

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
MARCH 11, 2024**

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE NO. 760-2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2.1, COMPENSATION FOR OFFICIALS, PARAGRAPH (b)

Doreen Lang, Accountant for Town of Gramercy, recommended keeping the payment date the last Friday of the month instead of changing it to the third Friday of the month.

Shelly Warren, 605 N Pine Street, asked why the officials' payroll was not in the monthly check register presented each month.

Gail LeBoeuf, 758 N Ezidore Street, asked what we would consider part-time employment and if this would affect the employees. It was explained that this ordinance applies to elected officials only.

It was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Williams and approved to close the public hearing.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on March 11, 2024, 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 Craig Calcagno, Alderman Theron Louque, Alderman Clyde Wiggins, Alderman Percy Williams

There were absent: Alderman Darren Brack

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

District 1 Parish Councilman Todd Poche stated he met with Aaron Azar, Department of Transportation, and showed them the condition of state roads in St. James Parish and Town of Gramercy. They will schedule repair of the potholes. The LA 3125 resurface is scheduled for August 2024. There will be a Parish sponsored town hall meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Parish Recreation Building on Deroche Circle to discuss the proposed tax millage and flood protection levees. On March 17, 2024, at 10:00 am the ribbon cutting for the American Cruise Line Vacherie Landing will be held.

Flo Dumas and Sharonda Jackson of Entergy explained that they are working on getting the costs down for changing to LED streetlights. Alderman Louque reported a leaning pole at 328 N Ezidore Street. Alderman Calcagno reported that several tickets for outages have been entered on Entergy App. Alderman Wiggins thanked Entergy for their continued work in Gramercy.

Mr. Rodney Combs, EisnerAmper, Certified Public Accountants, presented the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Combs reported that the Town of Gramercy is in good financial standing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins and approved to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated December 11, 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Bourgeois asked for approval of payment 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.

TOWN ATTORNEY

The court appearance concerning the Temporary Restraining Order against Randy Anny has been extended to April 1, 2024. Mr. Anny is requesting they have access to the gate on N. Airline Avenue so they can access their property. He attended the LMA Mid-Winter Conference and there was a seminar that spoke about allowing people to record town meetings and employees on job sites. We should have signs limiting access to workplaces, the exception being public meetings. A seminar was held discussing emergency wi-fi for officials and town employees. Lt. Ordeneaux is talking with Parish IT to supply wi-fi access during an emergency.

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Dicharry stated that he was working on a monthly status report for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Alex Gerhold passed out his monthly report. There have been several inoperable vehicles removed by the property owners. He has noted blighted property between Tulip Street and Rose Street.

REPORT FROM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Lt. Jody Ordeneaux reported that the police department transition to the Parish servers was almost complete. The Parish has several servers so if one were to go down there are others to support the system. They also have out of state backup as well. Unfortunately, reports are indicating an active hurricane season. He is currently working on RFP's for needed supplies during an emergency.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Chairman Alex Gerhold discussed speeding and vehicles going in the wrong direction on S. Mulberry Street. There were questions about a number of flags in yards on the 700 block of N. Montz; it has been identified as One Call markings.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Louque stated his questions about Entergy have been answered. He states that we need to search for a new concrete contractor.

Alderman Williams reported a blighted mobile home at 111 S Montz Street. The homeowner at 123 S Fir Street is concerned about wires going through the trees. It was stated that Entergy would trim branches away from their wires and the property owners are responsible for the trees affecting their service line. He received complaints about stagnant water at 205 S Hickory Street and there is an abandoned home on S. Plum Street. Someone on Tulip Street plays their music loud and it is disturbing the neighbors. There are potholes near the park area on Rose Street. Golden Grove residents are concerned about the barricades at the end of E. Second Street and would like them removed. It was explained that the barricades at the end of E. Second Street was put in place by Imperial Sugars who owned the ditch.

Alderman Wiggins thanked Flo Dumas and Sharonda Jackson for their work in Gramercy.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his month report. He received complaints of tall grass and debris at 1595 Tulip Street; they are seeing rats and snakes. He met with DOTD Engineer and walked out the area from the redlight to David Street concerning flood issues on Main Street. DOTD will schedule culvert cleaning equipment and review the areas where asphalt is sinking. Mosquito spraying has begun in Gramercy. He emailed photos and videos to CN manager Antoine Hawkins. He thanked St. James Volunteer Fire Department for their response to the house fire on February 22nd and noted that they are looking for new members. Construction on the new pavilion is almost finished. The annual Trash Bash will be held on April 20, 2024.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois reported there will be a town hall meeting from the Parish government at the Parish Recreation Building in Deroche Circle on March 13th at 6 pm to discuss the proposed millage and protection levees. The N. Airline Avenue lift station is no longer in service, tie ins have been made. Walked out jobs with new concrete contractor on Monday. He has provided a draft of pavilion use and name rules for the Aldermen to review. He reminded Gramercy citizens that they should not blow grass clippings into the streets as this causes drainage blockage. The mobile homeowner on Mobile Lane has been fined, the property owner at 115 N Colonial has been given 60 days to bring property into compliance, and the property owner in the 700 block of N. Airline has been given 30 days to bring property into compliance.

ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION

ORDINANCE NO. 760-2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2.1, COMPENSATION FOR OFFICIALS, PARAGRAPH (b)

WHEREAS, an Ordinance amending the Town of Gramercy Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Section 2.1, Compensation for Officials, Paragraph (b)

Shall be amended to read as the following:

- (a) As used in this section, the term "part-time elected or appointed official" means having full-time employment other than the town. Self-employment will also be taken into consideration in determining part-time or full-time status.
- (b) Monthly compensation for full-time and part-time elected and appointed officials shall be in an amount as established by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen from time to time and will be paid on the third Friday of each month, with the exception of the town clerk which shall be paid bi-weekly, and will be as follows:
 - Mayor: Up to \$40,000 total annual compensation
 - District Alderman and Alderman at Large: \$950.00 monthly
 - Chief of Police: \$31,200 annually, does not include state provided supplemental pay.
 - Town Clerk: Up to \$67,850 annually
- (c) If a vacancy in an elected or appointed office occurs, the person elected or appointed to fill the unexpired term of the elected or appointed official shall receive compensation equal to the minimum part-time salary for that office, unless stipulated by the Board of Aldermen.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, February 12, 2024, notice of a public hearing having been published on February 22, 2024, said public hearing been held on March 11, 2024, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Williams, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken, and the following result was held.

YEAS: Wiggins, Williams
 NAYS: Louque, Calcagno
 ABSENT: Brack

Alderman Calcagno motioned to remove language "will be on the third Friday of each month", seconded by Alderman Louque, a record was taken, and the following result was held.

YEAS: Calcagno, Louque
 NAYS: Wiggins, Williams
 ABSENT: Brack

The ordinance was tabled for the April 17, 2024 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2024

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:

2015 FORD EXPLORER

VIN #1FM5K8AR1FGA88726

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 to dispose of the aforementioned equipment by donation, abandonment, or sale to the highest bidder.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Calcagno, and a vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Calcagno, Louque, Wiggins, Williams
 NAYS: None

ABSENT: Brack
ABSTAIN: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of March 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-2024

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBDIVISION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, Dean Millet has requested the subdivision of the properties located at 155 N Pine Street, 151 N Pine Street, 147 N Pine Street, and 143 N Pine Street as described in the June 9, 2022 Survey Map prepared by Riverlands Surveying Company; and

WHEREAS, the requested subdivision would result in four lots each less than the minimum area of 7,000 square feet specified by Town Ordinance, Appendix B, Section 6; and

WHEREAS, The Town Planning Commission, on Monday, February 5, 2024, approved the recommendation to the Board of Aldermen of this requested subdivision.

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby approves the subdivision of properties located at 155 N Pine Street, 151 N Pine Street, 147 N Pine Street, and 143 N Pine Street as described in the June 9, 2022 Survey Map prepared by Riverlands Surveying Company.

SECTION 2. This approval is subject to this Resolution being made part of the filing, with acknowledgement of the following existing restrictions:

- (a) R-1 Residence District, Appendix A, Article 19, specifying uses, area regulations, and parking restrictions.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of March, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-2024

A RESOLUTION TO RE-SCHEDULE THE REGULAR TOWN MEETING FOR APRIL 2024

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana meet on the second Monday of every month; and,

WHEREAS, in the month of April the Mayor will be unable to attend this meeting.

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

SECTION I. That the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm

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

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

And the resolution was adopted on this the 11th day of March, 2024.

RESOLUTION 15-2024

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY MAIN STREET PAVILION

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana awarded the contract to Roussel Farm Services LLC for the original contract price not to exceed Fifty-Four Thousand and no/100 dollars (\$54,000.00).

WHEREAS, change order number one is for an upgrade to 8 X 8 rough cut treated post instead of 6 x 6 with protecters for an increase cost of Two Thousand Five Hundred and no/100 dollars (\$2,500.00)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA,

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana hereby accepts the recommendation to change posts size to 8 x 8 on the Main Street Pavilion;

Section 2. Original contract price is \$54,000.00; Change Order Number One net increase not to exceed \$2,500.00;

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

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 11th day of March, 2024.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved to adjourn at 7:28 pm.

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