

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, September 12, 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

There were absent: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Belinda Rouillier, 136 N Airline Avenue, appealed the demolition of family property at 224 S Airline Avenue in Resolution No. 40-2022. She stated that the sale of the property is at the title company's office and sale is nearly complete.

Sandra Johnson, 223 S Airline Avenue, lives across the street from 224 S Airline Avenue. She stated she has spoken to the mayor about the condition of the house and the tall grass for years and does not feel the property owners should not be given an more time.

Craig James, 204 S Airline Avenue, owns rental property next to 224 S Airline Avenue. He stated that the branches from a very large tree on the property could be a hazard to his property and that the property owners need to have the property demolished and trees removed.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS - None

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka stated that a Voter's Registration Event will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at Gramercy Elementary from 10 am – 2 pm. Town of Gramercy and Louisiana Sugar Refining will be hosting a Night Out Against Crime event on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 from 5 pm – 7 pm on Main Street in Gramercy. We have hired three new maintenance employees: Ceqwan Durst, Cedric Washington and Paul Zeringue III. A motorist ran into a fire hydrant in Deroche Mobile Home Park and a boil water advisory has been issued until the LA Department of Health gives the all clear. Our garbage contract, along with St. James Parish, is up for renewal and two bids have been received; a decision will be made after bids have been reviewed. Sidewalk repairs on E. Railroad Avenue are being done this week. We have completed some pressure washing on Main Street and we will order new decorative signs and posts in the near future. The State has received \$140 million dollars in grant funding for Broadband expansions in qualifying communities. The town would need about 200+ residents to do a data speed test to begin to see if we would qualify for any funds.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT

Mayor Nosacka reported that the S Millet Widening Project continues with culverts being installed at this time and hopes the whole project will be completed by the end of October. The bids for the Central Canal project are currently being advertised in the News Examiner. The S Willow Street asphalt overlay is complete. Rostan Solutions has provided an update for FEMA reimbursement. The Town's expenditures for Hurricane Ida were approximately 1.2 million dollars and FEMA has obligated 1.1 million dollars in reimbursements.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief Brent Dicharry reported the installation of the updated equipment for the police units have been completed. He will register officers to attend a nearby FBI class on crisis training and negotiations. He asked Sgt. Alex Gerhold to speak about the Southwest Louisiana Regional Safety Coalition program. Sgt. Gerhold stated that the Coalition provides support and resources for safety on Louisiana roadways. One program includes identifying distracted drivers in school zones. Recently he observed 97 vehicles by Gramercy Elementary and 27 vehicles had unrestrained adults and/or children. He spoke with drivers about the importance of vehicle restraints.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux had no report this month.

B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Alex Gerhold stated that he will be sending out certified letters to property owners who have not removed their abandoned vehicles.

REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT

District 1 Parish Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. had no report this month.

3. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc stated that Mr. David Pittman made a presentation on building a duplex on property he owns on S. Plum Street, he plans to begin construction in 2023.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

Mr. Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Mayor Nosacka inquired about new football field and parking location. Mr. Calcagno stated that residents can voice their concerns at a public hearing before the master plan is adopted.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 40-2022

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:

Darlene Scott – 222 S Elm Street – Property ID 100120240 & 100120200
Barbara Webre – 243 S Willow Street – Property ID 0100118200
Nelson Roullier – 224 S Airline Avenue – Property ID 0100098810
New Zion BC – 1536 E 2nd Street – Rear/Kitchen Building- Property ID 7100001900

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12th day of September, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2022

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SUPPORT AND APPROVAL BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL FOR PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED BY THE FEMA HMGP GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricane Ida, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) has provided an allocation of \$8,241,681 in funding through

the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for recovery and mitigation projects within St. James Parish including the Town of Gramercy; and

WHEREAS, the Town has identified multiple mitigation and recovery projects to be funded with a portion of these HMGP funds; and

WHEREAS, the projects identified by the Town are consistent with the updated 2021 St. James Parish Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved by the Board of Aldermen on January 10, 2022

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby requests the approval and support by the St. James Parish Council for the attached list of recovery and mitigation projects within the Town of Gramercy, to be paid for from a portion of the allocation of HMGP funds that have been allocated to St. James Parish. Consistent with the August 2, 2022 announcement by Louisiana Governor Edwards, the Board of Aldermen hereby accepts the funding of the local match requirement for these HMGP funds from the Louisiana Office of Community Development.

SECTION 2. Mayor Steven T. Nosacka, is hereby authorized to execute all applicable agreements associated with this request.

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, Woods
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12th of September, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN OPT-IN FORM FOR THE STATE-MANAGED TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAM UNDER LOUISIANA REVISED STATUE 726(F)(3)(B)(iii)(aa)

WHEREAS, Act 526 (HB 1070) of the State of Louisiana 2022 Legislative Session requires each jurisdiction to Opt-In or Opt-Out of the temporary housing and shelter assistance program that is managed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy desires to Opt-In to the GOHSEP program for Town residents; and

WHEREAS, an Opt-In to the GOHSEP temporary housing programs have no effect on any of the Federal or FEMA temporary housing and shelter assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, an Opt-In does not provide any approval for group or large site development.

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

SECTION 1. Mayor Steven T Nosacka is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the Town of Gramercy, to sign and execute an Opt-In form as required by Act 526 (HB 1070) of the State of Louisiana 2022 Legislative Session.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12th of September, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack met with the general manger of Shell concerning any updates on the status of the Shell Convent plant. He stated that the Shell Convent facility will be converted into a sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel production facility. They hope to be online in 2027.

Alderman Louque reported a letter needs to be sent to property owner on N. Montz for tall grass.

Alderman Woods thanked that Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the making the improvements to the sidewalk on E. Railroad Avenue. She asked that all Aldermen participated in the Voter Registration event on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

Alderman Wiggins stated that the LSR fence on the south side of E. Railroad still has not been repaired and ask the Mayor to contact the plant manager about getting the fence repairs completed.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He has received complaints about the street signs, and he asked if Rostan had turned in anything to FEMA for funding approval to have the signs replaced. Residents without house numbers continues to be a problem. He has received complaints of high grass at 149 & 154 N Millet. He inquired on the status of the boon motor repairs. Mayor Nosacka stated that he is waiting for contractor to schedule the deck repairs.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchaux that he has forwarded the Boards request for an Attorney General opinion concerning landowner's responsibility for incurring costs when renters violate a Town ordinance. He suggested that the town provide a cell phone or town email address to the alderman to be used for Town business only.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to adjourn at 7:52 pm.

/s/Mayor Steven T Nosacka

Attest: /s/Amy St Pierre, Clerk