

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR  
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF GRAMERCY  
AUGUST 14, 2017**

Public Hearing:

Notice Posted: 06/13/2017 - 08/15/2017      Public Hearing Published: 06/22/2017 & 06/29/2017

A public hearing will be held as follows:

Date: August 14, 2017      Time: 7:00 p.m.      Place: Council Chambers 120 N. Montz Street

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 12.81 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2017 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, August 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gramercy Town Hall.

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

There were present: Alderman Jody Bourgeois, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Betty Coleman, Alderman Rhonda Lee, Alderman Clyde Wiggins

There were absent: Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr.

There were also present: Mayor Steven Nosacka, Police Chief Brent Dicharry, Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Ken Brass was not present

Mr. Harold Miller, 434 N. Montz St., expressed concerns about young children riding golf carts and four-wheelers on public streets. He stated that while working by his mail box he was almost hit by a golf cart being driven by a child around ten years old. Police Chief Dicharry stated that police officers have stopped the golf carts and called the parents to get the cart. However, at this time parents cannot be ticketed for allowing their children to drive golf carts. He is currently researching how other communities are addressing this concern.

Mr. Timothy Pittman was not present.

**REPORTS**

**1. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Nosacka reported that he attended the ground breaking ceremony for Atoms in Motion on Deroche Circle. A new business, Cypress Physical Therapy, will be opening soon at 1729 Deroche Circle. The water plant is currently undergoing its annual DHH sanitary survey. The state is beginning a higher degree of enforcement on installation of backflow water preventers. We have started identify customers who will need this apparatus. We have submitted to Louisiana Public Assistance the towns' Version #1 package for temporary fold protection. This request is for FEMA funding of the Aquadams that we would use during backwater flooding incidents. We have removed the culverts north of US 61 near Sycamore Inn. They were obstructing water drainage in our area. Our maintenance department continues to work on sewerage leaks identified by the smoke test held during the spring. Mr. Thomas Ragas has been given a 90 day extension to meet the towns' request for work to be done on blighted building. If work is not sufficient, the town will begin demolition process.

Mayor Nosacka presented a letter high-lighting consideration of new revenue measures. The mayor requested a motion to consider a tax measure and contact our legislative representatives of our intention:

It was moved by Alderman Bourgeois, second by Aldermen Lee and approved to consider a new tax measure for the Town of Gramercy.

## **2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECTS**

Mr. Donovan Duffy, Environmental Engineering Services, Inc., reported that three quote submittals were received for the Sewer Plant Walkway project. After review of the quotes, Environmental Engineering Services, Inc., recommends that the Town of Gramercy award the project to Specks Fabrication of Thibodaux, LA (LA Contractor's License #63219) in the amount of \$19,200.00.

It was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved to award the Sewer Plant Walkway Project to Specks Fabrication of Thibodaux, LA.

Mr. Donovan Duffy, Environmental Engineering Services, Inc., reported that the Gramercy Road Upgrades Project was near completion. After a walk-through of the project a punch list was given to the contractor, including re-sodding of two corner properties and final clean-up. Also, a balance change order of (\$572.25) was presented; Environmental Engineering Services, Inc. recommends that the Town of Gramercy accept of the Certificate of Substantial Completion and balance change order the for Gramercy Road Upgrades Project.

It was moved by Alderman Bourgeois, second by Alderman Coleman and approved to accept the Certificate of Substantial Completion and balance change order for Gramercy Road Upgrades Project.

Mr. Duffy presented an informational handout on the upcoming Railroad Avenue Upgrade project. It included a guideline on steps that will need to be followed for this project.

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

### **A. CHIEF OF POLICE**

Police Chief Brent Dicharry requested that the Gramercy Recreation Board replace two broken windows on the concession stand. Kids are hanging around the area and trying to get in the building. Thanked Mayor Nosacka for continued efforts on blighted homes.

Police Chief Brent Dicharry recommended hiring Mr. Michael Vicknair, Jr. as a police officer for Gramercy Police Department.

It was moved by Alderman Lee, second by Alderman Bourgeois and moved to accept the recommendation of Chief Dicharry and hire Mr. Michael Vicknair, Jr. as a police officer.

### **B. REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux, reported that the Gramercy Water Plant currently has one point of entry for our chlorine system. If it should fail we would not be able to provide safe water to our customers. Mayor Nosacka has approved a second point of entry system it will soon be installed ensuring safe water for our residents. The Mayor signed a purchase order for the police department to have RTC provide internet services. This will serve as a redundant service for police communications if the main provider should go out. Lt. Ordeneaux will be attending a class on emergency response concerning pipelines; there are several major pipelines that run through the towns' corporate limits. Also, he will attend a class on cyber protection sponsored by GOHSEP.

## **4. REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., St. James Parish District One Councilman stated that the 2018 budget has been present to the Parish Administration. Reported a sewer odor is coming from the manhole on Belinda Street. The East Bank Drainage committee hopes to bring projects before voters.

Mr. Ken Brass entered meeting at 8:20 pm. Mr. Brass announced his candidacy for District 58 State Representative. His campaign will focus on drainage/flooding in the parish, workforce programs, and youth programs.

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

### **A. PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that Mr. Dale Abreo is considering opening a RV Park on his property located on US 61.

### **B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT**

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported that the June expenditures were in line and on budget. Some lifeguards are working in other areas of the park, to help with cleaning and painting. The intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Gramercy is close to approval.

**C. ST. JAMES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – No report**

**ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION**

ORDINANCE NO. 698-17

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 12.81 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2017 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 2017 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

	MILLAGE
Corporation Tax	5.99 Mills
2001 Sewer Improvement Tax	2.69 Mills
2013 Water Improvement Tax	4.13 Mills
Total	12.81 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 2017, 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 hereby 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, June 12, 2017, notice of public hearing having been published on Thursday, June 22, 2017 and Thursday, June 29, 2017, said public meeting held on Monday, August 14, 2017, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Coleman, second by Alderman Bourgeois to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

YEAS:	Coleman, Bourgeois, Calcagno, Lee, Wiggins
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017

**ORDINANCE – FIRST READING**

**ORD NO. 700-17** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2-22, REGULAR MEETINGS

**RESOLUTIONS**

RES NO. 20-17

A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Gramercy, Chapter 18 provides for the repair or demolition of what has been determined to be unsafe structures; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined the structures located at 418 E. Railroad Avenue, 1384 Golden Grove Avenue and 217 S. Hickory Avenue to be unsafe; and

WHEREAS, Section 18-29 (a) requires the determination by the Board of Aldermen that a structure is unreasonable to repair and that demolition is required.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to proceed with demolition and removal of the structure, subject to compliance with the notice and appeal provisions contained within the Ordinance.

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

YEAS:	Bourgeois, Calcagno, Coleman, Lee, Wiggins
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

Alderman Coleman requested the assistance of the Board of Aldermen to help with planning a community breakfast to be hosted by the Town of Gramercy and Town of Lutchet. A tentative date is set for November.

Alderman Wiggins requested we contact Entergy to trim tree limbs on S. Mulberry Street that are in contact with power lines. He asked that we contact Sonic Drive In to cut their grass.

Alderman Lee stated that former mayor Terry Borne requested the plaque for the new water plant building be installed. She inquired about the car break-in at a recent funeral. Police Chief Dicharry reported that the suspect was apprehended before any damage/theft could occur.

Alderman Bourgeois reported a stop sign was missing on the corner of N. Magnolia and N. Pine. A street light at 251 N. Magnolia was out.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He suggested a more visible permit sign be used to distinguish what has been permitted. He attended the annual LMA convention in July and there were several informative workshops, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser gave a great presentation on tourism, and spoke with a vendor that could review our ordinances concerning blighted homes and abandoned cars and make suggestions on updating these ordinances.

Town Attorney Robert Fauchaux, Jr. was not present.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Bourgeois, and approved to adjourn 8:48 pm

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Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor

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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.

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Amy O. St. Pierre, Town Clerk