

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
APRIL 9, 2018**

PUBLIC COMMENTS - No comments were received on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS - None

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka stated that the Entergy Franchise Agreement review is nearly complete. He thanked the citizens of Gramercy for their support of the Sales & Use Tax. We have not reached an agreement on the price of 600 square feet of property needed for the E. Railroad Project; therefore we will file an expropriation suit for the property. Mayor Nosacka suggested that we consider using a different engineer on street projects that will use sales tax funds. St. James Parish is currently cleaning out the Hot Water Canal and Central Canal to help with drainage. The mayor has received a proposal from A3M Services on culvert cleaning in Park A. During the summer, the town will begin a project to install culverts that will divert water from Central Canal to Golden Grove Canal. Alderman Rhonda Lee asked for an update on the fire victims; Mayor Nosacka reported that there were no injuries and he has been in contact with the land owners to begin the demolition of the ruined structures. Police Chief Dicharry thanked Todd Washington, Tory Burnett and Dwayne "Choupique" Joseph for assisting an elderly lady safely get out of the mobile home that was destroyed by the fire.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief of Police Brent Dicharry stated that he is interested in bringing back the auxiliary program. The mayor requested a cost estimate for each auxiliary officer in the program to be presented at the May meeting.

B. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux reported that the move of the Town Hall Administration Office to the Police Department went smoothly.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Nosacka reported that three houses were demolished in March. Mr. Ragas has stopped working on his building and the mayor would like to have the remaining demolition done by a contractor.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that he noticed several residents did not have a building permit to do work on their homes. If any aldermen or police officers notice work being done, please contact the town hall or him so the issue can be looked into.

GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Mr. Calcagno stated that the Pool A will be open to the public this summer. Improvements to Park B include an ADA water fountain and bench with concrete slab.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 705-18 An ordinance providing for the continued levy within the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana, effective July 1, 2018, of a one-half of one percent (1/2%) sales and use tax (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services in said Town and for the assessment, collection, payment thereof and the dedication of the proceeds of said Tax and the purpose for which the proceeds of the Tax may be expended, said Tax having been authorized at a special election held in the Town on March 24, 2018.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Coleman and seconded by Alderman Wiggins:

RESOLUTION 09-18

Therefore, the Governing Authority did declare and proclaim and does hereby declare and proclaim in open and public session that the Proposition as hereinabove set forth was duly **CARRIED** by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the said special election held in the Town on Saturday, March 24, 2018.

Results by precinct are available from the Secretary of this Governing Authority during regular business hours or via Louisiana Secretary of State's website (voterportal.sos.la.gov)

"**Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and made a part of this *Procès Verbal* is a copy of the Notice of Special Election and proof of publication thereof.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Gramercy, Louisiana, on this the 9th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Steven Nosacka
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
/s/ Amy O. St. Pierre
Town Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), on October 16, 2017, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the Town on **SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the Town qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION (SALES TAX)

Shall the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), under the provisions of Article VI, Section 29 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and other constitutional and statutory authority, be authorized to levy and collect a tax of one-half of one percent (1/2%) (the "Tax") in perpetuity, from and after July 1, 2018, upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the Town, all as defined by law (an estimated \$300,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), with the proceeds of the Tax (after paying the reasonable and necessary expenses of collecting and administering the Tax), to be dedicated and used for constructing, improving, extending and maintaining streets, drainage, sewer infrastructure and sewerage treatment works; police department salaries and equipment; and purchasing and acquiring the necessary equipment and land for any of the aforesaid public works, improvements and facilities?

The said special election shall be held at the polling places for the following precincts:

01(PART)
02
03(PART)

The polling places for the precincts set forth above are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5, Chapter 6-A and Chapter 6-B of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Town Hall, 120 N. Montz Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana, on **MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018**, at **SEVEN O'CLOCK (7:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the Town are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Gramercy, Louisiana, on this the 9th day of April, 2018.

ATTEST:

/s/ Steven Nosacka
Mayor

/s/ Amy O. St. Pierre
Clerk

PROCLAMATION

I, the undersigned Mayor of the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), do hereby declare, proclaim and announce that the proposition submitted at the special election held in the Town on Saturday, March 24, 2018, was CARRIED by a majority of the votes cast at the said special elections, all as described and set out in the above *Procès Verbal*.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Gramercy, Louisiana, on this 9th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Steven Nosacka
Mayor

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ST JAMES

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings and *Procès Verbal* made by said Governing Authority on April 9, 2018, providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election held in the Town on Saturday, March 24, 2018, to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Gramercy, Louisiana, on this, the 9th day of April, 2018.

/s/ Amy O. St. Pierre
Clerk

On motion by Alderman Bourgeois, seconded by Alderman Calcagno the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-18

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO PUBLIC PLACES GRANT APPLICATION BY THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN, EXECUTE AND ADMINISTER SAID CHANGE ORDER AND ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, this project seeks to provide sidewalks for the public to walk along South Airline Avenue and East Railroad Avenue; and

WHEREAS, these improvements aim to improve the safety of the public who walk and bike from surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy intends to submit the 2018 Safe Routes to Public Places Grant Application to the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development to accomplish this goal; and

WHEREAS, there is no local match required for this program; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy does accept liability and provide maintenance for any improvements through this project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council convened in regular session on 9TH day of April, 2018 and hereby support the safe routes to public places grant application by the Town of Gramercy with the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development; and authorizes the Mayor to sign, execute and administer said any and all relevant documents.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 9TH Day of April, 2018.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-18

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ONE IN CONNECTION WITH GRAMERCY TOWN HALL RENOVATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana advertised for bid on the Gramercy Town Hall Renovation;

WHEREAS, said contract was awarded to Gatorphant Industries, LLC for original contract price not to exceed Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Four and No/100 dollars (\$39,984.00).

WHEREAS, the town hereby approves Change Order Number One, net increase in contract price not to exceed Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen and 02/100 dollars (\$21,315.02)

WHEREAS, copies of Change Order Number One shall be attached hereto.

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 Mayor, for Change Order Number One in connection with bids for the Gramercy Town Hall Renovation;

SECTION 2. Original contract price is \$39,984.00; Change Order Number One net increase not to exceed \$21,315.02

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

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Lee, second by Alderman Wiggins:

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 9th day of April, 2018.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Coleman asked for an update on the "Keep Gramercy Beautiful" signs; Mayor Nosacka stated that the signs were delivered Friday. Alderman Coleman asked that a Gramercy Trash Bash be scheduled in the near future.

Alderman Wiggins thanked Mayor Nosacka for his continued efforts on blighted homes. He thanked Rhonda Colar for her continued work on getting street light repairs done in a timely manner.

Alderman Lee thanked the town maintenance crew for repairing the sink holes in front of her father's yard. She stated that there will be plenty of activity at the schools this summer due to the grade transitions for the elementary schools.

Alderman Bourgeois thanked St. James Parish for assistance with cleaning drainage ditches. He thanked Rhonda Colar for her continued work on getting street light repairs done in a timely manner.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno stated that he noticed several abandoned cars were tagged and towed. He feels that our blighted home ordinance is in need of updating. He reported that several potholes need repair on Main Street. On March 31, 2018, Noranda had another white dust release; spoke with Jim in Noranda's Environmental Department but feels Noranda is not doing enough to prevent the releases.

Mayor Nosacka recognized Louisiana Sugar Refinery for their continued efforts to solve the citizen's odor concerns. He has noticed work being done by the pond.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Fauchoux reported that on May 14, 2018, the town goes before the Judge to dissolve the restraining order on the Parquette mobile home. He will be filing the suit for expropriation of a portion of land owned by United Food and Commercial Workers Union. We have received an Attorney General opinion concerning drainage maintenance statues.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Lee, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved to adjourn 8:30 pm.

/s/ Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor

/s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk