

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
DECEMBER 14, 2020**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, December 14, 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 Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Barbara Woods

There were absent: Alderman Darren Brack

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 - None

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka reported that the Parish's Unified Command Group has canceled the 2020 Bonfire Levee Celebration; it was too difficult for them to meet the state executive order requirements particularly since the Parish's case rate has continued to rise. Rise St. James has filed a lawsuit against the Town of Gramercy and our attorneys are handling our response. Toys for Tots will use the fire station next to Town Hall for their toy drive. The solar batteries are on order for the treatment plant pylon lights. He has received two proposals for grass cutting in town and they are under review. He is accepting proposals for the maintenance shop roof repair.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT –

Mayor Nosacka stated that Scott Poirrier, Hi-tide Consultants, will finalize plans for the S. Millet project by early January. The town will receive the \$75,000 road project money from the Parish and the money will be used to asphalt S. Millet. All aerators by the sewer pond are now working. The generator for Dudley Pump Station will be delivered on Tuesday.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Dicharry reported that there will be an extra officer on duty for Christmas Eve. He is good with waiving the Towns' restriction on fireworks for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve however, the board usually waives the restriction for open containers for Christmas Eve bonfire celebration and recommends not waiving the restriction this year for open container.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – No report for this month.

B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Boudreaux has provided the mayor with details on inoperable vehicles and the Mayor has sent certified letters asking the property owners to remove the vehicles.

3. REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT – No report for this month

4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that the Planning Commission has no objection to the variance request from Danny Rousset.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported that the lights by the tennis court are still not working properly since Hurricane Zeta. The Park A walk track bid has to be redone and a walk track is being designed for Park B. Park A kid's area design should be available soon. Chief Dicharry, St. James Parish Recreation Administrator, reported that St. James Parish has purchased the Atoms in Motion building. This multipurpose building will house the recreation office and provide many services to our community.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 35-2020

A Resolution approving a special exception of Appendix A Zoning, Article 18, R-1 Residential District, Section 18.4 Area Regulations to allow for the variance of the minimum 5 feet distance requirement

WHEREAS, Mr. Danny Roussel has requested a special exception to the zoning ordinance of a certain property located in the corporate limits of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, be changed; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing shall be held on the requested zoning area regulation variance on December 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that:

SECTION I. A special exception of Appendix A Zoning, Article 18 R-1 Residential District, Section 18.4 Area Regulations is hereby granted allowing for the variance of the minimum 5 feet distance requirement on the following described property.

THAT A CERTAIN PORTION Lot 4, Blk. 29, Add. II, Gramercy Park S/D, 85 x 130, bd. North by Earl Deroche, south by E. Eighth St., west by Lot 3, east by Lot 5, Sec. 3, 51 & 85, T-11-s, R-5-E, Book 342-909, Book 367-485 #113105, 204 E. Eighth Street.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this 14th day of December, 2020.

RESOLUTION 36-2020

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

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holidays of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

WHEREAS, in prior years the Town of Gramercy has provided for the suspension of Town of Ordinances Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-1 (Open Containers) during the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

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 approve the suspension of Chapter 6 Article 1 Section 6-1 (Open Containers) of the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, and enforcement shall be suspended from 04:00 pm December 24th, 2020 until 06:00 am December 25, 2020 and from 10:00 pm December 31, 2020 until 02:00 am January 01, 2021.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14th day of December, 2020.

RESOLUTION 37-2020

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

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holidays of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

WHEREAS, in prior years the Town of Gramercy has provided for the suspension of Town of Ordinances Chapter 50, Article V, Section 50-125 (Fireworks) during the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

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 approve the suspension of Chapter 50, Article V, Section 50-125 (Fireworks) of the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, and enforcement shall be suspended from 04:00 pm December 24th, 2020 until 06:00 am December 25, 2020 and from 10:00 pm December 31, 2020 until 02:00 am January 01, 2021.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14th day of December, 2020.

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 Wiggins, second by Alderman Woods, and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Louque thanked the maintenance crew for the trash pick-up. He asked the status of reimbursement for height bar damage by Taylor's Express; Mr. Faucheux replied that photos were submitted to the insurance adjuster.

Alderman Woods reported that Tulip Street and Rose Street have been cleaned again. A resident on S. Sycamore asked if the street can go back to a two-way street. There will be a Toys for Tots give-a-way on Saturday, December 19th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm by the fire station next to Town Hall.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He thanked Jim Zeringue for the good work he did on the Ferrara Canal and Central Canal. He inquired about the drainage plan for 2021; Mayor Nosacka stated work on N. Airline Avenue is next on list. He feels emergency lights are needed on Town trucks and equipment for the safety of our employees. He asked that the citizens of Gramercy wear their face masks to help stop the spread of the virus.

Alderman Wiggins reported there was a bad odor from LSR on November 23, 24, 25, 2020 and LSR needs to install lights by the employee crossing, it is dark at night and hard to see if anyone is crossing. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Faucheux reported that Scott Thomas was the Town's attorney in the lawsuit by Rise St. James. He asked Mayor Nosacka to contact the Attorney General's office for an opinion on our parade law. He will begin working on an agreement between the Town and 4H sponsor LSU Department of Agriculture for use of the fire station by 4H shooting team.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to adjourn at 8:00 pm.

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