

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on October 10, 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: Town Attorney Robert Fauchaux, Jr., Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments made on agenda items.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Scott Poirrier, High Tide Consultants, spoke about the town having applied for Capital Outlay funding for drainage work on Central and Ferrera Canals last year and the funding has now been approved. He is ready to begin work when the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are ready.

REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois reported that a sanitary survey of the Town's water plant was conducted, and no major issues were reported. The water tower is overdue for an inspection, which is supposed to be done every three years. Automated meters have been purchased for Route 1 and we will begin installation this month. An LGAP grant has been approved for street repairs, possible locations for use will be on Fourth Street in front of Tania and Belinda Streets. Capitol Outlay funding has been approved for David and Ferrera Canals, we may need to look into the feasibility of installing box culverts in Ferrera Canal up to Fourth Street. There are two business prospects for Gramercy, Bio-Char asphalt facility and a research lab. Both are located on E Airline Highway.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIRECTORS

A. REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Dicharry was unable to attend and had Sgt. Gerhold speak on his behalf. There are two units that are having mechanical issues, we will have to surplus one vehicle due to it being too expensive to repair. The Police Department has partnered with Sonic to sponsor a Seat Belt Safety Campaign. The Police Department has also partnered with Mosaic to sponsor an Anti-Bullying campaign. Night Out Against Crime is Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 5 -7 PM, on Main Street in Gramercy. Winn Dixie is providing candy to the Police Department to participate in Trunk or Treat at Gramercy Elementary School on October 31, 2023.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - There is no report for this month.

REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Gerhold stated that he sent out 37 abandoned vehicle notices and six have been removed by property owners. Alderman Brack would like to see citations issued to violators.

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

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Commission member Alex Gerhold reported that Lydian Labs presented information for a gas manufacturing plant on E Airline Highway. It was recommended they apply for a variance for their business and go before the Board of Alderman.

GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 38-2023

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A LEGAL OPINION FROM THE LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL REGARDING TOWN OF GRAMERCY PAYMENT OF BENEFITS FOR CHIEF BRENT DICHARRY TO MUNICIPAL POLICE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Brent Dicharry was sworn in as Town of Gramercy Police Chief and began service on January 1, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Town did seek advisement on the payment retirement benefits for Chief Dicharry because he was listed as a part-time Chief of Police for the Town of Gramercy and his full-time employment was with St. James Parish;

WHEREAS, the Town did not pay retirement benefits for Chief Dicharry due to incorrect information provided to the Town by Municipal Police Employees Retirement System;

WHEREAS, the Town has received notice from the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System dated May 1, 2023 that the Town should have paid retirement benefits on behalf of Chief Dicharry since January 1, 2007;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND 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 whether the Town of Gramercy should pay the past retirement benefits due to the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System.

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, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTIAN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 10th day of October, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-2023

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PAID BY TOWN OF GRAMERCY ON BEHALF OF POLICE CHIEF BRENT DICHARRY

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy paid Social Security benefits on behalf of Police Chief Brent Dicharry;

WHEREAS, it was paid due to Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System reporting incorrect information to the town concerning payment of benefits for Chief Dicharry into their retirement program;

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

Section 1: The Town of Gramercy is requesting reimbursement of Social Security benefits paid on behalf of Chief Dicharry from the Social Security Administration or other sources.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on the 10th day of October, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 40-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SERVITUDE AGREEMENT FOR A SEWER FORCE MAIN LINE

WHEREAS, the Town has a need for a portion of a sewer force main line to be placed on private property; and

WHEREAS, that piece or portion of ground being a 10' Sewer Force Main Servitude on Lot 1, Block 21, Gramercy Park Subdivision situated in Sections, 3, 51 & 85, T-11-S, R-5-E, 606 N Millet Avenue, Gramercy, LA; and

WHEREAS, the Owners of the private property are in agreement to allow this portion of sewer force main line to be placed on their property;

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

SECTION 1. Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute a Sewer Force Main Servitude Agreement with Steven & Cindy Nosacka for the Town to install a portion of sewer force main line at 606 N Millet Avenue, Gramercy, Louisiana.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins 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 10th day of October, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2023

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION OF THE MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY AND ROSTAN SOLUTIONS LLC

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy and its residents and businesses experienced substantial damage and loss as of result of Hurricane Ida; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy approved to enter into an agreement with Rostan Solutions, LLC on September 13, 2021 and the opportunity to extend the contract for one year is available.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby approve a one-year extension for Professional Services with Rostan Solutions LLC for technical services related to FEMA DR-1611 for Hurricane Ida.

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

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

And the resolution was adopted on the 10th day of October, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY TO HIRE SPECIAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE TOWN IN JOINING WITH OTHER STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES AS A CLAIMANT IN THE MDL PROCEEDING IDENTIFIED AS IN RE AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAMS PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION, MDL NO. 2:18-MN-2873, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON DIVISION

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy has a water intake system which serves the residents, businesses and industry within the corporate limits of the Town of Gramercy;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy may have in the past and/or presently tested positive for presence of per- and polyfluorinated substances (collectively as "PFAS") and commonly referred to as "Forever Chemicals" at or near its water intake system located in the Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy may incur excessive cost and expenses to install the necessary filtration equipment and/or systems to monitor and/or remove PFAS from its water intake systems;

WHEREAS, there is a pending nationwide MDL proceeding entitled *IN RE AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAMS PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION*, MDL NO. 2:18-MN-2873, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON DIVISION and a number of Louisiana Towns, Cities and Parishes have filed the necessary actions to participate in the MDL litigation and to hire Special Counsel.

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

SECTION 1. That this Town of Gramercy finds that participation in the MDL litigation captioned hereinabove to be in the best interest of the Town of Gramercy and its citizens to help defray the cost and expenses to install the necessary filtration equipment and/or systems to monitor and/or remove PFAS from its water intake systems and other related damages;

SECTION 2. That Town of Gramercy hereby resolves that a necessity exists for the employment of special counsel and hereby authorizes and approves the employment of Talbot Carmouche & Marcello, Long & Long and Law Offices of Bruce G. Mohon, LLC, and their associated attorneys as special counsel in the above-described MDL litigation and to take any and all actions necessary to pursue any right or claim on behalf of the Town of Gramercy. It is further resolved that Mayor Steven Bourgeois and/or his designee, is hereby authorized to sign and execute any and all documents necessary including by not limited to a contract for legal services to retain the services of the aforementioned firms and counsel.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
Adopted this day of, 10th day of October, 2023.

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

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

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 10th day of October, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Brack, by Alderman Williams and approved and to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated September 11, 2023 and Special Meeting dated September 20, 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Brack reported that the drainage culvert between 775 & 761 N Pine Street is in need of repair again. The stop sign at 605 N Pine Street needs attending. He has received complaints about the curbing repairs taking too long, and the contractors are leaving driveways blocked while waiting for repair. He received complaints of speeding on the 2nd block of N. Magnolia Street from high school kids leaving school. He received complaints about the parking overflow from the N. Pine Street apartments, they are beginning to park on private property that has No Parking signs. He thanked former mayor Steven Nosacka for access to the right of way for the force main sewer project. He reported an expedition at 605 N Pine Street that is parked on Town property.

Alderman Louque inquired on the status of the Eighth Street repairs. Mayor Bourgeois stated they it would be completed soon.

Alderman Williams reported he received a complaint about an abandoned houses at 223 Pecan Street. Also houses on Rose Street and Tulip Street. Mayor Bourgeois stated those homes were part of the PPDR program and we are waiting on FEMA to approve the demolition. Waste Management did not pick up garbage on E. First Street.

Alderman Wiggins reported that a streetlight survey shows 15 streetlights out and the list has been turned into Entergy. He asked that a final notice to clear the debris at 1210 N Airline Avenue be mailed. The little league football team is currently looking for sponsors.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. He reported a grass contractor blowing grass clippings into the street. He thanked the Maintenance crew for the continued work with cleaning up the shop. He has spoken with South Central Planning about providing an updated zoning map. He received complaints of parents traveling in the wrong direction on S. Mulberry going to and from the daycare center. South Millet Street, which was widened last year, has already started cracking in different areas. He has forwarded a streetlight survey to Entergy for repair or replacement. The recent planned Entergy Sub Station maintenance work, following transformer fire, and outage was originally caused by someone who stole copper ground cables. October is fire prevention month, please check the batterie in your house fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mr. Fauchaux reported that he was in court for the temporary restraining order the Town filed against Scharleen Decoteau and Randy Anny. The judge granted an extension due to Mr. Anny not having legal representation. He is researching if the developers of Gramercy Park Subdivision III showed a connecting road to E. 12th Street.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Brack, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved to adjourn at 7:05 pm.

/s/ Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk