was collecting their own taxes. Mr. Cusimano is asking for assistance with either the police jury collecting the occupancy tax or the Sales Tax Commission collecting the occupancy tax. The Secretary/Treasurer tells Mr. Cusimano that a Sales Tax Commission meeting will be held on February 28, 2018 and at that time she will discuss this issue with them. **No action taken.**

Mr. Taylor addresses the jury. He would like to investigate other options for road and bridge engineers. After Mr. Taylor collects and compiles the information he would like to meet with the road committee. If and when a recommendation is made it would go before the full jury for a vote. Mr. Taylor has spoken with Mr. Dumas to make him aware that the jury is exploring other engineers or engineering firms for roads and bridges. **Motion Mr. Futch, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to allow Mr. Taylor to investigate other engineering firms/engineers. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion made by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Smith, to authorize the President to act on behalf of the Police Jury to start negotiations with Weyheuser and offer the amount of \$2,250 per acre for the purchase of land adjoining the landfill for the expansion of the landfill. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the meeting with DOTD. DOTD has allowed the parish to implement a five-year dumpster removal plan from the state highways. Their only stipulation was that the jury remove five locations immediately. These locations were picked due to safety. President Taylor suggested that we give a 30-day notice to the public. This is not a police jury option. The state has demanded this. The jury is looking for other locations in the parish to consolidate specific dumpster sites. The police jury asks for the public's patience as we remove these sites and look for land to purchase. **Motion made by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Smith, to remove the following dumpster locations: (1) Highway 827 in District 2; (2) Highway 3121 (Taylortown) in District 3; (3) Highway 552 (Point) in District 5; (4) Highway 2 East (Crossroads) in District 7 and (5) Highway 2 West (Shiloh Farms – 1st dumpster) in District 4; authorize the President to advertise in the paper to let the public know that these dumpster sites will be removed. Motion carried unanimously.**

In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given. George Cothran, Farmerville, addressed the jury concerning the Homeland Security Director. Mr. Cothran praises the jury for hiring Greg Gossler as the new Union Parish Homeland Security Director.

Marcus Dunn, 232 Oakland Bridge Road, addressed the jury regarding an incident that happened with his vehicle while traveling on Daniel Road. Mr. Dunn states that while traveling on Daniel Road he hit a pot hole and two of his tires busted. Mr. Dunn contacted the Road Superintendent and explained the situation. Mr. Dunn also contacted his police juror. Mr. Dunn would like the pot holes on Daniel Road to be fixed. Mr. Futch also commented on the condition of Daniel Road.

Mr. Taylor thanked the public for attending the police jury meeting and invited the public to meet the new Homeland Security Director, Greg Gossler. Mr. Taylor thanked the jury for their work and support.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Futch on this the 6th day of February, 2018.

Paula Strickland
PAULA STRICKLAND
Secretary-Treasurer

Jerry W. Taylor
JERRY W. TAYLOR
President