

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
JANUARY 13, 2025**

PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 766-2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 11, WATER SECTION 74-38 DEPOSITS FOR WATER SERVICE

There were no comments on Ordinance No. 766-2024

ORDINANCE NO. 767-2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 11, WATER SECTION 74-3 DELINQUENCY PENALTY

There were no comments on Ordinance No. 767-2024

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved unanimously.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the 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 Dustin Jenkins, Town Attorney Robert Faucheux, Jr., Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Brack, seconded by Alderman Williams, and approved to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated December 9, 2024.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

Town Account Doreen Lang advised the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the November 2024 month end reconciliation showed that revenues for Video Poker and Sales Tax Fund are lower than predicted. She is monitoring the changes the state has made to tax laws to see how it will affect the Town's finances.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Faucheux stated that a certified letter has been sent to the contractor for 430 N Airline Avenue. He has recently discovered that the Planning Commission needs to be certified by South Central Planning; this is a four-hour course.

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Jenkins passed out the monthly department report. The homeless subject that was reported was not found; it looks like he moved on. The 2024 Explorer was put in service in time for Christmas Eve and he thanked Jody Ordeneaux and Alan Berthelot for their work on the vehicle. They have been busy cleaning in and round the Police building. He has began interviewing applicants for a new police officer and he hopes to have a recommendation for the February meeting. There were no incidents on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. He thanked St. James Sheriff's Office for the extra patrols in Gramercy on Christmas Eve. He has a meeting with St. James Parish Sheriff's Office, Town of Litcher and Krewe of MAC to discuss their annual Mardi Gras Parade. He thanked the Sheriff's Office for their assistance and investigation into the Eighth Street incident.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EOC Director Jody Ordeneaux had no report for this month.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

EOC Director Jody Ordeneaux stated he has reviewed the Town's Ordinance Code and Section 10-11 states that South Central Planning shall be responsible for the overall administration of this code. Also, concerning Unsafe Buildings, a permit should be entered into the My Permit Now portal and South Central Planning should do a structural analysis and provide a report on their findings.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Alex Gerhold stated the commission discussed the issues with 430 N Airline Avenue and understand a letter has been sent to address these issues. Family members of the property on the corner of S. Montz and E. Spur have contacted him about the drinking and drug activity on their property; he will speak to them about placing No Trespassing signs on the property so the police department can take the necessary action.

ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

Parish Councilman Todd Poche reported that Parish President Dufresne is trying to get a grant for funds to collaborate with engineers to identify areas that need drainage rehab work done. There is \$15,000 available to help with the widening of E. Second Street.

St. James Parish Sheriff Louis defended his office's handling of a December 26, 2024 incident on E. Eighth Street. Alderman Calcagno questioned the response and investigation via email, prompting Sheriff Louis's response before the board. The sheriff asserted his deputies acted appropriately and professionally, conducted a thorough investigation, and stood by their conclusions. He criticized Alderman Calcagno for including others in the email instead of directly contacting him with his concerns.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack reported that David Canal repairs have begun to address the erosion issues. Ferrero Canal by Sixth Street needs to be cleared up to help with drainage flow.

Alderman Louque expressed his gratitude to the St. James Sheriff's Office for their prompt and effective response to the recent incident on E. Eighth Street. As a resident of the area, he witnessed firsthand the dedication and professionalism of the deputies, who worked to ensure the safety of all residents. Alderman Louque is truly appreciative of the commitment shown by the St. James Sheriff's Office to maintain community safety.

Alderman Williams raised a concern regarding the turn signal at the red light on US 61. It was noted that the green turn arrow only displays for 2 to 3 seconds, which appears insufficient for vehicles to safely make their turns. This timing issue has been contributing to traffic congestion and instances of cars turning on a red arrow. Alderman Williams requested that the LA DOTD be contacted to address this situation. There is an abandoned home on S. Mulberry Street. The residents asked for a timeline for the Rose Street culvert install project. There will be a wreath laying ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King on Monday, January 20, 2024 at 9:00 am.

Alderman Wiggins the debris from a structure fire at 348 N Airline Avenue needs to be removed. The old End Zone building on E Jefferson Highway needs to be demolished.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno reported that there were five unpermitted jobs identified and reported to the Town hall and contacted South Central Planning to investigate. The dumpster at 102 E Airline Highway has finally been removed, but there is still some debris to be cleaned up and a letter needs to be sent to the property owner. He spoke to an Entergy contractor foreman concerning the bad pole across from the Police Department. After the foreman investigated, he will make a recommendation to Entergy to replace this pole. He congratulated Jason Amato on being selected to serve on the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois stated that the Ferrero Canal project will start on February 4, 2025. There will be a wreath laying ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King at 9:00 am on January 20, 2025.

ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 766-2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 11, WATER SECTION 74-38 DEPOSITS FOR WATER SERVICE

WHEREAS, An Ordinance amending the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 74, Utilities, Article II, Water Section 74-38 Deposits for Water Service

The following shall be amended and read as:

(b) Required

(3) C1 – C2 Commercial

\$250.00

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, December 9, 2024, notice of a public hearing having been published on December 19, 2024, said public hearing been held on Monday, January 13, 2025 the title having been read and the Ordinance adopted, on motion by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken, and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 13th day of January, 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 767-2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 11, WATER SECTION 74-3 DELINQUENCY PENALTY

WHEREAS, An Ordinance amending the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 74, Utilities, Article II, Water Section 74-3 Delinquency Penalty

The following shall be amended and read as:

An account shall become delinquent ten days after the date of the bill and shall thereafter be subject to a five percent penalty charge. An account delinquent for a period of 30 days or more shall be cause to turn off the customer's water service to enforce collection of the charge. Restoration of water services shall not be made until the delinquent account is paid in full. Owners of rental property are responsible for any delinquent charges.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, December 9, 2024, notice of a public hearing having been published on December 19, 2024, said public hearing been held on Monday, January 13, 2025 the title having been read and the Ordinance adopted, on motion by Alderman Williams, seconded by Alderman Wiggins, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken, and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 13th day of January, 2025.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF 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 multiple locations in the Town to be unsafe; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has accomplished and satisfied all of the Notice requirements in Chapter 18; 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:

JACQUELINE WASHINGTON 117 S MONTZ ST PARCEL ID 0100116800
JOHN COOPER 242 S MULBERRY ST PARCEL ID 0100026800
JULES F ESNEAULT 241 S PLUM ST PARCEL ID 0100038000

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 13th day of January 2025.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Williams and approved to adjourn at 7:01 pm.

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