

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY, PARISH OF OUACHITA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AT 5:37 P.M.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana met in a regular session in the Ouachita Parish Police Jury Administrative Building, Monroe, Louisiana on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5:37 p.m., and was duly convened by Mr. Shane Smiley, President.

Mr. Bratton gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>Members Present</u>	(5)
Toni Bacon	District A
Jimmy Tyson	District B
Larry Bratton	District C
Shane Smiley	District E
Lonnie Hudson	District F

<u>Members Absent</u>	(1)
Michael Thompson	District D

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The president asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Mr. Hudson asked to add Terrace Circle to the engineering report. Mr. Bratton asked to add an item regarding Magnolia Utilities. These items were received after the agenda was published and action was needed before the next meeting of the Jury. Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Bratton to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed without opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

The president asked for public comments concerning any matters on the approved agenda. No one appeared or came forth to speak during this time.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the regular Police Jury meeting including the committee meetings held on January 21, 2025 and the minutes of the special called meeting held on January 28, 2025 was offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon. Motion passed without opposition.

SERVICE AWARDS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Clack – 15 years
Todd Dumas – 30 years

GREEN OAKS

Rodney Orange – 10 years

VISITORS:

The president recognized Rob Cleveland with Grow NELA. Mr. Cleveland provided an update on Grow NELA's activities and the economic development sites available in the area.

Mr. Thompson entered the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

The following department heads presented monthly reports.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS: **Ms. Doretha Bennett**

Ms. Bennett stated that she did not have any items to add to her written report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: **Chief Bobby Moore**

Chief Moore stated that he did not have any items to add to his written report.

GREEN OAKS: **Mr. Tarquin Smart**

Mr. Smart stated that he did not have any items to add to his written report.

HOMELAND SECURITY: **Mr. Rodger McConnell**

Mr. McConnell stated that he did not have any items to add to his written report.

IT DEPARTMENT: **Mr. Robert Gaines**

Mr. Gaines stated that he did not have any items to add to his written report.

LIBRARY: **Ms. Nancy Green**

Ms. Green stated that she did not have any items to add to her written report.

MOSQUITO CONTROL: **Ms. Kellie Nestrud**

The president introduced Ms. Nestrud as the new director at Mosquito Control.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

The chair, Mr. Bratton, called the Personnel Committee meeting to order at 5:54 p.m.

The chair recognized Chief Moore, Fire Department. Chief Moore recommended approval of the following personnel actions.

Sick Leave

Name	Action	Effective Date
Bordelon, Evan	Sick Leave	12/27/2024
Mitcham, Austin	Sick Leave	01/02/2025
Stewart Jr., James	Termination of Sick Leave	01/07/2025

Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the sick leave as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Confirmations

Name	From	To	Effective Date
Borger, Nicholas	Prob. Driver	Perm. Driver	01/08/2025
Covington, Christian	Prob. Driver	Perm. Driver	01/08/2025
Grantham, Ronald	Prob. Driver	Perm. Driver	01/08/2025
Teague, Jett	Prob. Driver	Perm. Driver	01/08/2025
Bordelon, Evan	Prob. Firefighter	Perm. Firefighter	01/22/2025

Motion offered by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the confirmations as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Retirements

Name	Action	Effective Date
Robinson, Calvin	Retires as district chief	01/31/2025
Wells, John	Retires as deputy chief	01/31/2025

Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the retirements as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Reclassifications

Name	From	To	Effective Date
Hutton, David T.	Sub. Deputy Chief	Prob. Deputy Chief	02/03/2025
Bedoit, Heath	Sub. District Chief	Prob. District Chief	02/03/2025
Costa, Joseph	Sub. Captain	Prob. Captain	02/03/2025

Motion offered by Mrs. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the reclassifications as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Promotions

Name	From	To	Effective Date
Hutton, David T.	Sub. Deputy Chief	Prob. Deputy Chief	02/03/2025
Bedoit, Heath	Sub. District Chief	Prob. District Chief	02/03/2025
Honeycutt, Kevin	Perm. Captain	Prob. District Chief	02/03/2025
Costa, Joseph	Sub. Captain	Prob. Captain	02/03/2025
Givens, Harrison	Perm. Driver	Prob. Captain	02/03/2025
Romero, Chandler	Perm. Firefighter	Prob. Driver	02/03/2025
Hillman, William	Recruit	Prob. Firefighter	01/09/2025

Motion offered by Mrs. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve the promotions as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Substitute Appointments

Name	From	To	Effective Date
Gole, Robert L.	Perm. Driver	Sub. Captain	02/03/2025
Stone, Jeremy S.	Perm. Driver	Sub. Captain	02/03/2025
Elkins, Zachary	Perm. Firefighter	Sub. Driver	02/03/2025
Jacobs, Conner	Perm. Firefighter	Sub. Driver	02/03/2025

Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the substitute appointments as recommended. Motion passed without opposition.

Chief Moore requested approval of the non-accountable cell phone agreement for the following employees: Jamar Bowie, Zachary Harvey, Health Hopfinger, David Todd Hutton, Thomas M. Jackson, John D. Jones, Carl T. Knighten, Michael Lowe, Denise McKinney, Jason McMillon, Jimmy Mobley, Robert Moore, Matecki Nelson and William C. Turnbow. Motion offered by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the non-accountable cell phone agreement. Motion passed without opposition.

Chief Moore requested approval to advertise the purchase of firefighter helmets for bids. Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve advertising the purchase for bids. Motion passed without opposition.

Chief Moore requested approval for four employees to travel to Fargo, ND to inspect a used ladder truck. Chief Moore discussed the possible acquisition of a ladder truck. Motion offered by Mrs. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Hudson to approve the travel request. Motion passed without opposition.

Chief Moore requested approval for Jason McMillon and Mike Jackson to attend the FDIC conference on April 7-12, 2025. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the travel request. Motion passed without opposition.

The chair recognized Mr. Smart, Green Oaks. Mr. Smart requested to hire Jamariyea Wilson, Ayala Wade, Raven Harper, Angel Williams and Felicia Curlin as Juvenile Detention Officer II part-time. Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the new hires as requested. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Smart requested to hire Sabien Winston and Rosalyn Harris as Juvenile Detention Officer II full-time. Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the new hires as requested. Motion passed without opposition.

The chair recognized Mr. Clack, Public Works. Mr. Clack requested to hire Ronald Williams as a general laborer. Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Smiley to hire Ronald Williams. Motion passed without opposition.

There being no further business to come before this committee, a motion to adjourn and enter into the Public Works Committee meeting was offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mrs. Bacon. Motion passed without opposition.

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

The chair, Mr. Hudson, called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

The chair recognized Mr. Clack, Assistant Director. Mr. Clack requested approval to purchase two tractors with extended warranties off the state contract. Motion offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the purchase. Motion passed without opposition.

The chair recognized Mr. Crosby, Engineer. Mr. Crosby requested approval to advertise Mohawk Drive for bids. This project will be funded with \$400,000.00 from Public Works and \$125,000.00 from the west side sales tax fund. Motion offered by Mrs. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Smiley to approve Lazenby & Associates to advertise the project for bids. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Crosby spoke regarding Terrace Circle/Reddix Lane drainage and requested approval to obtain quotes or to advertise the project for bids. Mr. Crosby also requested approval to award the project if quotes were under \$200,000.00. This project will be funded with \$75,000.00 from the east side sales tax fund and \$125,000.00 from Public Works. Motion offered by Mr. Bratton, seconded by Mr. Smiley to authorize Lazenby & Associates to obtain quotes and award the project as requested. Motion passed without opposition.

There being no other business to come before this committee at this time a motion to adjourn and reconvene the regular meeting was offered by Mr. Smiley, seconded by Mr. Bratton. Motion passed without opposition.

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The president reconvened the regular Police Jury meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mr. Bratton to ratify and adopt all actions taken in the committee meetings. Motion passed without opposition.

MOTIONS * ORDINANCES * RESOLUTIONS:

The president recognized Mrs. Bacon.

MRS. TONI BACON, DISTRICT A:

Mrs. Bacon spoke regarding the bid results for the courtroom benches and stated that the lowest conforming bid was from Imperial Woodworks for \$111,754.07. Motion offered by Mrs. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Thompson to accept the bid from Imperial Woodworks. Motion passed without opposition.

Mrs. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Bratton offered the following resolution for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-05

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JORDAN GUILLOT TO THE MONROE-WEST MONROE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, TO SERVE FOR A TERM OF

THREE (3) YEARS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AND ENDING FEBRUARY 3, 2028; AND FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the present term for Jordan Guillot as a commissioner for the Monroe-West Monroe Convention & Visitors Bureau has expired;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury in legal and regular session that Jordan Guillot be and hereby is reappointed to the Monroe-West Monroe Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Commissioners, said term to be for a period of three (3) years beginning February 3, 2025 and ending February 3, 2028.

The resolution was adopted on the 3rd day of February 2025.

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The president recognized Mr. Tyson.

MR. JIMMY TYSON, DISTRICT B:

Mr. Tyson introduced the following ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 9509

AN ORDINANCE REVOKING A RIGHT-OF-WAY RUNNING NORTHERLY FROM VFW ROAD A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 280' TO CHENIERE LAKE; AND, FURTHER PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the plat of Camp Ruben Subdivision, of record in Plat Book 7 Page 7 of the Conveyance Records of Ouachita Parish, dedicated to the Ouachita Parish Police Jury the right-of-way for a road that is shown on said plat as "Pucket Lake Ave." but has for many years been known as "VFW Road.";

WHEREAS, the dedicated right-of-way described above – and the VFW Road located therein – generally runs north/south, but turns to the east immediately south of Lot 1 of Camp Ruben Subdivision;

WHEREAS, the plat of Camp Ruben Subdivision identified above indicates an extension of said right-of-way that continues to run north a distance of 280' to Cheniere Lake, said extension appearing to be 60' in width with its centerline being the boundary between Lots 3 and 2 of Sec. 13, T17N R2E and with the eastern boundary of said extension being the west line of Lot 1 of Camp Ruben Subdivision; and,

WHEREAS, no public road exists in the extended 280' right-of-way running from VFW Road to Cheniere Lake, and said right-of-way serves no public purpose that warrants the risk of illegal dumping an unauthorized access to adjoining properties that has resulted from the preservation of this apparent right-of-way;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury at a Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2025, that the above-described road right-of-way extending north of VFW Road a distance of 280' to Cheniere Lake -- said right-of-way being located immediately west of the western line of Lot 1 of Camp Ruben Subdivision – be, and is hereby, revoked.

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The president recognized Mr. Bratton.

MR. LARRY BRATTON, DISTRICT C:

Motion offered by Mr. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to authorize Mr. Crosby to prepare a cost estimate for the Old Darbonne Road and Restful Homes Road erosion and drainage project. Motion passed without opposition.

Motion offered by Mr. Bratton, seconded by Mr. Smiley to authorize Mr. Mitchell to communicate with the Public Service Commission regarding the increase in sewerage rates in River Styx by Magnolia Utilities. Motion passed without opposition.

The president recognized Mr. Thompson.

MR. MICHAEL THOMPSON, DISTRICT D:

Mr. Thompson asked for an update on Millhaven Estates drainage. Mr. Crosby stated that his office has started the survey for the project.

Mr. Thompson asked for an update on the drainage canal off Burg Jones Lane. Mr. Crosby stated that he has contacted a contractor to remove a tree that is blocking the east side of the drainage canal. Mr. Crosby stated that the estimated cost is \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00. This will be funded from the general fund. Motion offered by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hudson to authorize Bentz Construction to remove the tree. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Thompson asked for an update on the High Country Estates canal ditch. Mr. Crosby stated there has been bank erosion in several places, but all have been within the drainage servitude.

Mr. Thompson spoke regarding Rowland Road and asked the Public Works department to fill in the potholes east of Highway 594.

Mr. Thompson spoke regarding drainage issues in Town East. Mr. Crosby stated that the Public Works department can look to see if there is a new obstruction causing the drainage issues.

MR. SHANE SMILEY, DISTRICT E:

Mr. Smiley stated that he did not have any items.

The president recognized Mr. Hudson.

MR. LONNIE HUDSON, DISTRICT F:

Mr. Hudson stated that he did not have any items.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The president recognized Mrs. Hartt. Mrs. Hartt stated that she did not have any items.

The president recognized Chief Moore. Chief Moore stated that he did not have any items.

The president recognized Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell stated that he did not have any items.

The president recognized Mr. Clack. Mr. Clack stated that he did not have any items.

BEER AND WHISKEY APPLICATIONS:

Mr. Mitchell spoke regarding the following beer and whiskey application and recommended approval. Motion offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon to approve the application. Motion passed without opposition.

DERON, BLAKE

**MANN'S GROCERY, 1964 HARMON JOHNSON
ROAD, MONROE, LA 71202, RETAIL BEER
"CLASS B", RETAIL LIQUOR "CLASS D", 2025
NEW**

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no other business to come before the Jury, a motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Bacon. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Shane Smiley, President

Karen Cupit, Recording Secretary