

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
JULY 10, 2023**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Gramercy Town Hall.

Mayor Bourgeois called the meeting to order, and asked the Clerk to call roll:

There were present: Mayor Steven Bourgeois, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Percy Williams

There were absent: Alderman Darren Brack

There were also present: Police Chief Brent Dicharry, Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments made on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS - None

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois reported that the DEQ inspection by the sewer pond went well except for trees being dumped by the old pond. We will have to bring forward a response once the report is received from DEQ. Phase II of the street sign project has been completed and signs have been ordered. There will be a meeting with Waste Management representatives about communication lines being struck by garbage trucks; representatives from the utility companies will also participate in the meeting. He has received calls about stray dogs; he will reach out to the Police Department about repeat offenders. Our maintenance department has responded to several water leaks over the past week. We have applied for a DRA grant for police units and maintenance trucks. Sewer effluent chlorine building repairs will begin on Tuesday and the chlorine totalizer needs to be replaced.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Mr. Brent Dicharry, Chief of Police, stated he has spoken with the owner of the Airbnb on N Pine Street, and he has stopped the rentals at this time.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - none

REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Gerhold turned in his monthly report. He reported that eight vehicles have been removed. He will send out another round of certified letters in the near future. He received several miscellaneous complaints, and he has spoken to property owners about these complaints.

REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT - There is no report for this month.

2. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Commission Member Alex Gerhold reported that the commission recommends updating the Town's Animal ordinance to address stray cats. The commission would like to appoint a vice-chairman in the event of an emergency and appoint a secretary.

GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. If anyone has any questions, please contact him.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 754-2023 AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 9.73 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2023 ON ALL OF THE TAXABLE PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA FOR THE GENERAL SUPPORT AND OPERATIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS OF SAID TOWN AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND REDEMPTION OF BONDS FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FUND THE POLICE CHIEF RETIREMENT WITH MUNICIPAL POLICE EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, we are providing information to the Municipal Employees Retirement System that Brent Dicharry has served as Gramercy Police Chief since January 1, 2007 until present;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy has been made aware that Chief Dicharry was eligible to participate in the retirement program effective January 1, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy's portion of the funding is \$114,000.00 and Chief Dicharry's portion of the funding is \$46,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Gramercy Board of Aldermen do hereby give Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois permission to fund the town's portion of Police Chief Dicharry's retirement from the effective date of January 1, 2007 in the amount of \$114,000.00 to be paid in equal installments for four years.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Louque, and resulted in the following vote:

YEAS:	Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Brack
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 10th of July, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-2023

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 43:141 requires that an official journal for the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana be selected at the beginning of every fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois, has recommended that appointment of the NEWS EXAMINER, Lutchter, Louisiana, to be the official journal of the Town of Gramercy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that the NEWS EXAMINER, Lutchter, Louisiana, is hereby appointed the official journal of the Town of Gramercy, for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, as recommended by Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Williams. A vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

YEAS:	Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Brack
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 10th day of June, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF TOWN OF GRAMERCY TO SIGN A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH TETRA TECH FOR DEBRIS MONITORING

WHEREAS, St. James Parish Government, Town of Gramercy and Town of Lutchter currently has a contract with Tetra Tech for debris monitoring, and;

WHEREAS, the current contract expires on July 18, 2023 and has a one (1) year renewal option; and,

WHEREAS, Town of Gramercy government wishes to execute that renewal option: and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Alderman of the Town of Gramercy, that the contract be entered in accordance with the terms and conditions of said contract and that Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois, is hereby authorized and empowered, to sign the necessary contracts and/or documents to provide for continued debris monitoring services.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Williams, and resulted in the following vote:

YEAS:	Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Brack
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 10th day of June, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF TOWN OF GRAMERCY TO SIGN A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH DRC EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL

WHEREAS, St. James Parish Government, Town of Gramercy and Town of Litcher currently has a contract with DRC Emergency Services for debris removal, and;

WHEREAS, the current contract expires on August 18, 2021 and has a one (1) year renewal option; and,

WHEREAS, Town of Gramercy government wishes to execute that renewal option: and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, that the contract be entered in accordance with the terms and conditions of said contract and that Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois, is hereby authorized and empowered, to sign the necessary contracts and/or documents to provide for continued debris removal services.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno, and resulted in the following vote:

YEAS:	Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Brack
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 10th day of July, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 29-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN GRANT AGREEMENT WITH DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY GRANT LA-54980

WHEREAS, the Delta Regional Authority (hereinafter "DRA") was created by Congress by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, as amended, as a federal/state partnership now comprised of 252 counties and parishes within the eight states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee in order to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnerships that will have a positive impact on the Delta Region's economy;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, acting by and through its Board of Aldermen proposes to apply for a grant with DRA for the Fiscal Year 2024 federal grant program cycle;

WHEREAS, DRA requires that a person be designated, appointed, and given the authority to perform certain duties and administration of said grant for and on behalf of the Grantee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, as follows:

THAT, the Mayor, Steven J. Bourgeois, be and is hereby designated and appointed to perform on behalf of the Town of Gramercy and has the authority to make those acts and assume any and all duties in dealing with the grant with DRA for the Fiscal Year 2024 federal funding cycle;

THAT, the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and submit any and all documents including, but not limited to, applications, grant closing documents, request for funds, status reports, etc. to DRA for the Fiscal Year 2024 federal funding cycle;

THAT, the Grantee agrees to provide additional funds in a minimum amount of \$224,575.00 to said award; and

THAT, in the event of an administrative change, the new Mayor shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

A being made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins and a vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

YEAS :	Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Brack
ABSENT:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 10th day of July, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved and to adopt the minutes from the Special Meeting dated April 10, 2023 and the Regular Meeting dated April 10, 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Bourgeois asked for approval of bills. A motion was moved by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Louque inquired about searching for a grant to help with expense of automated meters. There are two mobile homes on Mobile Lane that have been condemned and the property owner would like to meet with the mayor and aldermen to discuss further action. He has inspected the recent curbing repairs and they look good.

Alderman Williams reported the sidewalk near the post office needs repair. Central Canal behind Belinda Street area needs to be cut. On S. Hickory Street half of the street has culverts for draining and he is asking, if possible, to have the rest of the open ditches have culverts installed. The hot water canal needs cutting. Tall grass needs cutting on E. First Street. There are several streetlights out in Golden Grove subdivision. CIO Hall has tall grass and asked the mayor to send a letter to owners.

Alderman Wiggins stated has received complaints about tall grass and debris on S Airline and N. Airline, CIO Hall included.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno reported that at this month's Planning Commission meeting the board discussed appointing a vice-chairman and secretary. Chairman Barry LeBlanc advised the Commission of his retirement at year end. There are several properties with tall grass that need notification. He asked the mayor if we have an updated blighted property listing. He spoke again of the lack of house numbers on homes in town. Has there been a hurricane preparation meeting that discussed what worked well or did not during Hurricane Ida so that improvements can be made? He has noticed that amount of trash/litter on LA Hwy 3125 and has asked the Parish for support in helping clean the highway.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchoux had no report for this month.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Louque and approved to adjourn at 6:52 pm.

/s/ Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk