

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE NO. 713-18 AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA TO ASSESS A COLLECTION FEE ON DEBTS REFERRED TO COLLECTION AGENCY

No public comments were received on Ordinance No. 713-18. 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 Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 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: Mayor Steven Nosacka, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Betty Coleman, Alderman Clyde Wiggins

There were absent: Alderman Jody Bourgeois, Alderman Rhonda Lee

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Mr. Charles Hymel, 1010 N. Airline Avenue, addressed concerns about the amount of traffic on E. Tenth Street. He asked for the Board to consider closing the outlet in the back of Taylor's Express.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka stated that the New Zion Christian Center Fall Fest was a success. The Gramercy Police Department and St. James Sheriff's Office assisted with security and traffic control. On Reverend Mitchell's behalf, Alderman Coleman thanked everyone for their assistance with the Fall Fest. The meeting with the Corps of Engineers was informative. The Corp presented information so the public would have a better understanding of the Westshore Flood Protection project. LSR will be sponsoring a celebration of Colonial Elementary on December 11, 2018 at 4:00 pm

REPORT ON-GOING PROJECTS

Mayor Nosacka reported that AT&T will move their service line for preparation of the Railroad Avenue project within the next 30 -90 days. We will soon advertise for the interior repairs of N. Montz Fire Station.

After further inspection and study, the total for the Dudley Pump Station project will exceed the original cost estimate, a final estimate will be provided by Professional Engineering Consultants.

A motion by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins to have Professional Engineering Consultants continue to work on specs for Dudley Pump Station project, results of the vote as follows:

Yeas: Calcagno, Wiggins, Coleman
Nays: None
Absent: Bourgeois, Lee
Abstain: None

2. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Brent Dicharry stated that Halloween was successful and no incidents were reported. He is currently working with St. James Vol. Fire Department on safety plans for Christmas Eve. He has ordered body cameras and vests for the officers.

B. REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux reminded everyone to check the batteries in their smoke alarms.

3. REPORTS FROM ST JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

District One Parish Councilman, Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. reported that the budget is currently being worked on and the town will receive \$75,000 for Road Improvements. He has requested a meeting with TB Smith and the Corps of Engineers to further discuss the ring levee protection project for St. James Parish. There will be a Gramercy Recreation Meeting on Monday, November 19th at 6:00 pm to discuss the Master Plan; Councilman St. Pierre encourages the Board of Aldermen to attend.

4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

On behalf of Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc, Mayor Nosacka stated that they continue to communicate with the individuals interested in opening a RV Park on US 61; no final plans have been submitted.

A re-subdivision request was made for 260 S. Elm Street. The property owner would like to sub-divide one large lot into two 5,800 square feet lots.

A motion by Alderman Wiggins to consider allowing the re-subdivision of 260 S. Elm Street was made. The motion failed due to lack of a second motion.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. The Parish has installed a new water fountain by the concession stand and they will begin to winterize the fields. The Board is waiting on a price estimate from Bordelon Pest Control for spraying of ants. New metal benches have been installed. Bike racks are needed near the walking track. The Board is discussing how to proceed with installing one or two new tennis courts.

ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 713-18

ORDINANCE BY THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA TO ASSESS A COLLECTION FEE ON DEBTS REFERRED TO COLLECTION AGENCY

WHEREAS, an ordinance establishing that the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana authorizes the assessment of a collection fee on debts, accounts receivable, costs, fines and fees turned over to a collection agency

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that there are certain debts and accounts on which the Town has been unable to collect funds due;

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that there are certain fines, costs and fees ordered by Town which remain outstanding;

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that as the governing authority for the Town there exists a duty to exercise due diligence in collecting public funds;

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that the Town is authorized by state law to contract with a collection agency for the collection of one or more of the following items:

1. Debts and accounts receivable including, but not limited to, unpaid utility fees, penalties, interest and other sums due the municipality, as applicable; or
2. Court penalties, costs, fines and fees in cases in municipal court in which the accused has failed to appear or otherwise failed to satisfy a monetary obligation ordered by the court;

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that a collection fee will be required to obtain the services of a collection agency to collect these sums, and desires to assess such a fee;

WHEREAS in case any one or more of the provisions of this ordinance shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provisions of said ordinance, but the same shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained therein. Any constitutional or statutory provisions enacted after the date of this ordinance that validate or make legal any provisions thereof shall be deemed to apply hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, State of Louisiana, in legal and regular and/or special session, acting as the "Governing Authority" of said T o w n , adopt the following ordinance to the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana:

SECTION I. The Town hereby assesses a collection fee in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the delinquent municipal debt when the Town has entered into a contract with a collection company or entity for collection of the above listed items. This fee will be added to all sums submitted to the collection agency regardless of age.

SECTION II. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this Ordinance which can be given affect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION II BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, October 8, 2018, notice of public hearing having been published on Thursday, October 18, said public meeting held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Coleman, second by Alderman Calcagno, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 13th day of November, 2018.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 31-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PONCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT AND THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE CHRISTMAS BONFIRE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, and the Pontchartrain Levee District desire to enter into an annual Christmas Bonfire program agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, desires once again to comply with the Pontchartrain Levee District Christmas Bonfire program agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, desires to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement pertaining to the Christmas Bonfire Program.

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

SECTION 1. Mr. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into and sign said Christmas Bonfire Program agreement and the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District, and to pay the Towns' portion of the liability insurance premium in the amount of \$2,500.00.

SECTION 2. That the subject agreements for the Christmas Season 2018 be attached hereto and made a part hereof.

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

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 13th day of November, 2018.

RESOLUTION 32-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NORTH AIRLINE AVENUE DRAINAGE PUMP STATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, drainage improvements are needed in the North Airline Avenue area, and those improvements will provide drainage relief to that area as well as to facilitate drainage maintenance efforts all along North Airline Avenue.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby approve the commencement of the North Airline Avenue Drainage Pump Station Project, at an estimated total cost of \$25,000, to be funded from the Infrastructure Sales Tax Fund.

SECTION 2. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute any necessary documents related to this Project.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 13th day of November, 2018.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Coleman welcomed newly elected District Two Alderman Darren Brack and District Three Alderman Theron Louque. She thanked Alderman at Large candidate Shelly Warren for her continued interest in the community.

Alderman Wiggins asked the mayor to continue his efforts to remove blighted homes in town. The Veterans Day Program was enjoyed by all. Alderman Wiggins wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report and a report on residential comments he received during his campaign efforts. He wrote several work orders for potholes, ruts, and crumbling asphalt throughout town. He saw the DOTD dump truck filling pot holes in Lutchter and asked if they are schedule to come to Gramercy.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka reported that he appeared in court on November 13, 2018 concerning Thomas Ragas property on N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, LA. The judge has continued the case until March 2019. Mayor Nosacka has requested that Mr. Ragas and his contractors come forward with plans for the building and in January 2019 file for a building permit application.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Coleman, second by Alderman Wiggins, and approved to adjourn 8:20 pm.

/s/ Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor

/s/ Amy O. St. Pierre, Clerk