

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MINUTES

August 16, 2023

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The Bossier Parish Police Jury met in regular and legal session on the 16th day of August, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. The President, Mr. Doug Rimmer, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Ms. Julianna Parks, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Charles Gray. Ms. Rachel Hauser, Parish Secretary, called the roll, with all members present as follows:

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Glenn Benton | Mr. Chris Marsiglia |
| Mr. Bob Brotherton, Absent | Ms. Julianna Parks |
| Mr. Jimmy Cochran | Mr. Mac Plummer |
| Mr. Jerome Darby | Mr. Doug Rimmer |
| Mr. Charles Gray | Mr. Philip Rodgers |
| Mr. John Ed Jordan | Mr. Tom Salzer |

Others present were Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Jr., Parish Administrator; Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney; Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer; Ms. Rachel Hauser, Parish Secretary; Ms. Stacie Fernandez, Parish Treasurer.

Ms. Michelle Cooksey, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, requested a Quietus on the 2022 tax roll. The following recap for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, was presented for consideration:

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|---|--------------------------|
| Tax Payer Column of 2022 Tax Roll | \$ 131,034,814.79 |
| Adjustments (LTC's, SHE's, SPL's, etc.) | \$ <533,485.77> |
| TOTAL ADJUSTED TAX ROLL: | <u>\$ 130,501,329.02</u> |
| Amount Collected and Distributed | \$<129,178,421.25> |
| Protest Money Collected - not distributed | \$ <602,630.51> |
| LESS: TOTAL COLLECTED: | <u>\$ 129,781,051.76</u> |
| UNCOLLECTED: | <u>\$ 720,277.26</u> |
| The Uncollected Balance consists of: | |
| 1) Bankruptcies | \$ 785.46 |
| 2) Adjudications (tax sale properties) | \$ 7,440.50 |
| 2) Movables, Mobile Homes, RE bankruptcy discharged | \$ 712,051.30 |
| UNCOLLECTED BALANCE | <u>\$ 720,277.26</u> |

99.44% of the 2022 adjusted tax roll was collected.

Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to grant a Quietus on the 2022 tax roll.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rimmer asked if anyone was present that would like to address the police jury to discuss an item that is currently not on the agenda. No one was present.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Gray, to remove the public hearing to consider the application of Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., to the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a tract of land being 8.94 acres, more or less, located in Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residence Agriculture District, to B-3, Community and Central Business District, for a proposed storage facility; generally located at 1196 and 1198 Highway 162, East of American Freedom Storage (Benton Case BP-04-23) from the table made on August 2, 2023, to allow for discussion today based on parliamentary rules.

The President called for public comment. After further discussion, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hauser announced the public hearing to consider the application of Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., to the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a tract of land being 8.94 acres, more or less, located in Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residence Agriculture District, to B-3, Community and Central Business District, for a proposed storage facility; generally located at 1196 and 1198 Highway 162, East of American Freedom Storage. This application (Case BP-04-23) received a favorable recommendation by the Benton-Parish MPC, with conditions.

Mr. Charlie Coyle, Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., stated that Mr. Dwayne Gates, property owner and developer, was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Wayne Gates, Mr. Dwayne Gate's father, and Mr. Chris Myers, Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., were present to answer any questions.

Mr. Coyle stated that a drainage study has been submitted and reviewed by the Bossier Parish Police Jury's Engineering Department and Owen and White. He stated that there is an understanding that there may be potential drainage issues in the future in this area. He further stated that their plan for detention will not solve the drainage issues in this area, but it will also not adversely affect the existing drainage.

Mr. Rimmer asked when the detention pond would be constructed. Mr. Coyle stated that at least some of the the detention pond would be constructed in the first phase of the development. He stated that the first phase of the development will include converting the existing home into the office for the storage facility. He further stated that the first climate control building and the RV storage in the back will be in the first phase.

Mr. Coyle stated that the future phases will be dictated by the market. He stated that Mr. Gates anticipates adding one building per year to this development.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development recommends that during the first phase of this development, the existing entrance to the existing facility and the entrance to the new facility will remain open. He stated that when additional buildings are constructed, a connector will be constructed between the two sites and the existing entrance will be closed. There was further discussion of the entrance and connector to this facility.

Mr. Coyle stated that there is an existing detention pond for the existing storage facility and it is planned that that detention pond will be expanded and an additional detention will be constructed as needed.

Mr. Coyle presented information on the planning lighting for the new storage facility. He provided photographs of the lighting on the existing storage facility. He stated that pack lighting is planned on the side of the building and there will be no overhead mast lighting.

Mr. Rimmer stated that today's hearing is for zoning only. Ms. Carlotta Askew-Brown, Benton-Parish MPC, stated that a subdivision plat and planned building group will be required prior to any development beginning. She stated that conditions can be placed on the development during this process pertaining to buffering, lighting, or other requirements.

Mr. Cochran asked what type of lighting is planned for the RV parking area planned in the first phase. Mr. Coyle stated that pack lights are planned on the side of the building.

Mr. Benton asked what type of fencing is planned. Mr. Coyle stated that chain link fencing is planned along the property line. Mr. Salzer asked if there will be inserts in the chain link fencing. Mr. Coyle stated that inserts can be placed in the chain link fencing. Mr. Jorden asked if a privacy fence could be considered instead of chain link. Mr. Coyle stated that privacy fencing is planned on the east side and chain link fencing with inserts where needed.

There was further discussion on where the homes are located adjacent to the proposed storage facility.

Mr. Salzer asked if Mr. Gates would be willing to plant trees as well for a natural barrier. There was further discussion on the type of fencing proposed around this storage facility. Mr. Rimmer asked if these types of issues would need to be addressed during the platting and planning process. Ms. Askew-Brown stated that these issues would be addressed at the platting and planning phase of this process.

Mr. Salzer stated that he is going to recommend that if approved, the detention ponds be built in the first phase, as well as trees planted at that time as well.

Mr. Benton asked if the developer has met all MPC requirements. He stated that he has reviewed the area and does not see any issues with the site distance. Ms. Askew-Brown stated that any issues with lighting will be addressed at the planning phase of this process.

Mr. Benton stated that he is aware that there is a lot of opposition to the development. He further stated that the developer has met all MPC and police jury requirements placed on him. He stated that he does not see that the value of properties will decrease with the proposed development.

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Darby, to approve application of Coyle Engineering Co., Inc., to the Benton-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission for a zoning amendment to change the zoning classification of a tract of land being 8.94 acres, more or less, located in Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residence Agriculture District, to B-3, Community and Central Business District, for a proposed storage facility; generally located at 1196 and 1198 Highway 162, East of American Freedom Storage. (Benton Case BP-04-23)

The President called for public comment. Mr. Rodgers asked what the hours of operation are for the existing storage facility and if the lights stay on all night. An individual from the audience stated that the lights come on at dark and are on a timer. He stated that the citizens in his district do not want the additional storage facility at this location.

Ms. Beverly Stevens, 145 Stevens Road, Benton, LA, stated that her family lives on the property directly across the highway from the the tract of land being considered for rezoning. She stated that her family was not given the opportunity to object to the existing storage facility when it was built. Ms. Stevens stated that this is a rural neighborhood and if approved, this will cause other commercial developments to want to build near their homes.

Ms. Stevens stated that the entire neighborhood around this tract of land is in opposition to the requested zoning amendment. She stated that Mr. Gates was aware that the property was zoned R-A when he purchased the property. She asked that the police jury listen to the residents that live in this area and not just one individual who wants to change the zoning.

Ms. Secret Duncan, 2420 Cypress Shores Road, Benton, LA, stated that she appreciates the jurors who have taken the time to speak with her regarding this matter. She stated that she now has some understanding of what all parties must consider in matters like this.

Ms. Duncan asked that all parties that are present today regarding this agenda item to raise their hands. There was a large number of hands raised from the audience. She stated that there are a lot of citizens that are in opposition to this zoning amendment. She further stated that everyone living in this area chose to live there for the rural setting.

Ms. Duncan presented a document which shows the existing storage facility and a detention pond that had to be constructed since they purchased the property. She stated that drainage is becoming more of an issue and there is a concern that additional development will cause more drainage. She asked who the citizens turn to and do they take legal action if the additional drainage from the development causes damage.

Ms. Duncan stated that they had to rebuild their bridge across the creek to get into their pasture due to the existing drainage issues. She stated that there is concern this development will cause additional drainage issues. She provided additional concerns with the proposed new development. Ms. Duncan stated that they built their home approximately five years ago and chose to build their home at a location on their land that was further away from the existing storage facility. She stated that the proposed new development would be approximately 34 yards from her front porch.

Ms. Duncan stated that she reviewed what the code says regarding changing from an R-A to a B-3 and it states that to protect the abutting and surrounding residential areas there are certain restrictions that can be placed on the uses like lights and traffic. She stated that the proposed storage facility will be open 24/7 and she does not have blinds on her windows, which will be an issue with lights shining into her home.

Ms. Duncan asked that the opposition that has been expressed by everyone that has shown up for the public hearings for this zoning amendment be considered.

Ms. Regan Stevens Thrasher, 5113 Waters Edge Drive, Benton, LA, stated that she grew up at 145 Stevens Road, Benton, LA, where her parents still live. She stated that she returned to this area with her family for its beauty, peacefulness and sense of community. She further stated that she does not believe that the promise of a large storage facility is what draws people to Bossier Parish.

Ms. Stevens stated that Bossier Parish is growing because people want to experience its qualities of natural beauty, calmness and togetherness. She stated that concerns regarding flooding, lighting, and the increase potential for motor vehicle accidents. She further stated that all of these concerns are valid, but can be summed up in one statement, the people that call this area home do not want this zoning amendment.

Ms. Stevens stated that she was taught to have faith in her community leaders and that her voice would be heard. She stated that she and others are here today to put that faith in each of the police jurors and plead with the jurors to hear their concerns and do what is right for the people that call this area home.

Ms. Nicole Stevens, 4505 Lawndale Drive, Benton, LA, was present. She stated that her parents live at 145 Stevens Road, Benton, LA, where she was raised. She further stated that she has seen Bossier Parish, but that part of what makes Bossier Parish great is the fact that the rural communities have been allowed to remain rural.

Ms. Stevens provided information on where she currently lives and the changes in that area. She stated that with growth, crime statistics have to be taken into consideration. She stated that she is privy to information that is not always released to the public. She further stated that she works as a police dispatcher for the City of Bossier City, and the number of break-ins into secured storage facilities has increased. Ms. Stevens provided additional information on break-ins at storage facilities.

Ms. Stevens stated that an additional storage facility will take away from the beauty of the surrounding area. She expressed concern regarding flooding. She stated that this decision for a zoning amendment should not be about the wishes of one person or the tax dollars, but about the wishes of the people living in this community. Ms. Stevens provided information on wrecks that have happened on this roadway.

Ms. Stevens stated that further development will cause additional traffic which will cause accidents and the population's growth is taking away safety on the roadways in this area. She stated that this proposed new storage facility will increase crime in this area and other issues. She asked that the police jury consider their opposition to this development.

Mr. Wayne Gates, father of the developer, stated that there were only two families that had homes in this area when the first storage facility was built. He stated that all property owners that live on the north side of Highway 162 live on a hill. He provided additional information on the drainage in this area, as well as the location of ponds and bridges. Mr. Gates stated that the existing storage facility and the proposed new storage facility will not cause any additional drainage on any of the properties.

Mr. Gates provided additional information on several of the property owners that have addressed the police jury as it pertains to the location of their properties and drainage.

Mr. Gates stated that the storage building is needed. He stated that a cyclone fence with slats is planned, but if requested, a wooden privacy fence could be considered at a certain location. He stated that they are willing to work with the surrounding property owners.

Mr. Steven Stewart, 979 Old Plain Dealing Road, Benton, LA, stated that has has been the manager of the existing storage facility for the last four years. He stated that businesses are growing in the rural areas of the parish. He further stated that there are requests by citizens for storage buildings in this area and they are serving the needs of the citizens.

Mr. Stewart stated that in the last four years of managing the existing storage facility, there have been no reports of break-ins at this facility. He does not feel that there will be any crime due to the new proposed storage facility.

Mr. Stewart stated that drivers do speed on Highway 162 and there are wrecks that do happen at various locations on Highway 162. He stated that there has never been a wreck caused by one of the customers of the existing storage facility. He further stated that the new proposed storage facility will provide wider gates and safer entrance and exit to the storage facility which will help with the traffic.

Mr. Stewart stated that if the existing storage facility lighting is a nuisance for Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, they are willing to remove that light and relocate it where it does not shine on their property. He stated that they want to work with the property owners in this area.

Mr. Stewart stated that a privacy fence is planned to run back to Mr. Charlie Williamson's property where it will switch over to a chain link fence with slats. He stated that they are willing to do whatever they can to appease the surrounding property owners.

Mr. Stewart stated that the addition of a detention pond will assist with drainage in this area. He stated that the buildings will be built on an as needed basis.

Mr. Rimmer recognized Mr. Hudson as the Flood Plain Manager for the Parish of Bossier. He stated that the property owners have asked who they would need to contact regarding the drainage issues in this area. Mr. Hudson stated that he would be the point of contact and if there are drainage issues beneath the state highway, then the state would need to be contacted to address that matter.

Mr. Hudson stated that he, Mr. Matt Redmon, and a third party have reviewed the drainage study and comments were submitted to the engineer. He stated that the engineer addressed all the concerns submitted. He further stated that the proposed drainage study and plans meet the parish drainage regulations.

Mr. Benton stated that Highway 162 is a state highway and he has received complaints due to currently there are no gas stations. He asked if the police jury denies this development, would the police jury be setting a precedent to deny any future development on Highway 162.

Mr. Cochran asked if approved, can a stipulation be made that if the storage facility is not built within six months or the developer decides not to build the storage facility, the zoning will revert back from B-3 to R-A. Mr. Jackson stated that the zoning would go with the land as this is not being presented as a conditional zoning. Ms. Askew-Brown stated that if the property owner decides to sell the property as B-3 zoning, anything within a B-3 classification would be permitted by right.

Mr. Charles Williamson, 1210 Highway 162, Benton, LA, stated that some that live in other districts do not have concern for those in other districts. He stated that a gas station would be welcome as long as it is not built in a residential area because there is plenty of property on Highway 162 that is wooded.

Mr. Williamson expressed concern regarding the system used for zoning. He stated that Mr. Gates is being required to spend a lot of money trying to get this storage facility located at this location. He further stated that if Mr. Gates had got out and visited with the surrounding property owners regarding this proposed development, it would never have gotten this far because of all the opposition.

Mr. Williamson stated that he has lived at this location for over 30 years, and never received any notification of the existing storage facility when it was built. He stated that the process for development is not a good system and the police jurors should represent the people.

Mr. Williamson expressed great concern with the handling of this matter, the current flooding issues, and other issues. He asked who would be responsible for cleaning all the ditches. He expressed concern regarding drainage issues.

Mr. Williams expressed many concerns regarding this proposed development and stated that the police jurors should have visited the site, as well as spoken to the residents in this area.

Mr. Ray Hayes, 1221 Highway 162, Benton, LA, stated that he assumed that after all the concerns expressed at the last meeting, better options would have been submitted today by the developer and Coyle Engineering, Inc. He stated that there are no firm plans in place for this proposed development and the plans are not acceptable.

Mr. Hays stated that there is a claim that storage facilities are in demand, but those living in this area are not asking for or in need of a storage facility. He recommended that the police jurors come out when it is raining in order to see the existing drainage issues. He provided information on accidents on Highway 162 at this location.

Mr. Hays stated that the grate beneath the bridge on Highway 162 has not been serviced and has debris blocking drainage.

Mr. Hays stated that the plans for the proposed development being presented today are not complete and should not be approved by this police jury at this time.

Ms. Nicole Stevens, 4505 Lawndale Drive, Benton, LA, stated that there were inconsistencies stated earlier after she spoke to the police jurors. She stated that earlier Mr. Gates stated that there were only two homes in the area when the first storage facility was built, but there were in fact more than two homes in this area.

Ms. Stevens stated that there is a gas station at the corner of Butler Hill Road and Highway 162. She stated that they are not in opposition to growth, but does not feel a storage facility is appropriate at this location.

Mr. Marsiglia asked for other examples of businesses allowed in B-3 zoning. Ms. Askew-Brown stated that restaurants, hotels, convenient stores, drug stores, grocery stores, and other high density uses. He asked if a restaurant in a B-3 zoning can sell alcohol for on-premise consumption. Ms. Askew-Brown stated that a restaurant can request on-premise consumption.

Mr. Rodgers expressed appreciation to all the residents that have come to the police jury meetings.

Ms. Parks stated that there have been many phone calls, many emails, and it has been made very clear that the residents in this area do not want the proposed storage facility at this location. She stated that many of the issues that have been presented are not things the police jury can consider for a zoning amendment. She further stated that a property owner has the right to develop his property and none of the issues presented would allow for the police jury to deny Mr. Gates' right to develop his property.

Ms. Parks stated that it is not that she does not care or that she would want something like this next to her home or that the police jury is not listening, but there has been nothing presented that would allow the police jury to deny this request for a zoning amendment.

Mr. Ray Hays, 1221 Highway 162, Benton, LA, stated that Ms. Parks made the statement that the property owners have the right to do what they wish with their property, but he was previously denied the right to do something on his property.

Mr. Jorden stated that he will be voting from his heart on this matter.

Ms. Secret Duncan, 2420 Cypress Shores Road, Benton, LA, stated that the existing storage facility is zoned I-1 and asked why a B-3 zoning is being requested. She provided information on what is allowed in I-1 zoning.

Ms. Askew-Brown stated that she cannot speak to how the previous director classified something since this was done in 1998, but as the current Benton-Parish MPC Director, she did not feel that I-1 was appropriate for this development. She stated that if the storage facility closed, it would allow industrial businesses to infiltrate that area and the MPC was not comfortable with that happening.

Mr. Charles Williamson, 1210 Highway 162, Benton, LA, stated that the drainage issues are a major issue that needs to be considered. He stated that the police jury recently had to purchase several homes in Tall Timbers Subdivision and off Sligo Road due to flooding. He further stated that the police jury allowed these areas to be developed. Mr. Williamson stated that he would be more than happy to show all the videos he has of flooding on his property and surrounding his property.

Mr. Benton called for the question. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Mr. Benton, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Salzer
NAYS: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Rodgers
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Mr. Brotherton

ORDINANCE NO. 4967

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 922 OF 1981, THE BENTON-PARISH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING REGULATIONS BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF A TRACT OF LAND BEING 8.94 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, BOSSIER PARISH, LA, FROM R-A, RESIDENCE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT, TO B-3, COMMUNITY AND CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, FOR A PROPOSED STORAGE FACILITY; GENERALLY LOCATED AT 1196 AND 1198 HIGHWAY 162, EAST OF AMERICAN FREEDOM STORAGE (BENTON MPC CASE BP-0-23)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session convened on this 18th day of January, 2023, that Ordinance No. 922 of 1981 of the Police Jury of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, is hereby amended to change the zoning classification of a tract of land being 8.94 acres, more or less, located in Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA, from R-A, Residence Agriculture District, to B-3, Community and Central Business District, for a proposed storage facility; generally located at 1196 and 1198 Highway 162, East of American Freedom Storage, being more particularly described as follows:

Begin 688.5 feet West of the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 23; run thence West along the Quarter line a distance of 284.5 feet to a point; run thence North 1150 feet to a point on the South right of way line of the Benton-Bellevue Road; run thence North 72° 15' East along the right of way line a distance of 87.5 feet, run thence South 09° 42' East a distance of 1193.8 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.94 acres, more or less

and

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Northeast Quarter, Section 23, thence West 500 feet to the Southeast corner of said 4.0 acres; thence North 13° 52' West 1239 feet to the South right of way of State Highway 162; thence South 71° 00' West along the south right of way line 100 feet to the East line of Gilbert property; thence South 9° 42' East along Gilbert East line 1189.9 feet to the South line of property; thence East 188.5 feet to point of beginning; containing 4.0 acres, more or less.

Applicant: Coyle Engineering Co., Inc.

Purpose: Proposed storage facility

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Darby. It was duly adopted on this 16th day of August, 2023, with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Mr. Benton, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Salzer

NAYS: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Rodgers

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mr. Brotherton

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Ms. Hauser announced the public hearing to consider approval of the plat of the proposed development of Arthur Graham Subdivision, located in Section 25, Township 22 North, Range 14 West, Bossier Parish, LA; located off Dutch John Road.

Mr. Hudson stated that the proposed development is a 60-acre tract of land being split into three lots, leaving one remaining acreage in a trust. He stated that all lots have road frontage.

There being no objection, **motion was made by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Marsiglia, to approve the plat of the proposed development of Arthur Graham Subdivision, located in Section 25, Township 22 North, Range 14 West, Bossier Parish, LA; located off Dutch John Road.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to schedule a public hearing on September 20, 2023, to consider amending Chapter 94, Article I, of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances “Roads and Bridges”, to amend Section 94-11 “No Thru Traffic, Local Traffic Only and No Trucks” regulations on certain roads and/or subdivision streets, Subsection 94-11(a) and 94-11(c) to add East Pointe Drive; and providing penalties for the violations thereof.

The President called for public comment. Mr. Rodgers stated that East Pointe Drive was recently improved and large trucks have damaged the roadway in a two-month period.

Votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to schedule a public hearing on September 20, 2023, to consider approval of the plat of proposed development of Derbe Lane Estates Subdivision, located in Section 26, Township 21 North, Range 13 West, Bossier Parish, LA; located off Butler Hill Road.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hauser announced that the Animal Control Committee meeting was canceled.

Mr. Benton, Chairman of the Rural Development Committee, reported on the meeting of that committee held today at 10:00 a.m. Committee members attending the Rural Development Committee were Mr. Benton, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Marsiglia, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Ford, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. Jackson. Mr. Sam Marsiglia, Ms. Hauser, Ms. Julie Gill, Ms. Monica Grappe, Ms. Rachael Graves, Mr. Pat Culverhouse, Ms. Stacie Fernandez, Mr. Neil Erwin, and Mr. Heath Lyles were also present. Other jurors present were Mr. Salzer, Mr. Darby, Mr. Cochran, and Mr. Gray.

Mr. Benton stated that the committee discussed possible options to assist property owners in subdividing their property in order to give family members portions of their property. He stated that this matter is to be further discussed.

Mr. Benton stated that the committee discussed solar farm regulations. **Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Rodger, to accept the recommendation of the Rural Development Committee to lift the current moratorium on solar farms in Bossier Parish.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, **motion carried with the following votes recorded:**

YEAS: Mr. Benton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Darby, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Gray

Mr. Rodgers, Chairman of the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee, reported on the meeting of that committee held today at 12:00 p.m. Committee members attending the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee were Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Benton, Mr. Marsiglia, and Ms. Parks. Ms. Julie Gill, Ms. Stacie Fernandez, Mr. Heath Lyles, Mr. Neil Erwin, Mr. Pat Culverhouse, Mr. Nguyen Kha, Ms. Mark Coutee, Mr. Matt Redmon, Ms. Rachael Graves, Mr. Sam Marsiglia, Mr. Warren Saucier, Mr. Jim Firth, Ms. Carlotta Askew-Brown, and Ms. Carolina Blunk were also present. Other jurors present were Mr. Darby, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Salzer, and Mr. Gray.

Mr. Rodgers stated that the committee discussed a request from Bossier Parish Fire District No. 7 for assistance with improvements to the parking lot, with the fire district being responsible for all costs associated with materials and the police jury providing labor and equipment.

Mr. Rodgers presented a request from East-Central Bossier Parish Fire District No. 1 for assistance with replacing two culverts that run the width of their parking lot and separate the main station from the training center, with the fire district being responsible for the cost of the culverts and the police jury providing labor and equipment.

Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to accept the recommendation of the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee to approve the request of Bossier Parish Fire District No. 7 for assistance with improvements to the parking lot, with the fire district being responsible for all costs associated with materials and the police jury providing labor and equipment; and approve the request of East-Central Bossier Parish Fire District No. 1 for assistance with replacing two culverts that run the width of their parking lot and separate the main station from the training center, with the fire district being responsible for the cost of the culverts and the police jury providing labor and equipment.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rodgers stated that the Road/Subdivision Regulations Committee discussed parish owned property located at 1200 Airline Drive, Bossier City, LA, Tax Assessment No. 148936, Parcel 1813343B. He stated that a water tower owned by the City of Bossier City is located on this property. He stated that Mr. Jackson is to further review this matter.

Mr. Rodgers stated that the committee discussed railroad right-of-way located off Buckhall Road. He stated that the railroad has cleaned their eight feet of right-of-way and has authorized the Parish of Bossier to continue to further clean the right-of-way.

Motion was made by Mr. Darby, seconded by Mr. Salzer, to table Agenda Item No. 12, to consider approval of a Transfer Deed/Donation from the Bossier Parish Police Jury to the City of Bossier City of property located at 1200 Airline Drive, Bossier City, LA, Tax Assessment No. 148936, Parcel 1813343B, for the purpose of maintenance of a water tower, with the police jury reserving all oil, gas, and mineral rights, and authorize the execution of documents; to be considered at the September 6, 2023, regular meeting.

Votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hauser announced that the police jury will now hear public comments in connection with draft regulations promulgated on June 21, 2023, to adopt parish regulations for Solar Farms in Bossier Parish, LA.

Mr. Neil Erwin, Attorney at Law, stated that he has drafted an ordinance regulating Solar Farms in the Parish of Bossier. He stated that the proposed draft ordinance was discussed at length in the Rural Development Committee. He requested that the key point summary he prepared be entered into the record as follows:

KEY POINT SUMMARY

Bossier Parish Police Jury

August 16, 2023

Some Key points about the proposed Solar Farm Ordinance

1. It regulates solar farms:
 - Minimum 20 acres or more of aggregate land parcels (“utility scale solar farm”)
 - Located in unincorporated areas of Bossier Parish
 - Police Jury has final authority to approve or deny:
 - * First, a **Solar Farm Permit** to proceed with construction (as recommended by Parish Engineer for either approval or denial based on ordinance requirements being met). Once Permit issued, 3 years to commence, with substantial completion within 4 years of permit issuance. Permit fee 1% of total construction cost plus any other Police Jury permit fees under its fee schedule, due upon issuance of permit.
 - * Last, following construct, a **Permission to Operate** (as recommended by Parish Administrator but only when can recommend approval based on ordinance requirements being met).
 - * A denial is appealable to 26th Judicial District Court within 10 days of the Police Jury’s decision.
 - If located within jurisdiction of Bossier, Haughton, or Benton MPC, if Parish Engineer recommends approval of Solar Farm Permit, must be approved by the MPC as a Conditional Use (or Planning Approval, Benton MPC). Denial is appealable within 30 days to Police Jury.
 - Potential problem areas addressed in ordinance.
 - * **Setbacks:** Solar panels and their support structures: 100 feet from public roads and neighboring property.
 - * 50 feet from neighboring property if wooded with no residence, but inverters, transformers, and mechanical equipment, 100 feet from adjacent property event if wooded

- * 500 feet from any occupied residence or formal place of worship on any adjoining property.
- * **Noise:** Must comply with provisions and limits for noise generators under Police Jury’s existing noise control code provisions.
- * **Security Fencing:** Minimum 8-foot security fence (height and material establishing during Solar Farm Permit review)
- * **Landscaping:** Perimeter landscaping creating vegetative/foilage “hedge” along each property boundary adjacent to public roads, highways, and existing occupied residences within 500 feet of the property boundary.
- * **Fire Protection:** All areas of facility susceptible to fire equipped with fire monitoring system, automatically notifying off-site emergency personnel listed in solar farm’s Emergency Response Plan coordinated with servicing Fire Department or Fire District (which also is provided with electrical schematic and site plan).
- * **Lighting:** Maximum 18 feet high and shielded from adjoining properties.
- * **Drainage plan** required.
- * **Aviation glare analysis** required (for effect on local flightpaths, including Barksdale).
- * **Decommissioning:** Decommissioning Plan required ensuring removal of all equipment, proper disposal of all solid and hazardous waste, stabilization and revegetation as necessary with return of original contour of land, remediation of any hazards (EPA, LDEQ, or Parish Engineer) to commence within 90 days and be complete within 12 months of date of discontinued operations.
Decommissioning guaranteed by performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or third-party bond based on required decommissioning report. (Expense of all reports and Police Jury expert consultants to create or review report is borne by applicant, facility owner, or operator. Minimum \$500,000. Sufficiency of guarantee reviewed every two years, increased as needed for inflation based on Consumer Price Index.
- Inspections upon 24-hour notice (unless an emergency) to verify compliance. Usual Parish Code penalties for any violations, including stop work order.
- No transfer of sale of solar farm without Police Jury approval.

Mr. Erwin stated that the majority of the regulations contained in the proposed ordinance were received from Washington Parish in southern Louisiana that has already dealt with solar farm activity. He stated that the proposed ordinance does not just rely on administrative approval by the Parish Engineer or Parish Administrator, as the proposed ordinance is designed so that as elected officials, the police jurors have the final approval of a solar farm permit to allow construction and permission to operate.

Mr. Erwin stated that the proposed ordinance also provides that solar farms which are power producing sources, must comply with the police jury existing comprehensive noise ordinance. He stated that a site plan for a solar farm will be required and must show the buildable area for the total project in detail.

Mr. Erwin stated that submission of the site plan must include that any transfer or sale of the solar farm would only be with the approval of the police jury. He stated that the proposed ordinance provides that the police jury must approve the solar farm, a transfer or sale of the solar farm, and otherwise there are very strict requirements in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Erwin recommended approval of the proposed ordinance establishing regulations for solar farms in Bossier Parish.

Mr. Rodgers asked the Parish Attorney if it is his recommendation to approve the proposed ordinance establishing regulation for solar farms. Mr. Jackson stated that there is some interest by industries for solar farms in Bossier Parish and recommends approval if the police jury is comfortable with the ordinance as presented today.

Motion was made by Mr. Marsiglia, seconded by Mr. Plummer, to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 122 of the Code of Ordinances of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, “Utilities” to add Article VI, “Utility Scale Solar Project Facility (“Solar Farm”) Standards”.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE NO. 4968

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 122 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA, “UTILITIES”, TO ADD ARTICLE VI, “UTILITY SCALE SOLAR PROJECT FACILITY (“SOLAR FARM”) STANDARDS”

WHEREAS, the Bossier Parish Police Jury (the “Police Jury”), in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to provide for the orderly, planned, efficient, and healthy development of any utility scale solar project facility (“Solar Farm” or “Facility”) in Bossier Parish, hereby adopts this ordinance to be entitled The Bossier Parish Utility Scale Solar Project Facility (“Solar Farm”) Standards Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED, by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 16th day of August, 2023, that Chapter 122 of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, “Utilities”, be and is hereby amended as follows:

Article IV is hereby amended to add Subsections 118-66 through 118-100 as follows:

ARTICLE V.

Sections 122-145 through 122-165 Reserved.

Chapter 122 be and is hereby amended to add Article VI as follows:

ARTICLE VI. UTILITY SCALE SOLAR PROJECT FACILITY (“SOLAR FARM”) STANDARDS

Sec. 122-166. General summary of solar farm permit process.

- (a) This ordinance has been promulgated by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to provide for the orderly, planned, efficient, and healthy development of Bossier Parish (the "Parish"). This ordinance grants the Parish and its Police Jury sole authority over all matters concerning a Utility Scale Solar Project Facility ("Solar Farm") in the Parish.
- (b) *Delegation to Parish Engineer*
- (1) The Police Jury hereby delegates the authority to review a Solar Farm Permit to the Parish Engineer. If in the opinion of the Parish Engineer, the review of a Permit application requires assistance from outside expert, including, but not limited to, third party engineers, accountants, or other professionals, then the Parish Engineer, with the approval of the Parish Administrator, may employ such outside experts to assist with his review of the Permit application in conformance with applicable state and/or Parish procurement laws and regulations. The Applicant shall bear the cost of the Police Jury's retention of all expert consultants under this Ordinance.
 - (2) *Permit Application and Evaluation.* The Parish Engineer is responsible for the evaluation of all Solar Farm Permit applications to ensure the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with the requirements hereof. Upon receipt of the Solar Farm Permit application, the Parish Engineer shall perform a review as to content and notify the applicant if the Solar Farm Permit application is complete. If the Parish Engineer determines that the Solar Farm Permit application is incomplete, the applicant shall be notified of any deficiencies in writing sent by certified mail. The applicant will have thirty (30) days from receipt of notice to address any deficiencies by amending the application. The Parish Engineer shall subsequently notify the Solar Farm Permit applicant if the amended application is complete. Failure to amend the Permit application within the thirty (30)-day time period will result in denial of the Solar Farm Permit application.
 - (3) *Permit Approval or Denial, and Appeal to Police Jury.* The Parish Engineer shall recommend to the Police Jury either approval or denial of the issuance of the Solar Farm Permit. If the Permit is denied by the Police Jury as provided in Section 122-172 herein, a judicial appeal may be taken by the applicant in accordance with Section 122-172 herein. Construction of the Solar Farm shall not commence prior to issuance of a Solar Farm Permit by the Parish Engineer. The issued Solar Farm Permit may not be transferred by the applicant, Facility owner, or operator without the approval of the Police Jury.
The Parish Engineer shall not recommend issuance of a Solar Farm Permit unless the Solar Farm Permit application demonstrates that the Facility will conform to the requirements herein.
- (c) *Required MPC Approval.* The Parish Engineer's recommended issuance of a Solar Farm Permit for a Facility whose proposed location is within the jurisdiction of the Bossier MPC, Haughton MPC, or Benton MPC, is subject to the subsequent additional approval of the Facility as an application for a Conditional (or Planning Approval) Use by the respective MPC, using the development and design standards contained in this ordinance. If, following the Parish Engineer's recommended issuance of a Solar Farm Permit, the respective MPC denies the Facility's application for a Conditional (or Planning Approval) Use, then the applicant may appeal to the Police Jury, with the appeal provision in Section 122-172 herein providing the controlling procedure for further review.
- (d) *Permission to Operate Approval or Denial, and Appeal to Police Jury.* Prior to the commencement of operation of the Facility, the owner and/or operator shall submit a written request for final inspection to the Parish Engineer, who shall conduct the inspection. The Parish Engineer will submit the results of his final inspection to the Parish Administrator.
- (1) If the Parish Administrator determines following review that the Facility has passed the final inspection and all applicable fees and costs remitted (including those of any outside experts the Parish Administrator believes are necessary to assist with his review of the final inspection), he will recommend approval of the Permission to Operate to the Police Jury, upon whose approval the Parish Engineer shall notify the Facility owner or operator that operation of the Facility may commence.
 - (2) A denial of Permission to Operate by the Police Jury may be appealed by the Facility owner or operator to the 26th Judicial District Court, as provided in the appeal provisions of Section 122-172 herein.

Sec. 122-167. Purpose.

The purpose hereof is to set minimum standards and requirements for the permitting and operation of any Solar Farm in the Parish.

Sec. 122-168. Applicability.

The provisions hereof apply to any and all Solar Farms constructed and/or operated in the Parish. This ordinance allows both Photovoltaic (PV) systems and Photovoltaic-thermal (PV/T) USSPF systems, as defined herein, to be constructed and operated in the Parish.

Sec. 122-169. Validity and severability.

Should any provision of this ordinance be held unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision hereof.

Sec. 122-170. Definitions.

Photovoltaic (PV) System: A complete set of components for converting sunlight into electricity by the photovoltaic process, including the array and balance of system components.

Photovoltaic-thermal (PV/T) System: A photovoltaic system that, in addition to converting sunlight into electricity, collects the residual heat energy and delivers both heat and electricity in usable form. Also called a total energy system or solar thermal system.

Solar Farm Permit: A permit issued by the Parish Engineer authorizing the construction of a Solar Farm in Bossier Parish.

Utility Scale Solar Project Facility: Sometimes referred to herein as a “Solar Farm” or “Facility”, this is a solar electric power generating facility constructed on immovable property for the purpose of producing photovoltaic electricity, photovoltaic electricity and heated fluids and solar thermal electricity. The power generated is sold to power purchasers for distribution throughout the power grid.

Sec. 122-171. Utility scale solar project facility development and design standards.

- (a) *Minimum Lot Size:* A Facility shall not be constructed on aggregate parcels of immovable property that are less than twenty (20) contiguous acres in size.
- (b) *Height Restrictions:* All photovoltaic panels located in a Facility with rotating panels shall be restricted to a maximum height of the torque tube to sixteen (16) feet measured from the ground to the top of the torque tube.

Facilities that have non-rotating (fixed) photovoltaic panels shall be limited to a maximum photovoltaic panel height of eighteen (18) feet measured from the ground to the top of the photovoltaic panel.

- (c) *Setbacks:* All photovoltaic solar panels and support structures associated with a Facility (excluding perimeter security fencing) shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from public roads and neighboring immovable property boundaries, unless the adjoining immovable property boundary is wooded with no residence on the immovable property, in which case the setback shall be no less than fifty (50) feet. Inverters, transformers, and mechanical equipment shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from adjacent immovable property boundaries even if the adjacent boundary is wooded. If an adjoining section of immovable property has an existing occupied residence or formal place of worship (e.g., Church, Synagogue, Mosque, etc.) all photovoltaic solar panels and support structures, including inverters, transformers, and mechanical equipment, associated with a Facility shall be set back a minimum of five hundred (500) feet from the occupied residence or formal place of worship. These requirements are not applicable to adjoining landowners participating in the development of the Facility.
- (d) *Fire Protection:* Areas of the Facility susceptible to fire, including but not limited to transformers and other equipment that pose a risk of fire, shall be equipped with a fire monitoring system. The system shall automatically notify off-site emergency personnel listed in the Facility's Emergency Response Plan that the fire monitoring system has been activated. The Facility's Emergency Response Plan will be coordinated with the Chief of the servicing Fire Department or Fire District and the Parish Engineer in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC") guidelines. The Facility shall comply with all applicable codes and regulatory standards for fire protection and shall be designed and constructed utilizing engineering controls to limit the spread of fire from any area susceptible to fire.
- (e) *Safety/Access:* A minimum eight (8) foot security fence (height and material to be established through the Solar Farm Permit process) shall be placed around the entire perimeter of the Facility to deter individuals from entering the premises and all electrical control equipment shall be equipped with a lock to prevent access. Lock boxes and keys to each shall be stored at locked entrances for emergency personnel access.
- (f) *Signage:* One or more signs shall be affixed to the fence at the main entrance identifying the owner (and operator if there is a separate operator) of the Facility and emergency contact information. Warning signage, including the identification of the owner or operator and emergency contact information, shall be placed every three hundred (300) feet around the security perimeter fence of the Facility.
- (g) *Emergency Services:* For purposes of emergency services, the owner or operator of the Facility shall provide a copy of the electrical schematic and site plan to the Chief of the servicing Fire Department or Fire District and the Parish Engineer. The owner or operator shall develop an Emergency Response Plan and provide it to the Fire Department or Fire District Chief and the Parish Engineer. All means of shutting down the system shall be clearly marked on the plan. The system shall be equipped with a solar electric quick disconnect/rapid shutdown mechanism. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person to the Parish Engineer and the Chief of the servicing Fire Department or Fire District for public inquiries throughout the life of the Facility.
- (h) *Noise:* The Facility shall not exceed, and must comply with, the provisions and limits of regulated noise generators under the Bossier Parish Code, Regulation of Noise within the Unincorporated Limits of the Parish of Bossier, Sections 46-31 through 46-39, as such regulations may be amended.
- (i) *Magnetic Fields:* Magnetic fields shall not be above 4mG at the Facility's immovable property boundary(ies) while the Facility is in operation; measurements will not be taken at locations where pre-existing power lines cross the property boundary.
- (j) *Maintenance:* The owner or operator of the Facility shall maintain the Facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, without limitation, painting, structural repairs, vegetation control and integrity of security equipment. The owner or operator shall also be responsible for the cost of maintaining the non-public access road(s) associated with the Facility.
- (k) *Landscaping:* A Facility shall install perimeter landscaping that creates an opaque vegetative/foilage "hedge" along each Facility property boundary that is adjacent to public roads, highways, and existing occupied residences within five hundred (500) feet of the Facility's property boundary. The vegetative perimeter shall consist of trees, foliage, bamboo, etc., such that the Facility equipment is concealed from view from the Facility boundaries. Landscaping shall be maintained and in good condition for the life of the Facility. To maintain vegetation in good condition, all unhealthy (sixty (60) percent dead or greater) and dead material shall be replaced by the Facility's owner or operator within one (1) year, or the next appropriate planting period, whichever occurs first. Any preexisting natural barrier that creates such conditions shall be deemed sufficient. Roads internal to the Facility shall not be subject to vegetative requirements.

- (l) *Lighting*: All lighting must be shielded from nonparticipating landowners' adjoining immovable property and light poles are restricted to a maximum height of eighteen (18) feet.
- (m) *Transportation*: Access drives, driveways, and parking lots must be covered by sufficient limestone, gravel, or similar aggregate to prevent pitting.
- (n) *Local, State and Federal Permits and Standards*: A Facility shall be required to obtain all applicable permits from the U.S. Government, State of Louisiana, and Bossier Parish. A Facility shall comply with all applicable standards, requirements and/or guidelines set by the United States Government, including, but not limited to, the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. A Solar Farm shall comply with all applicable standards, requirements and/or guidelines set by the State of Louisiana, including the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. At the time of installation, solar panels must meet the then current ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) standards and/or guidelines, including, but not limited to, applicable wind loads based on the suggested area of installation.
- (o) *Electrical Interconnections*: Electrical interconnection or distribution lines shall comply with all applicable codes, standards, and requirements for commercial and industrial large-scale utilities. Above ground transmission lines within the site shall not exceed a height above the ground as determined by the Parish Engineer, including with the assistance of a consultant, with the applicant to bear the cost of the Police Jury's retaining of the expert; provided, however, that this height limitation shall not apply to tie-in lines at the point of interconnection to the electric grid, or rail, pipeline, road, or similar crossings for which underground crossing is prohibited or impractical.
- (p) *Solar Farm Permit Application*: The following information shall be provided to the Parish Engineer (and, subsequently, to any pertinent MPC) in a Solar Farm Permit application for each proposed Facility. The Solar Farm Permit application must sufficiently set forth all information required to demonstrate that the Facility will comply with the requirements of Section 6 herein.
 - (1) *Facility description and rationale*: Identify the type, size, rated power output, performance, safety, and noise characteristics of the proposed system. Identify build out time frame, project life, development phases, likely markets for the generated energy and possible future expansions. Identify the name of the Facility, name(s), and addresses of the Facility owner and/or operator, name(s) of the property owner(s) and the engineers, surveyors, and contractors to be engaged in the design and construction of the Facility. Prior to beginning construction, the Facility owner shall submit the make and model number of the equipment being installed along with the name and address of the manufacturer and the estimated cost of such equipment.
 - (2) *Permits*: The Facility owner or operator shall provide a copy of all applicable state and federal registrations and permits that have been acknowledged or issued at the time of the Solar Farm Permit application submission and shall supplement this information as applicable state and federal registrations and permits are acknowledged or issued after the Solar Farm Permit application is submitted. The Solar Farm shall not begin delivering power in commercial quantities to the electrical grid until all required permits are provided to the Parish Engineer for his review. During construction, limited operational testing is allowed prior to receipt of all required permits.
 - (3) *Lease*: If the immovable property site of the Facility is leased, the Facility owner or operator shall submit a copy of the recorded Notice of Lease, which shall contain the following: (a) a declaration that the property is leased and the names and addresses of the lessor and lessee; (b) an immovable property description of the leased property and size of leased property; (c) the date of the lease, its term and the provisions of any extensions and renewals of the term provided for in the lease; (d) a reference to the existence of an option, right of first refusal, or other agreement of the lessor to transfer all or any part of the leased premises; (e) if a sublease, the notice shall contain reference to the recordation information of the primary lease or notice of lease that is subleased; and (f) the Notice of Lease must be signed by the lessor and lessee of the lease or sublease. The Facility owner or operator shall file the Notice of Lease in the Parish's conveyance records and shall provide a copy of the recorded Notice of Lease to the Parish Engineer.
 - (4) *Economic Impact*: The Facility owner or operator shall submit a report detailing the estimated financial economic impact to the Parish over the entire life of the Facility. The report shall be prepared by a qualified third party. The draft report shall be provided to the Parish Engineer for review prior to finalization of the Solar Farm Permit and the Parish Engineer may request additional information that he deems necessary for its review.

The Parish Engineer may retain a consultant to review the report, with the applicant to bear the cost of the Police Jury's retaining of the expert.

- (5) *Boundaries*: Identify all immovable property boundaries and actual dimensions upon which the Solar Farm will be located, including total acreage, with bearings and distances. Identify the names and addresses of adjoining immovable property owners and their status as participating or nonparticipating in the development of the Facility.
- (6) *Site Plan*: Present a site plan showing streets, circulation, driveways, service buildings, easements, arrangements and locations of solar panels, and all systems and equipment on the immovable property, and designating all buildable areas of the total site. Include the location of all Facility signage, including warning signage.
- (7) *Analysis of Onsite Traffic*: Provide an estimate of the number of temporary construction jobs and the number of permanent jobs, including job titles, associated with the Facility.
- (8) *Visual Impacts*: Demonstrate the visual impact of the proposed Solar Farm using photos or renditions of the Facility with consideration given to vegetative plantings and setback requirements. Include the Facility's landscaping plan demonstrating how the requirements of Section 122-171(k) herein will be met.

- (9) *Wildlife*: Submit a report summarizing the potential effects of the Facility on wildlife and endangered species in the area. The report must be prepared by a qualified third party with expertise in biology, ecology, wildlife management and/or environmental studies.
 - (10) *Environmental and Health Safety Standards*: All applicable environmental, health, and safety regulations and standards shall be complied with during construction and operation of the Facility in order to protect the public health and the environment. For any materials brought on site, a Safety Data Sheet ("SDS") shall be provided to the Parish Engineer. The SDS must include the following information: the properties of the material, the physical, health and environmental hazards of the material; protective measures; and safety precautions for handling, storing, and transporting the material. No materials that are an environmental, health or safety hazard shall be used without prior written notice and approval of the Parish Engineer.
 - (11) *Elevation*: Provide an immovable property elevation profile that includes the immovable property contours and a topography survey showing elevation contours and drainage.
 - (12) *Drainage*: Provide a drainage plan that ensures that watershed, runoff and/or drainage from the Facility area flows to the appropriate ditches/channels, as identified by the Parish Engineer, so as to be disbursed appropriately. The drainage plan shall demonstrate that no immovable property within a mile radius of the Facility will experience measurably adverse impacts from watershed, runoff and/or drainage from the Facility site. The drainage plan shall be reviewed by the Parish Engineer and additional requirements regarding drainage may be imposed on the Facility. The application must also indicate if a storm water permit from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for construction, operation, or both is required.
 - (13) *Solid and Hazardous Waste*: Identify solid waste or hazardous waste that will be generated by the Facility. The application shall include a plan for spill prevention, clean-up and disposal of fuels, oils, and hazardous wastes, as well as collection and storage methods for solid waste generated by the Facility.
 - (14) *Wind*: Provide an analysis of the solar equipment's ability to withstand maximum sustained winds (and temporary maximum gusts) that could be reasonably expected in the vicinity of the Facility.
 - (15) *Lighting*: Provide lighting plans showing all lighting within and on the perimeter of the Facility.
 - (16) *Transportation Plan*: Provide an access plan for both the construction and operation phases of the Facility. The plan must show proposed Facility service road ingress and egress access onto primary and secondary routes and the layout of the Facility service road system.
 - (17) *Vegetative Maintenance Plan*: Submit a plan for the upkeep and maintenance of the vegetation consistent with the requirements of Section 122-171(k) herein. Emphasis should be placed on maintaining the required vegetation.
 - (18) *Public Safety*: Submit a plan outlining routine and emergency shutdown procedures. Include a plan of how the Facility will comply with applicable fire protection regulatory requirements, including the International Fire Code and NFPA. Submit a copy of the Emergency Response Plan to the Fire Department or Fire District Chief and the Parish Engineer. Identify potential hazards to adjacent immovable properties, public roadways and to the community in general related to operation and/or shutdown of the Facility is in operation.
 - (19) *Sound Limitations*: Identify anticipated noise levels at the fence line of the Facility when construction is complete and when the Facility is in operation.
 - (20) *Magnetic Field Limitations*: Identify anticipated magnetic field levels at the fence line of the Facility when construction is complete and when the Facility is in operation.
 - (21) *Telecommunications Interference*: Identify electromagnetic fields and communications interference to be generated by the Facility when construction is complete and when the Facility is in operation.
 - (22) *Photovoltaic Panel Angles*: Submit a vehicular glare analysis on the layout, mounting and movement of the photovoltaic panels and demonstrate that the glare will be minimized and will not materially interfere with vehicular traffic.
 - (23) *Aviation Analysis*: Submit an aviation glare analysis developed by a qualified third-party contractor showing any potential Aviation Glare Hazards (AGH) that would arise from the Facility and its effect on local flightpaths, including Barksdale Air Force Base and any airport.
 - (24) *Life of the Facility and Final Reclamation*: Submit a Decommissioning and Final Immovable Property Reclamation Plan ("Decommissioning Plan") after anticipated useful life or abandonment or termination of the Facility, including evidence of an agreement with the immovable property owner that ensures proper final removal of power generating equipment no later than twelve (12) months after decommissioning in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 122-177 herein. The Decommissioning Plan shall include the following: (a) the anticipated life of the Facility, (b) the estimated decommissioning cost in current dollars, (c) how said estimate was determined, including how credit for salvage value was calculated, (d) the manner in which the Facility will be decommissioned, and (e) an acceptable performance guarantee to cover the cost of decommissioning, as set forth in Section 122-171(q)(8) herein. The plan must be prepared by a professional engineer licensed in Louisiana.
- (q) *Additional Requirements*: All shall comply with the following requirements.
- (1) *Construction*: The installation of equipment shall be performed in accordance with generally accepted industry standards for such installation and in accordance with the manufacturer's standards and specifications.
 - (2) *Licensed Contractor*: The contractor(s) hired to construct, install, service, monitor and/or maintain the Facility and any of the equipment therein, shall be duly licensed by the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors in the classification of solar energy equipment as required by La. R.S. 37:2156.3 and LAC 46: XXIX, Chapters 1-7 at Section 311, as amended. Each contractor

and subcontractor shall register with the Parish Engineer prior to furnishing any labor, materials, services, or work to the Solar Farm project.

- (3) *Build Completion*: Upon substantial completion of the construction of the Facility, a certified as-built plan stamped by a professional engineer licensed in Louisiana shall be submitted to the Parish Engineer for review, which shall clearly show the as-built Facility, including any and all as-built construction, concealed or buried conduit, utilities, etc. The Parish Engineer must approve the as-built plan prior to the Parish Engineer's final inspection of the Facility. Once approved, the owner or operator shall file the as-built plan in the Bossier Parish mortgage records and the Parish Engineer shall maintain a copy of the as-built plan on file for three (3) years after the Facility has completed the decommissioning process.
- (4) *Proof of Adherence to Noise Limitations*: Proof of adherence to noise limitations by the Facility as provided in Section 122-171(h) herein shall be submitted to the Parish Engineer within three (3) months following the commencement of operation of the Facility. This proof shall be based upon actual measurement of the noise level at the property line of each neighboring property during Facility operation.
- (5) *Proof of Adherence to Magnetic Field Limitations*: Proof of adherence to magnetic field limitations by the Facility shall be submitted to the Parish Engineer within three (3) months following the commencement of operation of the Facility. This proof shall be based upon actual measurement of the magnetic field background levels at the property line of each neighboring property during Facility operation.
- (6) *Delayed or Incomplete Construction*: A Solar Farm Permit will expire three (3) years from date of issuance if construction of the Facility has not commenced. A Solar Farm Permit shall expire four (4) years from date of issuance if the construction of the Facility has not reached substantial completion and/or final acceptance, both of which must be determined and certified by an engineer licensed in Louisiana. After the expiration of a Solar Farm Permit, the applicant may reapply.
- (7) *Experts and Consultants*: Should the Parish Engineer determine that review of any element of the application, including but not limited to the Decommissioning Plan, requires assistance from outside experts, including but not limited to engineers, accountants, or other technical consultants, the applicant shall bear the cost of the Police Jury's retaining of the expert.

Where provisions herein require submittal of a report or other information prepared by or work performed by a third-party contractor, engineer, or other consultant, the Parish Engineer or Parish Administrator has the authority to hire consultants to review the submitted report, information, or work performed by third-party contractor, engineer, or other consultant, with the cost of the Police Jury retaining such consultants to be borne by the applicant, owner, or operator.

- (8) *Performance Guarantee for Decommissioning*: After a Solar Farm Permit is issued, as a precondition to commencing construction, the Facility owner or operator shall submit to the Parish Engineer a performance guarantee in the form of a performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit, cash escrow held by a federally insured financial institution, or, at the option of the Police Jury, a bond in a rating specified by the Police Jury from a third party independent of the Facility owner or operator, in the amount of the estimated decommissioning cost of the Facility based on the report prepared in Section 122-171(p)(24) herein. Credit shall be given for salvage value of the equipment and such credit may be subtracted from the estimated decommissioning cost but under no circumstances may the performance guarantee be less than \$500,000.00 even if the salvage value of the equipment exceeds the estimated decommissioning cost. If providing a performance bond, it shall be issued by a solvent, legal surety that is licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana, subject to the approval of the Parish Engineer. Any financial institution issuing an irrevocable letter of credit or holding a cash escrow shall be subject to the approval of the Parish Engineer.

For the performance guarantee, whether utilizing a bond, letter of credit, or cash escrow, the immovable property owner(s) shall be listed as the primary beneficiary of the performance guarantee, with the Police Jury listed as the secondary beneficiary. The performance guarantee shall provide that it cannot be amended, cancelled, or revoked without the prior written consent of all beneficiaries thereto. The amount of the estimated decommissioning cost and the performance guarantee shall be submitted by the Facility owner or operator to the Parish Engineer for review at least every two (2) years and shall be increased as needed in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for inflation and any reduction in value of the credit given for estimated salvage value. The performance guarantee shall be released at such time that it or its assignees remove the system(s) and associated abandoned structures of the Facility and such completed removal is found to be satisfactory by the Parish Engineer.

- (9) *Final Inspection and Permission to Operate*: Prior to operation of the Facility, the owner and/or operator shall submit a written request to the Parish Engineer for final inspection of the Facility. The Parish Engineer shall perform both a file review and a physical inspection of the Facility in conducting the final inspection. The review shall be performed to confirm that applicable requirements of the ordinance have been met and that the approved as-built plan reflects the Facility design as constructed. The Parish Engineer shall submit the results of his final inspection to the Parish Administrator.

If the Parish Administrator determines that the Facility has passed the final inspection and all applicable fees have been remitted, he will recommend approval of the Permission to Operate to the Police Jury, upon whose approval the Parish Engineer shall notify the Facility owner or operator that operation of the Facility may commence by issuance of a written Permission to Operate. The issued

Permission to Operate may not be transferred by the Facility owner or operator without the approval of the Police Jury.

If the Parish Administrator determines that the Facility does not pass the final inspection, he will advise the Parish Engineer to notify the Facility owner or operator in writing with a list of deficiencies that must be corrected.

Sec. 122-172. Appeals.

Upon receipt from the Parish Engineer of recommended approval or denial of a Solar Farm Permit, receipt from the Parish Administrator of recommended approval of Permission to Operate, or an appeal made within 30 days from an MPC's denial of a Conditional (or Planning Approval) Use following recommended approval by the Parish Engineer of a Solar Farm Permit, the Police Jury shall hold a hearing and may, by majority vote of a quorum, then present and voting, (1) affirm or reverse the recommended approval of the Solar Farm Permit or Permission to Operate, (2) affirm or reverse the recommended denial of the Solar Farm Permit, (3) affirm or reverse the appeal of the denial of a Conditional (or Planning Approval) Use, or (4) remand to the Parish Engineer (Solar Farm Permit), Parish Administrator (Permission to Operate), or MPC (Conditional or Planning Approval Use), for further consideration. The Police Jury's decision in each instance is final (subject to later rehearing following remand), but it may be appealed by the applicant to the 26th Judicial District Court within ten (10) days from receipt of the mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the Police Jury's decision to the applicable Facility applicant, owner, or operator.

Sec. 122-173. Permit Fee.

The Solar Farm Permit fee shall be one (1) percent (%) of the total construction cost of the Facility, plus any other applicable permit fees outlined in the Bossier Parish Police Jury's permit fee schedule. The Solar Farm Permit fee shall be due upon issuance of the Solar Farm Permit as a condition of protecting the infrastructure of Bossier Parish.

Sec. 122-174. Inspections.

Upon 24-hours prior notification, with the exception of emergency situations as determined at the discretion of the Permit Office, authorized representatives of the Police Jury may enter upon the premises and conduct an inspection of the Solar Farm at any time, whether during construction, operation, or decommissioning, to verify compliance with any and all applicable requirements, standards, and/or guidelines.

Sec. 122-175. Enforcement: Penalties.

- (a) In the event the owner or operator is in violation of terms herein and/or the terms of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, the Police Jury may at its discretion under Section 1-13 of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, following a notice of noncompliance being sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the applicant, owner, or operator of the Solar Farm setting forth the noncompliant activities and a deadline for achieving compliance, with the applicant, owner, or operator having failed to meet the requirements for compliance within the allotted time period:
- (1) Withhold any approvals or permits required by this ordinance or as otherwise provided in the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances.
 - (2) Issue stop work orders against any work undertaken by an entity not having a proper approval or permit required by this ordinance or as otherwise provided in the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, or operating in violation of any parish regulatory provision, including the immediate cessation of parish utility services.
 - (3) Issue stop work orders against any previously approved actions in violation hereof or as otherwise provided in the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinance, including the immediate cessation of parish utility services.
 - (4) Bring an action for temporary restraining order, temporary or permanent injunction, or any other judicial remedy (including, in appropriate cases, for mandamus) to prevent the violation and/or to prevent the occupancy or use of any site or structure involved in the violation, or otherwise to abate a violation, hereof or as otherwise provide in the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances. Any person subject to parish regulatory provision, and every permittee for the issuance of any parish permit, is placed on notice and agrees that a violation may be enforced, restrained, corrected, or abated, without limitation, by any such judicial remedy, without the necessity of the parish proving irreparable harm or furnishing bond or other security and with the parish, should it prevail in whole or in part, being entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Additionally, any forbearance by the Parish of enforcement in any instance shall not constitute a waiver of parish authority to seek enforcement, restraint, correction, or abatement in any other instance.
 - (5) Prosecute the violation as a misdemeanor as provided in Section 1-13(a) of the Bossier Parish Code of Ordinances, subject to a maximum penalty upon conviction of \$500.00, with each day the violation continues constituting a separate offense.
- (b) Failure to pay any penalty timely is a violation hereof and may result in the revocation of the Solar Farm Permit. Repeat violations hereof and/or terms of the Solar Farm Permit may result in revocation of the Solar Farm Permit.

Sec. 122-176. Deviations from application.

The applicant, owner, or operator of the Solar Farm must immediately notify, update and/or supplement its Solar Farm Permit application with the Permit Office in the event of any material changes or deviations from the information represented in its original application. The Parish Engineer will determine whether the changes and/or deviations result in noncompliance with this ordinance and require the Parish to reconsider the status of the permit.

Sec. 122-177. Decommissioning, removal, and abandonment.

- (a) Any Solar Farm that has reached the end of its useful life, ceases to generate power as set forth in Section 122-177(c) below, or has been abandoned shall be removed in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan. The removal and decommissioning activities shall commence within ninety (90) days of termination of site use, abandonment, or revocation of the Solar Farm Permit. The Solar Farm owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than twelve (12) months after the date of discontinued

operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Parish Engineer by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the proposed date of the discontinued operations and provide detailed plans for removal.

(b) Decommissioning shall consist of:

- (1) Physical removal of all solar energy systems, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site including cabling up to a depth of three (3) feet;
 - (2) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations;
 - (3) Stabilize or revegetate the Solar Farm site as necessary to minimize erosion. The contour of the immovable property shall be returned to what it was at the inception of the project, or as similar as reasonably possible, except that this requirement shall not apply where the immovable property owner(s) consents to the altered contour of the immovable property remaining and permanent drainage structures are in place to ensure that no adjoining immovable property has adverse effects from watershed, runoff and/or drainage from the immovable property. The Parish Engineer may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations to minimize erosion and disruptions to vegetation. The immovable property owner(s) and/or the Parish Engineer may require that roads and/or buildings be retained; and
 - (4) Remediation of any environmental hazards remaining on the site, as determined by the EPA, LDEQ, or the Parish Engineer.
- (c) Absent a written notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of a force majeure, the Solar Farm shall be considered abandoned when it fails to generate electricity for more than one (1) year after the commercial operations commencement date, without having first obtained the written consent of the Parish Engineer. Determination of abandonment shall be made by the Parish Engineer.
- (d) If the owner or operator of the Solar Farm fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within twelve (12) months of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the Parish may utilize the performance guarantee and any and all legal or available means necessary to cause the abandoned, hazardous, or decommissioned Solar Farm to be removed and to complete all of the decommissioning steps under this section.

Sec. 122-178. Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP).

The Police Jury reserves the right to accept, reject, or request modification of the Louisiana Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Program, which currently provides an 80% property tax abatement for an initial five (5) years with the option of renewal.

Sec. 122-179. Transfer and/or sale of solar farm.

The Parish Engineer shall be notified within thirty (30) days of any anticipated transfer of ownership, operation and/or sale of the Solar Farm, the Solar Farm Permit, or the Permission to Operate. The Police Jury must approve of any such transfer. The new owners or operators of the Solar Farm shall be held to the same standards, requirements, and permit conditions as the original Solar Farm owner or operator.

Sec. 122-180. Conflict of Laws.

Whenever the requirements of this ordinance conflict with each other or with the requirements of any other applicable statute, regulation, or law, including, without limitation, any regulations that may be promulgated by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the more restrictive regulation shall apply. In the event the requirements of this ordinance conflict with any ordinance previously enacted by the Parish, the provisions of this ordinance shall apply.

Sections 122-181 through 122-210 Reserved.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc., that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The ordinance was offered by Mr. Marsiglia, seconded by Mr. Plummer. Upon a vote, it was duly adopted on this 16th day of August, 2023.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Benton, to approve a request to amend the 2023 Bossier Parish beer license for Swamp Daddy, LLC, 104 Bills Lane, Haughton, LA, approved on December 17, 2022, to include liquor as allowed per a special election held in the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 24, 2021, for Police Jury District 1.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Salzer, to approve Change Order No. 1 for Penal Farm Test Water Wells, and to authorize the execution of documents. Said change order results in an increase in the amount of \$2,995.00 and no additional contract days.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 16th day of August, 2023, that it does hereby approve Change Order No. 1 for for Penal Farm Test Water Wells.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator or Parish President is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Salzer. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 16th day of August, 2023.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, to approve Change Order No. 1 for Project No. 2023-120, 2023 Parish Road Improvements, and to authorize the execution of documents. Said change order results in an increase in the amount of \$67,860.00 and no additional contract days.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 16th day of August, 2023, that it does hereby approve Change Order No. 1 for Project No. 2023-120, 2023 Parish Road Improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator or Parish President is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Jorden, seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 16th day of August, 2023.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Cochran, to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Contract between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Carlisle Thompson, LLC, for Disaster Recovery and Emergency Planning Services, RFP No. 2020-116, and to authorize execution of documents.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 16th day of August, 2023, that it does hereby approve Amendment No. 1 to the Contract between the Bossier Parish Police Jury and Carlisle Thompson, LLC, for Disaster Recovery and Emergency Planning Services, RFP No. 2020-116.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator or Parish President is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Darby. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 16th day of August, 2023.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Motion was made by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Darby, to approve an Intergovernmental Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between and among the City of Bossier City and the Bossier Parish Police Jury in connection with the Parish providing a State-approved location for the staging and open burning of vegetative debris caused by the June 16, 2023, storm event, and to authorize the execution of documents.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 16th day of August, 2023, that it does hereby approve Intergovernmental Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between and among the City of Bossier City and the Bossier Parish Police Jury in connection with the Parish providing a State-approved location for the staging and open burning of vegetative debris caused by the June 16, 2023, storm event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator or Parish President is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Cochran, seconded by Mr. Darby. Upon unanimous vote, it was duly adopted on this 16th day of August, 2023.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

Mr. Ford announced that North East Bossier Parish Fire District No. 5's rating classification has been upgraded to a Class 3.

Mr. Ford stated that deadlines to submit budgets for 2024 have been sent out and advised that the Finance Committee meeting on September 20, 2023, will begin at 1:00 p.m. in order to allow all entities that would like to present their budget request to the police jury may do so at that time.

Mr. Ford stated that Keep Bossier Beautiful "Dinner Under the Stars" is scheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the East Bank District in Bossier City, LA.

Mr. Ford stated that Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Louisiana businesses and residents affected by the severe storms and straight-line winds that occurred June 10 – 18, 2023, causing wide-spread damage across the northwestern part of the state.

Mr. Ford reported that Bossier Parish firemen have been dispatched to Sabine Parish to assist with the fires. He expressed appreciation to the fire districts for sending firemen to assist Sabine Parish.

Mr. Hudson presented photographs of an incident where an AEP employee fell asleep and damaged the bridge on Antrim Road. He stated that the bridge is a four-span bridge and is closed due to the damages. He further stated that it will take approximately one month to repair the bridge.

Mr. Hudson stated that one of the one-span bridges on Old Plain Dealing Road that was scheduled to be replaced this year is failing and will need to be replaced as soon as possible.

Mr. Hudson reported that the State has advised that the Caplis Sligo Road Bridge will be on the November letting to reconstruct the bridge. He reported that Smith Road Bridge will let in early 2024.

Mr. Hudson reported that the S. Perrin Bridge in the Town of Plain Dealing should be reopened any day. He reported that the State is doing the load rating. He stated that the Town of Plain Dealing has reimbursed the parish for the cost of rebuilding the bridge.

Mr. Kevin Gay, Road Superintendent, presented an update on activities of the highway department and on several road projects in the parish. He stated that Animal Control has picked up 20 dogs since August 2, 2023. He provided a report on the amount of debris that has been picked up throughout the parish with a deadline of September 1, 2023, for debris pickup.

Mr. Warren Saucier, Parks and Recreation Director, presented an update on activities at parks throughout Bossier Parish.

Mr. Nguyen Kha, Assistant Parish Engineer and Utilities Director for Consolidated Waterworks/Sewerage District Nos. 1 and 2 of the Parish of Bossier, reported that the request for an extension on the Water Sector Grant which has been approved for two months.

Mr. Kha stated that the water tank at the prison was cleaned on Friday.

Mr. Kha provided a report on the Creekside sewer tie-in project and the FY 2022 LCDBG Gray Duck Sewer Rehabilitation project.

Mr. Jorden stated that the parish owns property on Commerce Street in Bossier City and he is requesting that bids be taken for mowing and harvesting the property. Mr. Jackson stated that the legals will be provided to Ms. Hauser to publish a bid notice.

Mr. Jorden stated that he has received several calls from property owners on State highways needing debris picked up from the storm. He stated that Mr. Jackson has advised that the parish will need to request permission from the State to pick up the debris. Mr. Jackson stated that the parish does not have general authority nor liability protection to pick up the debris without a Memorandum of Understanding. He stated that contact needs to be made with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development District 7 to request a Memorandum of Understanding for permission to pick up the storm debris.

Ms. Parks stated that she has reviewed the police jury policy for picking up nuisance dogs only, and she recommended that the parish begin picking up stray dogs as well. She stated that Mr. Jackson stated that based on the budget and the process of the current program, the parish could temporarily begin picking up stray dogs as well as nuisance dogs within that budget.

Mr. Jackson stated that the parish began a temporary program with a third party veterinarian to handle overflow with vicious animals. He stated that it was thought that there would be a greater need to handle vicious animals so there is some available monies in what has been budgeted. He further stated that it is not known what the need will be for stray animals, but it has become a problem in certain jurisdictions.

Mr. Jackson stated that if the police jury is willing to pick up stray animals on a trial basis, the parish could broaden its current focus from just vicious to include strays as well. He stated that it will be complaint driven only.

Ms. Parks stated that anyone that finds a stray dog can pick the dog up and call Bossier City Animal Control to report the dog in case the owner contacts Bossier City Animal Control looking for their dog. She stated that this will also put the local rescues on notice as well in case they are contacted regarding a lost dog.

Mr. Benton asked if the veterinarian has the capacity to hold additional dogs if the Bossier City pound is full. Mr. Jackson stated that the veterinarian currently has the capacity, but it is all surge. He stated the currently, the parish could pick up strays, but it is possible that if the system is overwhelmed the police jury will need to address this matter again in the very near future.

After further discussion, **motion was made by Ms. Parks, seconded by Mr. Jorden, to amend the agenda to temporarily allow the Bossier Parish Animal Control to pick up stray dogs.**

The President called for public comment. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Mr. Benton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jorden, Mr. Marsiglia, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Darby

Motion was made by Ms. Parks, seconded by Mr. Jordan, to temporarily allow the Bossier Parish Animal Control to pick up stray dogs.

The President called for public comment. There being none, **motion carried with the following votes recorded:**

YEAS: Mr. Benton, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Gray, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Marsiglia, Ms. Parks, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Salzer

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mr. Brotherton, Mr. Darby

Finance Committee Meeting – August 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

The Finance Committee of the Bossier Parish Police Jury met on this 16th day of August, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana, with Mr. Brotherton being absent.

Mr. Plummer asked if anyone was present that would like to address the Finance Committee to discuss an item that is currently not on the agenda. No one was present.

Motion was made by Mr. Rimmer, seconded by Mr. Gray, to approve payment of accounts payable invoices and budget to actual monthly comparison for the month of July, 2023.

The Chairman called for public comment. There being none, **votes were cast and the motion carried unanimously.**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

There being no further business to come before the Bossier Parish Police Jury in regular and legal session on this 16th day of August, 2023, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Rimmer at 4:10 p.m.

RACHEL D. HAUSER
PARISH SECRETARY

DOUG RIMMER, PRESIDENT
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY