

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 7:05 p.m. at the Gramercy Town Hall.

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

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

There were absent: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Levenstein, addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman concerning Resolution 23-18 authorizing the mayor to execute a contract with Quiver Construction, LLC for demolition and removal of a blighted building at 230 N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana. Mr. Levenstein is the attorney for Mr. Thomas Ragas, owner of property at 239 N. Airline Avenue. He is requesting a 30 day extension for Mr. Ragas to bring forth his intentions for remodeling this building.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Mr. Charles Hymel, 1010 N. Airline Avenue, addressed concerns about the amount of traffic on E. Tenth Street. Cars from LA 3125 are cutting through Taylor's Express parking lot in order to avoid the red light at LA 3125 and N. Airline Avenue. He is asking that the back outlet be closed or blocked off to prevent the added traffic on Tenth Street. Attorney Robert Faucheux advised researching casino entrance/exit regulations.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka passed out a report on the accomplishments of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen during the past four years. The recap included merging the Town's fire department with the East Bank Fire District, replaced Wayne Street Drainage, clearing and cleaning major drainage canals, served on the Parish's East Bank Drainage and Flood Protection Task Force, completed several water plant projects so the residents of Gramercy continue to receive clean water, have reduced blight, designed and are implementing the reconfiguration of E. Railroad Avenue, successfully secured the support of our residents for a new half-cent sales tax for maintenance and improvement of the town's streets, water, sewage and drainage. Mayor Nosacka expressed his hope to continue his service to the citizens of the Town of Gramercy. He announced that the Town of Gramercy has been awarded a \$150,000 Delta Regional Authority grant for the rebuilding of the 4th Street pump station. St. James Parish School Board will conduct a drainage survey of Lutchter High School; this could affect David Canal in Gramercy. He has discussed with St. James Parish Councilman District 1 Alvin St. Pierre about using Road Maintenance Funds to widen Rose Street. Town and Parish officials continue to meet with Corps of Engineers concerning the Westshore ring levee. Mayor Nosacka would like to have a public meeting in the near future to answer any questions the residents may have and listen to their suggestions.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECTS

On Wednesday, we will begin cleaning the two storage tanks at the water plant. This project will be paid with Community Water Enrichment Funds. Work continues on developing the Zapp's wastewater discharge permit

3. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Brent Dicharry reported there were burglaries on River Road. With the combined efforts of Gramercy Police Department and St. James Sheriff's Office, the suspects have been identified and warrants have been issued for their arrest. The police department will begin tagging abandoned vehicles. He has received complaints of school bus drivers speeding in the area; he has contacted the School Board office and First Student and should be receiving documentation that will help with addressing this issue. Chief Dicharry thanked the mayor and board for their cooperation on this fiscal year's budget. As technology changes it can be expensive to purchase laptops, radios and body cameras that help keep police officers stay safe and provide service to the community. With the current budget, the police department will be able to purchase about 75% of needed equipment and should be able to purchase the remaining 25% with next year's budget.

B. REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux stated that he continues to monitor the disturbance in the Gulf of Mexico and Hurricane Isaac in the Atlantic Ocean. He suggested doing an elevation reading of each intersection in town. The data can be used to determine which areas would be affected by high water so that sandbags and other resources could be focused in those areas. Also, he would like to implement a public text message system for the town; this would help with getting valuable emergency information out to Gramercy citizens.

4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc stated that Ms. Griffin came to the Planning Commission meeting and asked for a variance for a five year old mobile home to be placed on S. Cherry Street. The Planning Commission has no recommendation at this time. Mayor Nosacka stated that an exception can be granted upon inspection of the mobile home and approval by the town council. Mayor Nosacka, Chairman LeBlanc, and District 1 Alderman Coleman will make an appointment to inspect the mobile home.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. The recreation department has recently purchased a new Gator. The rental building floor has been repaired and refinished. The press box is ready for demolition and they are waiting for the intergovernmental agreement with the Town. New tennis court bids are being worked on. Missy Laurent questioned the future of the pool once Lutchter High School has finished construction on their pool. The recreation board members continued to be impressed with the work that Mark Lambert is doing by the park.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 711-18 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 18 – UNSAFE BUILDINGS

ORDINANCE 712-18 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III PERSONNEL POLICY

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 23-18
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH QUIVER CONSTRUCTION LLC FOR DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF THE BLIGHTED BUILDING LOCATED AT 239 N AIRLINE AVENUE, GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy has properly noticed the Owner of the property located at 239 N Airline Avenue (Parcel No. 0100095504) and advised of the violation of Chapter 18 of the Town's Code of Ordinances; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy has properly Condemned the property and posted Notice of Condemnation in accordance with the Town's Code of Ordinances; and
WHEREAS, on May 8, 2017, the Town's Board of Aldermen have previously adopted a Resolution ordering the demolition of the structure located on this property; and
WHEREAS, Quiver Construction LLC, 30412 Hwy 3125, Paulina, Louisiana 70763 provided an estimate on the demolition and removal of blighted building at 239 N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana;

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

SECTION 1. Quiver Construction LLC, 30412 Hwy 3125, Paulina, Louisiana 70763 is hereby awarded a contract not to exceed Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and no cents (\$9,750.00).

SECTION 2. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Quiver Construction LLC for the demolition and removal of a blighted building located at 239 N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Wiggins 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 10th day of September, 2018.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-18

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TO SEEK AND RECEIVE STATE OF LOUISIANA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, is seeking a \$35,000 Louisiana Government Assistance Program Funds,

WHEREAS, these funds will assist in our efforts to improve public facilities within the corporate limits of the Town of Gramercy.

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana are in full support of acquiring funds for improvements of our public facilities within the corporate limits of the Town of Gramercy.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized and empowered to seek Louisiana Government Assistance Program Funds to complete the above named project.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Lee, seconded by Alderman Calcagno

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 10th day of September, 2018.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Bourgeois, second by Alderman Coleman, and approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings, and to adopt the minutes as published.

PAYMENT OF BILLS/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Lee thanked everyone for the leadership on the many projects the town has worked on in the past four years.

Alderman Bourgeois thanked Lt. Ordeneaux for the updates on the current storms and for the good job in communicating with the public during Tropical Storm Gordon. Reported tall grass at 446 N. Montz, Gramercy.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. On September 1st after about one inch of rain there was sewer overflowing on Tania Street, Belinda Street, and Kathy Street. He has been monitoring the Blind River gauge to track backwater intrusion and suggest we install our own gauge at the Ezidore Canal for our own monitoring.

Alderman Wiggins requested a new street light be installed at 256 S. Sycamore Street.

Alderman Coleman thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the 24 year celebration last month. She appreciated the kind words she received from the guests.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr. stated that the town has been listed in a suit, Nolan Carmouche vs. Shell Oil Company; there are about six pages of defendants listed in the suit. He has filed an exception for the court to look at reasons for bringing forth the suit. Risk Management will be the lead representation for the town in this matter. Police Chief Dicharry and Town Attorney has participated in several depositions concerning a case the police department was involved; he feels the case was handled properly and there is no reason for a suit to be filed against the town. The judge has continued the Parquette mobile home court date to May 2019.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Lee, second by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to adjourn 8:50 pm.

/s/ Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor
/s/ Amy O. St. Pierre, Clerk