

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

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

There were absent: Alderman Percy Williams

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Mr. Randy Anny presented information concerning property that was formerly listed at New Acadia Development Corporation that may be incorporated in the Town.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois reported that he met with PEC and they have inspected the sewer station at 629 N Airline Avenue. They will provide us with options that would help eliminate constant cleaning and repairing the pump. The new IT upgrade will require a fiberoptic line to run from the police station to the town hall and he will have the town maintenance crew complete the trench work needed for this project. We will begin advertising for a new maintenance employee. He has talked with a representative from A T & T concerning junction box repairs and he was told that there is a small maintenance crew working on these repairs. PEC will begin advertising for bids on our Sewer Force Main Project.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Mr. Brent Dicharry, Chief of Police, recommended the hiring of Danielle Falgoust, as a full-time officer. Ms. Falgout has completed all pre-employment screenings.

It was moved by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Wiggins to accept the recommendation of Chief Dicharry and hire Ms. Danielle Falgoust as a full-time officer for the Gramercy Police Department. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux reported the town will need a fiberoptic line from the Police Station to the Town Hall for the new IT system and we will try a wireless shot to the maintenance shop and water plant. With hurricane season approaching soon, he reminded residents to review their insurance policies.

B. REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officer Alex Gerhold stated that he has identified eight new inoperable vehicles in town. He has sent certified letters to property owners concerning the removal of inoperable vehicles.

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

Alderman Williams entered the meeting at 6:20 pm.

2. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Barry LeBlanc reported he has received information from Mr. Lloyd Ferdinand concerning parking, water, and sewer for his proposed labor housing project. The commission is waiting for information to determine if the units are considered manufactured or modular homes. The commission has expressed concerns about a building applicant's request to build a fence on the backyard drainage servitude.

GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 14-2023

**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:

Kubota Excavator	Model KX71-3R1
Residential Utility Meters	Quantity: 282
Commercial Utility Meters	Quantity: 3

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 Calcagno, second by Alderman Brack. 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 March, 2023.

A motion to suspend the agenda to allow for Resolution No. 15-2023 to be added to the agenda was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Brack and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2023

TOWN OF GRAMERCY

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN OF GRAMERCY ALDERMAN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, (HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE "GOVERNMENTAL UNIT") TO JOIN WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE LOUISIANA STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPIOID LITIGATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (the "MOU") AND ANY SUBSEQUENT FORMAL AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE MOU, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EXECUTION OF THE SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION FORMS OF THE NATIONAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS,¹ RELEASES, AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION APPROVED BY COUNSEL.

WHEREAS, the **TOWN OF GRAMERCY** has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the **TOWN OF GRAMERCY** recognizes that the entire State of Louisiana has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has a pending action in state court, and a number of Louisiana Cities and Parishes have also filed actions either in state court or have been transferred to *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the "Opioid Litigation") and the **TOWN OF GRAMERCY** is a litigating participant in such action;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and lawyers representing certain various local governments, including **TOWN OF GRAMERCY**, involved in the Opioid Litigation have proposed a unified plan for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from opioid related litigation;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") sets forth a framework of a unified plan for the proposed allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds and it is anticipated that formal agreements implementing the MOU will be entered into at a future date;

WHEREAS, participation in the MOU by a large majority of Louisiana cities and parishes will materially increase the amount of funds to Louisiana and should improve Louisiana's relative bargaining position during additional settlement negotiations;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in the MOU will reduce funds available to the State, this Governmental Unit, and every other Louisiana city and Parish;

WHEREAS, this Governmental Unit has previously executed the MOU and it is in the best interest of the Governmental Unit and its citizens in that such a plan ensures that almost all of the settlement funds go to abate and resolve the opioid epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, Walter J. Leger, Jr. of the Leger & Shaw firm, Charles Long of the Long & Long firm AND/OR Bruce G. Mohon, of the Law Offices of Bruce G. Mohon, L.L.C., have been designated as counsel who have been expressly authorized to execute the MOU in substantially the form described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY BOARD OF ALDERMAN, THE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT:

SECTION 1. That the **TOWN OF GRAMERCY BOARD OF ALDERMAN** and **THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY**, hereby reaffirms its support of a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the MOU.

SECTION 2. That the **MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY** or his or her designee is hereby authorized to execute any formal agreements implementing a unified plan for the allocation and use of opioid settlement proceeds that is not substantially inconsistent with the MOU and this Resolution, including but not limited to the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms in the National Settlement Agreement,² Releases, and other appropriate documents as recommended by above counsel.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

SECTION 4. The clerk of this Governmental Unit is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Resolution to the Louisiana Attorney General at:

Attorney General Jeff Landry
c/o Chris Alderman
Post Office Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Williams. A vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

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

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

A motion to return to the regular agenda was made by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Williams and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved and to adopt the minutes from the February 12, 2023 meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack has spoken with Ms. Flo Dumas from Entergy concerning LED streetlights on Main Street and she stated the workorder has been released to the construction department. We should be receiving quotes on the cement repair, fire hydrant painting and striping work needed on Main Street. He has forwarded pictures of repairs needed on David Canal to Mr. Rick Weber, St. James Parish Operations Director, and will meet with him concerning scheduling the repairs needed. He questioned if homeowners could opt out of Waste Management services.

Alderman Louque inquired about the status on streetlight repairs behind Taylor's Express. Mayor Bourgeois has received no response from Entergy as of today's date. There is a streetlight repair needed at 740 N. Airline Avenue.

Alderman Williams reported complaints of trash at the end of E. First Street and the ditches on Rose Street need cleaning. The building at the end of Rose Street is in depleted condition and asked that the property owner be notified of the need for repairs. There are potholes near the old pool area. The ditch on Tulip Street has tall grass. He has received reports of trash on S. Airline by the old Union Hall building and E. Railroad Avenue.

Alderman Wiggins stated that the town needs to return to identifying blighted homes in Gramercy.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported that the Planning Commission is working with Mr. Ferdinand concerning his labor housing project. Mr. Ferdinand has also discussed possible future plans for the acreage. Alderman Calcagno has suggested the Board research passing a hotel tax ordinance. The State wide Trash Bash will be the week of April 17, 2023 and Mr. Ken Guidry, Parish Chairman, has stated that the Parish will hold their trash bash on April 22, 2023. He has turned in a work order to cover the adding of soil to low areas and drop offs on E Railroad Avenue. The S. Millet Project is incomplete; culverts and catch basins need to be repaired or replaced. He has suggested revising some of the terminology in our ordinance book to make it easier to research information.

TOWN ATTORNEY – There is no report for this month.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved to adjourn at 6:55 pm.

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