

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR  
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF GRAMERCY  
JULY 8, 2024**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**ORDINANCE NO. 764-2024** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2.1, COMPENSATION FOR OFFICIALS, PARAGRAPH (b)

No public comments received on Ordinance No. 764-2024

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

***REGULAR TOWN MEETING TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW PUBLIC HEARING:***

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular, monthly session on Monday, July 8, 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 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 Faucheux, Jr., Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received.

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS**

Ms. Wesley Gillen, Webre Consulting, presented information for a re-subdivision for property located at 307 E Airline Highway

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins, and approved to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated March 11, 2024.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

**TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mr. Faucheux reported that the pre-trial for Randy Anny has been continued to September 3, 2024.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE**

Assistant Chief Jody Ordeneaux reported the new body cameras have been ordered and the new police units have been stickered. He proposed purchasing three radios for police units, this would provide another layer of safety for the officers.

**EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS**

Assistant Chief Jody Ordeneaux had no report for this month.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Alex Gerhold will provide an updated inoperable vehicle report for the aldermen by the end of the week. Alderman Wiggins asked if the car on S. Cherry Street that was involved in last months shooting was marked for removal. Mr. Gerhold stated it was not marked at this time.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission Chairman Alex Gerhold reported the members had met with Ms. Gillen concerning the re-subdivision of a certain parcel located at 307 E Airline Highway, Gramercy. The commission voted 4-1 to approve the re-subdivision.

It was motioned by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Williams to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to re-subdivide a certain parcel of land located at 307 E Airline Highway. The motion passed unanimously.

**ALDERMEN'S REPORT**

Alderman Brack received a complaint that the grass cutting by Gramercy Park is incomplete; the curbing needs to be cleaned.

Alderman Louque asked when we the street repairs in the subdivision behind Taylor's subdivision will begin. Mayor Bourgeois stated in the next couple weeks.

Alderman Williams received complaints concerning tall grass around the street signs and the dead end on E. Second Street, the grass is covering the signs. Grass letters need to be mailed to several property owners on S. Cherry Street. The railroad crossing needs repair. He was advised to call the phone number on the sign located by the railroad track.

Alderman Wiggins reported complaints of speeding on S. Elm Street, high grass at 229 S Cherry Street and litter on North And South Airline Avenue. He spoke with Anthony Hawkins of CNN Railroad and forwarded pictures of repairs needed by the railroad track.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his month report. Alderman Calcagno reported that several light poles still need repair since Hurricane Ida. He has not received any response from Entergy regarding street light costs for LED upgrades. He met with Tyler Tullier of Premier Concrete and Scott Poirrier of High Tide Consultants to discuss the issues of David and Central Canal's steep embankments and possible solutions. The property owners at 118 S Millet have demolished the mobile home on the property. He has seen good comments on Facebook concerning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration hosted by St. James Parish, Town of Gramercy and Town of Lutcher. David Mitchell, The Advocate, forwarded an email concerning Atalco's proposed air permit. The letter had concerns of Mercury and Particulate Matters Emissions. He has contacted the Levee Board concerning water gauges associated with the West Shore Levee Project. He was told the gauges have been requested, but not installed yet.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bourgeois asked Sheriff Louis to address the board. Sheriff Louis introduced several senior members of his administration and stated that he looks forward to working with the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and Gramercy Police Department to provide services to the community. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact him. Alderman Brack asked that Sheriff Louis address the traffic on Highway 3125 during peak traffic times. There seems to be no police presence during the high traffic times. Mayor Bourgeois will discuss with Chief Dufresne and Asst. Chief Ordeneaux about added presence during high traffic times. The property owner at 118 S Millet has demolished the mobile home on the property. He has spoken with a business owner about possible funding to help with clean up and renovations on his property located on Main Street. He showed a float study done by Scott Poirrier of High Tide Consultants of Ferrero Canal to show blockage. It is suggested that we replace the old culvert with a box culvert. We have fielded complaints about the sewer pond; DEQ completed an inspection and found no deficiencies. Alderman Brack asked the mayor to contact Eric Deroche concerning high grass on several properties located on Mobile Lane. St. James Sheriff's Office will sponsor a School Backpack event on July 27, 2024 at the Gramercy Main Street Pavilion.

**ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION**

**ORDINANCE NO. 764-2024**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> day 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, June 10, 2024, notice of a public hearing having been published on June 20, 2024, said public hearing been held on July 8, 2024, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno, to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken, and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 33-2024**

**A RESOLUTION FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM CREATED IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE CHIEF OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA**

WHEREAS, Mr. David Dufresne, has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Police Chief Brent Dicharry; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. David Dufresne, has offered to serve as Police Chief for the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, until the primary election for the said office shall be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 and that the general election for said office be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that Mr. David Dufresne is hereby appointed to fill the unexpired term of Police Chief for the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

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

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

This resolution was declared adopted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July , 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 34-2024**

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT USBR 90**

WHEREAS, bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing more than \$50 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourism; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has designated a corridor crossing Louisiana to be developed as United States Bicycle Route 90 (USBR 90), and

WHEREAS, The Adventure Cycling Association in participation with LA DOT, and Bike Baton Rouge have proposed a specific route to be designated as USBR 90, and

WHEREAS, the proposed route for USBR 90 comes through Gramercy and can therefore provide benefits to our town, and

WHEREAS, we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be a suitable route, and desire that the route be designated so that it can be mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy hereby expresses its approval and support for the development of USBR 90, and requests that LA DOT get the route officially designated by AASHTO as soon as this can be achieved and authorizes the positing of signs within Gramercy right-of-way identifying the route through the town once the official designation has been made.

A vote 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

This resolution was declared adopted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July , 2024.

Resident Shelly Warren, 605 N Pine Street, asked what the new bank account would be used for. Mayor Bourgeois explained it would be used to deposit money collected during drug seizures. She asked why an account was not opened before. It was stated that the new police administration has made a change concerning this policy.

**RESOLUTION NO. 35-2024**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT ENTITLED  
GRAMERCY POLICE EVIDENTIARY ACCOUNT AT FIRST AMERICAN BANK**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that First American Bank (herein called the "Depository") is hereby designated as a legal depository of money belonging to the Town of Gramercy, and that said money belonging to the Town of Gramercy, shall be deposited in said bank from time to time in the name of said Town, and that monies so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that checks drawn on the bank account of the Town of Gramercy shall require signatures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following are hereby authorized to sign said checks effective July 8, 2024:

Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois  
Alderman Craig Calcagno  
Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

Whose signatures shall be duly certified to said Depository, and that no checks, drafts or orders drawn against said Depository shall be valid unless so signed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Depository is hereby authorized and directed to honor and pay any checks, notes or orders so drawn, whether such checks, drafts notes or orders be payable to the order of any such person signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or any of such persons in their individual capacities or not, and whether such checks, drafts, notes or orders are deposited to the individual credit of the person so signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or to the individual credit of any of the other officers or not. This resolution shall continue in force and said Depository may consider the facts the holders of said officers, respectively, and their signatures to be and continue as set forth in the certificate of the Town Clerk, accompanying a copy of this resolution when delivered to said Depository or in any similar subsequent certificate, until written notice to the contrary is duly served on said Depository.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Louque, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 36-2024**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT ENTITLED  
PUBLIC UTILITIES REVENUE FUND AT FIRST AMERICAN BANK**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that First American Bank (herein called the "Depository") is hereby designated as a legal depository of money belonging to the Town of Gramercy, and that said money belonging to the Town of Gramercy, shall be deposited in said bank from time to time in the name of said Town, and that monies so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that checks drawn on the bank account of the Town of Gramercy shall require signatures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following are hereby authorized to sign said checks effective July 8, 2024:

Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois  
Alderman Craig Calcagno  
Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

Whose signatures shall be duly certified to said Depository, and that no checks, drafts or orders drawn against said Depository shall be valid unless so signed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Depository is hereby authorized and directed to honor and pay any checks, notes or orders so drawn, whether such checks, drafts notes or orders be payable to the order of any such person signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or any of such persons in their individual capacities or not, and whether such checks, drafts, notes or orders are deposited to the individual credit of the person so signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or to the individual credit of any of the other officers or not. This resolution shall continue in force and said Depository may consider the facts the holders of said officers, respectively, and their signatures to be and continue as set forth in the certificate of the Town Clerk, accompanying a copy of this resolution when delivered to said Depository or in any similar subsequent certificate, until written notice to the contrary is duly served on said Depository.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Williams, seconded by Alderman 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 37-2024**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 43:141 requires that an official journal for the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana be selected at the beginning of every fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois, has recommended that appointment of the NEWS EXAMINER, Lutcher, Louisiana, to be the official journal of the Town of Gramercy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that the NEWS EXAMINER, Lutcher, Louisiana, is hereby appointed the official journal of the Town of Gramercy, for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as recommended by Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Wiggins, seconded 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 the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 38-2024**

**A RESOLUTION ENGAGING A FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, is required to have a financial audit performed for the year ending June 30, 2024 for the Town of Gramercy; and,

WHEREAS, an engagement letter has been received from the firm of EisnerAmper LLP, Certified Public Accountants, 215 Saint Patrick Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, that the firm of EisnerAmper LLP, is hereby engaged to examine the financial statements and records of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in accordance with the stipulations stated in their letter.

The above resolution was offered by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Brack, and a vote being taken on the above resolution, the vote was as follows:

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 8<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2024.

A motion was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Wiggins to suspend the meeting rules to add Resolution 40-2024 to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Alderman Brack, seconded by Alderman Wiggins to add Resolution 40-2024 to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 40-2024**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN OPT-IN FORM FOR THE STATE-MANAGED TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAM UNDER LOUISIANA REVISED STATUE 726(F)(3)(B)(iii)(aa)**

**WHEREAS**, Act 526 (HB 1070) of the State of Louisiana 2022 Legislative Session requires each jurisdiction to Opt-In or Opt-Out of the temporary housing and shelter assistance program that is managed by the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Gramercy desires to Opt-In to the GOHSEP program for Town residents; and

**WHEREAS**, an Opt-In to the GOHSEP temporary housing programs have no effect on any of the Federal or FEMA temporary housing and shelter assistance programs; and

**WHEREAS**, an Opt-In does not provide any approval for group or large site development.

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

**SECTION 1.** Mayor Steven J. Bourgeois is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the Town of Gramercy, to sign and execute an Opt-In form as required by Act 526 (HB 1070) of the State of Louisiana 2022 Legislative Session.

A motion to adopt the above resolution was made by Alderman Calcagno, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Williams, second by Alderman Calcagno and approved to adjourn at 6:58 pm.

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