

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
APRIL 8, 2019**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, April 8, 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., Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS - None

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka reported that the homeowner at 242 S. Airline is demolishing the home and arrangements for the mobile home removal on Tulip Street have been made with Lloyd Ferdinand. The town has received its fire rating from Property Insurance Association of Louisiana and we have maintained a Class 5 rating. He is still researching the development of an industrial relations group. We are waiting for approval of a Community Water Enrichment Grant for repairs needed to storage tanks at the water plant.

REPORT ON-GOING PROJECTS

The E. Railroad Avenue relocation project is being delayed by the high water level of the Mississippi River. The Dudley Pump Station pumps are on order and work should begin mid-June. St. James Parish has cut the Golden Grove Canal banks and approved the right of entry for the 14th Street culvert repairs. We have received an estimate for the installation of culverts on Rose Street; this is the first phase for the widening of the street. S. Fir Street roadway is failing and we will need to install culverts to widen the street. Concrete work by Taylor's Express entrance has begun.

2. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Brent Dicharry had no report for this month

B. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Director Lt. Jody Ordeneaux reported that approximately 5" of rain fell in the recent rain event. Areas of concern include Wayne Street and the N. Ezidore circles.

C. CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Nosacka reported that Mr. Ronald Boudreaux will be serving as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. He has provided Mr. Boudreaux with the necessary job description and paperwork that will need to be filed before he begins work.

3. REPORTS FROM ST JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

District 1 Councilman, Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., stated that the last community meeting for the flood protection tax proposal will be held April 9, 2019 at Antioch Baptiste Church. Crews have been cutting grass in several locations in Gramercy. Gramercy Recreation District laid culverts on the east side of the park. The parish is working with Department of Transportation to change the drainage culverts along LA 3125.

4. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that engineer Chuck Fromherz has turned in the revised plans for the Deroche Circle development. The plans meet the requirements set by the Town and the Planning Commission recommends approval of the permit when it is filed. South Star Urgent Care has turned in their plans and filed for a permit. They will be located at 1665 LA Hwy 3125 (old Spectacular Tubers).

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. It was motioned and approved to begin the installation of the Disc Golf Program after baseball season. Mickey Roussel, with St. James Parish, turned in preliminary plans for the new press box/storage building. It was questioned of what it would take to get a restroom at Park B.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 13-19

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (MWPP) ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality requires the preparation of an annual MWPP audit report; and

WHEREAS, the MWPP audit report provides information which determines required actions by the Town to maintain compliance and permit requirements;

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy have reviewed and hereby approve the Annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report, dated March 15, 2019, for the Town of Gramercy, LA, which is attached to this Resolution.

SECTION 2. The following actions are to be implemented by the Town as necessary to maintain permit requirements contained in the LWDPS Permit Number LA0046876:

- a. Provide certified Class II operators for operation and provide sixteen (16) hours of training for each operator during the next year. This training will be conducted by the Town's environmental consultant.
- b. Operate the Pond system as recommended by the Town Engineer and Environmental Consultant and correct deficiencies and minimize permit excursions.
- c. Study and address (within Town budget limits) INI issues in the collection system.
- d. Maintain chlorination system to reduce Coliform levels.
- e. Schedule and maintain annual flow meter calibration.
- f. Contain to monitor non-domestic users and establish final non-domestic program.
- g. Continue Influent monitoring on a monthly basis.
- h. Insure Town laboratory is following all required QA/QC documentation.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Coleman, 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 8th day of April, 2019.

RESOLUTION 14-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE 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;

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

SECTION 1. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute a contract for the demolition and removal of the blighted building located at 239 N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Brack 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 8TH day of April, 2019.

RESOLUTION 15-19

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT PERMITS THE LEGISLATURE TO REMOVE THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADMINISTER AND COLLECT LOCAL SALES & USE TAXES

WHEREAS the Constitution of the State of Louisiana grants local governments the right to levy and collect local sales and use taxes;

WHEREAS there are legislative efforts introduced in the 2019 Regular Legislative Session that would allow the legislature to transfer collection responsibility of all local sales and use tax levies to the state Department of Revenue or some other entity;

WHEREAS local taxing authorities possess the best knowledge and experience to properly collect their own taxes and have a proven record of proactive advancements in the areas of enforcement, audit coverage, dispute resolution, reporting technology, and successful litigation;

WHEREAS the state of Louisiana's budget issues do not offer prospects for the Department of Revenue to have sufficient resources to provide the necessary taxpayer assistance, enforcement programs, and training of its employees on the specific application of local sales and use tax ordinances without significant cost contributions from local governments, thereby resulting in the direct and indirect loss of local tax receipts;

WHEREAS many local taxing authorities have issued bonded indebtedness guaranteed by the passage of locally adopted sales and use tax levies, the collection of said levies being the direct responsibility of those local governments; and the transfer of that responsibility to a state agency may violate bond covenants, generate legal challenges, and jeopardize future bond issuances; and

WHEREAS the single local collector in each parish is directly responsible to the local taxing authorities and their elected officials for the performance of local tax administration, whereas the Secretary of the Department of Revenue is an appointee of the Governor, therefore there exists great uncertainty as to who in the Department of Revenue will be accountable to local taxing authorities for the performance of such critical local tax administration, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the [Village/Town/City] of Gramercy, as a local taxing authority and/or governing body, urges each member of the legislative delegation for the Parish of St. James to vigorously oppose any and all proposed legislation that would transfer the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes to the Louisiana Department of Revenue or some other central collector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent forthwith to said legislators so that they will be notified of our position on this matter.

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

YEAS: Brack, Calcagno, Coleman, Louque, Wiggins
NAYS: None
ABSTENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8th day of April, 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 Louque, second by Alderman Brack, and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Coleman reported that the empty lot on the corner of Railroad Avenue and S. Fir Street holds water; this will attract mosquitos in the warmer months. Also, there is a problem with people loitering on this lot. She inquired when we will be able to repair the deteriorated area of S. Fir Street.

Alderman Wiggins has received calls about the removal of the dumpster by Ellis Street. Ferraro Canal is in need of cutting. Thanked Alderman Calcagno for helping clean catch basins to help with drainage during the rain event.

Alderman Louque reported that the maintenance shop needs to be cleaned.

Alderman Brack had no report for this month.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno reported the family is demolishing the house at 242 S. Airline. The pedestrian E. Main Street crossing signal light is out. He inquired about reaching out to residents, requesting their assistance in helping the Town with managing the cleanliness of the catch basins. Thanked Alderman Wiggins for his help with cleaning catch basins.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fauchoux reported that all town employees and elected officials are now required by law to attend a Sexual Harassment Course and a sexual harassment manual for the Town needs to be completed by 2020. He is filing a motion to dismiss the Town in the Nolan Carmouche law suit.

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

/s/ Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor

/s/ Amy St. Pierre, Clerk