

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
AUGUST 8, 2022**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Gramercy Town Hall.

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

There were present: Mayor Steven Nosacka, Alderman Darren Brack, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Barbara Woods entered the meeting at 6:04 pm

There were absent: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS -

Mr. Marshall Budd announced his candidacy for District 2 Alderman for Town of Gramercy.

Zedra Thomas, 263 S. Hickory Street, inquired about when the fire hydrant near her home would be repaired. Mayor Nosacka stated that it has been repaired but will test the hydrant on Tuesday to make sure it is working properly.

Sonja Thomas, 263 S Hickory Street, stated that S. Hickory Street needs repair and widening; could a project, like the one for S. Millet, be done for S. Hickory? She asked why District 1 in Gramercy were the only residents paying a recreation tax to the Parish. Alderman Brack stated that all Gramercy residents pay the recreation tax. Mayor Nosacka stated that Gramercy is considered District 1 for St. James Parish.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka reported that Lead and Copper testing sample bottles will be distributed on August 9, 2022. He is waiting for LA DOTD to schedule a meeting concerning the round about at LA 3125 and LA 3274. A meeting concerning our Main Street Certification was held on July 27, 2022 and the State coordinators explained in detail the requirements and benefits of the program. St. James Parish has received \$8 million dollars from the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program, and he has spoken with Parish officials concerning the project criteria and how Gramercy would benefit from the shared funding. He has received an inquiry from someone interested in leasing the old DMV office. Roses Discount, formerly Super 10, will have a grand opening ceremony in the near future. Family Dollar on LA 3125 is near completion on their Hurricane Ida repairs and will open in a few weeks. Birdie's at 352 N Airline will open in about two weeks. A meeting with Zapp's executives was held and representatives from Gramercy, St. James Parish and State all expressed their hopes that Zapp's Potato Chips would re-open and remain in Gramercy. Mayor Nosacka attended the annual Louisiana Municipal Association convention and learned about the LHC Neighborhood Landlord Program; they provide low interest loans to landlords for repairs to rental property.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT

Mayor Nosacka reported that the AMR meter installation is complete, and training will begin on August 9, 2022. The water plant pump replacement project has been completed. He has applied for \$250,000 state funding for the Dudley Force Main Project. The engineers have turned in a preliminary cost estimate of \$350,000 for the LA 3125 Street Lighting Project. The drainage repairs on S. Sycamore and N. Ezidore have been completed. Brandon Hymel, High Tide Consultants, stated that the engineering plans for the Central Canal, 2nd Street – 4th Street, project are complete. Mayor Nosacka presented four options and costs estimates to the Aldermen.

A motion to defer any decision on the Central Canal project to the August 22, 2022 special meeting was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Brack and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief Brent Dicharry reported that the new officer, Clint Walker, began work on August 8th and he will ride for two weeks with another officer to become familiar with our area. A police department meeting was held concerning updates to the operations within

the department. Gramercy Police officers have made four arrests in recent incidents in town. Chief Dicharry thanked the community for their assistance in the investigations.

B. REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux stated he has begun research on an open burn and firework ordinance and hopes to bring a recommendation at the September meeting. He has ordered the equipment needed for active shooter events.

C. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Alex Gerhold had no report for this month.

REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

District 1 Parish Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. reported that Ferrero Canal is being inspected for erosion issues. Any projects the Mayor or Board of Aldermen thinks may need parish assistance must be turned in at the end of August for consideration in the new fiscal year budget. A request for proposals for solid waste will be coming soon. The basketball goal at Park B has been moved to recreation property across the street. The Recreation Department is developing a master plan for improvements to Park A and Park B.

3. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that Danielle Taylor has applied for a building permit to construct a new dance studio on N. Pine Street.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno had no report for this month.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2022

A RESOLUTION ENGAGING A FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, is required to have a financial audit performed for the year ending June 30, 2022 for the Town of Gramercy; and,

WHEREAS, an engagement letter has been received from the firm of Postlethwaite and Netterville, Certified Public Accountants, 215 Saint Patrick Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that the firm of Postlethwaite and Netterville, is hereby engaged to examine the financial statements and records of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the stipulations stated in their letter.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Woods and a vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8TH day of August, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor requires the preparation of an annual Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government agencies, and;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Compliance audit report provides information which determines required actions by the Town to maintain compliance set by Louisiana Legislative Auditor;

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 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government Agencies, dated August 11, 2022, for the Town of Gramercy, LA, which is attached to this Resolution.

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, Woods
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8th day of August, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 35-2022

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A LEGAL OPINION FROM THE LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL REGARDING TOWN ORDINANCE CHAPTER 18 BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy has a need to address blight issues in the Town limits; and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy seeks to recover the cost of demolitions of blighted property so as to not burden the taxpayers with blight remediation costs; and

WHEREAS, the existing Town ordinance authorizes the Town to seek reimbursement of blight expenses from the affected property owner and does not address the reimbursement for blight expenses from owners of property where blighted mobile homes are addressed.

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

SECTION 1. The Town Attorney is authorized to request a Legal Opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General regarding the Town Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18 Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II Unsafe Buildings, Section 18-32 Imposition of Lien and Privilege.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8th day of August, 2022.

A motion to suspend the agenda was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Brack and was approved unanimously.

A motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution No. 36-2022 was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins and was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 36-2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE WITH ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL FOR DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING AND REMOVAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, both St. James Parish and the Town of Gramercy (the "Town") are susceptible to natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, both Parish and Town resources may become overwhelmed with debris removal; and

WHEREAS, private, independent monitoring resources may be needed to verify and document debris removal and lawful disposal;

WHEREAS, the Parish and the Towns of Gramercy and Litcher have participated in a competitive solicitation for disaster related debris monitoring and removal services;

WHEREAS, the Parish and Towns of Gramercy and Litcher have received, reviewed proposals and have determined the proposal from Tetra Tech for debris removal monitoring and the proposal from DRC Emergency Services for debris removal and disposal to be the most advantageous for the Parish and the municipalities.

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

SECTION 1. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is authorized to take all actions necessary for the Town to execute the debris monitoring and the debris removal and disposal Agreements with Tetra Tech and DRC Emergency Services, respectively.

A motion to adopt the above resolution with the caption title to read "Disaster" Debris Monitoring and Removal Services was made by Alderman Brack, seconded by Alderman Calcagno and resulted in the following vote:

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8th day of August, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved and to adopt the minutes from the July 11, 2022 meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno asked that mayor to check into highway safety training for our Maintenance workers. He reported high grass by New Zion Baptist Church on Tulip Street. He attended that LMA Convention and attended several informative sessions. He met with a salesperson from Covington Sales & Service about a debris truck.

Alderman Wiggins stated he received complaints about the odor from LSR. He asked the mayor to contact LSR about high grass on their property south of the railroad tracks. The property on S. Airline continues to deteriorate and he inquired when will this building will be demolished.

Alderman Woods reported high grass by CIO Hall on S. Airline. She stated that S. Mulberry Street is a one-way street, but people still use as two-way street and can it be designated as a two way street.

Alderman Louque reported high grass at a bank owned property on N. Millet.

Alderman Brack had no report for this month.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchoux stated that the Mayor and Attorneys met with the Magistrate concerning the Rise St. James lawsuit and he will discuss the outcome with the Board of Alderman in executive session in the August 22, 2022 special meeting.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Wiggins, and approved to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

/s/Mayor Steven T Nosacka

Attest: /s/Amy St Pierre, Clerk