

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, February 13, 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 - None

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Mayor Bourgeois presented a proclamation honoring Mr. Joseph Samrow for his service to citizens of the Town of Gramercy and St. James Parish.

Mr. Rodney Combs, Postlethwaite and Netterville, Certified Public Accountants, Baton Rouge, Louisiana presented the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Combs reported that the Town of Gramercy is in good financial standing.

Mr. Todd Poche announced his candidacy for St. James Parish Councilman, District 1.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois reported that LA Department of Health and Hospitals has approved the plans for the water ground storage tank restoration project. Gramercy police officers have turned in the street sign audit and we have 50 signs on order at this time. PEC has turned in the cost estimate of the Sewer Force Main Project and a copy of that quote has been provided to the Aldermen. He will review the quotes for the N. Millet sidewalk repairs. He took part in a zoom meeting with the State Beautification Committee and the town has been approved for the grant to place new garbage cans on Main Street. Alderman Brack stated that Entergy expects to have the new lighting for Main Street installed in March. We have hired a new maintenance employee to fill in the space left by a resigning worker.

2. REPORT ON-GOING PROJECT – There is no report for this month

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief Brent Dicharry stated he spoke with the Krewe of Mac representatives about providing the driver's license and proof of insurance for participants in the Mardi Gras parade; once this information is received the permit can be issued. He recommends waiving the town's open container ordinance for the Mardi Gras parade between 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm. Alderman Brack suggested the Town of Gramercy and Town of Litcher combine resources for rental of a street sweeper to help with clean up after the parade.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux presented a quote from Everbridge, an emergency alert system, to the board for review. He will set up a meeting with the town department heads for hurricane preparedness.

B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Alex Gerhold provided an updated listing for inoperable/abandoned vehicles. He stated that he identified and tagged 146 vehicles in 2022 and 76 have been removed. He will continue to communicate with owners to remove their inoperable vehicles.

REPORTS FROM ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT - There is no report for this month.

3. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported that he received complaints about chickens in a resident's yard. He has visited the site and the neighbors cannot provide any proof of where the property line is located so he has recommended they do a property survey. The members suggested putting an expiration date on the building permit placard. Mr. Dale Abreo and Mr. Lloyd Ferdinand presented a plot plan and information on placing two mobile homes on property located at 710 E Airline Hwy. These would be modified to house seven units each for contractors to rent when in the area. The Planning Commission gave preliminary approval with the conditions of more information regarding water and sewer connections, entrance, and parking plot plans.

B. GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2023

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2023 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the history of African Americans here in the Town of Gramercy and in our entire nation reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in the struggle to equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty for all people; and,

WHEREAS, our African-American residents have participated in every American effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights; and,

WHEREAS, all our citizens can take every opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people, to develop pride in their own identity and heritage, and to respect and accept the identity and heritage of others;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, do hereby recognize February 2023 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH in our TOWN OF GRAMERCY, and we call our residents to this observance.

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 February, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 10-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PARADE PERMIT FOR THE KREWE OF M.A.C. MARDI GRAS PARADE

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Gramercy, Section 50-40 through 50-49 provides for the issuance of Parade Permits; and

WHEREAS, the Krewe of M.A.C. requests that a Parade Permit be issued for their use in holding a Parade traveling exclusively on Louisiana Highway 641 on Mardi Gras Day, February 21, 2023.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby approve the Permit Application for the Krewe of M.A.C. and Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor, is hereby authorized to sign and issue this Permit Application.

SECTION 2. As specified in Section 50-49, the Town reserves the authority to revoke this Parade Permit, at any time up to and including the Parade start time, if the violation of any standard for the issuance of the Permit occurs.

SECTION 3. This approval and issuance is conditioned on the compliance by Krewe of M.A.C. with all of the requirements of the applicable Town Ordinances, and including providing the required parade bond, indemnification agreements and driver's license and vehicle insurance coverage for each vehicle driver.

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 13th day of February, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR STEVEN J. BOURGEOIS, TO ENTER INTO A INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ST JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, ST JAMES PARISH SHERIFF OFFICE, ST. JAMES PARISH ASSESSOR OFFICE, ST JAMES PARISH CLERK OF COURT, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, GRAMERCY POLICE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF LUTCHER AND LUTCHER POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the St. James Parish Government and St. James Parish Sheriff Office jointly own IT infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the St. James Parish Government wishes to share the expense and operational cost for the shared IT infrastructure with the St. James Sheriff Office, St. James Assessor, St. James Clerk of Court, Town of Gramercy and Town of Lutcher;

WHEREAS, the St. James Parish may enter into agreements pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 33:1324 *et seq.*,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen, that Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois is hereby authorized to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with the St. James Parish Government, St. James Sheriff Office, St. James Assessor, St. James Clerk of Court, Town of Gramercy and Town of Lutcher.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Brack, 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 13th day of February, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2023

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

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy shall celebrate the holiday of Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

WHEREAS, Police Chief Brent Dicharry, recommends the suspension of Town of Ordinances Chapter 6, Article I, Section 6-1 Open Container, with the exception of glass containers,

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 accept the recommendation of Police Chief Brent Dicharry to suspend Chapter 6 Article 1 Section 6-1 (Open Containers) of the Town of Gramercy Code of ordinances and shall be suspended from 12:00 pm until 04:00 pm on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Calcagno, 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 February, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-2023

A RESOLUTION DECLARING EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROPRIATELY DISPOSE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, it has been determined by the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana (the "Town") that the equipment listed below is no longer of use and for all functional purposes deemed a maintenance burden:

2013 FORD EXPLORER
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2015 FORD TAURUS
2 POST LIFT 9000 LB

VIN 1FM5K7B86DGA02484
VIN 1FM5K7B85DGA02489
VIN 1FAHP2L86FG122735
MODEL TP-9

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

SECTION 1. The Town hereby declares the aforementioned equipment as surplus property; and

SECTION 2. The Mayor is authorized dispose of the aforementioned equipment by donation, abandonment, or sale to the highest bidder.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 13th day of February, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved and to adopt the minutes from the January 9, 2023 and January 18, 2023 meetings.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack reported that an AT&T and Cox box cover need to be replaced on N. Pine Street, they have been missing since Hurricane Ida.

Alderman Louque inquired about the status on street light repairs behind Taylor's Express. He provided a quote for a mini excavator for review by the board. He asked if it is possible to remove all three way stop signs since the speed limit on town streets is 20 mph. He has spoken with fabricators about a height restriction sign behind Taylor's Express.

Alderman Williams reported the speed bumps on S Willow need to be put back in place now that the street work is complete. He also asked for a handicapped child in area sign can placed on S. Willow. He has received complaints about cars going in the wrong direction on S. Mulberry Street. Officer Gerhold stated he has spoken with those individuals about this issue. He asked if Rose Street will be scheduled for widening this year and if potholes by Park A can be filled.

Alderman Wiggins honored Betty Coleman for her 26 years of service to the Town during Black History Month. There is an abandoned home on S. Plum Street that needs to be demolished. He has contacted Representative Clay Schexnayder about railroad track repairs by the bridge.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He questioned if the worker housing units at 710 E Airline Hwy would need Fire Marshall approval. Since we are still having sewer issues at 629 N Airline Ave, he suggested contacting PEC to investigate the problem. On Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 11:00 am at AmVets Hall, Springfield LA there will be a meeting concerning the preservation of Lake Maurepas.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchaux reported that he met with a landowner about a town sewer line on their property and suggested a land survey be performed to determine if the line is on the property or servitude. He has spoken with the Attorney General office and is waiting for their opinion on the landowner's responsibility request made by the town.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Brack and approved to adjourn at 7:15 pm.

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