

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

PUBLIC HEARING:

RESOLUTION NO. 32-2023 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION OF APPENDIX A ZONING, ARTICLE 7 SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS, SECTION 7.2 FENCES, WALLS, AND HEDGES TO ALLOW FOR THE VARIANCE OF THE MINIMUM 2 1/2 FEET FRONT YARD REQUIREMENT

There were no public comments on Resolution 32-2023.

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

There were no public comments on Ordinance 755-2023

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

There were no public comments on Ordinance 756-2023

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

There were no public comments on Ordinance 757-2023

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Calcagno and passed unanimously.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, September 11, 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

There were absent: Alderman Percy Williams

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 - None

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois sent an email to Maintenance Superintendent Scott Blank thanking him and the crew for their work cleaning up the shop area. The Dudley Force Main Project has begun. He received a quote for automated meters on Route 1 and will issue a purchase order soon. Gramercy Water Plant has begun supplying the Town of Lutchter with water While Lutchter is doing maintenance on their water plant. He has a meeting with Professional Engineering Consultants to review grant opportunities for infrastructure projects.

Alderman Williams entered the meeting at 6:12 pm.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Mr. Brent Dicharry, Chief of Police, had no report for this month.

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

REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Gerhold turned in his monthly report. He stated that letters will be sent to property owners concerning abandoned vehicles.

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

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – There is no report for this month.

GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

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

ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 755-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 58, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 58-21 (c)(d) TERMS AND COMPENSATION

BE IT ORDAINED, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, hereby amends the Town of Gramercy, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 58, Article II, Sections 58-21 (c)(d) Terms and Compensation to include the following:

Section 58-21 Terms and Compensation

(c) The planning commission chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary shall serve with compensation set in the annual budget statements and paid per month. All other members shall serve with compensation set in the annual budget statements and paid per month and shall hold no other public office in and for the town.

(d) The planning commission shall nominate and vote its own chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary for its four-year term.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, August 14, 2023, notice of a public hearing having been published on August 24, 2023, said public hearing been held on September 11, 2023, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 11th day of September, 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 756-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 50, ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 50-7 (a) (c) (d) OBSTRUCTING PUBLIC PASSAGES

BE IT ORDAINED, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, hereby amends the Town of Gramercy, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 50, Article I, Sections 50-7 (a) (c) (d) Terms and Compensation to include the following:

Section 50-7. Obstructing Public Passages

(a) No person shall willfully obstruct or restrict, the free, convenient, and normal use of any public sidewalk, street, highway, bridge, alley, road, or other passageway or the entrance, corridor or passage of any public building, structure, watercraft, or ferry by impeding, hindering, sitting, retarding or restraining traffic or passage thereon or therein.

(c) No person shall make use of public sidewalks for advertising business by placing props made to draw attention, signs, tents, tables, chairs, benches, audio equipment, coolers, lights, or any other item which could be used for the purpose of business, with exception of restaurants placing menu boards with a maximum height of 50 inches and width of 32 inches adjacent to the place of business.

- (d) No person shall use sidewalks, or permanently mounted trash receptacles owned and maintained by the Town of Gramercy to place or dispose of waste generated by a business.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, August 14, 2023, notice of a public hearing having been published on August 24, 2023, said public hearing been held on September 11, 2023, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 11th day of September, 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 757-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 6 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ARTICLE III, SECTION 6-57 BUSINESSES WITH RETAIL DEALER'S PERMIT

BE IT ORDAINED, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, hereby amends the Town of Gramercy, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages, Article III, Section 6-57 Businesses with Retail Dealer's Permit to include the following:

Sec. 6-57. Businesses with retail dealer's permit.

- (a) *Generally.* The operating hours regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages and the operating hours regulating businesses whose main business is derived from the sale of alcoholic beverages in the town is as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
- (b) *Prohibited acts.* No person holding a retail dealer's permit and no associate, representative, servant, agent or employee of the permittee shall do or permit any of the following acts on or about the licensed premises:
- (1) Sell, offer for sale, serve or give alcoholic beverages between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on all days except Saturday and Sunday, when the morning hours shall be 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - (2) Allow the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on all days except Saturday and Sunday, when the morning hours shall be 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - (3) Allow anyone except employees to be or remain on the premises between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. when the sale or handling of alcoholic beverages constitutes the main business (60 percent income).
 - (4) Class A restaurants which are permitted to sell liquor may only do so between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. on all days.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, August 14, 2023, notice of a public hearing having been published on August 24, 2023, said public hearing been held on September 11, 2023, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Williams, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken, and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 11th day of September, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 32-2023

A Resolution approving a special exception of Appendix A Zoning, Article 7, Supplemental District Regulations, Section 7.2 Fences, Walls, and Hedges to allow for the variance of the minimum 2 ½ feet front yard requirement

WHEREAS, Tony & Charmaine Siciliani 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 supplemental district regulation variance on September 11, 2023 at 6:00 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 7, Supplemental District Regulations, Section 7.2 Fences, Walls, and Hedges is hereby granted allowing for the variance of the minimum 2 ½ feet front yard requirement on the following described property.

THAT CERTAIN PORTION 1 Lot designated at "Dr. EN Ezidore Home Lot" in Sec. 51, T 11 S, R T 3 on East Jefferson Hwy., 107 x 191 X 100 x 170 & Improvement, Book 353-199 Entry No. 103776, 423 E Jefferson Highway.

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, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of September, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2023

A RESOLUTION ENGAGING A FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, is required to have a financial audit performed for the year ending June 30, 2023 for the Town of Gramercy; and,

WHEREAS, an engagement letter has been received from the firm of EisnerAmper LLP, Certified Public Accountants, 215 Saint Patrick Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that the firm of EisnerAmper LLP, is hereby engaged to examine the financial statements and records of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in accordance with the stipulations stated in their letter.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno and a vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

A vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of September, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2023

A RESOLUTION TO RE-SCHEDULE THE REGULAR TOWN MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER DUE TO COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana meet on the second Monday of every month; and,

WHEREAS, in the month of October this meeting falls on Columbus Day,

WHEREAS, in observance of this holiday, the Town of Gramercy will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

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

SECTION I. That the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

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

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

And the resolution was adopted on this the 11th day of September, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 35-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN ACH ORIGATION AGREEMENT WITH FIRST AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST

WHEREAS, that Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana be and is authorized to execute and ACH Origination Agreement with First American bank and Trust in the name on behalf of the Town, which provides for ACH debit and/or credit entries to the account of the Town at First American Bank bearing the account number 0400076; and,

WHEREAS, that the following person(s) are authorized to submit electronic ACH payroll debit files which draw against the said Town account at First American Bank, via secure electronic transmission:

- (a) Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk
- (b) Doreen Lang, Accountant
- (c) Patricia Hayes, Utility Clerk

WHEREAS, that the following person(s) are authorized to submit electronic ACH payroll debit files which draw against the said Town account at First American Bank, via secure electronic transmission are in fact authorized by the Town, be executing a written Confirmation of same and faxing it to First American Bank at 225-265-7339 prior to release of the file by First American Bank;

- (a) Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk
- (b) Doreen Lang, Accountant
- (c) Patricia Hayes, Utility Clerk

WHEREAS, the designated agent shall perform an act and execute and document as may be required to implement and maintain electronic funds transfer services drawing against the said Town bank account, and agreements relation to other ACH credit/debit conducted by the Town.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Williams, seconded by Alderman Wiggins 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 11th day of September, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Brack, by Alderman Calcagno and approved and to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated August 11, 2023 and Special Meeting dated August 24, 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack suggested having a white board in meeting room to track projects.

Alderman Louque had his questions answered during the meeting.

Alderman Williams stated he received a complaint concerning the potholes on E. Second Street. A resident complained about a sewer backup issue and was told the town cannot go on personal property to clean sewer line, is this correct? The town will clean up tap, anything further is the property owner's responsibility.

Alderman Wiggins thanked the police department for their help directing traffic when a Main Street light pole was being replaced. A grass letter needs to be sent to the property owner at 1210 N Airline. He reported that the railroad tracks from S. Milet to S. Airline were blocked by a train for over an hour several days ago.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported seeing several garbage cans on S Mulberry and E Railroad that do not comply with Waste Management's criteria. Looking at the Town Zoning map, it was recognized that there are several areas of Town that are zoned incorrectly; these need to be corrected. Entergy has reviewed the survey report turned into them and repairs or replacement should be completed in a few days. DOTD has investigated the sinkholes on Main Street and concluded the problem is caused by the condition of the corrugated steel culverts in the area.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchaux reported that he filed the paperwork to remove the status set on property on S. Airline Avenue.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Williams and approved to adjourn at 6:46 pm.

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