



Washington Parish Tourism

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Louisiana's Toe of Adventures

Minutes of the Washington Parish Tourism Commission
Board of Commissioners
November 21, 2025 10:00am
Franklinton, LA

President Ella Bickham called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Edna Kennedy.
Roll call: (quorum present)

Commissioner Present	Commissioner Absent
Lorraine Hall	
Ella Bickham	
Krystal Peterson	
Tonya Sharp	
Cynthia August	
Edna Kennedy	
Kim Windham	
Others: Patty Alford, Director of Tourism	
Gagliano Group: Nick Gagliano EB Digital- Ellen Buford Chamber -Brenda Brumfield Mile Branch- Lee Davis Victoria Grant- Bogalusa resident/attorney	

The November Spotlight was *The Mile Branch Settlement*. Lee Davis, Chairman, presented details and information about the upcoming Pioneer Christmas, as well as future events and how to volunteer to help this local attraction.

Brenda Brumfield, representing Washington Chamber, next presented the Washington Parish Tourism Commission, a first-place blue ribbon, and the All-Around Judges Award for its fall display.

Cynthia August made a motion to dispense the reading of the September 2025 minutes due to the fact that minutes were emailed to members of the Commission prior to the meeting, second by Lorraine Hall, the motion carried. Cynthia August made a motion to accept and to approve the September 2025 minutes, the motion was seconded by Kim Windham. No public discussion, vote passed unanimously. Note there was no meeting held in October.

The financial statements were reviewed for September 2025.

Financial report for September 2025. The checking account balance \$ **95,147.73** according to the bank statement dated 09/30/2025

Summary of account from **09/01/2025-09/30/2025** follows:

Date	Credits	Debits	Amount
09/30/2025	22.59	Interests	
09/30/2025	2032.05	Occupancy Tax Collection	
09/30/2025	3097.82	Occupancy Tax Collection	
09/05/2025		MP Accounting	210.00
09/12/2025		Hancock Bank	108.38
09/17/2025		Washington Parish Government	2243.48
09/08/2025		Southeast Business Supply	44.64
09/03/2025		Patty Alford	320.20
09/04/2025		WST	88.26
09/17/2025		Town of Franklinton	75.60
09/22/2025		NECFIN	175.92

The September statement was approved with a motion from Edna Kennedy, a second from Cynthia August, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Review of the Financial report for October 2025

The checking account balance \$ **96,607.18** according to the bank statement dated 10/31/2025

Summary of account from **10/01/2025-10/31/2025** follows:

Date	Credits	Debits	Amount
10/28/2025	\$5453.37	Occupancy tax collection	
10/31/2025	544.61	Occupancy tax collection	
10/31/2025	23.87	Interest paid	
10/15/2025		Southeast Business	48.35
10/21/2025		Washington Parish Government	2374.17
10/01/2025		MP Accounting Solutions	105.00
10/06/2025		Patty Alford	97.26
10/21/2025		Louisiana Travel Association	1000.00
10/01/2025		State Farm	609.00
10/07/2025		WST	77.43
10/15/2025		Town of Franklinton	75.27
10/21/2025		NECFIN	175.92

The October financials were approved with a motion from Tonya Sharp, second from Cynthia August, the motion carried, no public discussion.

In old business, the first item on the agenda was the Occupancy Tax update -Director, Patty Alford gave an update from recent inquiries of the new Occupancy tax with the new collection that were effective July1, 2025. An email was read from Jamie Butts of the Washington Parish Sheriff's Tax Collection Department.

Next in new business, the Executive Director's Report was presented. A motion to accept the report came from Krystal Peterson, second by Lorraine Hall, no public discussion, the motion carried, no public discussion.

Edna Kennedy next made a motion to enter in a CEA with the State of Louisiana for \$25,000 for what would be labeled as Wyble Funds, as those were legislative allocations awarded by our State Representative John Wyble for 2025-2026. Tonya Sharp seconded the motion, the motion carried by all, no public input.

Cynthia August made a motion to accept the revised 25-26 budget to include the Wyble Funds, seconded by Edna Kennedy, the motion carried unanimously, no public input. Edna Kennedy brought attention to the salary of the Executive Director, and President Ella Bickham, noted that it would be discussed at the next Building/Budget Committee meeting upcoming to be presented at the December meeting.

Cynthia August made a motion to submit Commissioners Lorraine Hall, Ella Bickham, and Kim Windham to the Washington Parish Council for reappointment without hesitation, the motion seconded by Edna Kennedy, the motion was approved by all, no public input.

Nick Gagliano from the Gagliano Group presented a new advertising campaign that encompassed the Wyble Funds. Kim Windham made a motion to accept that proposal, a second from Krystal Peterson, the motion carried by all, no public input. A December 4, action news video would be recorded highlighting Christmas activities. May 3-9, 2026 was noted a State Tourism Week.

In sponsorship and advertisements, a motion came from Cynthia August, second by Edna Kennedy that the Tourism Office would only support parades in the form of parade throws. No monetary sponsorships would be made to Parish Parades. The motion was carried unanimously, no public input.

Krystal Peterson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tonya Sharp, no public discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2025 at 10:00 am, with Christmas luncheon to follow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ella Rose Bickham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ella Bickham President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. August". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cynthia August- Secretary/Treasurer

12/19/2025