

REGULAR MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

**Farmerville, Louisiana
December 3rd, 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: Nathan Pilgreen, Michael Holley, Ben Bridges, Russell Wade, Jeremy Hobbs, Brenda Abercrombie and A.J. Ford, Jr. Absent: Curtis Moses and Glenn Hutto. Also present was James Buckley, Assistant District Attorney. The Vice-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.

Vice-President Holley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Vice-President Holley 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.

Vice-President Holley recognized a special individual in the community. David Hodges is being recognized as an Outstanding Citizen for Union Parish. Mr. Hodges picks up litter throughout Union Parish.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Hobbs to make the following addition to the agenda:

- **Discussion of Taxes**

The agenda addition failed due to not having unanimous consent by the jury.

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

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Hobbs and declared adopted by unanimous vote of the Jury to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Pilgreen to adopt the minutes of the November 5th, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Budget to Actual Revenue and Expense report for the month of November to the Finance Committee earlier. **Motion Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Bridges to adopt the Revenue and Expenditures Report for the month of November. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the following applications for beer and liquor licenses for the year 2025 pending all necessary documents/paperwork are received and authorize the President to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

**Antioch Store - Class "B"
Bridges Grocery – Retail Liquor Dealer and Class "B"
Expressway of Bernice – Class "B"
Lake D'Arbonne Country Club – Class "A" Beer/Liquor
Meadow Lake Golf Course – Class "A" Beer/Liquor
Parish Line Market – Class "B" Beer
State Line Liquor – Retail Liquor Dealer/Class "B"**

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ford, that the following action should be taken on the road material bids for the period of January 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2025:

Road Material Bids and Landfill for the period of January 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2025:

- **Gasoline and diesel fuel should be awarded to Hill Oil Company (only bidder).**
- **No bid received for Aviation Fuel.**
- **CRS-2 Asphalt Emulsion should be awarded to Asphalt Products Unlimited and ERGON based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**
- **AEP Asphalt Emulsion Prime should be awarded to Asphalt Products Unlimited (only bidder).**
- **MC-30 Cutback Asphalt should be awarded to Asphalt Products Unlimited (only bidder).**
- **AC-10, AC-20XP and AC-20-5TR Asphalt should be awarded to Asphalt Products Unlimited (only bidder).**
- **Spiral Metal Culverts – Bid should be awarded to Tri-State, Coastal Culvert, Coburn's, and Co-Heir Drainage based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**
- **Polyethylene pipe should be awarded to Tri-State, Irrigation Mart, Coastal Culvert, Core and Main LP, Coburn's and Co-Heir Drainage Products based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**
- **Concrete Pipe – Bid should be awarded to Coastal Culvert, Coburn's. Core and Main LP, and Co-Heir Drainage Products based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**

- **Hot Mix and Cold Mix – Bid should be awarded to Dreher Contracting, Amethyst Construction and Diamond B based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**
- **Maintenance rock, oversize rock, clay gravel, fill sand, pea gravel, and concrete sand should be awarded to Arkansas Gravel, Standard Gravel, R.E. Bentz, Blann Tractor, Ivy Brothers, Marco Farms, LLC and Rock Island Sand & Gravel, LLC based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**
- **Crushed concrete should be awarded to L.J. Haddox & Sons (only bidder).**
- **Granite rock should be awarded to R. E. Bentz, Inc., Blann Tractor and Rock Island Sand & Gravel, LLC based upon the best price, availability, hauling, location of job and quantity needed.**

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ford to authorize travel for jurors and staff to attend the 101st Annual PJAL Convention at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge on February 12th through February 14th, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

David Bush with Arthur J. Gallagher Company addressed the Jury regarding proposals received from three different companies for workers comp insurance. Mr. Bush stated that the quotes received are lower than last year. The following quotes were obtained:

Bridgefield Casualty	\$112,527.95
Stonetrust Insurance	\$113,392.00
LWCC	\$145,738.00

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Mr. Ford to accept the lowest bid from Bridgefield Casualty in the amount of \$112,527.95 and authorize the President and/or Secretary/Treasurer to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Hobbs, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to hire Jory Hudson for full-time employment at the Road Department with his time being counted back to his original hire date of August 29th, 2024. His full-time status is effective December 9th, 2024, and at that time he is eligible for all police jury benefits including retirement, insurance, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mr. Ford to appoint/reappoint the following to the Union Parish Tourist Commission:

- **Joseph A. Cusimano, Jr., Chairman – Reappointment
1-year term ending on 12/31/2025**
- **Johnnie Baker, District 4
Mrs. Baker is replacing Ann Smith.
4-year term ending 12/31/28**
- **Teresa “Tejo” Avery, At Large Member #1**

4-year term ending 12/31/28
Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee

Mr. Pilgreen stated that the Executive Committee met earlier. The committee has one recommendation.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen and seconded by Mr. Bridges to adopt the following Ordinance:



ORDINANCE # 970

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF MITRAGYNINE SPECIOSA (SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS “KRATOM”) IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF UNION PARISH; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, in consideration of the risks presented to the health and well-being of the citizens of Louisiana, including the risk of addiction, the Louisiana legislature by Act No. 416 (2023 Regular Session) adopted La R.S. 14:91.10 prohibiting the sale or distribution of mitragynine speciosa (sometimes referred to as “Kratom”) in the State of Louisiana to person under the age of twenty-one;

WHEREAS, said Act 416 also adopted La. R.S.40:1300,.51, et seq., creating a “Local Option for Mitragynine Speciosa” and specifically authorizing local governments like the Union Parish Police Jury to adopt ordinances prohibiting the sale of distribution of mitragynine speciosa products; and,

WHEREAS, the Union Parish Police Jury finds that the health risks associated with mitragynine speciosa products – including, but not limited to the risk of addiction and the risk of said products containing harmful contaminants – warrant a prohibition of the sale or distribution of such products in Union Parish.

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Union Parish Police Jury in legal and Regular Session that the Compiled Ordinances of Union Parish be, and are hereby, supplemented to add as follows:

Prohibiting the sale of mitragynine speciosa products in the unincorporated area of Union Parish, Louisiana; penalty.

- (a) No person shall sell or distribute or cause to be sold or distributed a product containing mitragynine speciosa;
- (b) For purposes of this Section, “mitragynine speciosa” means a product containing either or both of the following:
 - Mitragynine
 - Hydroxy-mitragynine
- (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00); imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both.
- (d) If a vendor, seller or retailer licensed to do business in the unincorporated area of Union Parish is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this Section, said business license shall be subject to revocation by the Union Parish Police Jury, in addition to the above stated penalties.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall become effective on December 3rd, 2024.

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

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

WHEREUPON, the Ordinance was declared duly adopted this 3rd day of December, 2024.

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

s/ Mike Holley
MIKE HOLLEY
VICE-PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Recommendations from the Finance Committee

Mr. Wade stated that the Finance Committee met earlier. The Finance Committee discussed the Revenue and Expenditures report for the month of November. The Secretary/Treasurer presented the 2025 Union Parish Police Jury Operating Budget to the Committee as well as the 2024 Union Parish Police Jury Amended Operating Budget.

Recommendations from the Landfill Committee

Mr. Bridges stated that the Landfill Committee met earlier. The Landfill Committee discussed the Leachate Pump project and the Landfill Gas Beneficial Reuse Project.

Motion Mr. Bridges, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie to rescind the Notice of Award with Sparq Renewables, LLC and enter into a contract with Renewable Natural Gas Partners, LLC. The President is authorized to execute any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Danny Benoit, 400 Eagle Point, Farmerville, addressed the jury regarding taxes.

Johnny Dollar, 450 Eagle Point, Farmerville, addressed the jury regarding taxes.

Butch Sensley, Sensley Road, Farmerville, addressed the jury regarding taxes.

Johnny Creed, 2354 Highway 550, Spearsville, addressed the jury regarding the Union Parish Detention Center.

Steve Auger, 2675 Highway 540, addressed the jury regarding the priority road list.

Lynn Ramsey, 167 Jerry Ramsey Road, addressed the jury regarding the Finance Committee meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the Vice-President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Pilgreen, seconded by Mr. Bridges on this the 3rd day of December, 2024.

s/ Paula H. Strickland

**PAULA H. STRICKLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**

s/ Mike Holley

**MIKE HOLLEY
VICE-PRESIDENT
UNION PARISH POLICE JURY**