

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
December 5th, 2023

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, L.W. Nolan, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: Ceis Nyegaard. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney (*Mr. Buckley entered the meeting at approximately 6:35 PM*). The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Ramsey offered the invocation and Mr. Buckley led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Abercrombie welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Abercrombie 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.

Mr. Bridges asked that the jury remember Alan Ates who was injured at his home last weekend. Mr. Ates is an employee of the Police Jury and works at the Road Department. Mr. Ates is home recovering, but has several broken ribs.

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

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Nolan to adopt the minutes of the November 7th, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of November. Jurors were emailed copies of the LNB Investment statements and Revenue Expenditure statements.

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

LSU Extension Office - Markaye Russell, Parish Chair at the LSU Ag Center introduced Trip Morgan as the replacement for Jason Holmes.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Industrial Tax Exemption Application # 20210539-ITE for Foster Farms. Foster Farms has submitted an application to the Industrial Tax Exemption Program for an 80% tax exemption. Foster Poultry Farms manufactures poultry products and employs many people in the parish.

According to the Union Parish Assessor, the property taxes would be \$384,318.74 parish wide with no exemption. If the exemption were approved, the property tax exempted would be \$307,454.99 leaving Foster Farms to pay only \$76,863 per year.

The following tax recipients would be affected:

- Union Parish Police Jury (Union Council on Aging and Library) - \$74,447.13
- Union Parish School Board - \$146,360.74
- Union Parish Sheriff’s Office - \$22,217.21
- Union Parish Assessor - \$19,371.85
- East Union Hospital Service District - \$21,671.52
- Farmerville Fire District - \$23,386.54

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Buckley to table the discussion until a later date. Motion tabled with the following Roll Call Vote:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
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			
Andrew J. Ford, Jr.	x			

Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to approve the following applications for beer and liquor licenses for the year 2024 pending all necessary documents/paperwork are received and authorize the President to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

STORE NAME	CLASS
State Line Liquor	Retail Liquor Dealer/ Class “B”
Bridges Grocery	Retail Liquor Dealer/Class “B”
Antioch U Pak It	Class "B" Beer
Wilderness Acres	Class “B”
Expressway of Bernice	Class “B”
Corner Store of Downsville	Class "B" Beer
Parish Line Market	Class "B" Beer

Meadow Lake Golf & Country Club	Class "A" Beer/Liquor
Lake D 'Arbonne Country Club	Class "A" Beer/Liquor

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve travel for the Class A and/or Class B Operators (Davidson, Durrett, Echols and Strickland) to attend the Louisiana Environmental Conference in Lafayette on March 13-March 15, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Buckley to approve travel for the Section 8 Director to attend the NSPIRE Training and Leadership Retreat. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve travel for the Jurors and Staff to attend the Newly Elected Officials training in Baton Rouge on January 16th and January 17th, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Bridges to hire Johnny Ates for full-time employment at the Landfill with his time being counted back to his original hire date of September 11th, 2023. His full-time status is effective December 12, 2023 and at that time he is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Mr. Ratcliff's hourly wage is being increased to \$15.00 effective December 12th, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held regarding the request of the Public Works Director. Mr. Durrett submitted a request asking that Willie Burden be placed on full-time status so that he may receive holiday pay. Mr. Burden is working for the Jury through the Transitional Work release Program. Due to his incarceration, he is ineligible for health insurance and to participate in the retirement plan. **Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Buckley to hire Willie Burden for full-time employment at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of August 7th, 2023. His full-time status is effective December 12, 2023 and at that time he is eligible for holiday pay only. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the following board appointments to the Board of Commissioners for the Spencer West Sterlington Fire Protection District:

- **Gary Tubbs (President) for a two-year term beginning 1/1/24**
- **Ronnie Jones (Vice-President) for a two-year term beginning 1/1/24**
- **Karen McCaa (Secretary) for a one-year term beginning 1/1/24**
- **Thomas Forbes (Board Member) for a two-year term beginning 1/1/24**
- **John Sharp (Board Member) for a two-year term beginning 1/1/24**
- **Bill Pace (Fire Chief) for a two-year term beginning 1/1/24**

Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that Arthur J. Gallagher Company solicited proposals from four (4) different companies for workers comp insurance. The following quotes were obtained:

LUBA declined to quote
LWCC gave an approximate bid of \$194,000
Stonetrust (A- rating) - \$161,435
Bridgefield (A+ rating) - \$157,341.84

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Buckley to accept the lowest bid from Bridgefield in the amount of \$157,341.84 and authorize the President and/or Secretary/Treasurer to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

The following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Buckley and duly seconded by Mr. Ford.

UNION PARISH ORDINANCE NO. 960

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN ACT OF SALE BY THE PARISH OF UNION TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS: PARCEL NO. 3011132500 IN ACCORDANCE WITH LA R.S. 47: 2202 T SEQ. AND TO AUTHORIZE THE UNION PARISH POLICE JURY PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND TO ADDRESS THE MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO

WHEREAS, the immovable property described below was adjudicated to the Parish of Union on October 3, 2002 for nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the three (3) year period for redemption, as well of the five (5) year redemptive period provided by Art. 7, §25 of the Louisiana Constitution has elapsed and established by Parish Ordinance No: 908 and the owner of record has failed to redeem the adjudicated property; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 47: 2202 *et seq.* provides that the Parish may sell adjudicated property in accordance with law after the expiration of the period for redemption; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Union has declared the property described below surplus and not needed for a public purpose and to dispose of said property in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with L.A. R.S. 47:2202 the Parish of Union has set a minimum purchase price in the amount of \$1,030.78 and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Union has received a written offer to purchase said property from Ladd Properties, LLC for the consideration of \$1,030.78, at the time of sale and has been accepted by the Union Parish Police Jury; and

WHEREAS, the property described herein below will be purchased through the Parish “Lot Next Door” program and is therefore exempt from the public bidding requirement.

NOW BE IT ORDAINED by the Union Parish Police Jury, that any Act of Sale of the below described property shall contain the following conditions and requirements:

This property is described as Parcel# 3011132500/ No Municipal Address: Located in Union Parish, LA, being more fully described as follows:

Parcel# 3011132500 (Union Parish) / No Municipal Address

Brief Legal Description: BEGIN 350 FT W OF NW/C OF STREET DEEDED BY O. BAUGHMAN TO TOWN OF FARMERVILLE, RUN W 50 FT, N 75 FT, E 50 FT TO N SIDE OF FRANKLIN ST, S 75 FT TO P.O.B. (OLD ASMT NO 3011132500)

Legal Description: A certain lot or parcel of land located in the town of Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana, described as beginning at a point 351 feet west of the northwest corner of the street deeded by O. Baughman to the town of Farmerville, Louisiana, and from this point run west 50 feet; thence north 75 feet, thence east 50 feet to the north side of Franklin Street, thence south a distance of 75 feet to the Point of Beginning, together with all improvements situated thereon and thereto belonging.

- 1) This property shall be sold in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.*, without any warranty, from either the Parish or Management Company, whatsoever, even as to the return of the purchase price.
- 2) The sale shall be on a form approved by the Parish Attorney and that the sales price is paid by certified funds at the time of the sale.
- 3) The sale shall include a reservation of all mineral rights to the Parish, but shall convey all surface rights.
- 4) The following shall be completed prior to closing of sale:
 - a. E&P Consulting Services, LLC shall certify in writing to the Parish Attorney that they have examined the mortgage records, conveyance records, probate and civil suit records of the Parish of Union and that attached to this certification will be a written list of names and last known addresses of all owners, mortgagees, and any other person who may have a vested or contingent interest in the property, or who has filed a request for notice as provided in the former provisions LS-R.S. 33:4720.17(B), as indicated in those records.
 - b. E&P Consulting Services, LLC will provide notice to those persons identified in accordance with LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* Proof of said notice will be filed in the conveyance records of Union Parish immediately after the Act of Sale.
 - c. At the time of closing, E&P Consulting Services, LLC will certify in writing to Parish Attorney and Clerk of Court that the number of days mandated by LS-R.S. 47:2201 *et. seq.* has elapsed since the above required notice was made or attempted and that the property has not been redeemed by the payment of the taxes owed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Union Parish Policy Jury, that the Police Jury President is hereby authorized to execute a Cash Sale of the above-described adjudicated property to the highest acceptable bidder. The Cash Sale shall contain all of the above conditions and requirements and shall be executed within the timelines specified. The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced by **Mr. Buckley**, who moved for its adoption and duly seconded by **Mr. Ford** and was then adopted by the following YEA and NAY vote:

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
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			
AJ Ford	x			

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 5th day of December, 2023.

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

s/ Brenda Abercrombie
BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Nolan to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire and authorize the President and Secretary Treasurer to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges to approve the audit engagement for Bosch and Statham to perform audits on the financials and AUPs for the Union Parish Police Jury, Union Parish Detention Center and the Landfill Financial Assurance Fund for the year 2023. Motion failed after the following discussion. President Abercrombie stated that new auditors have moved into Union Parish and she would like to give them a chance to check out the police jury before going back with Bosch and Statham. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that she only knows of one auditor who is in the parish. Mr. Buckley asked if there were anyone in the parish qualified to do the jury's audit. Mrs. Abercrombie stated that Jeff Maxwell does North Delta and the Town of Farmerville. Mr. Maxwell has a business in Union Parish. Mrs. Abercrombie asked for a Roll Call vote. Mrs. Abercrombie stated

that a yes vote is to stay with Bosch and Statham and no vote is for checking out other auditors.

MEMBERS:	YEAS:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	ABSTAINING:
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		
AJ Ford		x		

Mrs. Abercrombie stated that the motion failed. Mr. Bridges stated that he misunderstood how Mrs. Abercrombie had stated the question and did not wish to vote the way he did.

Motion Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the audit engagement with Kenneth Folden & Company to oversee the financial statements and notes for the 2023 audits. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Ramsey reported that the Finance Committee met earlier to go over the 2024 Union Parish Police Jury Operating Budget.

Recommendations from the Equipment Committee.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Moses to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to solicit bids for a new front load garbage truck. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Freddie Hill, 3849 Highway 550, Spearsville, addressed the Jury regarding dumpster lids.

Joe Watson, 966 Clellan Bryan, Spearsville, addressed the Jury regarding Clellan Bryan Road.

Lynn Ramsey, Jerry Ramsey Road, addressed the Jury regarding the Senior Citizens Luncheon.

Lesha Risinger, 282 Webb Road, Spearsville, wrote a statement that was read regarding Oakland Bridge Road.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Ford on this the 5th day of December, 2023.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

PAULA H. STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Brenda Abercrombie

BRENDA ABERCROMBIE
PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY