

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
AUGUST 14, 2023**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Gramercy Town Hall.

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

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

There were absent: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments made on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Rosette Moses, 720 N Magnolia Street, expressed her concerns about a streetlight near her home that has been out since November 2022. She called Entergy for a repair, and they advised her that it was the town's responsibility to repair. She called the town hall and as of this date it is not repaired. Mayor Bourgeois stated that he has issued a purchase order for the repair of several streetlights in town including the one by her home.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois stated that he has turned into the LA Dept of Agriculture a management plan for the vegetation debris by the old sewer pond. There will be a construction kick off meeting with Professional Engineering Consultants and contractors for the Sewer Force Main Project on Friday, August 18, 2023 at 10:00 am. He walked out the road panel repair project on E. Eighth Street and N. Montz Street so we can advertise proposals in the near future.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Mr. Brent Dicharry, Chief of Police, reported that the officers have begun using the new Ecitation handhelds and they have said the process for issuing a citation is now more efficient. He issued a report showing the number of tickets and the location of where each ticket was written. He stated that a kick-off meeting with the Baton Rouge SPCA was held concerning a parish shelter and they will hold more meetings in the future.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - There is no report for this month.

REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Gerhold turned in his monthly report. He reported that only two vehicles have been removed by property owners and he added several more to the list.

REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT - There is no report for this month.

2. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Commission Member Alex Gerhold reported that the commission met with Tony and Charmaine Siciliani, 423 E. Jefferson Highway, concerning a fence permit. They are restoring the Dr. Ezidore home and want to put a 5-foot fence in the front yard to preserve the historical representation of the home. The commission recommended they apply for a variance of the town's fence ordinance. A public hearing has been set for September 11, 2023 concerning the variance request. Mr. Dean Millet presented a survey of property for re-subdivision. The commission has asked for more information.

GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. If anyone has any questions, please contact him.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 755-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 58 PLANNING, ARTICLE II PLANNING COMMISSION, SECTIONS 58-21 (c)(d) TERMS AND COMPENSATION

ORDINANCE NO. 756-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 50 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE I IN GENERAL, SECTION 50-7 (a) (c) (d) OBSTRUCTING PUBLIC PASSAGES

ORDINANCE NO. 757-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 6 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ARTICLE III OPERATING HOURS, SECTION 6-57 BUSINESSES WITH RETAIL DEALER’S PERMIT

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 30-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN OPT-IN FORM FOR THE STATE-MANAGED TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAM UNDER LOUISIANA REVISED STATUE 726(F)(3)(B)(iii)(aa)

WHEREAS, Act 526 (HB 1070) of the State of Louisiana 2022 Legislative Session requires each jurisdiction to Opt-In or Opt-Out of the temporary housing and shelter assistance program that is managed by the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy desires to Opt-In to the GOHSEP program for Town residents; and

WHEREAS, an Opt-In to the GOHSEP temporary housing programs have no effect on any of the Federal or FEMA temporary housing and shelter assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, an Opt-In does not provide any approval for group or large site development.

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

SECTION 1. Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the Town of Gramercy, to sign and execute an Opt-In form as required by Act 526 (HB 1070) of the State of Louisiana 2022 Legislative Session.

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, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14th of August, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 31-2023

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor requires the preparation of an annual Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government agencies, and;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Compliance audit report provides information which determines required actions by the Town to maintain compliance set by Louisiana Legislative Auditor;

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy have reviewed and hereby approve the annual Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government Agencies, dated August 14, 2023, for the Town of Gramercy, LA, which is attached to this Resolution.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 14th day of August, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved and to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated July 10, 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Bourgeois asked for approval of bills. A motion was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Louque and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack stated his questions concerning streetlight repairs had been answered during the meeting.

Alderman Louque reported he has spoken to Sgt. Gerhold concerning a property on N. Airline Avenue with an abandoned vehicle, accumulated debris, and high grass.

Alderman Williams stated he received a complaint concerning the high grass and abandoned building by New Zion Christian Center property on E. Second Street. A high-grass letter needs to be sent to the property owner at 244 S Sycamore. He will forward the addresses of several streetlights in Golden Grove subdivision that need repair.

Alderman Wiggins thanked the maintenance crew for quickly repairing the water leak on S. Hickory Street. He reported vagrants are living in an empty house on S. Plum Street.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported to the police department about vendors going to houses without a permit. He spoke with them, and they didn't know the hours allowed. Streetlight surveys have been routine and reported as normal, however, repairs are not getting done in a timely manner. Main Street has qualified for overlay and outfall repairs by Department of Transportation.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchaux reported that he received documents concerning the Police Chief retirement fund that need to be signed by the Police Chief and Mayor. There has been no progress on repair or remodeling of the property on S. Airline Avenue. He has sent a request to remove the restraining order for property.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Williams and approved to adjourn at 6:44 pm.

/s/ Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor
Attest: /s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk