

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR
AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF GRAMERCY
OCTOBER 16, 2024**

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gramercy, Louisiana, met in regular session on Wednesday, October 16, 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, Alderman Percy Williams

There were absent: None

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

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

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

Mayor Bourgeois presented a condolence proclamation to the family of Harris Louque, Jr. Mrs. Julie Daigle from Louisiana Rural Water Association presented the Board of Aldermen the results of the water rate study. The study showed that water rates will have to be increased.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Alderman Calcagno, seconded by Alderman Wiggins, and approved to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated August 12, 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 attended the LMA Executive Board meeting and there will be changes to the rules concerning the CFO, meeting per diem and mileage.

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Assistant Chief Jody Ordeneaux presented a monthly report. We have received the equipment for the new patrol units. The new body cameras have been received and deployed. We have also received and deployed the new Field Ops App. Officers are saving time by using the app to add statements and pictures to cases. Officers are monitoring traffic on LA 3274 and other locations as requested. The officers have completed Legal Aspects and Firearms certification.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EOC Director Jody Ordeneaux reported that during Hurricane Francine the response from the town maintenance, water and police department went well. We had meals delivered from Ralph's Supermarket as per our contract. A daily meeting was held with the maintenance department, police department and officials to keep everyone informed of operations during and after the storm.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Assistant Chief Jody Ordeneaux has tagged several vehicles and there are grass issues to be addressed.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission Secretary Gary Waguespack reported that they will begin to report discrepancies in ordinances that apply to their service to the mayor so there will be no confusion on issues that apply to the commission.

ALDERMEN'S REPORT

Alderman Calcagno asked if we had received any portion of the Opioid lawsuit? Mayor Bourgeois reported no settlements have been received. He contacted the State Ethics board for an update on a complaint filed a couple of years ago and was told he couldn't receive any information because he didn't file the original complaint. He has emailed AT&T State Executive office concerning leaning

poles on Belinda Street, he received a response saying they have engaged their construction and engineering team to investigate the issue. Mayor Bourgeois, Alderman Louque and I met with a Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railroad representative concerning several issues with the track and right of ways on LA 3274. We continue to have problems with property owners letting their grass exceed town ordinance limits. Alderman Brack stated that a list should be turned into Code Enforcement.

Alderman Wiggins stated that during Hurricane Francine a resident located at 239 Pecan Street had some water in the house. He stayed in contact with Flo Dumas from Entergy concerning power outages due to Hurricane Francine. He thanked Parish Councilman Todd Poche for his help after the storm.

Alderman Brack reported he spoke with Parish Councilman Todd Poche and Operations Director Rick Weber about cutting the high grass in David Canal. He has received complaints about the trash and boxes behind Dollar General on Main Street; this area is always unkept. Asst. Chief Jody Ordeneaux spoke with Dollar General manager and corporate office about keeping the area clean.

Alderman Louque reported the mayor, Alderman Calcagno and I met with a Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railroad representative concerning several issues with the track and right of ways by LA 3274. He spoke with the Parish Operations Director Rick Weber about cleaning Central Canal. Chad Weidert spoke to him about the town purchasing cat traps to help Bridge to Bridge organization in a catch and release program.

Alderman Williams reported that signal light at US 61 was very short, and cars were going through on a red light. Mayor Bourgeois reported it to DOTD. He reported a lot on S. Elm street with an empty house, debris, and overgrown trees. There are low hanging wires on S. Elm Street since the storm. E. First Street needs a new street sign. There are potholes in the town right of way by Park B.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bourgeois thanked the maintenance crew and police department for the response to Hurricane Francine. He also thanked St. Pierre Tree Service for their help in removing downed trees from the roads. The lead survey has been completed and turned into the State; there were no lead lines in service. He has asked Mr. Fauchaux to move forward with a lawsuit against the owners of End Zone building on E Jefferson Hwy. After reviewing the water rate study from Mrs. Daigle, water rates will need to be increased. He has received a quote from Coburn's for only culverts for Rose Street drainage; the quote is \$64,000.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 765-2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 74, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 11, WATER SECTION 74-39 RATE FORMULA FOR WATER SERVICES

Public Hearing is set for Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

There being no further business it was moved by Alderman Wiggins, second by Alderman Brack and approved to adjourn at 7:40 pm.

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