

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR  
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF GRAMERCY  
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 53-2023** A Resolution Approving the Re-Zoning of Property Located in R-1 Residential to C-1 Central Business District

No Comments were received on Resolution No. 53-2023

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Brack and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on December 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm at Gramercy Town Hall.

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

There were present: Mayor Steven Bourgeois, Alderman Darren Brack, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Percy Williams

There were absent: None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Shelly Warren asked if the Mayor would speak about abandoned homes.

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS**

Rochelle Lemar, Krewe of MAC, informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the Mardi Gras parade will be on February 13, 2024, and they would like to begin the permitting process as soon as possible. Also, there would be no changes from last year's parade line-up.

**REPORTS**

**1. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bourgeois has asked for South Central Planning and Development's guidance on re-zoning areas in town to represent the housing in the area. Four citations have been issued for blight; two properties have made progress on cleaning up their properties. Shelly Warren asked Alderman Wiggins the definition of blight; Alderman Wiggins answered unlivable homes and trash. Mrs. Warren stated she feels she is being harassed concerning her property on S. Airline. Sandra Johnson, 223 S. Airline Avenue, inquired on the status of 224 S Airline Avenue. Mr. Faucheux responded that a temporary restraining order against the town is still in effect. Mayor Bourgeois recognized Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc for his 16 years of service to the town. Mr. LeBlanc is retiring from the commission at the end of this year, and he stated that he enjoyed his time on the Planning Commission.

**2. ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT – There was no report for this month.**

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS**

**A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Dicharry asked for the Board to waive the Open Container and Fireworks ordinances for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The Police Department has been working with Paw Prints Animal Rescue of St. James on getting stray animals to shelter. The holidays usually bring more thefts. He wants to remind everyone to lock their car and house doors.

Aldermen Brack thanked Chief Dicharry for the report on the number of stops and citations in the area. He would also like to see a GPS report on all Police vehicles, including the Chief.

**REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Lt. Ordeneaux stated that weather trends are showing increased rain chances on Christmas Eve, but no freezing temperatures. There shouldn't be a burn ban for Christmas Eve.

**REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Sgt. Gerhold has located two mobile homeowners cited for blight on Mobile Lane. He continues to work on abandoned cars. Alderman Brack stated he would like to see the firework time limits strictly enforced since some people will have to go to work on Tuesday after Christmas.

**REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Planning Commission member Gary Waguespack reported that Ms. Danice Pittman has asked for permission to relocate her mobile home from 250 S. Plum Street to a vacant lot she recently purchased on S. Plum Street; the commission has asked her to provide the age and size of the lot. The members found contradicting statements within the Mobile Home Ordinance and asked the Board of Aldermen to review and make the correction in the next town meeting.

**GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT**

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. If anyone has any questions, please contact him.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 49-2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE I, SECTION 6-1 OPEN CONTAINERS**

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holidays of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

WHEREAS, in prior years the Town of Gramercy has provided for the suspension of the Town of Gramercy Ordinance Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 6-1 (Open Containers) during the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

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

SECTION 1: The Mayor and Board of Alderman approve the suspension of Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 6-1 (Open Containers) of the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, and enforcement shall be suspended from 04:00 pm December 24, 2023 until 06:00 am December 25, 2023 and from 10:00 pm December 31, 2023 until 02:00 am January 1, 2024.

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, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 50-2023**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND CHAPTER 50, ARTICLE V, SECTION 50-125 FIREWORKS**

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holidays of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

WHEREAS, in prior years the Town of Gramercy has provided for the suspension of the Town of Gramercy Ordinance Chapter 50, Article V, Section 50-125 (Fireworks) during the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

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

SECTION 1: The Mayor and Board of Alderman approve the suspension of Chapter 50, Article V, Section 50-125 (Fireworks) of the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, and enforcement shall be suspended from 04:00 pm December 24, 2023 until 06:00 am December 25, 2023 and from 10:00 pm December 31, 2023 until 02:00 am January 1, 2024.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 51-2023**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MAJOR DRAINAGE CANALS, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy (the "Town") has identified the need for engineering and project implementation services related to improvements to major canals, planning and construction.

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby selects and approves Scott Poirrier, High Tide Consultants, LLC to perform engineering and project implementation services related to the planning and construction improvements required along major canals.

SECTION 2. Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute an engineering and project implementation services agreement with the aforementioned engineering firm.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 52-2023**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE FOR LOUISIANA BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY AND SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION DATED JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2017.**

Amendment Date: December 1, 2023

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT ("Amendment") is entered into by and between South Central Planning and Development Commission, hereinafter referred to as "SCPDC" and the Town of Gramercy, hereinafter referred to as "Town of Gramercy", parties to The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between South Central Planning and Development Commission and Town of Gramercy who for the purpose and consideration cited herein below, enter into the First Amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between South Central Planning and Development Commission and Town of Gramercy.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the original endeavor, SCPDC has been contracted to serve as the administrative entity responsible for the implementation of the South Central Regional Construction Code Compliance Program by providing plan review and inspection services to the participating jurisdictions.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the original endeavor, the budget and the pro-rata share for the following calendar year will be submitted by July 31 of the previous year.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the parties previously entered into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, on or about June 13, 2007. The parties desire to amend said Agreement as set forth below:

1. Term and Termination. Town of Gramercy shall participate in the Compliance Program for a term of three (3) years with the option to continue in the compliance program for successive three (3) year term(s) subject to the same terms and conditions set out in this agreement. The option to continue shall be assumed with no notice to the contrary. This term commences on December 1, 2023, and terminates on November 30, 2026.
2. All other terms and conditions of the original Cooperative Endeavor Agreement not modified by this amendment shall remain in full force and effect.

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

SECTION 1. Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with South Central Planning and Development Commission relative to the South Central Regional Construction Code Compliance Program, on behalf of the Town of Gramercy.

SECTION 2. This Amendment is signed, accepted, and agreed to by all parties by and through the parties of their agents or authorized representatives. All parties hereby acknowledge that they have read and understood this Amendment hereto. All parties further acknowledge that that they have executed this legal document voluntarily and of their own free will.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 53-2023**

#### **A Resolution Approving the Re-Zoning of Property Located in R-1 Residential to C-1 Central Business District**

WHEREAS, Cory and Christian Roussel has requested a special exception to the zoning ordinance of a certain property located in the corporate limits of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, be changed; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing shall be held on the Re-Zoning of property located at 607 N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana on December 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that:

SECTION I. A special exception to the zoning ordinance of a certain property located at 607 N. Airline Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana, to allow for a hair salon.

THAT CERTAIN PORTION of Lots 51 & 52, Sq. 7, Ferrero S/D, measures 50' in width by a depth of 118.5' each bounded Riverside by Lot 50, Woodside by Lot 54 and on the east by Airline Hwy, Book 300-319, Book 326-89, Entry No. 90054

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, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 54-2023**

#### **A RESOLUTION SETTING A MORATORIUM REGARDING MANUFACTURED HOMES IN TOWN OF GRAMERCY ON N. DAVID STREET, N. PINE STREET, N. MAGNOLIA STREET, AND W. SECOND STREET**

WHEREAS, N. David Street, N. Pine Street, N. Magnolia Street, and W. Second Street is zone R2 - Residential

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen wishes to change the zoning classification of the named streets from R2 Residential to R1 Residential.

WHEREAS, the Mayor is seeking advisement from South Central Planning and Development Commission on the zoning change.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will impose a 120-day moratorium on manufactured home placement on N. David Street, N. Pine Street, N. Magnolia Street, and W. Second Street is effective immediately.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Calcagno asked for a correction to Resolution 46-202, Section 2 passed on November 13, 2023; it should state Mayor Bourgeois is authorized to file a lien in the Clerk of Court on the property owner, not mobile homeowner.

It was moved by Alderman Louque, by Alderman Calcagno and approved and to adopt the minutes, with the correction, from the Regular Meeting dated October 10, 2023.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mayor Bourgeois asked for approval of payment of bills. A motion was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Louque, and approved to pay all bills and accept financial statements presented before the Council.

### **ALDERMEN'S REPORT**

Alderman Brack asked for an update on the streetlight repairs on N. Magnolia Street and N. Pine Street. Mayor Bourgeois stated the contractor was having trouble getting materials needed for the repairs. He turned in the additional pavilion information requested by South Central Planning.

Alderman Louque stated he tried to contact Flo Dumas at Entergy but has not received any response. He was advised that Sharanda Jackson is now in charge of streetlight repairs. The contractors left sand in the street after the 8<sup>th</sup> Street repair project; he asked if the maintenance crew can clean up the sand before it goes into the drainage culverts.

Alderman Williams stated a "No Large Truck" warning sign on E. First Street needs to be raised; a tall truck pulled down electrical wires the other night. He received a call concerning low water pressure on S. Airline Avenue. Mayor Bourgeois stated it was a town water line leaking and the maintenance crew was able to repair it without turning the water off to the residents.

Alderman Wiggins reported that he spoke with Mr. McKnight of US Senator Bill Cassidy's office concerning the condition of railroad tracks on S. Airline Avenue. They will investigate repairs being made in the new year. He thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for all their hard work this year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno asked when will work on the Force Main project resume. Mayor Bourgeois reported that it will take four to six weeks to mobilize to continue the work. He reported to KCS about the condition of the LA 3125 crossing. He received a call concerning the broken curbing by the Shell station and that she left her information with the owner. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mr. Fauchoux reported that he and Mayor Bourgeois attended court on December 4<sup>th</sup> concerning the Temporary Restraining Order against Randy Anny. Mr. Anny's attorney asked for a continuance and the Judge has granted the continuance. The Temporary Restraining Order against the Town concerning 224 S Airline Avenue is still in effect. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved to adjourn at 7:51 pm.

/s/ Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor  
Attest: /s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk