

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
JANUARY 8, 2018**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gramercy Town Hall.

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

There were present: Mayor Steven Nosacka, Alderman Jody Bourgeois, Alderman Craig Calcagno, Alderman Betty C. Coleman, Alderman Rhonda Lee, Alderman Claude Wiggins

There were absent: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were received on agenda items.

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Mike LeBlanc, Postlewaite & Netterville, presented the Town's annual audit for year ending June 30, 2017 at the special meeting.

A motion to accept the audit as presented was made by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Coleman. And the motion passed.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nosacka stated that the preliminary value of the portion of Union Hall property that is needed for the Railroad Avenue relocation, as per MB Realty, is \$5,000. We will continue to work with the Parish for assistance with drainage canal cleaning. The maintenance crew will continue working on repairs from smoke testing results. There has been no further progress on Thomas Ragas building. Mayor Nosacka again requested turn signals at the LA 3125/LA 3274 red light. LA DOTD has stated that they will change the timing on the lights to see if it helps.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief of Police Brent Dicharry reported a fight at the levee on Christmas Eve. Gramercy Police Department assisted St. James Sheriff's Office with the investigation and it has resulted in three arrests. Chief Dicharry requested that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen review the curfew policy on Christmas Eve.

B. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux stated that the second chlorine injector installed at the water plant helped the town to continue providing water services to the residents during the freeze.

GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD

St. James Parish will spend \$1.5 million for improvements at both Park A and Park B in Gramercy.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 63, SOLID WASTE, ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL, TO REQUIRE GARBAGE CONTAINERS FOR CERTAIN MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 01-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH BECKER & HEBERT FOR SERVICES RELATED TO AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF ELECTRIC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC

WHEREAS, the Town's current electric supply franchise agreement with Entergy Louisiana, LLC expires in March of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Entergy Louisiana, LLC has proposed an Ordinance which would provide for the renewal of the franchise; and

WHEREAS, based on the complexity of such a franchise, it would be prudent for the Town to engage legal counsel with demonstrated experience in this particular area; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Becker & Hebert, of Lafayette, LA has such experience; and

WHEREAS, Town of Gramercy believes that engaging the firm of Becker & Hebert will serve a valuable public purpose and produce a public benefit commensurate with the costs;

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

SECTION 1. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute an Engagement Letter Agreement with the law firm of Becker & Hebert, of Lafayette, LA, on behalf of the Town of Gramercy, for the specific purpose of providing the Town with advice, assistance, negotiation, and drafting or modifying the proposed Ordinance for the renewal of the electric supply franchise with Entergy Louisiana, LLC.

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

YEAS:	Bourgeois, Calcagno, Coleman, Lee, Wiggins
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8th day of January, 2018.

RESOLUTION 02-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY AND THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES FOR DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Town owns property and also has Rights-of Way where there exists drainage canals and ditches; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires for the Parish to have access to those canals and ditches in order to perform maintenance for the protection and benefit of the Town's residents and businesses;

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

SECTION 1. Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute an Agreement with the Parish of St. James for the specific purpose of authorizing Parish to utilize Town property and Town Rights-of-Way and access drainage canals and ditches for maintenance purposes.

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

YEAS:	Bourgeois, Calcagno, Coleman, Lee, Wiggins
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 8th day of January, 2018.

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 meeting and to adopt the minutes as published.

PAYMENT OF BILLS/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mayor Nosacka explained that due to our computer server failure, no checks or statements were prepared for the January meeting.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Betty Coleman invited everyone to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Ceremony on Monday, January 15, 2018 beginning at 9:00 am. Alderman Coleman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Alderman Clyde Wiggins thanked Ms. Rhonda Myles from Entergy for attending the meeting. He spoke with Rep. Richmond for assistance with Railroad relocation project. Alderman Wiggins wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Alderman Rhonda Lee wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Alderman Jody Bourgeois reported the cement road at N. Magnolia and 4th Street is in need of repair.

Alderman Craig Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported to CN Railroad that the S. Millet crossing has broken and loose timbers on the main and spur tracks. CN Railroad will look into repairs. He reported a few incidents of sewer overflowing on Belinda Street without any rain. The maintenance crew found a jammed mop head in the pump. Alderman Calcagno presented the Mayor with a list of major projects that would be of importance for the ½ cent tax.

Mayor Nosacka requested a special meeting be scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:00 pm to discuss the infrastructure needs for the upcoming tax election.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Fauchoux reported that he is working on several items at the Mayor's request.

ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT REPORT

Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. passed out his Parish budgeted items for 2018, District 1 report. Projects budgeted for 2018 include the cement matting of weak spots on Ferrera Canal, culvert project for Beaver Canal, and culvert replacement for several drainage canals.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Lee, second by Alderman Bourgeois and approved to adjourn 7:50 pm.

/s/ Steven T. Nosacka, Mayor

/s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk