

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES
February 7, 2007
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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 7th day of February, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Winfred Johnston, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Mr. Wayne Hammack and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Bill Altimus. The Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Cheryl Martin, called the roll, with the following members present:

Mr. William Altimus	Mr. Winfred Johnston
Mr. Rick Avery	Mr. Hank Meachum
Mr. Jimmy Cochran	Mr. Henry Mitchell
Mr. Brad Cummings	Mr. Jeff Rogers
Mr. Jerome Darby, absent	Mr. Eddy Shell, absent
Mr. Wayne Hammack	Mr. Jesse Williams, absent

Others present were Mr. Bill Altimus, Parish Administrator; Ms. Cheryl Martin, Secretary-Treasurer.

Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to amend the agenda to include a report from the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding the request of Haughton Athletics for assistance in the completion of its recreational complex in Haughton. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Charlotte Alderman, 2007 Belle Haven, discussed problems with the pampas grass growing along the fence at Rosedale Place Subdivision on Wemple Road. She stated that her property backs up to the fence and advised that a petition signed by 15 of the 22 property owners along the fence has been provided requesting that the grass be removed. Ms. Alderman stated this grass provides a habitat for mice and creates thousands of seeds, which has prohibited them from enjoying their property. She explained that she and her husband have trimmed the grass for several years but recently received a letter from the Rosedale Place Homeowners Association advising them that they will be fined \$500 if the grass is trimmed again. Ms. Alderman stated that in her research of this matter, she has found that the grass is located in the parish road right-of-way and again requested that it be removed. Mr. Avery stated that the Parish Attorney is currently reviewing this matter with the Rosedale Place Homeowners Association.

Mr. Gary Alderman presented copies of information from various agencies regarding pampas grass. He stated that the seeds are a major problem, as well as the expense of rat traps and poison.

Mr. Rogers stated that there are no other locations in the parish where pampas grass is located within the parish road right-of-way, and that he sees no benefit from the grass. He stated that because the grass is located on parish property, the homeowners association has no authority in the matter. Mr. Cummings suggested that the grass be removed. Mr. Cochran recommended that the homeowners association be asked to remove the grass. Mr. Rogers stated that parish work crews should do the work because the grass is on parish property.

Mr. Rogers asked Mr. Cathcart, Public Works Director, if the grass is providing erosion control at this location. Mr. Cathcart responded from the audience, advising that the pampas grass does not provide erosion control.

Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Cummings, to authorize parish work crews to remove pampas grass located in the parish road right-of-way along Wemple Road at Rosedale Place Subdivision. Motion carried, with Mr. Avery opposing.

Mr. Max Sharp, Haughton Athletics, discussed the request for the police jury's assistance in the completion of the recreational complex in Haughton. He advised that the organization will donate the land to the police jury for a public park and baseball facility. Mr. Meachum reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed this matter and recommends that the police jury provide funding of approximately \$250,000 for completion of the complex. He stated that the Parish Attorney will prepare all necessary donation documents, as well as a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Haughton Athletics for further review and consideration by the police jury at a later date. Mr. Meachum stated there are several issues to be addressed and clarified. It was stressed that the police jury will not be responsible for maintenance of the facility. **Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to authorize an expenditure of approximately \$250,000 from oil/gas revenues for completion of the Haughton Athletics recreational complex in Haughton.**

There was discussion on the motion. Mr. Rogers stated that Haughton Athletics has been asked to provide information on their future plans for the complex. Mr. Hammack stated that he wants to be assured that this will be an on-going endeavor. Mr. Sharp advised that four ball fields are planned.

Votes were cast on Mr. Meachum's motion to authorize an expenditure of approximately \$250,000 from oil/gas revenues for completion of the Haughton Athletics recreational complex in Haughton. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Martin announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Old River Place, Unit No. 3, located in Section 22, Township 17 North, Range 12 West, Bossier Parish, LA. Mr. Joey French, French Engineering, Inc., was present. Mr. Altimus advised that Mr. Ford, Parish Engineer, has reviewed the plat and recommends approval. He stated that this is a continuation of the existing units of Old River Place Subdivision. There being no opposition, **motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to approve the plat of the proposed development of Old River Place, Unit No. 3, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Martin announced the public hearing to consider approval of the site plan/plat of Heritage Properties, Inc., for a proposed apartment complex to be located in Sections 28 and 33, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, LeOaks Drive, Bossier Parish, LA. **Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to table this matter to be considered at the February 21, 2007 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Meachum, to schedule a public hearing on March 7, 2007, to consider the remand by the Bossier City-Parish MPC of the application of Benton Road Properties, LLC, for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a tract of land located in Section 29, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residential-Agriculture District, to B-3, General Business District, for a convenience store. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Hammack, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to adopt an ordinance authorizing the Parish of Bossier to enter into a Local Services Agreement with the City of Bossier City regarding quick take authority for the Modica Lott Road and Traffic Street Improvement projects, and authorizing the Administrator to execute any documents in connection with said agreement.

There was discussion on the motion. Mr. Barry Butler, 1988 Swan Lake Road, expressed opposition to quick take authority, advising that he feels this method by-passes expropriation.

Motion and second were withdrawn. Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to table this matter for consideration at a later date. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Altimus, seconded by Mr. Avery, to accept the resignation of Ms. Patty Matlock from the Board of Commissioners for Northeast Bossier Parish Fire District No. 5, and approve the appointment of Ms. Sarah Sparkman to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Matlock. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Sparkman's term will expire 12/31/08.

Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Hammack, to ratify a change on the previously approved plat of the Legacy Drive Dedication to change the street name to Legacy Elementary Drive as required by Bossier Parish E911. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bruce Easterly, courthouse renovation/addition project manager, reviewed Plan Change No. 22 on the courthouse project and recommended approval. He stated that this change results in an additional \$71,055.17 and 21 additional contract days. **Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Avery, to approve Plan Change No. 22 on the courthouse renovation/addition project, and to authorize the President to execute said change. Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 7th day of February, 2007, that Winfred R. Johnston, President, be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, Plan Change No. 22 on the courthouse renovation/addition project.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Avery. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 7th day of February, 2007.

CHERYL G. MARTIN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

WINFRED R. JOHNSTON, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Meachum, to approve the appointment of Mr. Mark Montgomery to the Board of Commissioners for Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Bossier. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rogers stated that he will make other appointments at a later date.

Mr. Altimus advised that in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law, the public works limit for the Bossier Parish Police Jury for the year 2007 is \$139,795.89.

Mr. Altimus reported that according to the Research Division at Louisiana Tech University, the estimated population of Bossier Parish as of July 1, 2006, is 107,194.

Mr. Altimus presented information on the proposed utilization of the former Barksdale Air Force Base radio beacon site on Sligo Road, advising that nature trails are planned. He stated that a small parking lot will be constructed and that benches and gazebos are planned. Mr. Altimus stated that the City of Bossier City will maintain the facility and that local Boy Scout troops will assist.

Mr. Altimus reported on a meeting of the billboard sign committee, advising that the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission will be asked to adopt the current sign regulations of the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Mr. Altimus advised that a proposal is being considered regarding adjudicated properties in the parish, advising that the Parish Attorney is working to implement a means to allow citizens to purchase these properties more easily.

Mr. Altimus advised that the grand opening ceremony for the East 80 Library is planned at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 18, 2007.

Mr. Easterly presented a proposal from Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., for a centerline survey on Modica Lott Road from Swan Lake Road to Stonebridge in the amount of \$4,200. **Motion was made by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Cummings, to accept the proposal of Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., for survey work on Modica Lott Road, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Cathcart, Public Works Director, discussed a proposal for gravel and clearing work to provide access to Bodcau off Highway 157 in the amount of approximately \$5,000. He stated that the Corps of Engineers owns the land. He stated that access to Bodcau in Bossier Parish is limited. Mr. Mitchell requested that he also prepare a cost estimate for similar work at the twin bridges on Highway 157.

Motion was made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Mr. Altimus, to schedule a public hearing on March 7, 2007, to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Haughton Trace, Unit No. 1, located in Section 8, Township 17 North, Range 11 West, Bossier Parish, LA. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to accept the resignation of Mr. Gary Cathcart from the Board of Commissioners for Benton Fire District No. 4 effective February 1, 2007, and to approve the appointment of Mr. Michael Brooks to full Mr. Cathcart's unexpired term. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Brooks' term will expire December 31, 2007.

Mr. Rogers requested that the owner of property on Bodcau Station Road and the owner of property in Merrywoods Subdivision be notified of property standards violations at these locations. Pictures of these properties will be reviewed at the February 21 regular meeting.

Mr. Avery discussed action by the jury to remove the pampas grass on Wemple Road at Rosedale Place Subdivision, and requested that no action be taken until the matter can be further reviewed at the February 21 meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Altimus, that Mr. Cochran and Mr. Altimus will contribute \$600 each from discretionary funds to the Bossier High School wrestling program. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Altimus, that a total of \$1,100 from discretionary funds will be contributed to the basketball program at the alternative school as follows:

Mr. Cummings	\$250
Mr. Rogers	\$100
Mr. Mitchell	\$250
Mr. Cochran	\$500

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 7th day of February, 2007, the meeting was adjourned by the President at 3:30 p.m.

CHERYL G. MARTIN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

WINFRED R. JOHNSTON, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY