

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE NO. 715-19 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 18 – UNSAFE BUILDINGS, SECTION 18-32 IMPOSITION OF LIEN AND PRIVILEGE

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Louque. The mayor closed the public hearing and continued with regular meeting.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, February 11, 2019, 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 Darren Brack, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Betty Coleman, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins

There were absent: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Ms. Herbrena Gordon-Godfrey, Krewe of MAC, reported that they are in contact with the School Board about providing buses to pick up the children involved in the parade from Cypress Grove Montessori to Sacred Heart Church where they will be picked up by their parents.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka reported he received notice from AT&T that the Department of Transportation has approved their service relocation by E. Railroad Avenue. We will need to get permission from the Ponchartrain Levee Board to dig due to high river levels. In preparation for the Mardi Gras parade, a community service worker will pressure wash the sidewalks on Main Street. We will also look into digging up the old trees on Main Street and replace them with more manageable plants. The 14th Street canal culvert has failed and that caused the street to fail. St. James Parish will help with excavating the old culvert and we will set the new culvert and repair the concrete street. Our application of a \$35,000 LGAP grant has been approved. This money will be used to replace the N. Airline sewer pump station.

REPORT ON-GOING PROJECTS

Due to the consistent issues with industrial neighbors, Mayor Nosacka would like to form a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) for the town. They will hopefully help with environmental, employment, traffic and other aspects of our relations with local industry.

2. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Brent Dicharry asked the Board to consider waiving the Open Container law for the Mardi Gras parade beginning at 10:30 am through thirty minutes after the parade has ended in Gramercy. The Sheriff's Office will run a driver license check on those individuals driving floats.

3. REPORTS FROM ST JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

District One Councilman St. Pierre reported that while in Washington DC, Parish officials met with several Senators and Congressmen. Parish officials had the chance to discuss the needs of St. James Parish and he felt the meetings were productive. He is still working on the flood protection project engineering and funding.

4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that engineer Chuck Fromherz came to the planning commission meeting to discuss a development project in Deroche Circle. It would include two commercial offices and a storage building.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Amato's has replaced the breaker panel for the back field lighting. The School Board needs to run through on sequence of operations to determine if they will use the Gramercy pool for the swim team. They will have Jeff Bell with CSRS to perform a cost study on the future use of the pool. The press box has been demolished.

ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 715-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 18 – UNSAFE BUILDINGS, SECTION 18-32 IMPOSITION OF LIEN AND PRIVILEGE

WHEREAS, an Ordinance amending the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18, Section 18-32. – Imposition of lien and privilege.

The following shall be amended and read as:

Sec. 18-32. - Imposition of lien and privilege.

(a) All expenses incurred by the town in the enforcement of this article shall be borne by the person owning the premises or building, including all fines, attorney's fees, the cost of locating the owner, notification of the owner, securing the property and/or demolishing the property, and the enforcement and collection of the amount due to the town. The town shall notify the owner thereof of the costs incurred and request payment or reimbursement. Such notice shall be made as specified in this article. Upon failure of the owner to pay or reimburse the charges, the town shall file an affidavit signed by the town mayor and an invoice reflecting the amount of such costs and charges in the mortgage office of the town clerk of court. The affidavit shall include a description of the property sufficient to reasonably identify the immovable property; and the affidavit, when so filed and recorded, shall operate as a lien and a privilege in favor of the town against the property on which the building, dwelling, structure, equipment or premises were removed, repaired or demolished and shall be added to the annual ad valorem tax bill of the property involved, unless other payment arrangements are made such that the total costs are reimbursed within two years. If not then the balance due shall be added to the annual ad valorem tax bill of the property.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, January 14, 2019, notice of public hearing having been published on Thursday, January 24, 2019 and said public meeting held on Monday, February 11, 2019, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Louque to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 11th day of November, 2018.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 716-19 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, SECTION 415 APPENDIX A: DOMESTIC SEWER USER FEES

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 10-19

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2019 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the history of African-Americans here in the Town of Gramercy and in our entire nation reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in the struggle to equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people; and,

WHEREAS, our African-American residents have participated in every American effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights; and,

WHEREAS, all our citizens can take every opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people, to develop pride in their own identity and heritage, and to respect and accept the identity and heritage of others;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy do hereby recognize February 2019 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in our TOWN OF GRAMERCY, and we call our residents to this observance.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of February, 2019

Alderman Coleman read a tribute honoring Mrs. Tamer J. Cooper-Moore and Colonial Elementary School. Colonial Elementary School educated many black children from Gramercy and neighboring communities. Mrs. Cooper-Moore, a teacher at Colonial Elementary and is remembered as a devoted teacher, principal, counselor, disciplinarian and mother-away-from home to the students. She was respected by all for her dedication to the education of her students.

RESOLUTION 11-19

A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Gramercy, Chapter 18 provides for the repair or demolition of what has been determined to be unsafe structures; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined the structures located at four locations in the Town to be unsafe; and

WHEREAS, Section 18-29 (a) requires the determination by the Board of Aldermen that a structure is unreasonable to repair and that demolition is required.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to proceed with demolition and removal of the following structures, subject to compliance with the notice and appeal provisions contained within the Ordinance:

Craig Carter, et al – 242 S Airline Ave – Property ID 010002200
Mary Clark – 263 S Elm St – Property ID 0100024100
John Cooper – 248 Mulberry Ave – Property ID 0100026800
Raymond Kennard, et al – 1555 Tulip St – Property ID 0100058600

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of February, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 12-19

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING TO THE LOWEST QUALIFIED RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE DUDLEY PUMP STATION REHABILITATION, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA.

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, advertised for bids the Dudley Pump Station Rehabilitation, said advertisement having appeared in the Town's Official Journal; and,

WHEREAS, Gottfried Contracting, LLC, Covington, Louisiana, has submitted the lowest qualified responsible bid for the Dudley Pump Station Rehabilitation.

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

SECTION 1. Gottfried Contracting, LLC, Covington, Louisiana is hereby deemed to be the lowest qualified bidder for the Dudley Pump Station Rehabilitation for the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana and is awarded a bid price not to exceed Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents.

SECTION 2. that the Mayor is hereby empowered and authorized to sign all documents in connection with the contract with Gottfried Contracting LLC, Covington, Louisiana.

Professional Engineering Consultants provided a certified bid summary for this project. It is recommended that this project be awarded to Gottfried Contracting LLC of Covington, LA with a total base bid amount of \$315,000.00.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of February, 2019

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 Brack, and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Coleman thanked Mayor Nosacka for recognizing Black History Month and Mrs. Cooper-Moore. She mentioned that she is in favor of the CAP panel and would like to see members of the community serving on the committee.

Alderman Wiggins He has several street light outages to report and will turn them into the office.

Alderman Louque received several calls about missed garbage pickup in the 100 – 200 blocks of N. Montz and N. Ezidore. Spoke with Mr. Gordon at Waste Management to help with resolving the issue. He spoke with the mayor about ordering the reflective/collapsible posts to prevent parking on the corner of S. Millet and Main Street. Mayor Nosacka stated the items have been ordered and that he also spoke with DOTD about a traffic study to help reduce speed limit on Main Street.

Alderman Brack reported that there are signs along LA 3125 that are falling into the ditches. He asked if the town restricts this type of advertisement.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He has checked out and reported the S. Millet railroad crossing is in bad condition and in need of repair. Jim Zeringue is again digging and cleaning drainage ditches along Golden Grove Road to help with drainage. He also reported that signs nailed onto a light pole are blight and they need to be removed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fauchaux reported that he met with Mr. Levenstein, Tommy Ragas' attorney, concerning future plans for Mr. Ragas' property on N. Airline Avenue; no progress has been made. The court date for Mr. Ragas' case is March 11, 2019 at 9:00 am.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Coleman, and approved to adjourn at 8:24 pm.

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