

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

PUBLIC HEARING:

Notice Posted: 07/09/19 – 09/09/19 Public Hearing Published: 07/18/19 & 07/25/19

A public hearing will be held as follows:

Date: September 9, 2019 Time: 7:00 p.m. Place: Council Chambers at 120 N. Montz Street

ORDINANCE NO. 721-19 AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 12.82 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2019 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

No oral or written comments were received on the above named ordinance. Mayor Nosacka closed the public hearing and continued with regular order of business.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, September 9, 2019, at 7:02 p.m. at the Gramercy Town Hall.

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

There were present: Mayor Steven Nosacka, Alderman Darren Brack, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins

There were absent: Alderman Betty Coleman

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were received on agenda items

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

1. Mr. Brandon Keller addressed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen as a candidate for St. James Parish President.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka stated that our Disinfection By-products results are in from DHH and we are within the guidelines. The tri-annual lead and copper samples have been sent to the state and we are waiting on the results. We will have the Town's sexual harassment training in the fall. CN Railroad crossing at S. Millet has finished with the repairs and will soon be finished with cleaning up the area. The Town maintenance crew is currently cleaning Ferrera Canal between 2nd Street and 6th Street and the Parish will begin cleaning Central Canal. The Ragas building demolition is nearly complete; the contractor needs to finish with last load of trash and final clean up. The August 24th Parish Trash Bash was successful. We will schedule the training on our Work Order Management System for next week and go live shortly after training. The mayor thanked LSR for their continued efforts with odor control on the water pond.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECTS

All the utilities lines have been moved near E.Railroad Avenue and a resolution will be presented later for the Mayor to enter into contract with Meyer Engineering, Ltd to get the relocation project completed. Mr. Tony Arikol with PEC presented an update on the Dudley Pump Station rehabilitation project; Gottfried Contracting has completed about 70% of the work and expects the job to be finished by October 31, 2019.

3. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief Brent Dicharry stated that Officer Gerhold met with Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Boudreaux to explain the abandoned vehicle tagging/towing process. Mr. Boudreaux will identify and document any vehicles he tags and send this information to the Police Department so the vehicle can be towed if necessary. There were three overdose incidents reported in the area; there was no loss of life. Gramercy Police Department continues to work with St. James Parish Sheriff's Office on the investigation. Chief Dicharry is currently working on a possible solution for speeding on US 61 and will bring forward his proposal in the near future.

B. REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux recommended the town research raising the town's base elevation to seven feet which is one foot above FEMA's recommended elevation of six feet. Also, recommended that town research fill restrictions for future developments.

C. CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Ronald Boudreaux had no report for this month.

4. REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

Mr. Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., St. James Parish District One Councilman, stated that the Road Money grant is on a two year cycle, the town will not receive any funds for road repairs until 2020. St. James Volunteer Fire Department will be able to help with funding the fire line relocation on S. Millet. He has included in his budget request \$80,000 for drainage culvert installation on Rose Street and S. Millet. He will also request \$211,000 for Gramercy Recreation District capital outlay projects.

5. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc had no report for this month.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Mr. Calcagno reported that the first payment for the tennis court project has been made. Demolition work identified in the Master Plan will be on hold until after soccer season. The Parish brought in Sea Cans in replacement of press box construction plans. Handicapped parking lot striping needs to be painted.

ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 721-19

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 12.82 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2019 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

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA THAT:

SECTION I. that the following millages are hereby levied on the 2019 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

Corporation Tax	5.99 Mills
2001 Sewer Improvement Tax	2.66 Mills
2013 Water Improvement Tax	4.17 Mills
Total	12.82 Mills

SECTION II. that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. James, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for year 2019, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the tax authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

SECTION III. that this ordinance shall be published in the Official Journal according to law, and that this ordinance after first having been reduced to writing, was read and considered section by section at this public meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority thereof.

SECTION IV. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are here by repealed.

SECTION V. If any provision or item of this ordinance of the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provision, items or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby severable.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, July 8, 2019, notice of public hearing having been published on Thursday, July 18, 2019 and Thursday, July 25, 2019, said public meeting held on Monday, September 9, 2019, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Wiggins, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 9th day of September, 2018.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 722-19 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A CERTAIN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS THEREWITH

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 24-19

A RESOLUTION ENGAGING A FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, is required to have a financial audit performed for the year ending June 30, 2019 for the Town of Gramercy; and,

WHEREAS, an engagement letter has been received from the firm of Postlethwaite and Netterville, Certified Public Accountants, 215 Saint Patrick Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that the firm of Postlethwaite and Netterville, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is hereby engaged to examine the financial statements and records of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, in accordance with the stipulations stated in their letter.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Brack and a vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 9th day of September, 2019.

RESOLUTION 25-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF DESIGN ENGINEERING AND FINAL PERMITS FOR THE RAILROAD AVENUE RELOCATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the east-intersection of E. Railroad Avenue and S. Airline Avenue has been made impassable by the installation by Canadian National Railroad of a safety crossing-arm; and

WHEREAS, the safety of the residents of the Town of Gramercy is of vital importance to this Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and this Railroad Avenue Relocation Project will provide improved access for residents and emergency and other public services; and

WHEREAS, engineering services and other capital investments are required in order to accomplish this construction of this Railroad Avenue Relocation Project;

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby authorizes and empowers Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, to execute any and all documents for the specific purpose of entering into an engineering services agreement with Meyer Engineers, Ltd. for this Railroad Avenue Relocation Project.

SECTION 2. The Board of Aldermen hereby authorizes the expenditure of the required funds, estimated to total One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to provide for engineering services and for the construction of these street improvements.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 9th day of September, 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-19

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA SUPPORTING NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY WEEK

WHEREAS, 2,214 rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 819 personal injuries and were responsible for 270 fatalities in the United States during 2018; and

WHEREAS, 1,050 trespassing incidents have occurred in the United States resulting in 571 pedestrians being killed and another 479 injured while trespassing on railroad property rights of way during 2018; and

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety, reminding the public that railroad right of ways are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws will reduce the number of fatalities and injuries; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver, United States Department of Transportation, and all local, state, county, and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders, and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable laws in support of National Rail Safety Week;

THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana do hereby attest our full support proclaiming September 22nd to 28th, 2019, National Rail Safety Week and we encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 9th day of September, 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Wiggins reported that an 18-wheeler pulled down wires on N. Millet. A cat damaged a transformer across the tracks; electricity was out for about 30 minutes; he thanked Entergy for restoring service so quickly.

Alderman Louque had no report for this month.

Alderman Brack reported that water seeps through the road near 219 N. Magnolia; Mayor Nosacka stated there is an old well in that area. Alderman Brack inquired if the Mayor and Board of Aldermen salary is adopted by separate ordinance; Mayor Nosacka answered that the annual budget adopted in June was by ordinance therefore all raises are considered adopted.

Alderman Craig Calcagno passed out his report. Alderman Calcagno stated that two demolition properties on S. Airline Avenue need to be cleaned up; Mayor Nosacka stated that one property has been purchased and the owner is responsible for clean-up and the second property owner has been sent a grass letter. He inquired about the cleaning of several drainage canals in town. He inquired if we have something in writing about right-of-ways being free of any obstruction.

Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr. stated that an Attorney General opinion stated that the town can cross a property in order to get to drainage canals. The Ordinance for the surplus Spizale property has been brought forward, we can now advertise for a public hearing.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to adjourn 8:25 pm.

Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor

Amy O. St. Pierre, Town Clerk

I, Amy O. St. Pierre, Town Clerk, do hereby certify that a copy of the above is a true and correct copy of the Town of Gramercy, Official Proceedings, Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

Amy O. St. Pierre, Town Clerk