

## REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana  
February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**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, Michael Holley, Glenn Hutto, Ben Bridges, Russell Wade, Jeremy Hobbs, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: None. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the session to order and welcomed all guests. Mr. Bridges offered the invocation and Mr. Pilgreen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

President Hutto welcomed everyone to the meeting. President Hutto 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.

Mrs. Abercrombie announced that there will be a bake sale on March 28<sup>th</sup> to benefit Johnnye McKeithen to cover medical expenses for Jake McKeithen.

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

**Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Holley to adopt the minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of March 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 highlighted the General Fund, Road Fund, Sales Tax Collection, and Detention Center Fund. The Secretary/Treasurer also reported on health insurance costs and Ad Valorem tax received for the various funds.

**Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of January. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Antioch Store was recently sold. Matthew Takewell purchased the Antioch Store from Mark Clampit and applied for an alcohol permit. The Union Parish Sheriff's Office conducted a background check on Mr. Takewell and he is approved to receive a permit. **Motion Mr. Hobbs, seconded by Mr. Moses to approve a Class B Alcohol permit for Antioch Store and authorize the President to execute the license. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Hobbs to contribute to Keep Union Beautiful for the Union Parish Roadside Clean up. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to allow the Black Heritage Committee the use of the Courthouse Square and parking lot on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Black Heritage Festivities. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Ford to allow the Farmerville Jaycees the use of the Courthouse square and parking lot on Friday July 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> for the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Louisiana Watermelon Festival. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Bridges to re-appoint Joanie Bryan and L.W. Nolan to the Rocky Branch/Crossroads Fire District board for a two-year term beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Holley to appoint Eddie Horton, Jr. to the Bernice Fire District Board for a three-year term beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Moses, seconded by Mr. Holley to assist the Town of Farmerville with repairs (cold mix) to Mack Drive. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Hobbs, seconded by Mr. Moses to hire David Evans for full-time employment at the Landfill with his time being counted back to his original hire date of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. His full-time status is effective February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and at that time he is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Mr. Evans' hourly wage is being increased to \$16.75 effective February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.**

Recommendations from the Equipment Committee.

Mr. Ford reported that the Equipment Committee met earlier and have two recommendations.

**Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses to purchase an Excavator (KX080-4S2R3A) from state contract from Bayou Kubota in the amount of \$118,972. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Moses that the Jury apply for the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) grant through the State of Louisiana and authorize the Secretary/Treasurer and/or President to execute all necessary documents. Any monies received will be used to purchase a John Deere 6110M Cab Tractor (\$108,341.91) and a Diamond Mower (\$78,983.32). Motion carried unanimously.**

Recommendations from the Road Committee.

Mr. Holley reported that the Road Committee met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup> and have several recommendations.

**Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to proceed with repairs of Patrick Church Road. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to continue with the 2024 Priority list and the 2022 Maintenance list. Any funds left will be used for the 2025 Priority list. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Road Priority List - 2024**

**Concord Road        3.2 miles**

**Hamilton Road       1.9 miles**

**Downsville Road 2.7 miles**

**Road Maintenance List**

<b>Beech Grove Church Road</b>	<b>.6 miles</b>
<b>Pine Grove Church Road</b>	<b>.7 miles</b>
<b>Village Creek Road</b>	<b>.7 miles</b>
<b>Buck Moore Road</b>	<b>1.1 miles</b>
<b>St. Paul Church Road</b>	<b>.24 miles</b>
<b>Watley Road</b>	<b>.2 miles</b>
<b>Arkansas Road</b>	<b>.29 miles</b>
<b>Mina Parker Road</b>	<b>.23 miles</b>
<b>Hill Laster Road</b>	<b>.02 miles</b>
<b>Daniel Road</b>	<b>.05 miles</b>
<b>Gatson Road</b>	<b>1.49 miles</b>
<b>Lem Road</b>	<b>1.5 miles</b>
<b>Oakland Bridge Road</b>	<b>.05 miles</b>
<b>Cook Road</b>	<b>.04 miles</b>
<b>Clyde Colvin</b>	<b>.80 miles (added due to being left out)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.46 miles</b>

**Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Hobbs to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to confer with legal to determine how to move forward with Meeks Landing. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Holley, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to use size 57 rock for the 2024 three (3) shot blacktop list. The cost for the chip seal program/blacktop list shall not exceed 1.2 million. Motion carried with the following vote:**

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	<b>YEAS:</b>	<b>NAYS:</b>	<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>ABSTAINING:</b>
<b>Curtis Moses</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Nathan Pilgreen</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Michael Holley</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Glenn Hutto</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Ben Bridges</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Russell Wade</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Jeremy Hobbs</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Brenda Abercrombie</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Andrew Ford, Jr.</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Motion carried.</b>				

Recommendations from the Landfill Committee.

Mr. Bridges reported that the Landfill Committee met at 4:00 PM today. The Landfill Committee has two recommendations.

**Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to move forward with Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Landfill Gas Beneficial Reuse Project. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to accept the bid from McNeilus (only bidder) in the amount of \$377,362.00 for a front load garbage truck with an expected delivery date of October 2024. Motion carried unanimously.**

Recommendations from the Insurance Committee.

Mrs. Abercrombie reported that the Insurance Committee met earlier and has one recommendation.

**Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ford to provide Health Insurance to the JPs and Constables. Motion carried unanimously.**

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Pilgreen reported that the Personnel Committee met earlier and has one recommendation.

**Motion Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Wade to terminate Tommy Durrett based on unsatisfactory performance. Before the Roll Call vote was held, Mr. Hutto stated that a YES vote is to keep Mr. Durrett and a NO vote is to terminate Mr. Durrett.**

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	<b>YEAS:</b>	<b>NAYS:</b>	<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>ABSTAINING:</b>
<b>Curtis Moses</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Nathan Pilgreen</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Michael Holley</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Glenn Hutto</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Ben Bridges</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Russell Wade</b>		<b>x</b>		
<b>Jeremy Hobbs</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Brenda Abercrombie</b>	<b>x</b>			
<b>Andrew Ford, Jr.</b>	<b>x</b>			

**Motion to terminate with a 5 to 4 vote.**

**Mr. Hutto asked that Mr. Durrett turn in his keys, cellphone and truck.**

Recommendations from the Airport Committee.

Mr. Hobbs reported that the Airport Committee met earlier and has one recommendation.

**Motion Mr. Hobbs, seconded by Mr. Moses to remove the concrete slab where the old Earle hangar was. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Greg Gossler, Homeland Security Director, reported that the generator project has been approved by GOHSEP and is now waiting FEMA approval. Mr. Gossler had originally started this project 4 ½ years ago. The total cost of the generator is \$51,572.59 and the parish will be responsible for \$5,157.26.

Michelle Bryan, 308 Wildwood Drive, Farmerville, addressed the jury regarding the trash on the state highways.

Fred Franklin, 420 North Crow Road, Marion, addressed the jury regarding dumpsters and Turkey Creek Road.

Johnny Creed, 2354 Highway 550, Spearsville, addressed the jury regarding the Public Works Director termination.

Lynn Ramsey, 167 Jerry Ramsey Road, Farmerville, addressed the jury regarding the Public Works Director termination.

**There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Holley on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.**

*s/ Paula H. Strickland*  


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**Paula H. Strickland**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Union Parish Police Jury**

*s/ Glenn Hutto*  


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**Glenn Hutto**  
**President**  
**Union Parish Police Jury**