

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR  
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF GRAMERCY  
JUNE 8, 2020**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm at 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, Alderman Barbara Woods

There were absent: None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - There were no public comments.

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS** –

Mr. Timothy Pittman, 1596 Rose Street and 1595 Tulip Street stated he received a blighted home letter and contacted his family concerning this matter; the family agreed to the demolition but due to Covid-19 there have been delays in receiving a storage shed was ordered and he would like more time for the shed to come in and allow for him to remove any personal items in the house.

**REPORTS**

**1. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Nosacka thanked all the town employees for their work in preparing for Tropical Storm Cristobal. Gramercy Land LLC has agreed to donate to the town the lift station located on LA 3125. O'Reily's Auto Store has agreed to help with replacing the control panel in the lift station.

A motion to allow Mayor Nosacka to execute the donation of the lift station from Gramercy Land Inc. was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Brack and resulted in the following vote:

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

And the motion was declared adopted on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

**2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT**

Mayor Nosacka reported that a diver has inspected the water intake structure and he will get with the engineers to review his assessment of work that is needed. We continue to wait on the Mississippi River level so we can begin the E. Railroad Re-location project. We continue with cleaning Ferrero Canal but there are several areas left to clean.

**3. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS**

**A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE**

Police Chief Brent Dicharry recommends waiving the town's firework ordinance for July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. He thanked Doreen and Mayor for their work on the 2020-2021 budget. Local business Hair World presented a \$500 donation to the police department; the chief would like to use the money to buy equipment for the police department.

**REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux reported that 13 homes lost power during Tropical Storm Cristobal and services were restored within two hours. Sand used for the LA 3125 drainage project is washing out and the contractors should repair.

**B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Boudreaux reported that several tagged automobiles have been moved or covered. A grass letter needs to be sent to JJ's Bar owner. He thanked Alderman Wiggins and Alderman Calcagno for their help with reporting unpermitted jobs.

**4. REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT - None**

**5. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**A. PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported we are having problems with homeowners not getting permits for fences or roofs. The property owner on S. Airline Avenue has agreed to move the fence back.

**B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT**

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. The new tennis courts are open and are being used. The board is working on buying property on Tulip Street for Park B. The Parish is getting quotes for the cost of demolishing the swimming pool. The work order system for St. James Parish is in operation and recreation work orders will go through this system. Received estimates on costs to overlay walk track.

**ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

ORDINANCE NO. 728-2020 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 729-2020 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 13-2020**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND CHAPTER 50, ARTICLE V, SECTION 50-125 FIREWORKS**

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holiday of Fourth of July.

WHEREAS, Police Chief Brent Dicharry, recommends the suspension of Town of Ordinance Chapter 50, Article V, Section 50-125 Fireworks during the Fourth of July Holiday.

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 50 Article V Sec 50-125 (Fireworks Prohibited) of the Town of Gramercy Code of ordinances and shall be suspended from 12 Noon until 10:00 pm on Thursday, July 4, 2020.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Louque, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

**RESOLUTION 14-2020**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVED FEDERAL FUNDING REIMBURSEMENTS VIA DIRECT PAYMENTS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA FROM THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO THE STATE OF LOUISIANA FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND CREATED BY THE CARES ACT**

WHEREAS the State of Louisiana will rely on this resolution as a material representation in making direct payments to the Town of Gramercy that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) necessary expenditures and that expenditures were not accounted for in the budget most recently

approved as of March 27, 2020, for the Town; and were incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020 and ending December 30, 2020 and submitted to the State of Louisiana on or before January 31, 2021 pursuant to the requirements of the Act as further explained in the official federal guidance issued or to be issued on what constitutes an eligible expenditure, and

WHEREAS any funds received from the Relief Fund by the Local Government Unit or its subrecipient(s) not in strict compliance with the Act and as further explained in the associated federal guidance shall be returned to the State of Louisiana within 14 days of such a finding by any executive, administrative, legislative, or judicial body.

BE IT RESOLVED, that a duly called and held meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy with a quorum present, did by majority vote of the board authorize.

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

#### RESOLUTION 15-2020

##### A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy continues to encourage and support programs and projects that will achieve broader economic development and job creation opportunities within the community; and

WHEREAS, a new hotel and retail complex is being developed on LA Hwy 3125 which will result in several millions of dollars of capital investment here in the Town of Gramercy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed development will require the extension of water and sewer services to serve this new complex; and

WHEREAS, the hotel developer has expressed willingness to participate in providing a portion of the cost of utility services; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Regional Authority offers its State Economic Development Assistance Program to construct public infrastructure that support private investment and job creation;

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 submit an application with the Delta Regional Authority for a grant to construct wastewater improvements necessary to serve the new hotel and retail complex, and the Town commits to provide a local share of the project with equal commitment from the project developer, and to further authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents in connection with said application to the Delta Regional Authority and subsequent grant award.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Brack, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

#### RESOLUTION 16-2020

##### A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF CONSOLIDATION OF SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 3 of the Louisiana Constitution provides that local sales and use taxes are to be collected by a single collector in each parish;

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 3 also provides for the use of a parish commission or one of the local political subdivisions to serve as the single parish collector of local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS, the authority to "collect" local sales and use taxes has been determined by the Courts to include the authority to administer the collection, including making decisions as to when to audit persons or businesses thought to be unlawfully evading taxation or, in some cases, collecting sales taxes on transactions and failing to fully remit them to the local collector;

WHEREAS, School Boards serve as the single parish collector of local sales and use taxes in over thirty (30) parishes, including the Parish of St. James Parish;

WHEREAS, there are interest groups that desire to amend the LA Constitution to allow the Legislature to repeal or impair the authority of local governments to control the collection of local sales taxes and place that authority with the State, a concept referred to as State Central Collection;

WHEREAS, State Central Collection could have the State taking possession of local tax revenues, withholding an administrative fee, then disbursing the balance back to the School Board or other local taxing authority;

WHEREAS, State Central Collection poses too great a risk that local education tax dollars will not be promptly disbursed or that the administrative fee withheld by the State may become a means of resolving State fiscal issues;

WHEREAS, the risks of State Central Collection are magnified as our School District tries to recover from the loss of sales tax revenue and the increased expenses related to the COVID19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, repealing or diminishing the Constitutional authority for local collection of local sales and use taxes will impair the ability of local collectors to perform the necessary function of auditing vendors to ensure compliance with the legal obligation to collect and remit local sales taxes;

WHEREAS, given the vital role that the proper, effective, and efficient collection of local sales and use taxes plays in the operation of school districts and the education of children, the Louisiana School Boards Association opposes any efforts to repeal, reduce, or constrain the authority of the local collector to collect local sales and use taxes, regardless of who has offered the proposal;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Gramercy, by action of its duly elected governing authority, does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Legislature, and in particular the Legislative Delegation of St. James Parish to oppose any Legislative effort that repeals, reduces, or constrains the authority of the local collector to collect and administer the collection of local sales and use taxes;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to each member of the Legislative Delegation of St. James Parish, and the Governor of the State of Louisiana.

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, Woods
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Alderman Wiggins, 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/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

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

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. As per his calculations there have been 18 unpermitted jobs year to date; something needs to be done about repeat offenders. He would like to see the permit application revised so more information can be provided about work being done. Progress is being made on Ferraro Canal cleaning. Alderman Calcagno thanked the town employees for their work preparing for Tropical Storm Cristobal and he thanked the Aldermen for riding through town to check projects.

Alderman Wiggins reported the drains on S. Hickory Street are plugged, Entergy needs to trim trees away from electrical lines on S. Fir Street, and on S. Ezidore Street there is a collapsed culvert that needs replacing. He thanked the town employees for their work preparing for Tropical Storm Cristobal.

Alderman Woods reported that she received complaints that Waste Management is not emptying garbage cans completely and they leave any trash that falls out of can or truck on the ground. She has received positive feedback on blighted home removal in Golden Grove Subdivision. She thanked the town employees for their work in preparing for Tropical Storm Cristobal.

Alderman Brack thanked Doreen Lang for her work on the budget and he thanked the town employees for their work preparing for Tropical Storm Cristobal. The town needs to continue to work on drainage issues this year and he received a complaint about trees being left in a yard during Ferrara Canal cleaning. He reminded the Mayor about the street project by Dunn property. He inquired

about maintenance on LA 3125 now that drainage work is complete. The town needs to research widening the canal by Sandwich World.

Alderman Louque thanked Doreen Lang for her work on the budget and he thanked the town employees for their work preparing for Tropical Storm Cristobal.

**TOWN ATTORNEY**

Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr. stated that if any revisions are made to the Building Permit application it should remain user friendly.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Brack, and approved to adjourn at 8:23 pm.

/s/ Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor  
Attest: /s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk