

Colfax, LA
January 12, 2024

The Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, met in regular session at its meeting place, the Grant Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 200 Main Street, Colfax, Louisiana, on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Mark Ball, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Winston Roberts, Mr. Roy Edwards, and Mr. Mike Merrell

The following members were absent:

None

The Honorable Warren D. Willett administered the Oath of Office for the 2024-2027 jurors.

Jessie Pace, Secretary/Treasurer opened the floor for Police Jury President nominations. Mr. Winston Roberts nominated Mr. Mark Ball and Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr. seconded the nomination. **No other nomination for President were made.**

Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to elect Mr. Mark Ball as President of the Grant Parish Police Jury. Motion carried.

Mr. Mark Ball opened the floor for Police Jury Vice President nominations. Mr. Mike Merrell nominated Mr. Roy Edwards as Vice President and Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. nominated Mr. Brandon DuBois as Vice President.

Motion to elect Mr. Roy Edwards as Vice President:

Yeas: Mr. Mike Merrell, Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Winston Roberts, and Mr. Arnold Murrell

Motion to elect Mr. Brandon DuBois as Vice President:

Yeas: Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., and Mr. Brandon DuBois

Motion by Mr. Mike Merrell, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to select Mr. Roy Edwards as Vice President.

Yeas: Mr. Mike Merrell, Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Winston Roberts, and Mr. Arnold Murrell

Nays: Mr. Johnny Jamison, Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., and Mr. Brandon DuBois

Motion carried.

The meeting was opened to public comments on agenda items:

Mrs. Lou Brown addressed the jury regarding her concerns with the LSU Ag Extension Office and invited the jury to walk through and view the building. The matter was referred to the Building Committee.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the official journal. Motion carried.

Mr. Gabe Firment, State Representative District #22 addressed the jury to congratulate them and expressed his sincere desire to continue serving Grant Parish and take advantage of more opportunities to help move our parish into the future.

Mr. Jeff Pogue, Operations Manager of Acadian Ambulance, gave the December call report for the parish.

Ms. Liz Todd of The South-Central Planning and Development Commission addressed the jury regarding the Small Business Program to assist with damages and loss of revenue that small businesses may have suffered from Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Jurors discussed the need for new, higher resolution cameras throughout the courthouse.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to move forward with the installation of approved new cameras and new door access security on the doors of the courthouse. Motion carried.

Jurors discussed the need for a camera system at the Dry Prong, Aloha, and Bagdad dump sites. Ownership of Dry Prong site must be established first.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to amend the agenda to add a motion to add a camera system to the Aloha and Bagdad dump sites. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to add a camera system to the Aloha and Bagdad dump sites. Motion carried.

Mr. Winston Roberts discussed removing 290 feet from the end of Wallace Road in District 6 as it is a dead-end road and the property owner has asked to maintain it themselves.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to remove the last 290 feet of maintained Wallace Road, beginning at the current property line of 130 Wallace Road (Parcel #0800052460). Motion carried.

Items #14 and #15 moved to February Agenda.

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., to adopt Ordinance 06-2023; CMRS E-911 Surcharge. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 06-2023

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE ORDINANCE PASSED SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1988. TO ESTABLISH A "CAP" ON CERTAIN SERVICE CHARGES IMPOSED IN THE GRANT PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING, MAINTAINING, AND OPERATING A 911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN SAID DISTRICT; AND, FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2016, the Grant Parish Police Jury, in its capacity as the Governing Authority of the Communications District of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, in resolution 21-2016, approved a proposition authorizing said District to levy an emergency telephone service charge not to exceed 5% of the tariff rate for local telephone service within the district;

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2024 the Grant Parish Police Jury, in its statutory capacity as the Governing Authority of the Communications District adopted Ordinance **06-2023**; levying a service charge of 5% of the tariff rate for local telephone service, with the proceeds of said service charge being dedicated for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and operating the 911 emergency communications system;

WHEREAS, thereafter, as more emergency 911 calls began to be made from wireless phones, the Louisiana Legislature adopted La. R.S. 33:9109 (Acts 1999, No. 1029) authorizing communications districts to levy a charge of not more than eighty-five cents per month on mobile telephones. In 2016, the Louisiana Legislature addressed the tremendous costs faced by communications districts in connection with providing the new generation of 911 service to accommodate the digital media that were becoming an increasing part of 911 communications (including voice, text, data, photos, video, etc.) by amending La. R.S. 339103 to increase the authorized service charge for mobile telephones to \$1.25 per month (La. Acts 2016, No. 665); and,

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Communications District desires to adopt the \$1.25 per month emergency service charge for mobile telephones authorized by La. R.S. 33:9109 and to equalize the emergency service charges for mobile phones and residential wireline phones, including VoIP services.

BE IT OBTAINED that pursuant to the authority of La. R.S. 33:9109, and in accordance with the provisions thereof, the Grant Parish Police Jury, in its capacity as the Governing Authority of the Communications District of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, does hereby levy a service charge of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per month per wireless CMRS connection;

BE IT FURTHER OBTAINED that Grant Parish Police Jury, in its capacity as the Governing Authority of the Communications District of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, does hereby levy a service charge of no greater than four dollars (\$4.00) per month per residential telephone service line, said rate to become effective on February 1, 2024; and within the current five percent (5%) of the highest tariff rate for the local telephone service as established by a vote of the people on September 8, 1988.;

BE IT FURTHER OBTAINED that Grant Parish Police Jury, in its capacity as the Governing Authority of the Communications District of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, does hereby levy a service charge of no greater than eight dollars (\$8.00) per month per business telephone service line, said rate to become effective on February 1, 2024; and within the current five percent (5%) of the highest tariff rate for the local telephone service as established by a vote of the people on November 8, 1988.;

BE IT FURTHER OBTAINED, that such service change shall be levied, collected and expended in accordance with the provisions of Act 805 of 2016 and other applicable law, and;

BE IT FURTHER OBTAINED, that the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office is authorized to negotiate with each CMRS Provider, and to execute such other actions on behalf of the District as are prudent and appropriate, so as to ensure that the increased service charge is collected for and remitted to and utilized by the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office to continue to provide Enhanced 911 services, including Next generation (NG911) services, throughout Grant Parish under its agreement with the District; and;

BE IT FURTHER OBTAINED that in order to achieve efficiencies in the provision of Enhanced 911 Services to the people of Grant Parish, Louisiana, the Grant Parish Communication District, herewith transfers all of its functions and duties pertaining to the Grant Parish Enhanced 911 service as granted by La R.S. 33:9101 to the Grant Parish Law Enforcement District.

Date of Enactment – This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon approval.

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS: **Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison
Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Mike Merrell, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr.
Mr. Winston Roberts**

NAYS: None

ABSENT: **None**

AND THIS ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED ON THIS 11th DAY OF January, 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Parish Manager/ Secretary – Treasurer
Grant Parish Police Jury

(s) Mark Ball
Mark Ball
President
Grant Parish Police Jury

CERTIFICATE

I, Jessie Pace, Parish Manager / Secretary - Treasurer of the Grant Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify the forgoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the said Police Jury in a regular session on the 11th day of January, 2024, at a quorum.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Parish Manager / Secretary – Treasurer
Grant Parish Police Jury

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to adopt Ordinance 07-2023; to Ban the Use of Video and Audio Recording Devices and Camera Enabled Devices Inside of the Grant Parish Courthouse and Other Grant Parish Police Jury Owned Properties for Security Purposes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 07-2023

**AN ORDINANCE TO BAN THE USE OF VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING
DEVICES AND CAMERA-ENABLED DEVICES INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE
AND OTHER POLICE JURY OWNED PROPERTIES FOR SECURITY
PURPOSES:**

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Police Jury desires to protect all persons with business in the 35th Judicial District Court, Parish of Grant courthouse, and other Grant Parish Police Jury owned properties to ensure the safe, secure, and orderly conduct of all proceedings and to facilitate the safe, secure, and efficient handling of business; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Police Jury intentionally includes the Grant Parish Police Jury Maintenance Facilities, Transfer Station Facilities, Grant Parish Libraries, and all other jury owned facilities that assist members of the public; and

WHEREAS, absent prior written authorization from the governing authority, there shall be no photographing, recording, or broadcasting within the courthouse or other Grant Parish Police Jury owned facilities including but not limited to entrances and exits, lobby areas, hallways, stairs, elevators, and business offices other than authorized employees and officers of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies wearing issued body cameras; and

WHEREAS, this is not intended to restrict the ability to photograph, film, or broadcast from outside the entrances and exits of the included facilities, provided such activity does not obstruct access to or from the facilities, and

WHEREAS, a person may use an electronic device to make an audio or video recording or to take photographs of a public meeting that is subject to the Freedom of Information Act subject to the following: the recording or photographing is done as inconspicuously as possible and the recording or photographing is done in a safe, non-disruptive manner, provided that the group holding a public meeting subject to the Freedom of Information Act may decide before the meeting reasonable rules controlling the recording or photographing of the meeting based on the need for order, safety, and decorum of the public agency and those attending the meeting. Persons using equipment for recording or photographing a public meeting may use the equipment only for those purposes and shall not use it for any other purposes except as permitted by these guidelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORTAINED, that a violation of this Ordinance may be the basis for a citation and/or confiscation of recording equipment including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, or other camera-enabled devices that capture images or video.

Passed, approved, and adopted by the Grant Parish Police Jury, State of Louisiana, on this 11th day of January, 2024.

Date of Enactment – This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon **approval**.

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS: **Mr. Roy Edwards, Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Johnny Jamison,
Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Mike Merrell, Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr.
Mr. Winston Roberts**

NAYS: **None**

ABSENT: None

AND THIS ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED ON THIS 11th DAY OF January, 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
 Jessie Pace
 Parish Manager/ Secretary – Treasurer
 Grant Parish Police Jury

(s) Mark Ball
 Mark Ball
 President
 Grant Parish Police Jury

CERTIFICATE

I, Jessie Pace, Parish Manager / Secretary - Treasurer of the Grant Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify the forgoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the said Police Jury in a regular session on the 11th day of January, 2024, at a quorum.

(s) Jessie Pace
 Jessie Pace
 Parish Manager / Secretary – Treasurer
 Grant Parish Police Jury

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., to appoint Mrs. Charlene Anderson to a 1-year term to the Grant Parish Port Commission. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to adopt the amended 2023 budget and proposed 2024 budget for the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission. Motion carried.

North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission
 Amended 2023 Budget and Proposed 2024 Budget

Account	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Amended 2023 Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Administrative	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Equipment	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Supplies	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Professional Fees	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Printing	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Telephone	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Utilities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Insurance	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Depreciation	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Interest	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000

Please complete this form and return as soon as possible to this address.

North Louisiana Crime Lab
 1630 Tulane Ave.
 Shreveport, Louisiana, 71103

The Grant Parish Police Jury of Grant Parish
 Parish Level Governing Body

Voted on January 11, 2024 to approve the
 Date approve/not approve

Amended 2023 Budget and Proposed 2024 Budget of the North Louisiana
 Criminalistics Laboratory Commission.

Mark Ball
 Parish Level Governing Body Officer

President - Grant Parish Police Jury
 Title

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to adopt Proclamation 01-2024; Coroner’s Week. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION 01-2024

**TO RECOGNIZE THE WEEK OF JANUARY 21 - JANUARY 27, 2024
 AS CORONER’S WEEK**

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Coroner’s Office serves the parish’s citizens and honors the deceased of the parish by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning deaths which have occurred within Grant Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Coroner’s Office exhibits the highest degree of compassion, professionalism, and integrity when determining the cause and manner of death, identifying the decedent, and notifying the legal next of kin; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Grant Parish Coroner’s Office investigated nearly 300 cases; and

WHEREAS, the job of these “last responders” continues beyond the scene as they conduct interviews, obtain records, and perform examinations to determine the final cause and manner of each death.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grant Parish Police Jury extends our sincerest gratitude for the Coroner and Deputy Coroners and in recognition does hereby proclaim the week of January 21-January 27, 2024, as Coroner’s week in the Parish of Grant.

Duly proclaimed this 11th day of January 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
 Jessie Pace

(s) Mark Ball
 Mark Ball

Secretary - Treasurer
Grant Parish Police Jury

President
Grant Parish Police Jury

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF GRANT

I, Jessie Pace, Parish Manager of the Grant Parish Police Jury do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Proclamation adopted by the said Police Jury in regular session on the 11th day of January 2024.

GIVEN UNDR MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE and Seal of Office on this the 11th day of January 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Secretary - Treasurer

Mr. Cody Gongre, Grant Parish Roads Superintendent, updated the jury on current projects from the Landfill and Roads departments.

Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. discussed issues with levee roads and the maintenance that is needed. The jury will seek an opinion from their legal team to determine if the 19th Levee District is obligated to maintain these areas or the Police Jury.

Mr. Mark Ball updated all jurors on the newest projects that the jury has applied for.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to pay bills as funds become available. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to adjourn. Motion carried.

Disclaimer: These minutes are not official until adopted by the jury at the next meeting.