

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR  
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
TOWN OF GRAMERCY  
AUGUST 12, 2024**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Notice Posted: 06/10/2024 – 08/12/2024

Public Hearing Published: 06/20/2024 & 06/27/2024

A public hearing will be held as follows:

Date: August 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers at 120 N. Montz Street

**ORDINANCE NO. 763-2024 AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 9.65 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2024 ON ALL OF THE TAXABLE PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA FOR THE GENERAL SUPPORT AND OPERATIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS OF SAID TOWN AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND REDEMPTION OF BONDS FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA**

There were no public comments received on the above ordinance.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Alderman Louque, seconded by Alderman Calcagno and the motion passed unanimously.

**\*Public Meeting to Follow Immediately after Public Hearing\***

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in special session on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the 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 David Dufresne, Town Attorney Robert Fauchaux, Jr., Town Clerk Amy St. Pierre

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were no public comments on agenda items.

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Tim Brewer and Mr. Greg Given presented information concerning the subdivision of a tract of land on LA Highway 3125. The purpose is for Dorsey Development to build a Dollar General Plus Store. This store will offer fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno, and approved to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated July 8, 2024.

**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**

Mr. Fauchaux reported that the conference call for Randy Anny lawsuit has been delayed until further notice; he will inform the Mayor and Board when it has been scheduled. The Louisiana Municipal Police Retirement System has sued several municipalities for not enrolling newly hired officers into the retirement system. The Town of Gramercy is not named in this suit since we have always enrolled new police hires into the retirement system. Mr. Fauchaux recommends the Board pass Resolution 41-2024 authorizing the Mayor to execute a retainer agreement arising from the PFAS lawsuits.

**REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE**

Police Chief David Dufresne issued a monthly report on Police Department activities for July 2024.

Police Chief David Dufresne, recommended the hiring of Ronald Brown as a full-time officer. Mr. Brown has completed all pre-employment screenings.

It was moved by Alderman Louque, second by Alderman Calcagno to accept the recommendation of Chief Dufresne and hire Mr. Ronald Brown as a full-time officer for the Gramercy Police Department. The motion passed unanimously.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Assistant Chief Jody Ordeneaux had no report for this month.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Assistant Chief Jody Ordeneaux had no report for this month.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Planning Commission Chairman Alex Gerhold reported the members discussed when the state would start construction on the roundabout on LA Hwy 3125.

Tim Brewer with SJB Group, would like to subdivide property along highway 3125 just east of O'Reilly. The reasoning for the sub-division is for Dorsey Development to construct a Dollar General-Plus store later this year. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the sub-division to the Board of Aldermen.

It was motioned by Alderman Wiggins, seconded by Alderman Calcagno to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to subdivide a certain parcel of land located on LA 3125. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ALDERMEN'S REPORT**

Alderman Brack reached out to Representative Brass to attend the town meeting to discuss upcoming projects that have been budgeted for our area. Representative Brass agreed to attend the September 9, 2024 meeting. He welcomed Ronald Brown to the Police Department.

Alderman Louque reported that as per the request Richard Millet, owner of mobile home park Gramercy Park 61, he and Mayor Bourgeois did a walk through with him concerning his plans for an extension to the mobile home park. He saw railroad crews working on the tracks near US 61. Brad Parino Trucking will grate the right of way between 608 and 702 E Airline Highway.

Alderman Wiggins reported a sinkhole near the catch basin at 1366 N Airline Avenue. He asked that a high grass letter be sent to the property owners on S Millet and have the mobile home placed on the blight list. He extended his condolences to Alderman Williams and his family on the passing of his sister.

Alderman Calcagno passed out his monthly report. Alderman Calcagno reported he attended the annual LMA convention, and he said it was very informative. He requested a meeting with Flo Dumas of Entergy to discuss lighting issues in the town; if anyone else would like to attend let him know. He will give the mayor a list of property owners that need high grass letters. He contacted DOTD to repair a bad pothole on LA 641. He contacted First Student Management about school bus speeding in town.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Dustin Poche with St. James Parish Sheriff's Office reported that sheriff's deputies have been monitoring speeding complaints on US 61 and LA 3125 and have issued several speeding citations in those areas. Also, the State Police has stopped 32 dump trucks for safety inspections and 17 have been cited for safety violations. Sheriff Louis has a meeting with the State Police to discuss continued monitoring of truck safety inspections. St. James Sheriff's Office has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Town of Litcher to use the Floyd Marshall building as a sub-station for the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Rick Webre, St. James Parish Operations Director, reported that LA DOTD awarded the LA 3125 roundabout contract to RJ Daigle and work should begin on or about September 12<sup>th</sup>. Bids for the Blind River Boat Launch project and the concession stand/restroom project at Park A have been received and a notice to proceed will be given to the respective project contractors to begin the work. Unfortunately, FEMA has issued an INF which will affect the disaster recovery funding for the parish, therefore, any projects that were allocated with the money have been cut including drainage canal work in the Town of Gramercy. St. James Parish has its' engineers' providing information to the Corps of Engineers to include St. James Parish in the levee protection area.

Mayor Bourgeois asked the Board of Aldermen for their opinion on filing suits in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Court on individuals who refuse or ignore our requests for action concerning blight on their personal property. The Aldermen agreed with this action. Mayor Bourgeois will make a list of properties for their review by the aldermen before any action is taken. Work will begin work on the sidewalk on the corner of Main Street and N. Colonial. He will meet with Mr. Shawn Troxler concerning work on the federally mandated lead and copper testing requirements.

**ORDINANCE – FINAL ACTION**

**ORDINANCE NO. 763-2024**

**AN ORDINANCE LEVYING 9.65 TOTAL MILL TAX FOR THE YEAR 2024 ON ALL OF THE TAXABLE PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA FOR THE GENERAL SUPPORT AND OPERATIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS OF SAID TOWN AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND REDEMPTION OF BONDS FOR THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA THAT:

SECTION I. that the following millage are hereby levied on the 2024 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

Corporation Tax	5.91 Mills
2013 Water Improvement Tax	3.74 Mills
Total	9.65 Mills

SECTION II. that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. James, Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the tax authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

SECTION III. that this ordinance shall be published in the Official Journal according to law, and that this ordinance after first having been reduced to writing, was read and considered section by section at this public meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority thereof.

SECTION IV. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION V. If any provision or item of this ordinance of the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provision, items or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby severable.

Said Ordinance having been introduced on Monday, June 10, 2024, notice of public hearing having been published on Thursday, June 20, 2024 and Thursday, June 27, 2024, said public hearing and public meeting held on Thursday, August 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm, the title having been read and the Ordinance considered, on motion by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins to adopt the Ordinance, a record was taken and the following result was held.

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

And the ordinance was declared adopted on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 39-2024**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor requires the preparation of an annual Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government agencies, and;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Compliance audit report provides information which determines required actions by the Town to maintain compliance set by Louisiana Legislative Auditor;

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy have reviewed and hereby approve the annual Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government Agencies, dated August 12, 2024, 2024, for the Town of Gramercy, LA, which is attached to this Resolution.

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

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

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 41-2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY, LOUISIANA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A "RETAINER AGREEMENT" WITH THE LAW FIRMS OF MILBERG COLEMAN BRYSON PHILLIPS GROSSMAN, LLC; NAPOLI SHKOLNIK, PLLC; AND ROMAN LAW, PLLC FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE TOWN IN LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENTS ARISING FROM PRODUCTS CONTAINING PERFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ("PFAS") OR OTHER EMERGING CONTAMINANTS.**

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, our federal and state governments have recognized that certain chemicals, specifically those found in firefighting foam products (known as "aqueous film forming foam" or "AFFF") and/or other products containing perfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"), as well as other emerging contaminants such as 1,4-dioxane and micro-plastics, can produce harmful health effects; and

WHEREAS, such chemicals may contaminate drinking water sources and other sites, resulting in costly treatment protocols and remediation, and local governments across the country have brought legal actions against the manufacturers and distributors of these chemicals for the cost of treatment protocols and remediation; and

WHEREAS the Town of Gramercy desires to retain legal representation to engage further testing regarding this issue and, as appropriate, file suit against the manufacturers and distributors of these chemicals and/or to pursue claims in settlements paid by the manufacturers and distributors for the benefit of public water systems; and

WHEREAS, the law firms of Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, LLC; Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC; and Roman Law, PLLC have presented for review and consideration the Retainer Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit 1, which exhibit is incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRAMERCY BOARD OF ALDERMEN as follows:

Section 1. The mayor is authorized to execute and enter into the attached Retainer Agreement on behalf of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

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
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Williams
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 42-2024**

**A Resolution of the Town of Gramercy Condemning 1583 Tulip Lane and 140 North Pine Street**

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy is committed to upholding the values of justice, equality, safety; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021 the Town was impacted by Hurricane Ida, leaving properties substantially damaged and structurally unsound, including properties located at 1583 Tulip Lane and 140 North Pine Street; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gramercy believes that said properties should be deemed unsafe and present danger to the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Town of Gramercy Council to protect the well-being of its residents and to ensure that its constituents are treated with dignity and respect; and

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

1. That the Town of Gramercy hereby formally condemns 1583 Tulip Lane and 140 North Pine Street.
2. Town of Gramercy reaffirms its commitment to upholding the values of justice, equality, and safety of the Town of Gramercy residents.

3. That the Town of Gramercy calls upon the Board of Aldermen to take appropriate action to address the harm caused by Hurricane Ida.
4. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to owners of the properties located at 1583 Tulip Lane and 140 North Pine Street, and that this resolution be entered into the official records of the Town Council.

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
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Williams
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 43-2024**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES  
LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY**

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Gramercy, Chapter 18 provides for the repair or demolition of what has been determined to be unsafe structures; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined the structure located in the Town to be unsafe; and

WHEREAS, Section 18-29 (a) requires the determination by the Board of Aldermen that a structure is unreasonable to repair, and that demolition is required.

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

SECTION 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to proceed with demolition and removal of the following structures, subject to compliance with the notice and appeal provisions contained within the Ordinance:

David Waguespack, 715 N Airline Avenue

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
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Williams
ABSTAIN:	None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Calcagno, second by Alderman Wiggins and approved to adjourn at 7:08 pm.

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Steven J. Bourgeois, Mayor

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Attest: Amy St. Pierre, Town Clerk