

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
AUGUST 10, 2020**

Based on the Public Health Emergency in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 and all subsequent Proclamations made by the Governor of Louisiana, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy have determined that in order to continue the necessary operations of government, but to also take into account the orders of the Governor, the guidance issued by the Louisiana Attorney General, and the recommendations of the CDC, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy will meet via video/teleconference at the posted date and time to only take up any matters on its agendas which are necessary to ensure the public function and which require a vote of the Board of Aldermen. The public is invited to access the meeting via teleconference line at (605) 313-4802 and enter this Access Code: 436128# . If a member of the public would like to issue public comment on any agenda item, please do one of the following: 1) Send an email, prior to the meeting, to the Town Clerk (amyp@townofgramercy.com) stating the agenda item you want to submit a comment upon, along with your full name, address, and your written comments which will be read into the record of the meeting; or 2) Dial into the teleconference line at (605) 313-4802 and enter this Access Code: 436128# . You will be allowed to comment during the Public Comment item of the agenda on any matter requiring a vote of the Board of Aldermen.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORD NO. 730-2020 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE II, SECTION 74-39, RATE FORMULA FOR WATER SERVICES

Robert Faucheux inquired about rates for residents out of our corporate limits. Mayor Nosacka explained that they do pay a higher rate for water.

ORD NO. 731-2020 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE II, SECTION 74-81, USER CLASSES AND SERVICE RATES

Shelly Warren asked what is the meaning of User Classes and Service Rates? Mayor Nosacka explained that it referred to sewer rates.

A motion to close the public hearing 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 |

Motion was passed on this 10th day of August, 2020 and the public hearing was closed. Mayor Nosacka proceeded with regular meeting.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm via telephone conference.

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 Faucheux, Jr., Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS –

Mayor Nosacka requested a motion to amend the agenda to include the following resolution to approve and amend Resolution 22-2020 to include compensation shall be in accordance with the Attorney General's opioid fee schedule:

RESOLUTION 25-2020 RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS

A motion to amend the agenda and include Resolution 25-2020 was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Louque and resulted in the following vote:

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

And the motion was declared adopted on the 10th day of August, 2020.

RESOLUTION 25-2020

RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS

WHEREAS, opioid use and issues and treatment related thereto have become a huge societal problem locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, various entities are attempting to recover past and future damages associated with this opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, in the past years and in the future, has been and will be affected by the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy should attempt to recover its damages past and future associated with this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy wishes to retain special legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy recommends the appointment of Leger & Shaw, Long & Long and the Law Offices of Bruce G. Mohon, LLC, and associated attorneys and paralegals. Leger & Shaw, Long & Long and the Law Offices of Bruce G. Mohon, LLC are experienced attorneys with the requisite expertise to render special counsel services and represent the Town of Gramercy regarding opioid litigation.

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

SECTION 1. The Town of Gramercy hereby resolves that a necessity exists for the employment of special counsel, and, the Town of Gramercy, ratifies and approves the employment of Leger & Shaw, Long & Long, and the Law Offices of Bruce G. Mohon, LLC and associated attorneys and paralegals, as special counsel for the Town of Gramercy in the above described matters and to take any and all actions necessary to pursue any right or claim of the Town of Gramercy related to the opioid crisis and litigation. It is further resolved that Mayor Steven T. Nosacka is duly authorized to sign and execute any and all documents necessary including but not limited to a contingency fee retainer agreement to retain the services of the aforementioned firms and counsel. The compensation shall be in accordance with the Attorney General's opioid fee schedule.

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 10th day of August, 2020.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka reported that several culvert repairs or replacement jobs have been completed. The maintenance crew continues clearing ditches and culverts. He will schedule the concrete failure repairs on E. Eighth Street and E. Tenth Street.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT

Mayor Nosacka stated that work on the E. Railroad Relocation Project should be completed by August 17th and he will schedule a dedication ceremony for Saturday, August 20th. We have received bids for the Dudley pump station backup generator. He asked Scott Poirrier, Hightide Consultants LLC, to provide preliminary plans for the building enlargement at Dudley pump station and to review and provide recommendations for the S. Millet water and sewer line relocations.

3. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Dicharry reported on incident of retaliation in Gramercy connected with current events happening in Lutchter. The subjects turned themselves in two day later and the case is closed.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux stated that with the hurricane season upon us, the town should continue their work on drainage concerns. The area by the culvert on N. Pine Street and LA 3125 is beginning to show signs of erosion.

B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Boudreaux continues to tag abandon vehicles and check for building permits on residential projects.

4. REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. reported that the request for \$25,000 assistance on the S. Millet utility line relocation project is on the Fireman's Association meeting agenda. Entergy has announced that a more permanent structure to help prevent flooding will be constructed by the sub-station on US 61. The Parish should begin work on Central Canal in the near future. Corp of Engineers has come out with a new levee alignment plan and will move towards approval of these plans. The Parish is willing to help with spraying Ferrera Canal.

5. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION – No Report

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. The parks are in good condition. The Board passed a motion to allow the Parish Operations Dept. to secure quotes, administer, and monitor progress for identified projects for 2020-2021. The Board passed a motion to follow St. James Parish Rental Guidelines; the rental building is currently closed due to Covid-19.

ORDINANCES – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 730-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE II, SECTION 74-39, RATE FORMULA FOR WATER SERVICES

WHEREAS, an Ordinance amending the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 74, Utilities, Article II, Section 74-39,

The following shall be added and read as:

Section 74-39, Paragraph (h)

(h) Debt Service Factor. The Billed Minimum Charge for all consumers shall be the combination of the current Minimum Charge and the Monthly Debt Service Factor. This Monthly Debt Service Factor is the monthly pro-rata portion of the annual debt service required for water system capital improvements financed by the Town and payable from user revenues, and divided as follows:

- (1) Residential / Small Commercial - 60% of total annual debt service
- (2) Large Commercial / Industrial - 40% of total annual debt service

Effective August 1, 2020, Rates shall be as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Residential and Small Businesses | Residential | Unincorporated Residential | Small Business |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| From 0 to 2,000 gallons | \$17.00 | \$22.00 | \$25.00 |
| For 2,001 -10,000 gals, per KGals | \$ 4.00 | \$ 4.00 | \$ 4.00 |
| For 10,001 gals or more, per KGals | \$ 5.00 | \$ 5.00 | \$ 5.00 |

(2) Large Commercial / Industrial

For all gallons used, per KGals \$5.00

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, July 13, 2020 notice of public hearing having been published on July 30, 2020 said public hearing held on Monday, August 10, 2020 the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman _____, second by Alderman _____, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

Ordinance failed due to lack of motion. Ordinance was not passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 731-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE II, SECTION 74-81, USER CLASSES AND SERVICE RATES

WHEREAS, an Ordinance amending the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 74, Utilities, Article II, Section 74-81, which provides for sewer service rates.

Effective August 1, 2020, Sewer Service Rates shall be as follows:

(1) Residential and Small Commercial

| | Residential | Small Business |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Base Rate (No. 1) | \$20.00 | \$30.00 |
| Variable Rate (No. 1) per Kgals | \$ 1.00 | \$ 1.00 |

(2) Large Commercial and Governmental

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Base Rate (No. 2) | \$60.00 |
| Variable Rate (No. 1) per Kgals | \$ 1.00 |

(3) Industrial

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Base Rate (No. 2) | \$60.00 |
| BOD Variable Rate (per lb) | \$1.00 |

The following shall be added and read as:

Section 74-39, Paragraph (i)

(i) Debt Service Factor. The billed minimum charge for all consumers shall be the combination of the current minimum charge and the Monthly Debt Service Factor. This Monthly Debt Service Factor is the monthly pro-rata portion of the annual debt service required for sewer system capital improvements financed by the Town payable from user revenues, and divided as follows:

- (1) Residential / Small Commercial - 60% of total annual debt service
- (2) Large Commercial / Industrial - 40% of total annual debt service

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, July 13, 2020 notice of public hearing having been published on June 30, 2020 said public hearing held on Monday, August 10, 2020 title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman _____, second by Alderman _____ to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

Ordinance failed due to lack of motion. Ordinance was not passed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE E. RAILROAD AVENUE RELOCATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana advertised for bid on E. Railroad Avenue Relocation Project;

WHEREAS, said contract was awarded to LA Contracting Enterprises, LLC for original contract price not to exceed Ninety-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and No/100 dollars (\$97,728.00) and original contract time of Sixty (60) days,

WHEREAS, Meyers Engineering, Ltd., Metairie, Louisiana, hereby recommends for approval Change Order Number One,

WHEREAS, the town hereby approves Change Order Number One, net increase in contract price not to exceed Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars and 40/100 (\$3,137.40)

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana hereby accepts the recommendation of Meyers Engineering Ltd, Metairie, Louisiana, for Change Number One in connection with bids for E. Railroad Avenue Relocation Project;

SECTION 2. Original contract price is \$97,728.00; Change Order Number One net increase not to exceed \$3,147.40 and Original Contract Time is 60 Days;

SECTION 3. Mayor Steven T. Nosacka is hereby approved and authorized to sign all documentation pertaining herewith.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Louque 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 10th day of August, 2020.

RESOLUTION 24-2020

A RESOLUTION AWARDING TO THE LOWEST QUALIFIED RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE GRAMERCY PUMP STATION GENERATOR PROJECT

WHEREAS, Doyle Electric, Inc, 15035 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is the lowest qualified responsible bid for the Gramercy Pump Station Generator Project;

WHEREAS, ADG Baton Rouge, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, hereby recommends for approval of Doyle Electric, Inc., 15035 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana;

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

SECTION 1. Doyle Electric, Inc, 15035 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is hereby deemed to be the lowest qualified bidder for the Gramercy Pump Station Generator Project and is awarded a bid price not to exceed One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$116,594.00)

SECTION 2. The Mayor is hereby empowered and authorized to sign all documents in connection with the contract with Doyle Electric, Inc, 15035 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A motion to adopt the above resolution 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 resolution was declared adopted on this the 10th day of August, 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 Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack spoke with St. James Parish personnel concerning their work order system and they are pleased with the program. He asked the mayor when the cleaning of Ferrera Canal will be finished.

Alderman Woods reported that District 1 is doing good at this time.

Alderman Louque thanked the maintenance crew for their work on N. Airline Avenue. He asked they remain consistent in their progress and not to jump to different areas.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He has completed his draft copies of building permit application revisions and were passed on to Amy and Planning Commission for review. He inquired when Central Canal bank repairs will be performed. He has noticed that some blighted properties have high grass and property owners should be notified to mow the lawn. He asked when we will be able to install the water level gauges.

Alderman Wiggins reported that the street sign by Home Hardware needs to be replaced. He asked the Mayor to clean the ditches and culverts on S. Millet.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr. stated that he continues to work with the Mayor on different assignments that are needed for the town.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Woods, and approved to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

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