

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana

June 1st, 2021

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: Curtis Moses, Nathan Pilgreen, DeWayne Ramsey, Johnny Buckley, Ben Bridges, Ceis Nyegaard, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and John W. Watley. Absent: None. Also present was Tracy Houck, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ramsey offered the invocation. Mr. Bridges led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. At this time the public was given the opportunity to comment on any item shown on the agenda.

Jason Holmes addressed the jury regarding Agenda Item # 16 and thanked them for their support of the Union Parish branch of the LSU Ag Center over the years. Mr. Holmes thanked the Secretary/Treasurer for her assistance with the recent maintenance issues. Mr. Holmes stated that he is not requesting any additional support funds. The jury currently contributes \$13,000 a year to the LSU Extension Office plus provides the building and pays the utilities.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Bridges and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to adopt the minutes of the May 4th, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of May and explained to the jurors that the report reflects what has been budgeted for the year compared to what has been spent. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that at this point in the year approximately 41% of the budget should have been expended.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the severance tax is down from last year. The Green Oaks invoice was only \$1,000 for the month of May. The Secretary/Treasurer credits the DA and Judges office for finding alternative ways of dealing with offenders instead of incarceration. The Judicial fund spent \$7,000 in psych evaluations.

The Kubota tractor with side mower was delivered to the road department in May. The reimbursement request for the LGAP funding has been submitted to the state and payment should be received within 6 to 8 weeks.

The work release program at the Detention Center generated \$111,746.21 for the month. As of today, June 1st, there are currently ninety-two inmates participating in the work release program.

There are currently 225 DOC inmates and 126 parish inmates being housed at the Detention Center. The Detention Center received \$182,628.66 from state income.

The one cent sales tax for the Landfill generated \$263,981.38 in income for the month of May which is a 32% increase over last year at this time. The tipping fees generated \$87,971.13 for the month of May. A \$300,000 payment was made to the Landfill Assurance Fund and that concludes the payments for the year to that fund.

Litter court generated \$1,950 in fines and that was paid out to the Constables/JP's who write the tickets. If a constable does not write any tickets then neither he nor his JP receive any revenue.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Moses to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of May. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Buckley addressed the jurors and stated that the UACT student ambassadors were unable to attend the jury meeting and their presentation will be rescheduled at a later date.

Karen Cupit, Regional Watershed Coordinator, addressed the jury regarding the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Ms. Cupit gave a brief overview of the Watershed Initiative and information about the process. The widespread flooding of 2016 demonstrated how susceptible our region is to flooding. Over the past two decades Louisiana has experienced 28 declared flood and hurricane related disasters. The Watershed Initiative will study where floodplains are located and analyze how water flows in the entire watershed.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to open a public hearing regarding the proposed abandonment of a portion of Red Rock Lane (abandonment begins at Stansbury Road going four tenths [4/10] of a mile). President Buckley declared the public hearing open and asked the public if they had any comments relating to the road closure. No comments were made with regards to this road closure. Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. President Buckley declared the public hearing closed.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to abandon a portion of Red Rock Lane (abandonment begins at Stansbury Road going four tenths [4/10] of a mile) from the Union Parish Road System. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE # 918

AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE UNION PARISH ROAD SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR THE DELETION OF A PORTION OF RED ROCK LANE.

Pursuant to Public Notice published in *The Banner*, a weekly newspaper published in Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana and the Official Journal of the Union Parish Police Jury on

May 6, 2021, May 13, 2021 and May 20, 2021, Public Hearing was being held by the Union Parish Police Jury at the Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Annex, 303 East Water Street, Farmerville, Louisiana for the purpose of considering whether or not certain road listed in said Public Notice should be deleted from the Union Parish Road System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Police Jury of Union Parish, Louisiana, convened in Regular Session this 1st day of June, 2021, that the following Ordinance be and the same is hereby adopted:

SECTION 1

The approximate abandonment of a portion of Red Rock Lane (abandonment begins at Stansbury Road going 4/10 tenths of a mile), is found to be no longer needed for public purposes and is hereby deleted and removed from the Union Parish Road System.

SECTION 2

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by the Union Parish Police Jury.

SECTION 3

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause and/or phrase of this Ordinance or the application thereof is declared unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid by the valid judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction such unconstitutionality, unenforceability or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and/or phrases of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the Union Parish Police Jury without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase. To this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION 4

All other ordinances, or any parts thereof, which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

This above and foregoing Ordinance was introduced by **Mrs. Abercrombie** who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by **Mr. Bridges** and after having been considered by sections was adopted by sections and as a whole by the following YEA and NAY vote:

YEAS: Nine (Moses, Pilgreen, Ramsey, Buckley, Bridges, Nyegaard, Nolan, Abercrombie and Watley)
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 1st day of June, 2021.

s/ Paula Strickland
PAULA STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

s/ Johnny Buckley
JOHNNY BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Official Journal Selection

President Buckley opened up the floor for nominations for the official journal for the period of July 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2022. Mr. Watley nominated the *Banner* and Mrs. Abercrombie nominated the *Gazette*. The following Roll Call Vote was taken:

MEMBERS:	BANNER	GAZETTE
Curtis Moses		x
Nathan Pilgreen	x	
Dewayne Ramsey		x
Johnny Buckley	x	
Ben Bridges		x
Ceis Nyegaard	x	
L.W. Nolan	x	
Brenda Abercrombie		x
John W. Watley	x	

The Secretary/Treasurer calculated the votes. **President Buckley declared the Banner as the official journal for the period of July 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2022.**

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to table the discussion of surplus property until the Road Department supplies a list. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Moses to authorize Paula Strickland and Danielle Smith to attend the Organization of Parish Administrative Officials conference in Marksville on July 28th, 2021 through July 30th, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to reimburse the JP/Constables for their online training requirements. Training to be completed by December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Nyegaard for a continuance of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (\$13,000 per year) with the LSU Extension Office and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Moses to approve the request from the Town of Marion for two (2) loads of winter cold mix with the Town of Marion paying for the materials. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Watley to appoint Jeanette Buckley, District 4, to the Union Parish Library Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Nolan to reappoint Jennifer Lenard as a Board Commissioner of Ward 3, 4 and 10 Hospital Service District Parish of Union (Reeves Memorial Medical Center). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to accept Change Order No. 3 for the FEMA Loch Lomond Pipe Replacement Project PA-06-LA-4263-PW-00867 and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. This change order is a decrease in the amount of \$569.80. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Nolan to issue a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the FEMA Loch Lomond Pipe Replacement Project PA-06-LA-4263-PW-00867 and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Nyegaard, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to hire Dennis Keesee for full time employment effective June 7, 2021 with his time counted back to his original hire date of December 17th, 2020. He is now eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Road Committee:

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to accept the only bid from Dreher Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$721,400 for the Union Parish 2021 Road Program and authorize the President to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for a road closure from the intersection of St. Paul Cemetery and Ed Hunt Road to Riley Trustle Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation from the Personnel Committee:

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Bridges to revise the Union Parish Personnel policy to state the following:

“Union Parish Police Jury employees are limited to two (2) days sick leave per year without a doctor’s excuse; those days shall be considered “personal days”. Temporary employees shall not be entitled to personal leave. No employee may take a personal day on the day before or the day after a holiday. The personal days cannot be rolled over into the next calendar year.” Policy change to be effective June 7th, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to revise the Personnel Policy to reduce the probationary period from six (6) months to three (3) months. At the end of three months full-time employees will be eligible for all benefits including insurance, retirement, holiday pay, annual leave and sick leave. This policy change does not apply to seasonal or temporary workers. At the end of the three-month probationary period the supervisor may extend the probationary period if needed. Policy change to be effective June 7th, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to hire John Paul Smith for full time employment effective June 9th, 2021 at the Landfill with his time being counted back to his original hire date of March 9th, 2021. He is now eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.


Recommendations from the Finance Committee:

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ramsey to authorize the Secretary/treasurer to purchase equipment to be used for meetings due to COVID related issues. Motion carried unanimously.

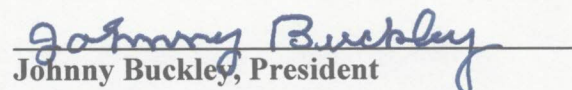
In accordance with Ordinance 549, time for public comment was given.

Lynn Ramsey, Jerry Ramsey Road, addressed the jury concerning Liberty Hill Church Road and Hopewell Road. Mrs. Ramsey stated that on Hopewell Road there are places that the trees are touching.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Watley, on this the 1st day of June, 2021.



Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer
Union Parish Police Jury



Johnny Buckley, President
Union Parish Police Jury