

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR  
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF GRAMERCY  
MAY 8, 2023**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 748-2023** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, APPENDIX A – ZONING, ARTICLE 19 R-2 RESIDENCE DISTRICT, SECTION 19.2 USES PERMITTED AND ARTICLE M – INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, SECTION 22-2 USES PERMITTED

No public comments received on Ordinance No. 748-2023

**ORDINANCE NO. 749-2023** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, APPENDIX A – ZONING, ARTICLE 17 DEFINITIONS, SECTION 17.16 HOME OCCUPATIONS(h)

No public comments received on Ordinance No. 749-2023

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, May 8, 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 Darren Brack, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Percy Williams

There were absent: None

There were also present: Police Chief Brent Dicharry, Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr., Accountant Doreen Lang

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

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Andrew Cola, 139 S Mulberry Street, spoke of a neighbor that installed a fence that was too close to his original fence and the grass cannot be mowed. He is asking if the town can have the neighbor tear down the fence and move it two feet so grass can be mowed. He complained of a neighbor who has a dog and they are not cleaning up the yard and there is an odor and flies; he cannot be in his back yard because of this problem.

**REPORTS**

**1. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bourgeois stated that he contacted Premier Services, LLC from Walker to begin street light repairs on N. Pine Street, N. Magnolia Street, and W. Sixth Street. Scott Blank has been hired as our new Maintenance Manager. A sidewalk repair on N. Pine Street turned into a 6" water main repair. Tony Arikol with PEC, recommended Grady Crawford Construction Co. Inc., for the Dudley Pump Force Main Relocation Project. Mr. Arikol will also seek three quotes for the N. Airline Sewer Pump improvements project.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS**

**A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE**

Mr. Brent Dicharry, Chief of Police, reported that they were cleaning up the Police Department and thankful for the extra space to work on their vehicles. Lt. Ordeneaux was involved in an accident while responding to a call. He suffered a minor shoulder injury and the vehicle is repairable. Alderman Brack asked if we could move the speed detecting machine to different locations? Chief Dicharry stated he will move the machine to different locations throughout town.

**REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** – There is no report for this month.

## **B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Code Enforcement Officer Alex Gerhold turned in his monthly report. He added page 6 to reflect miscellaneous code violations that he has addressed such as tall grass and debris in yards. Alderman Brack reported a vehicle parked by Gramercy Park that looked abandoned.

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

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

### **A. PLANNING COMMISSION**

Commission member Alex Gerhold reported that Mr. Barry LeBlanc had surgery and will be unavailable while recovering. If the Mayor or Aldermen had any questions, please contact himself and he will try to answer any questions. Alderman Brack turned in drawings for a Town pavilion on Main Street for review.

### **GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT**

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

## **ORDINANCES – FINAL ACTION**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 748-2023**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, APPENDIX A – ZONING, ARTICLE 19 R-2 RESIDENCE DISTRICT, SECTION 19.2 USES PERMITTED AND ARTICLE M – INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, SECTION 22-2 USES PERMITTED**

BE IT ORDAINED, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, hereby amends the Town of Gramercy, Code of Ordinances, Appendix A – Zoning, Article 19 R-2 Residence District, Section 19.2 Uses Permitted to delete the following permitted uses:

Section 19-2 Uses Permitted

A building or land shall be used only for the following purposes:

- (2) Three and four-family dwellings and multiple-family dwellings
- (6) Boarding and Lodging Houses

BE IT ORDAINED, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, hereby amends the Town of Gramercy, Code of Ordinances, Appendix A – Zoning, Article M - Industrial District, Section 22.2 Uses Permitted to delete the following permitted uses:

Section 22-2 Uses Permitted

- (a) Generally. The following uses shall be permitted:
  - (1) Any use permitted in R-2 Residence Districts

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, April 10, 2023, notice of a public hearing having been published on April 20, 2023, said public hearing been held on May 8, 2023, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Brack, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 749-2023**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, APPENDIX A – ZONING, ARTICLE 17 DEFINITIONS, SECTION 17.16 HOME OCCUPATIONS(h)**

BE IT ORDAINED, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, hereby amends the Town of Gramercy, Code of Ordinances, Appendix A – Zoning, Article 17 Definitions, Section 17.16 Home Occupations (h) to include the following:

Section 17.16 Home Occupations

(h) Short term rental agreements not less than 30 days per stay

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, April 10, 2023, notice of a public hearing having been published on April 20, 2023, said public hearing been held on May 8, 2023, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS DISAPPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION OF TWO CLASS V TEST INJECTION WELLS BY AIR PRODUCTS IN THE LAKE MAUREPAS BOTTOM. THESE TEST WELLS BY AIR PRODUCTS ARE PART OF THE FIRST STEP TO DETERMINE IF THE AREA UNDER LAKE MAUREPAS IS SUITABLE FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE OF VAST QUANTITIES OF CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) THOUSANDS OF FEET BENEATH THE LAKE. THE TOWN COUNCIL IS OPPOSED TO THE LOCATION OF THIS PROJECT, AND THIS RESOLUTION IS A METHOD TO VOICE OUR OPPOSITION AND CONCERNS ON THIS PROJECT. WE AS A TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT THE LIVINGSTON PARISH REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS WHO ARE WORKING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITIZENS CONCERNING POSSIBLE LEGISLATION CONCERNING SEQUESTRATION AS IT RELATES TO LAKE MAUREPAS AND THE SURROUNDING CYPRESS/TUPELO SWAMP AREA**

WHEREAS, the Coastal restoration Protection Agency (CPRA) is spending millions of state and federal funds to restore the Maurepas Swamp,

WHEREAS, Air Products would have to build a pipeline through the Cypress/Tupelo swamp and in several adjacent parishes to connect their industrial site in Ascension Parish to Lake Maurepas,

WHEREAS, those Cypress/Tupelo swamp lands are our hurricane and storm surge buffer, as seen from recent storms,

WHEREAS, Lake Maurepas is a recreational and commercial fishery that many residents and businesses rely on,

WHEREAS, there are alternative sites that could be considered, such as depleted oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico,

WHEREAS, Lake Pontchartrain has a moratorium on all new oil and gas drilling. In 2000, the Mineral Board stated that it considered the lake to be a sensitive location and extended the moratorium indefinitely. Lake Maurepas should have the same protection against any type of industrial activity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Gramercy Board of Aldermen express disapproval of the proposed construction of the two Class V test injection wells and multiple Class VI Carbon Dioxide injection wells by Air Products in the Lake Maurepas bottom. The Town of Gramercy Board of Alderman calls for a moratorium to be approved against any drilling in Lake Maurepas.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Williams.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

## **ALDERMEN'S REPORT**

Alderman Brack had his questions answered during the meeting.

Alderman Louque had his questions answered during the meeting.

Alderman Williams reported a lot of traffic on Rose Street and asked the Police Department to patrol more often in that area. He asked if Mr. Faucheux could contact LSR concerning the level of noise from the refinery.

Alderman Wiggins reported high grass letters need to be sent to property owners on S. Plum Street, S. Millet Street, and S. Sycamore Street. He asked if someone could contact DOTD to report Main Street red light was not set correctly.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported there is a lack of house numbers in the town. Hurricane season will begin soon and would like to remind residents to clean up their property, check their generators and stock up on supplies that may be needed.

## **TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mr. Faucheux stated it was good to be back. The Attorney General opinion is favorable to the Town pursuing the landowner and owner of structure for costs of demolition. He has continued conversation with Mr. Randy Anny concerning the annexation of area behind Sandwich World.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Brack and approved to adjourn at 6:47 pm.

/s/ Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor  
Attest: /s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk