

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY, PARISH OF OUACHITA,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON, MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011 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 4, 2011 at 5:35 p.m., and was duly convened by Mr. Shane Smiley, President, who stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business.

<u>Members Present</u>	(6)
Charles Jackson	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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The invocation was given by the Ms. Moore. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Ms. Moore.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The president asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Mr. Cammack stated that he had one addition that needed to be added to his agenda. Mr. Cammack stated that the matter pertains to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce's Northern Exposure Brochure. Mr. Cammack stated that the submission deadline for the brochure is this week. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to approve the addition to the agenda. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Mitchell noted that two of the jurors had asked that visitors be added to the list, Dr. Ron Robbins and Ms. Cummings. The president noted that he would be adding Mr. Roark to the visitor's list so that he could present his matter and then leave for another meeting. Motion offered by Ms. Moore, seconded by Dr. Reddix to approve the agenda. Motion passed without opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

The president spoke regarding the public comment period. No one appeared to speak during this time.

A motion to adopt the minutes of the regular police jury meeting including the committee meetings held on March 21, 2011 with corrections to page 4 and 6 was offered by Ms. Moore seconded by Dr. Reddix. Motion passed without opposition.

The president announced the following service award for the month of April.

GREEN OAKS
HINES WARD, SR. – 10 YRS

VISITORS:

The president recognized visitor John Whelan of 2789 Hwy 15, Calhoun, Louisiana. Mr. Whelan asked the jury for permission to vote at Drew Elementary School instead of Calhoun Middle School. Mr. Whelan stated that he has to drive 25 miles to vote, and would like to vote at Drew Elementary School which is 2 ½ miles from his home. A lengthy discussion ensued. The jury asked that Mr. Mitchell do some additional research on the matter and report back to Mr. Whelan. No other action was taken on the matter.

The president recognized Melody Olson, 223 South Grand of the Downtown Economic Development District/Renaissance Project. Ms. Olson spoke extensively regarding the plans for a downtown marketplace on the riverfront. Ms. Olson stated that the project had 100% funding from the state and convention's bureau. Ms. Olson asked that the jury provide space for restrooms and suggested that the northwest corner of the parking lot of the annex be considered. A lengthy discussion ensued. Larry Bratton, Chairman of the Downtown Economic Development District spoke regarding the matter. Discussion ensued again. Ms. Moore asked that Mr. Mitchell look into the matter more in depth and report back to the jury at its next meeting. Myra Gatlin, Director of the Downtown Economic Development District spoke briefly regarding the project and asked that the jury considered the project. No other action was taken on the matter.

The president recognized Bill Roark. Mr. Roark updated the jury on the Tanglewood/Raccoon Bayou and Mushwater Projects. Mr. Roark stated that the right of ways had been secured for the Tanglewood/Raccoon Bayou Project with the exception of two properties. Mr. Roark indicated that he was trying to locate the owners to finish up the project. No action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Roark stated that he has made contact with the property owners associated with the Mush Water LG6 Canal Project. Mr. Roark indicated that he was in the process of locating one owner (Ms. Waller) to complete this project. No action was taken on this matter.

The president recognized Dr. Ron Robbins, 108 Pin Oak Drive, representing the Calhoun Civic Club. Dr. Robbins spoke regarding the proposed closure of the Calhoun Research

Station and the use of the property. Dr. Robbins offered to the jury, volunteer services from his club in evaluating proposed disposition of the property once its been vacated.

The president recognized Mrs. Reba Cummings, 106 North Ironwood Drive, West Monroe, LA. Ms. Cummings spoke on behalf of the Master Gardeners Club using the Calhoun Research Station. Ms. Cummings asked that the jury consider allowing her group to continue gardening at the Calhoun Research Station. Mr. Billy Albritton spoke extensively regarding the matter. The president noted that the jury had no details as to when the station would close, but would get back to the group as soon as details are known. No other action was taken on the matter.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Deputy Wayne Heckford

Deputy Heckford noted that Deputy Elam was out of the office due to surgery. Deputy Heckford noted that the Household Hazardous Materials Event held over the past weekend was a success.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Patrick Hemphill

Chief Hemphill informed the jury that the new generator was operational, and that he would be out of the office in the coming week attending the LA Fire Chief's Conference in Baton Rouge.

HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

AGENCY:

Mr. Tracy Hilburn, Asst. Director

Mr. Hilburn stated that the generator project for the parish had been completed. Mr. Mitchell asked that the jury ratify the Certificate of Substantial Completion signed by the contractor due to a project due date of March 31, 2011. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to ratify the signature of the president and the Certificate of Substantial Completion. Motion passed without opposition.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT:

Ms. Doretha Bennett, Director

Ms. Bennett spoke briefly regarding the funding of the WIA Office.

WELLSPRING:

Ms. Judy Bell, Director

Ms. Bell presented to the jury the annual report for the Wellspring which included the annual report of the Family Justice Center Grants on pages 18-19. Ms. Bell informed the jury that the Director of the Family Justice Center had retired, and that Valerie Bowman is now the new director. In addition, Ms. Bell stated that an award is being given to Dr. O'Neal for her efforts with the Sexual Assault Response Team.

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A motion to recess the regular meeting in favor of the Personnel Committee meeting was offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion passed without opposition.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

The chairperson, Ms. Pat Moore called the Personnel Committee meeting to order at 6:50 pm. The chair recognized Mr. Cammack.

Mr. Cammack stated that he was requesting a probationary increase for new accountant, Anna Arnold. Motion offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the probationary increase for the accountant. Motion passed without opposition.

Ms. Moore stated that she had talked with Chief Hemphill, and that he had no items.

There being no other business to come before this committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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A motion to convene as the Public Works Committee was offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Caldwell. Motion passed without opposition.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

The chairman, Mack Calhoun called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

The chairman recognized Mr. Murray, Director of Public Works. Mr. Murray stated that he had no items.

There being no other business to come before this committee, a motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Reddix. Motion passed without opposition.

A motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the jury was offered by Dr. Reddix, seconded by Mr. Caldwell. Motion passed without opposition.

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MOTIONS * ORDINANCES * RESOLUTIONS:

The president recognized Mr. Jackson, District A.

MR. CHARLES JACKSON, DISTRICT A:

Mr. Jackson spoke regarding the State Office Building. Mr. Jackson stated that the state was moving its offices out of the building, and noted that the building houses the Registrar of Voters Office. Mr. Jackson, seconded by Dr. Reddix requested that Mr. Roark, Mr. Cammack, and Mr. Mitchell be given permission to look into alternatives for moving the Registrar of Voters Office once the building is vacated. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Calhoun, District B.

MR. MACK CALHOUN, DISTRICT B:

Mr. Calhoun asked Mr. Mitchell to speak regarding the redistricting of the parish. Mr. Mitchell stated that notice had been put in the official journal regarding the ordinance introduced at the last meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that he talked with David Creed of North Delta who had advised that the ordinance be voted on at the next meeting. A brief discussion ensued. No action was taken on the matter.

The president recognized Mr. Caldwell, District C.

MR. WALT CALDWELL, DISTRICT C:

Mr. Caldwell asked that the matter regarding the drainage issues within Treasure Island Subdivision (Hannah's Run) be deferred to the next meeting of the jury due to the absence of the parish engineer.

Mr. Caldwell asked that the matter regarding the CEA with Downtown Economic Development District be added to Ms. Moore's agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Caldwell noted that this area was in Ms. Moore's district.

Mr. Caldwell noted that he had received an email regarding the status of Solvent Street and Power Avenue located in Sterlington. Mr. Caldwell stated that the email indicated that the state was working out details with a sub-contractor to rebuild the street or create access back to Hwy 2. No action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Caldwell asked that a matter regarding the Jail Camera System be added to the next agenda of the jury.

The president recognized Dr. Reddix, District D.

DR. OLLIBETH REDDIX, DISTRICT D:

Dr. Reddix commended the parish Public Works Department for their efforts at the J. S. Clark Cemetery.

MR. SHANE SMILEY, DISTRICT E:

Mr. Smiley spoke regarding the state's concern of losing CDBG funding. Mr. Smiley, seconded by Dr. Reddix offered the following resolution for adoption in support of the

state.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-16

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 25- APRIL 30, 2011 AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK, AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the week of April 25 – April 30, 2011 has been designated as National Community Development Week. Ouachita Parish is and has been a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which funds public infrastructure, economic development, and housing programs in this community, and

WHEREAS, in this community and communities throughout the nation, thirty five years of Community Development Block Grant Program funding has developed a strong of relationship between this local government and its residents, principally those of low-to-moderate income, and

WHEREAS, this community recognizes that the Community Development Block Grant Program is a partnership of federal, state, and local government and community and business efforts, and that the services funded by the CDBG Program relies heavily on the dedication and good will of our combined efforts.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that during National Community Development Week 2011, this community will give special thanks and recognition to all participants whose hard work and devotion to the neighborhoods and their low-and moderate-income residents help ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this community, along with the service providers and others whose names are appended to this resolution, hereby petition the U. S. Congress and Administration to recognized the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the Community Development Block Grant Program, and of its vital importance to the community and to the people who live in its lower income neighborhoods, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the appropriate elected and appointed officials of the federal government and that this community's name be added to the roll of those committed to the preservation and full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program and maintenance of its essential features over the course of the next session of Congress.

The above resolution was adopted this 4th day of April 2011. No opposition.

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The president recognized Ms. Moore, District F.

MS. PAT MOORE, DISTRICT F:

Ms. Moore stated that she had no additional items.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The president recognized Mr. Cammack, Treasurer.

FISCAL: Mr. Brad Cammack, Treasurer

Mr. Cammack spoke regarding the properties to go into the Monroe Chamber's Northern Exposure Brochure. Discussion ensued. Mr. Caldwell asked that the Bayou Desiard Restoration Project be withdrawn. Discussion ensued again. Motions offered by Mr. Caldwell, seconded by Ms. Moore to include everything that was on the brochure last year, and delete the Bayou Desiard Restoration Project. Motion passed without opposition.

FIRE: Chief Pat Hemphill

Chief Hemphill left the meeting early.

The president recognized Mr. Mitchell, Assistant District Attorney.

LEGAL: Mr. Jay B. Mitchell, Assist. Dist. Attorney

Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the change order for the Burney Subdivision Sewerage-Hwy 139 Project. Mr. Mitchell asked that the jury approved the change order which changes the commencement date of the project to reflect the actual date of commencement. Motion offered by Dr. Reddix, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the change order as presented. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the matter concerning the Burney Subdivision Sewerage Project-Revocation of Servitude was not ready for presentation at this time due to some title work.

The president recognized Mr. Murray, Public Works Director.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. John Tom Murray, Director.

Mr. Murray stated that he had no items.

The president noted the absence of the parish engineer.

BEER AND WHISKEY APPLICATIONS:

Mr. Mitchell presented the following beer and whiskey application for approval. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Calhoun to approve the application as presented. Motion passed without opposition.

PATEL, HARSHAD D. DBA SEVEN STARS OF MONROE DBA
TOBACCO STOP #3, 151 WELL RD,
WEST MONROE, LA 71291 RETAIL
BEER "CLASS B", RETAIL LIQUOR
"CLASS D", 2011 NEW OWNER

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 7:20 p.m.

A D J O U R N !

Shane Smiley, President

Deborah H. Sewell, Recording Secretary

Adopted April 18, 2011