

Colfax, LA
May 10, 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, May 9, 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

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to open the meeting to public comments on agenda items. Motion carried.

Ms. Whitney Lambright, Community Liaison for Congressman Mike Johnson, addressed the jury on behalf of Speaker Mike Johnson to let everyone know that his office is always open for his constituents and to please reach out if they or if the community needs assistance with Federal or State assistance.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Brandon DuBois to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the official journal. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to adopt Resolution 05-2024; Recognizing the Montgomery Lady Tigers for Winning the 2024 Division IV Non-Select State Championship. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: 05-2024

To Honor and Congratulate the Montgomery Lady Tigers

WHEREAS, the Grant Parish Police Jury is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that bring honor to Grant Parish and serve as ambassadors for this parish in their pursuit of excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery High School Lady Tigers Softball Team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2024 season, winning the coveted DIVISION IV NON-SELECT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel with a cooperative spirit; the Lady Tigers exhibited each of these rare qualities during their championship season; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Lady Tigers were guided by the leadership of Head Coach Paige Grayson, and Assistant Coaches Jason Graves and Laryn Graves; and

WHEREAS, team members Brighley Crayon, Dani Anderson, Zoey Fitts, Jolee Johnson, Kyrie Welch, Hadilee Plunkett, Ella Lambert, Emma Fredieu, Emilie Blair, Taylor Gongre, Kaycen Martin, Alena Brouillette, Ainsley Pinder, Ella Brouillette, Emily Arledge, Jaylee Johnson, Cadence Gongre, and Andrew Blair have shown the utmost dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Grant Parish Police Jury finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the softball team of Montgomery High School and congratulate the players, coaching staff, team support staff, administrators, and fans on winning the 2024 DIVISION IV NON-SELECT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Grant Parish Police Jury adopted the above resolution during regular session convened on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

CERTIFICATE

I, Jessie Pace, Parish Manager, of the Grant Parish Police Jury, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and exact copy of a RESOLUTION adopted by the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, in regular session convened on May 9, 2024 at which a quorum was present

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

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

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF GRANT

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE and seal of Office on this 9th day of May, 2024.

*(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Grant Parish Police Jury*

Mr. Douglas Brunson, Manager of Distribution Operations, Mr. Darrel Gillpatrick, Manager of Distribution Engineering, Mr. Jamey Alwell, Distribution Project Coordinator, Mr. Justin Fontenot, Manager of Right-of-Way & Real Estate, and Mr. Tripp Dungan, III, Government Services Representative IV of Cleco discussed and answered questions regarding the installation of new power lines and poles within the right-of-way of Airbase Road. They will meet with the Grant Parish Police Jury Roads Superintendent regarding placement. Relocating these poles and lines will assist the area with quicker reconnect times during outages caused by storms.

Mr. Jonathan Bolen, Rapides Area Planning Commission, addressed the jury requesting matching funds for the Rural Public Transportation Program in Grant Parish. For the program to continue once the pilot program expires, the parish would need to provide \$69,000.00 for local match funding. Between May 21, 2023 and March 31, 2024, a total of 901 transports were made for Grant Parish with 86% being from Colfax, 11% from Pollock, and 3% from Dry Prong. The jury will discuss the need for funds with the municipalities to determine whether the program can continue.

Motion by Mr. Mike Merrell, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to adopt Resolution 06-2024; Calling for a Special Election for the Renewal of Ad Valorem Tax for Fire District 3. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 06-2024

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), plans to adopt a resolution on May 9, 2024, calling a special election in the District on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION (MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a 15 mills tax (the "Tax") on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$106,260 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2026 and ending with the year 2035, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining fire protection facilities, equipment and rescue and emergency medical services in and for the District, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R.S. 11:82?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

*(s) Jessie Pace
Secretary-Treasurer*

*(s) Mark Ball
President*

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF GRANT

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Police Jury on May 9, 2024, approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Colfax, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Secretary-Treasurer

Motion by Mr. Johnny Jamison, seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to adopt Resolution 07-2024; Calling for a Special Election for the Renewal of Ad Valorem Tax for Fire District 6. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 07-2024

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire District No. Six of Grant Parish, Louisiana, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District No. Six of Grant Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Fire District No. Six of Grant Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), plans to adopt a resolution on May 13, 2024, calling a special election in the District on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Police Jury, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Police Jury to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Fire District No. Six of Grant Parish, Louisiana, this Police Jury hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)**

Shall Fire District No. Six of Grant Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 13.83 mills (the "Tax") on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$175,900 expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2026 and ending with the year 2035, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining the fire protection facilities of the District, including all necessary equipment, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R.S. 11:82?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Police Jury does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Secretary-Treasurer

(s) Mark Ball
President

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF GRANT

I, the undersigned Secretary-Treasurer of the Police Jury of the Parish of Grant, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Police Jury on May 9, 2024, approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. Three of Grant Parish, Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Colfax, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of May, 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Secretary-Treasurer

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to adopt Proclamation 03-2024; National Public Works Week. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION 03-2024

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of Grant Parish; and,

WHEREAS, our community relies heavily on Public Works in order to sustain our overall public health, quality of life and general well-being; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees. These individuals are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our Parish's water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in Grant Parish to gain knowledge and maintain ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and,

WHEREAS, the 63rd annual National Public Works theme "Connecting the World through Public Works" is a tribute to the Public Works employees who have made a commitment to our communities and our Parish

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Grant Parish Police Jury does hereby proclaim the week of May 19-24, 2024 as Public Works Week. The Grant Parish Police Jury calls upon the citizens, businesses and civic organizations to pay tribute to our Public Works employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to the health, safety and quality of life for Grant Parish.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Parish Manager - Sec/Treas.
Grant Parish Police Jury

(s) Mark Ball
Mark Ball
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 9th day of May, 2024.

GIVEN UNDR MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE and Seal of Office on this the 9th day of May 2024.

(s) Jessie Pace
Jessie Pace
Parish Manager -Sec/ Treas.

Mr. Roy Edwards discussed the need for security cameras at the Highway 500 dumpsite in Georgetown.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to add a building and security cameras to the Highway 500 dumpsite in Georgetown. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Arnold Murrell, seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to introduce Ordinance 01-2024; Amending the South Grant Sewer Use Ordinance. Motion carried.

2.1 Required Sewerage System Connection

D. Any person constructing a new residential house within the Parish and abutting on any street, alley, or easement in which there is located public sanitary sewer, or along or across which there is access to such a sewer, may, but is not required, to connect to such a sewer. Should such person elect to connect to such a sewer, he must do so in accord with applicable ordinances and regulations.

The jurors discussed the rates to be charged to the Creola Mobile Home Park for use of the South Grant Sewer.

Motion by Mr. Winston Roberts, seconded by Mr. Mike Merrell to charge the Creola Mobile Home Park \$36.40 per unit for sewer as originally discussed with the 2023 Sewer Committee and Pan American Engineers.

Yeas: Mr. Cephas Bowie Jr., Mr. Brandon DuBois, Mr. Arnold Murrell, Mr. Winston Roberts, Mr. Roy Edwards, and Mr. Mike Merrell

Nays: Mr. Johnny Jamison

Motion carried.

The jury discussed sending a letter of support for the Village of Creola to receive the Healthy Communities Grant.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Winston Roberts to send a letter of support for the Village of Creola to receive the Healthy Communities Grant. Motion carried.

The jury discussed the remaining \$100,000.000 of ARPA funds and how to allocate the amount before the end of the calendar year to stay in compliance with the ARPA regulations.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to amend the agenda to include a motion allocate \$12,500.00 to each district's Capital Improvement account from the remaining unallocated ARPA funds for the repair of parish roads. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Johnny Jamison to allocate \$12,500.00 to each district's Capital Improvement account from the remaining unallocated ARPA funds for the repair of parish roads. Motion carried.

The jury discussed increasing the hourly wage for the courthouse maintenance supervisor.

Motion by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr., seconded by Mr. Arnold Murrell to amend the agenda to correct the motion to increase the hourly rate of the courthouse maintenance supervisor by \$1.00 per hour to read motion to increase the hourly rate of the courthouse maintenance supervisor by \$2.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. to increase the hourly rate of the courthouse maintenance supervisor by \$2.00 per hour. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Mike Merrell requested that the inmate crew that cleans the dumpsites work Saturdays to assist with weekend trash issues. The Parish Manager will submit a request to the Sheriff.

Mr. Cephas Bowie, Jr. updated the jury regarding a CEA with the Levee Board. Once the CEA is drafted, it will be brought before the Levee Board and Police Jury for approval.

Mr. Roy Edwards requested a pay increase for a motor grader operator. The request will be placed on the Personnel Committee agenda for discussion and brought back to the jury for approval.

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

Motion by Mr. Brandon DuBois, seconded by Mr. Roy Edwards to adjourn. Motion carried.

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