

# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN TOWN OF GRAMERCY FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Gramercy Town Hall.

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

There were present: Alderman Darren Brack, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Barbara Woods

There were absent: Mayor Steven Nosacka

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were no public comments on the agenda.

## **PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS**

Mayor Nosacka presented Ms. Senneca Boudreaux with a proclamation honoring her as the first woman and first African American to be appointed as President of the Ponchartrain Levee District and her commitment and dedication to our community.

Cathy and Robbie Bland spoke on the aesthetic of Main Street and LA 3125. While there are still repairs needed due to Hurricane Ida, the businesses are looking rundown and in need of a face lift. Mrs. Bland suggested a beautification committee be formed to help with communicating with businesses to make improvements.

Shelly Warren, Connecting at the Crossroads, along with Joyce Jacques and Sandra Johnson, spoke on honoring Black History Month and recognizing African Americans who have made contributions to our community.

Leroy St. Pierre and Jesse Murphy of Waste Pro USA spoke to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen about the variety of residential and commercial waste services they provide to communities. If anyone had any questions, Mayor Nosacka has their contact information, and they would be happy to answer your questions.

Josh Manning with South Central Planning and Development Commission reported the revised redistricting alternatives are now available for review. The town must adopt an alternative by July 2022.

Mr. Rodney Combs, Postlethwaite and Netterville, Certified Public Accountants, Baton Rouge, Louisiana presented the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Combs reported that the Town of Gramercy is in good financial standing, and the financial reflects this.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Nosacka stated that re-districting alternatives have been revised and now available for review. Final adoption of the re-districting ordinance will be in April or May. Rostan Solutions has drafted and will assist us in preparing the RFP for repairs to Town buildings, the RFP is needed for FEMA reimbursement. The water plant high service pump has been replaced and we are still waiting for pump #2 which is scheduled to arrive in March. State Department of Health and Hospitals conducted its annual inspection of our water plant, and we may be required to do a new tracer study. The North ground storage tank is a project we hope to do later this calendar year. The two sewer lift station pumps at 6<sup>th</sup> and N Pine failed within days of each other, requiring daily pumping by a contractor for about a week. We were able to find one pump and it was installed last week and the other is in shop for repair; both pumps were under warranty. The new N. Airline sewer pumps were able to handle the last rain event which was about 4" of rain.

### **2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT**

Mayor Nosacka reported that he is waiting on the contractor's scheduling which they advised should be in March. He provided an updated Capital plan for review, which proposes the investment of ARPA and Infrastructure Fund money.

He met with the engineers concerning the S. Millet Avenue project. Mayor Nosacka requested a motion to move forward with revised request for quotes, allowing for bidders to separately quote for asphalt and/or drainage work. A motion was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins, and the motion passed unanimously.

St. James Parish has provided updated information on the cost of concrete matting for Central Canal. Mayor Nosacka requested a motion to move forward with bid requests. A motion was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Woods, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meyer Engineering has completed a draft of RFP for Automatic-read water meter pilot project for N Airline Avenue and Deroche Mobile Home Park. Mayor Nosacka requested a motion to move forward and request proposals for this project. A motion was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Brack, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS**

### **A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Dicharry stated the Police Department is aware of reports that someone is going into resident's yards, and he is in contact with persons of interest. He recommends waiving the Open Container Ordinance for the Krewe of MAC parade on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 12 pm to 4:00pm.

### **B. REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

There was no report for this month.

### **C. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mayor Nosacka reported that he is interested in hiring a part-time Code Enforcement Officer and he will bring forth more information at a later date. Several abandoned cars have been removed and he will schedule the demolition on E First Street in the coming week.

Alderman Wiggin inquired about two abandoned structures on S. Airline Avenue and when can the demolition process begin. Mayor Nosacka asked for a motion to move forward with condemnation process on the S. Airline Avenue structures. A motion was made by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Brack, and passed unanimously.

## **3. REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT**

District 1 Parish Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. had no report for this month

## **4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **A. PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission Barry LeBlanc reported that the Commission reviewed an application for a renovated 2006 mobile home variance. They have deferred until further information is provided on the renovations.

### **B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT**

Mr. Craig Calcagno presented his monthly report. If anyone has questions, please contact him.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 04-2022**

#### **A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2022 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, the history of African Americans here in the Town of Gramercy and in our entire nation reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in the struggle to equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people; and,

WHEREAS, our African American residents have participated in every American effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights; and,

WHEREAS, all our citizens can take every opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people, to develop pride in their own identity and heritage, and to respect and accept the identity and heritage of others;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, do hereby recognize February 2022 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in our TOWN OF GRAMERCY, and we call our residents to this observance.

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

YEAS:	Brack, Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Woods
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None

ABSTAIN: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-2022**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT 1 TO TASK ORDER 01 FROM ROSTAN SOLUTIONS LLC FOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES RELATED TO HURRICANE IDA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY CONSULTING SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gramercy will require a qualified grant and program management firm to assist with and manage federal and state grant funding programs and the reporting requirements, related to the Town's recovery from Hurricane Ida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gramercy has issued a Request for Proposals for these services and on November 8, 2021 the Board of Aldermen approved the proposal from Rostan Solutions, LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, Rostan Solutions has proposed Amendment 1 to Task Order 01, which provides for increased cost for the program management services provided by Rostan Solutions, which is due to the increase in total recovery services costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA, THAT:**

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby approves Amendment 1 to Task Order 01 to Rostan Solutions, LLC to perform program management services related to Hurricane Ida Public Assistance and Recovery Consulting Services.

SECTION 2. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute Amendment 1 to Task Order 01 with Rostan Solutions, LLC and to make payment upon satisfactory execution of the Work.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-2022**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THIRD STREET / DUDLEY PUMP STATION FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, is commencing a project to replace and increase the capacity of the wastewater force main system at the Third Street / Dudley Pump Station; and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 12, 2021, the Board of Aldermen selected Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation to provide engineering services projects to be funded with the proceeds of the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") grant;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA, THAT:**

SECTION 1. The engineering firm of Professional Engineering Services Corporation, Inc. ("PEC"), 7600 Innovation Park Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820 is hereby approved and appointed to provide engineering services in support of this wastewater force main replacement project.

SECTION 2. The Mayor is hereby empowered and authorized to sign all documents in connection with the contract with PEC.

SECTION 3. Of the alternatives identified by PEC, the Option C is hereby approved, estimated total project cost of \$450,000, with funding anticipated from State Capital Outlay (\$250,000) and the remainder from the ARPA grant received in 2021.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Louque and resulted in the following vote:

A vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-2022**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PARTICIPATION BY THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY IN THE FEMA-FUNDED PRIVATE PROPERTY DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gramercy was significantly impacted by high winds created by Hurricane Ida's passage through St. James Parish on August 29, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Ida resulted in a large amount of storm damage and debris across public and private property throughout the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of Hurricane Ida, including the clearing and removing of storm-generated debris, exceeded the ability of the Town to address these issues on its own; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana and the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") have made available certain categories of federal funding to assist the Town in its recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has requested that FEMA authorize the extraordinary measures of allowing FEMA-funded and Town-directed Private Property Debris Removal [PPDR] to address the Public Interest in removing debris from private property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town now brings this Resolution recognizing the local cost share and its intent to meet such cost share on behalf of the private property owners where PPDR occurs on their property in compliance with all federal, state, and local statutes, codes, regulations, and ordinances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA, THAT:**

SECTION 1. Participation in the FEMA-funded PPDR program is hereby approved.

SECTION 2. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute any required commitments for participation in the PPDR program.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-2022**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEEK AND RECEIVE RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN AUTOMATED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gramercy seeks to move forward with the first phase of an Automated Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") system which allow for the electronic reading of utility meters for a portion of the Town.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA THAT:**

SECTION 1. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to advertise and receive proposals from qualified contractors for the replacement of existing water meters with an AMI system, to include new meters and associated electronics and communications equipment infrastructure and software.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-2022**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PARADE PERMIT  
FOR THE KREWE OF M.A.C. MARDI GRAS PARADE**

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Gramercy, Section 50-40 through 50-49 provides for the issuance of Parade Permits; and

WHEREAS, the Krewe of M.A.C. requests that a Parade Permit be issued for their use in holding a Parade traveling exclusively on Louisiana Highway 641 on Mardi Gras Day, March 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA THAT:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby approve the Permit Application for the Krewe of M.A.C. and Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to sign and issue this Permit Application.

SECTION 2. As specified in Section 50-49, the Town reserves the authority to revoke this Parade Permit, at any time up to and including the Parade start time, if the violation of any standard for the issuance of the Permit occurs.

SECTION 3. This approval and issuance are conditioned on the compliance by Krewe of M.A.C. with all of the requirements of the applicable Town Ordinances, and providing the required parade bond, indemnification agreements and driver's license and vehicle insurance coverage of each vehicle driver.

A motion to adopt the above resolution with added Section 3 amendment was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Woods, and resulted in the following vote:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-2022**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE I, SECTION 6-1 OPEN CONTAINERS**

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holiday of Mardi Gras on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

WHEREAS, Police Chief Brent Dicharry, recommends the suspension of Town of Ordinances Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-1 Open Container

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1: The Mayor and Board of Alderman accept the recommendation of Police Chief Brent Dicharry to suspend Chapter 6 Article 1 Section 6-1 (Open Containers) of the Town of Gramercy Code of ordinances and shall be suspended from 12:00 pm until 04:00 pm on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

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

YEAS:	Bourgeois, Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, woods
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno to enter into Executive Session to discuss Rise St. James litigation and passed unanimously. Board resumed public meeting at 8:08 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Woods and approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, and to adopt the minutes as published.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

It was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

#### **ALDERMEN'S REPORT**

Alderman Brack had no report for this month.

Alderman Louque asked Mayor Nosacka when we would resume building up the levee on the north end of N. Airline Avenue. Mayor Nosacka stated that project will resume soon.

Alderman Woods stated that Ms. Sandra Bell wanted to thank all emergency responders for their work on her house fire. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Bland for their attendance at tonight's meeting and she would also like to see improvements to Main Street. She thanked the mayor the Black History Month banners on Main Street.

Alderman Wiggins stated that about 80% of the town's street lights have been repaired since Hurricane Ida and he thanked the Entergy workers for their hard work. He has received complaints about Atlantic Alumina emitting red dust. A dumpster has been delivered by the Bell house for demolition of remains after house fire.

Alderman Calcagno turned in his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno reported seeing hurricane debris on the side of the road, he asked, if possible, to send a reminder that property owner or contractor is responsible for debris removal. There are several town trucks that need town identification emblems and flashing light equipment. He spoke with the mayor concerning several issues on Rose Street especially the potholes and roadside drop-offs that are deep.

#### **TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mr. Fauchaux stated that servitudes have been signed for the levee upgrade at end of N. Airline Avenue. He continues to follow the Rise St. James lawsuit and provides any information the Board may need. The hold harmless agreement for the Mardi Gras parade have been prepared.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins , second by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to adjourn at 8:34 pm pm.

/s/Mayor Steven T Nosacka

Attest: /s/Amy St Pierre, Clerk