

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY, PARISH OF OUACHITA,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON,
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 AT 5:35 P.M.**

The Police Jury of the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana met in a regular session in the Ouachita Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, Courthouse Building, Monroe, Louisiana on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 5:35 p.m., and was duly convened by Mr. Scotty Robinson, President.

The invocation was given by Dr. Reddix. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Dr. Reddix.

<u>Members Present</u>	(6)
Scotty Robinson	District A
Mack Calhoun	District B
Walt Caldwell	District C
Ollibeth Reddix	District D
Shane Smiley	District E
Pat Moore	District F

<u>Members Absent</u>	(0)
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The president asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Mr. Mitchell requested to add Ordinance No. 9069 to the agenda. Mr. Mitchell stated that this item was inadvertently left off of the agenda but had been introduced at the prior meeting and it was advertised for a public hearing on this agenda. Motion offered by Dr. Reddix, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to approve the agenda with the amendment. Motion passed without opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

The president asked for public comments on the agenda as approved. No one came forth at this point in the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the regular Police Jury meeting including the committee meetings held on April 6, 2015 was offered by Mr. Smiley seconded by Mr. Calhoun. Motion passed without opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The president convened a public hearing on Ordinance No. 9069 – An Ordinance amending Section 14-1 of the compiled ordinances of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, to establish a speed limit of fifteen (15) miles per hour for Meyers Road; providing for a public hearing; and further providing with respect thereto. No one appeared to speak in favor of or against said ordinance. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Moore to close the public hearing. Motion passed without opposition.

VISITORS:

The president recognized Tommy Sparks with Greater Ouachita Water Company. Mr. Sparks addressed complaints regarding the quality of water on their system. Mr. Sparks stated that they are in the process of converting to new filters and have been successful in several areas.

The president recognized Bill Mertes with Severn Trent Services. Mr. Mertes stated that his company is working on improving and changing the filtering process for the water system. Mr. Mertes also stated that the water is safe. Mr. Mertes introduced Jason Moss the project manager for the project.

Mr. Moss stated that he is monitoring the water since changing the filter and that several areas are now producing good water. Mr. Moss stated that they are working on customer service and encourage people to call and report any problems they are having with the water.

The president recognized Bill Robertson with the Public Service Commissioner's Office. Mr. Robertson spoke regarding Greater Ouachita Water Company and stated that since they have taken over the LWC waters systems the water has improved for those customers. Mr. Robertson stated there are still several issues to be fixed but that they are working on getting them resolved.

The president recognized Lewis Felton, 106 Taft Drive, Monroe. Mr. Felton spoke regarding the condition of the drainage ditch beside his house. Mr. Sparks stated that they have problems in the area and that he would have the engineers look at the ditch on Tuesday.

The president recognized Quentin Henry, 120 Lakewood Drive, West Monroe. Mr. Henry spoke regarding the Greater Ouachita Water Company Advisory Board and wanted to know why the Police Jury has not appointed someone to the board. Mr. Robinson stated that there has not been a need for the board until recently. Discussion ensued. After discussion, motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to appoint Mr. Robinson as the Police Jury liaison with Greater Ouachita Water Company. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Ben Allen, 247 Hart Road, West Monroe. Mr. Allen stated that he has seen improvements to the water system but he still has problems periodically when the lines need flushing. Mr. Sparks stated that they are working on getting the dead-end lines on a schedule to be flushed.

The president recognized Cleoria Dunn, 707 Texas Avenue, Monroe. Ms. Dunn spoke regarding "Happy Week" and encouraged everyone to participate in random acts of kindness during the week. The Jury members then gathered for a picture with "Mr. Happy" the official mascot of "Happy Week."

Dr. Reddix, seconded by Ms. Moore offered the following resolution for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-14

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CITY OF MONROE'S "HAPPY WEEK" INITIATIVE; DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 20-24, 2015, AS "HAPPY WEEK"

IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF OUACHITA PARISH; AND, FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, Ms. Cleoria Dunn, a local educator, was inspired by the Pharrell Williams song “Happy” to create a “Happy Week” celebration to boost morale and encourage positive civic engagement in Monroe, Louisiana and surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, Mayor Jamie Mayo has declared April 20-24, 2015 to be “Happy Week” in the City of Monroe and has encouraged residents to participate by performing “Random Acts of Kindness Everyday” during said week; and,

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury finds that the concept of “Happy Week” is worthwhile and should be recognized outside the corporate limits of Monroe,

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, in Regular and Legal Session, does hereby endorse and support the City of Monroe’s “Happy Week” initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury does hereby designate the week of April 20-24, 2015, as “Happy Week” in the unincorporated area of Ouachita Parish and does further encourage residents to bring happiness to the lives of others by performing “Random Acts of Kindness Everyday” during such week.

The above resolution was adopted on the 20th day of April, 2015. No opposition.

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ENGINEERING REPORT:

The president recognized Mr. Crosby, Engineer. Mr. Crosby spoke regarding Oak Circle and stated that the low bid was from Amethyst Construction in the amount of \$1,329,905.50 which is over the original cost estimate. Mr. Crosby stated that his office has been in contact with GOHSEP for additional funding and that a formal request form the Police Jury was needed. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to authorize the president to sign the letter to GOHSEP requesting additional funding. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding the Finks Hideaway Road change orders and stated that Change Order Nos. 3 and 4 were previously approved but those change orders are now identified as Change Order Nos. 2 and 3 respectively. Mr. Crosby explained that the re-numbering was required because the original Change Order No. 2 was not yet ready for consideration. Mr. Crosby stated that the new Change Order No. 4 is for \$9,056 to undercut an area on Old Sterlington Road. Mr. Crosby stated that this change order will also add three days to the contract. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to approve Change Order No. 4. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding Change Order No. 5 and stated that this change order will add 67 days to the contract for the delays the contractor experienced awaiting completion of the utility relocation work. After discussion, motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to approve Change Order No. 5. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding Change Order No. 6 and stated that this change order was for \$95,130 to add Geogrid under the new road bed to address poor soil conditions. Mr. Crosby explained that the soil conditions had been reviewed by all of the engineers and by LA DOTD and that the use of Geogrid was recommended as an alternative to digging out and replacing the soils which could have cost well more than \$1,000,000. Mr. Crosby stated that this change order will also add 14 days to the contract. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Ms. Moore to approve Change Order No. 6. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding the 2015 Road Striping Program and stated that the contractor has started and they should be finished within two or three weeks.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding the 2015 Road Program and stated that he will start looking at the roads later in the week.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding OCOG roads and stated that he is working on the design for Ole Highway 15 and should send the plans to DOTD on Friday.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding the FEMA flood map for Frenchman's Bend and stated that FEMA has revised the flood map and recommended that the residents contact their insurance companies about their flood insurance.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding preliminary subdivision approval for Riverview Subdivision and recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell to grant preliminary subdivision approval subject to comments from the Public Works Department and parish engineer being adequately answered. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding preliminary and final subdivision approval for Jackson Square West and recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Dr. Reddix to grant preliminary subdivision approval subject to comments from the Public Works Department and parish engineer being adequately answered. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding preliminary subdivision approval for Mallard Estates, Unit 3 and recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Dr. Reddix to grant preliminary subdivision approval subject to comments from the Public Works Department and parish engineer being adequately answered. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding the re-subdivision plat approval for Autumn Place Subdivision, Lots 28-31 and recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Dr. Reddix to grant preliminary re-subdivision plat approval subject to comments from the Public Works Department and parish engineer being adequately answered. Motion passed without opposition.

Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Dr. Reddix to recess the regular meeting in favor of the finance committee meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The chairman, Mr. Caldwell, called the finance committee meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. The chairman recognized Mr. Cammack, Treasurer.

Mr. Cammack presented the claim statement for the period of March 13, 2015 through April 16, 2015 and recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the claims for the period stated as recommended by the Treasurer. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack presented the Green Oaks food and food products, second quarter bid results and stated that the lowest conforming bid was from Sysco Food Service for \$23,784.64. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Dr. Reddix to accept the low bid from Sysco Food Service. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Cammack asked to declare a 2001 Crown Victoria (asset # 11176) as surplus and allow for sale at public auction. Motion offered by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to declare the vehicle as surplus and allow it to be sold at public auction. Motion passed without opposition.

There being no further business to come before this committee, a motion to adjourn the finance committee meeting and reconvene the regular meeting was offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Dr. Reddix. The finance committee meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to ratify and adopt all actions taken in the committee meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

MOTIONS * ORDINANCES * RESOLUTIONS:

MR. SCOTTY ROBINSON, DISTRICT A:

Mr. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Moore offered the following resolution for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-13

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN OUACHITA PARISH; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO:

WHEREAS, the strength of our nation flows from the promise of individual equality and freedom of choice; and

WHEREAS, the 47th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, during the month of April, is an occasion for all Americans – individually and collectively – to rededicate themselves to the principle of freedom from housing discrimination whenever it exists. This law guarantees for each citizen that critical, personal element of freedom of choice – selection of the home; and

WHEREAS, a fair housing law has been passed by the state of Louisiana, and implementation of the law requires the positive commitment, involvement, and support of each of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the departments and agencies of the state of Louisiana are to provide leadership in the effort to make fair housing not just an idea, but an ideal for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, barriers that diminish the rights and limit the options of any citizen will ultimately diminish the rights and limit the options of all

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Ouachita Parish Police Jury do hereby proclaim the month of April 2015, as Fair Housing Month in the Parish of Ouachita.

The above resolution was adopted the 20th day of April, 2015.

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Mr. Robinson spoke regarding the speed limit on Ridgedale Lake Road. Mr. Robinson stated that this road is now in Mr. Caldwell’s district but that he has received several calls to reduce the speed limit.

Mr. Caldwell introduced the following ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 9070

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14-1 OF THE COMPILED ORDINANCES OF THE OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY, TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT OF FIFTEEN (15) MILES PER HOUR FOR RIDGEDALE LAKE ROAD; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury finds that the establishment of a speed limit of Fifteen miles per hour (15 mph) for Ridgedale Lake Road in Ouachita Parish Police Jury District “C” is in the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and regular session that Section 14-1 of the Compiled Ordinances of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, be, and is hereby,

supplemented and amended to establish and provide for a specific speed limit of Fifteen miles per hour (15 mph) for Ridgedale Lake Road.

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The president recognized Mr. Calhoun, District B.

MR. MACK CALHOUN, DISTRICT B:

Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Caldwell offered the following ordinance for adoption.

ORDINANCE NO. 9069

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14-1 OF THE COMPILED ORDINANCES OF THE OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY, TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT OF FIFTEEN (15) MILES PER HOUR FOR MEYERS ROAD; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury finds that the establishment of a speed limit of Fifteen miles per hour (15 mph) for Meyers Road in Ouachita Parish Police Jury District “B” is in the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and regular session that Section 14-1 of the Compiled Ordinances of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, be, and is hereby, supplemented and amended to establish and provide for a specific speed limit of Fifteen miles per hour (15 mph) for Meyers Road.

The ordinance was introduced on the 2nd day of April, 2015.

The ordinance was submitted to a roll call vote, and the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:	(6)	Mr. Scotty Robinson, District A; Mr. Mack Calhoun, District B; Mr. Walt Caldwell, District C; Dr. Ollibeth Reddix, District D; Mr. Shane Smiley, District E; and Ms. Pat Moore, District F.
NAYS:	(0)	
ABSTAIN:	(0)	
ABSENT:	(0)	

The above ordinance was adopted on the 20th day of April, 2015.

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The president recognized Mr. Caldwell, District C.

MR. WALT CALDWELL, DISTRICT C:

Mr. Caldwell asked for an update on Old Sterlington Road. Mr. Crosby stated that he has looked at the road and recommended three soil borings. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to authorize three soil borings on Old Sterlington Road. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Dr. Reddix, District D.

DR. OLLIBETH REDDIX, DISTRICT D:

Dr. Reddix, seconded by Ms. Moore offered the following resolution for adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 15-16

A RESOLUTION STATING THE OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY'S OPPOSITION TO THE EXPANSION OF THE SWANSON CORRECTION CENTER FOR YOUTH ONTO PROPERTY EAST OF JACKSON STREET; AND, FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has announced its intention to construct a new facility for the Swanson Correction Center for Youth on property owned by the State of Louisiana located east of Jackson Street and west of Burg Jones Lane;

WHEREAS, in the decades that have passed since the State of Louisiana acquired the property in question several residential neighborhoods and hundreds of family homes have been developed in the area east of Jackson Street in close proximity to this State property;

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury that due to the close proximity of such a significant number of homes and neighborhoods this State property east of Jackson Street is not an appropriate location for a correctional facility such as Swanson; and,

WHEREAS, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury recognizes the importance of the Swanson Correction Center and the need for updated facilities; but believes those facilities should be located on Swanson's present campus west of Jackson Street that adjoins other institutional facilities rather than residential areas;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury hereby states its opposition to the expansion of Swanson Correctional Center for Youth onto state property east of Jackson Street;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ouachita Parish Police Jury encourages the State of Louisiana to construct improved facilities for Swanson Correction Center for Youth on the present Swanson Campus west of Jackson Street

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be provided to Governor Jindal and the delegation representing Ouachita Parish in the Louisiana Legislature.

The above resolution was adopted on the 20th day of April, 2015.

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The president recognized Mr. Smiley, District E.

MR. SHANE SMILEY, DISTRICT E:

Mr. Smiley asked to defer Resolution No. 15-15.

The president recognized Ms. Moore, District F.

MS. PAT MOORE, DISTRICT F:

Ms. Moore stated that she did not have any additional items.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The president recognized Ms. Doretha Bennett, Federal Programs Director. Ms. Bennett requested approval of the new job descriptions and to open positions for Recruitment and Placement Specialist, Office Assistant II, and Workforce Development Special Project Coordinator. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the job descriptions and open the positions. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Cammack, Treasurer. Mr. Cammack stated that he did not have any additional items.

The president recognized Mr. Mitchell, Assistant District Attorney. Mr. Mitchell stated that he did not have any items.

The president recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director. Mr. Murray spoke regarding a variance for fire hydrant at 385 Keystone Road. Mr. Murray stated that the fire chief has recommended denying the variance. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to deny the variance. Motion passed without opposition.

BEER AND WHISKEY APPLICATIONS:

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no other business to come before the jury, a motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Scotty Robinson, President

Karen Cupit, Recording Secretary