

**WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING
880 NORTH ALEXANDER AVENUE, PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019
5:30PM**

The Following Minutes Are Summarized For Brevity, For Precise Meeting Information Please Refer To Meeting Audio Or Video.

The Regular Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council was held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 and called to order at 5:30pm. Council Chairman Gary Spillman asked that all electronic devices be placed on silent and recognized Councilman Ricky Loupe who led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were recorded as being present:

Messrs. Barry Hughhins, Kirk Allain, Gary Spillman, Chris "Fish" Kershaw, Edward "Bob" Robertson, Phil Porto, Ricky Loupe, and Ms. Naomi Fair.

Absent: Ms. Charlene Gordon.

Also present were, Mr. Riley Berthelot Jr, Parish President, Mr. Phillip Bourgoyne, Director of Finance, Mr. Jason Manola, Executive Assistant and Mrs. Michelle Tullier, Council Clerk.

MINUTE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Porto, seconded by Mr. Barry Hughhins to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2019 regular meeting.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Hughhins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion passed.

CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Spillman noted there was one item requested to be amended on to the agenda tonight: Accept/Reject bid recommendation on 2019 Concrete Road Rehabilitation Program

A motion was made by Mr. Barry Hughhins, seconded by Mr. Kirk Allain to amend the agenda and include the aforementioned item.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Hughhins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion passed and the agenda was therefore amended.

PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Riley Berthelot was recognized and covered the following items:

Reminded everyone about Household Hazardous Materials Day on Saturday September 28 from 8am – 12pm at Alexander Park;

Reminder about Sugarfest Sunday, October 6, 2019;

LA Watershed Resolution will be on the next agenda;

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Spillman read aloud the responses to questions submitted at the last meeting by Mrs. Diana LeBlanc said questions and answers can be found at the end of these minutes. Mrs. LeBlanc questioned Mrs. Pam Keowen on how much water said industrial customers are actually using, Mrs. Keowen agreed she will have this information by the next meeting. Mrs. LeBlanc invited everyone to come to the September 30th court hearing and express their concerns over the LDEQ permit given to Thermaldyne, and also questioned the motives of the Parish Council, specifically Mr. Barry Huggins regarding changing of the industrial code wondering if this had something to do with Thermaldyne. Mr. Huggins responded to Mrs. LeBlanc noting that this overhaul of the industrial code had nothing to do with Thermaldyne.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND/OR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Mrs. Pam Keowen, Director of Utilities, updated the Council on the progress of the south end water line project. Mrs. Keowen presented the Council with a copy of the Natural Gas Emergency Plan, and informed the Council of the location of the plan and asked if there were any questions regarding said plan. There were no questions from the Council regarding the Natural Gas Emergency plan. In closing Mrs. Keowen updated the Council on the Erwinville sewer project in Airline Park. Councilman Phil Porto questioned the Lobdell water tower paint flaking off, Mrs. Keowen gave him an update on the schedule to rehab the tower. Councilman Robertson asked for everyone to keep Councilwoman Charlene Gordon in their prayers considering her recent surgery.

BOARD OF REVIEW TO HEAR ANY AND ALL PROTESTS FROM TAXPAYERS ON THE 2019 TAX ASSESSMENTS

At this time the West Baton Rouge Parish Council met as the Board of Review for the purpose of considering and hearing complaints from taxpayers desiring to be heard on the 2019 tax assessment values of property as determined by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor. West Baton Rouge Tax Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan introduced himself and gave a brief statement to the Council before recognizing Deputy Assessor Chris Guerin to certify the totals for year 2019. Mr. Guerin reviewed and read into the record excerpts from schedules A & B for real estate, personal property & public service for tax year 2018 & 2019 as well as homestead exempted property totals and personal property value changes for the same. Mr. Guerin certified the assessment lists of West Baton Rouge Parish for 2019 to the Board of Review in the amount of \$472,300,850.00 with the additional total assessment for 2019 Public Service from the Louisiana Tax Commission being \$44,278,760.00 for a Grand Total of \$516,579,610.00 which is an increase of 8.8% (eight point eight percent).

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Porto, seconded by Mr. Barry Huggins to ratify the Assessment Schedules A & B for the Tax Years 2019 & 2018 as determined and presented by Deputy Assessor Chris Guerin.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Huggins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted.

CONSIDER SETTING TIME AND DATE FOR HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE PARISH

Following a brief discussion on municipal consensus, a motion was made by Mr. Chris Kershaw, seconded by Mr. Ricky Loupe to set the time and date for Halloween Trick-or-Treat for the

unincorporated areas of West Baton Rouge Parish for Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Huggins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)
NAYS: 0 (None)
ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)
ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED ORDINANCES

There were no items to consider

CONSIDER STATUS REPORT, CHANGE ORDERS AND/OR OTHER MATTERS AS REQUIRED ON CURRENT PROJECTS

Accept/Reject Change Order No. 2 on Arena Water Well Project

Mrs. Pam Keowen, Director of Utilities was recognized and explained the need for this particular change order which amounts to an increase of \$10,312.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Chris Kershaw, seconded by Mr. Ricky Loupe to accept Change Order No. 2 for the Arena Water Well project in the amount of \$10,312.00.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Huggins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)
NAYS: 0 (None)
ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)
ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted.

Accept/Reject bid recommendation on 2019 Concrete Road Rehabilitation Program

Mr. Jason Manola was recognized and explained that bids for the 2019 Concrete Road Rehabilitation Program were opened on September 19, 2019 and the low bid for the project was submitted by Hard Rock Construction, LLC of Harvey, Louisiana with a Total Base Bid of \$293,317.44. Mr. Manola asked the Council to accept Hard Rock Construction with the aforementioned bid for this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Chris Kershaw, seconded by Mr. Kirk Allain to accept the bid recommendation on the 2019 Concrete Road Rehabilitation Program, of Hard Rock Construction, LLC of Harvey, Louisiana with a total base bid of \$293,317.44 dollars.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Huggins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)
NAYS: 0 (None)
ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)
ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted.

Accept/Reject bid recommendation on Council on Aging Building Project

Mr. Manola was again recognized and explained that the one bid received on this project was over budget and asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Barry Huggins, seconded by Mr. Ricky Loupe to defer the bid recommendation on the Council on Aging Project to the next Council Meeting.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Huggins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)
NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted and the item therefore deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Of Annual Certification Of Compliance With The State Of Louisiana Off-System Bridge Replacement Program

A motion was made by Mr. Chris Kershaw, seconded by Mr. Barry Hughhins to approve the Resolution of Annual Certification of Compliance with the State of Louisiana Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Hughhins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted.

Resolution 22 of 2019 appears at the end of these minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 104 Zoning to Incorporate Amended Zoning Designation Map (Zoning Plan) under Section 104-3 Establishment of Districts, Official Zoning Map for rezoning request of TMI Enterprise and Air Liquide, File #2019-21, located at 1815 Lafiton Lane, Port Allen, La 70767, described as the rear portion of 35 Acres in Section 64, T6S, R12E, being part of Margaret Plantation, rezoning from I-1 (Light Industrial) to I-1 (Light Industrial with a special use permit to allow moderate industrial).

Chairman Spillman asked to defer Introduction of this Ordinance to the next Council Meeting due to recent issues with the request that have surfaced.

Mr. Louie Veilee was recognized and explained he was the applicant of said rezoning and he would like a legal opinion on the zone which is needed for the proposed use he is asking for.

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Porto, seconded by Mr. Barry Hughhins to defer Introduction of the aforementioned Ordinance to the next meeting.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Spillman, Hughhins, Kershaw, Robertson, Loupe, Porto, Allain, Fair)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes the motion was adopted and the item therefore deferred to the next meeting.

CONSIDER SUBDIVISION PLATS, CONDEMNATIONS, WAIVERS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO

There were no items to consider

APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments to consider

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence Report from Council Clerk, Mrs. Michelle Tullier included the following items:

- Next Planning & Zoning Meeting of Tuesday, October 1st has been canceled due to clear agenda;
- Next Council Meeting is Thursday, October 10th at 5:30pm;

- Next Fire Board Meeting is Thursday, October 10th at 5:15pm.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Chris Kershaw and was adopted by acclamation at 6:30pm.


Gary M. Spillman, Council Chairman


Michelle Z. Tullier, Council Clerk

Mrs. Diana LeBlanc asked for the following information at the Council Meeting of September 12, 2019:

- A list of Companies & Plants in WBR Parish that acquire their drinking water from our Aquifer for processing purposes to run their units.

Per Mrs. Pam Keowen, Director of Utilities, the following plants meet this criteria:

- Placid, CRI (Criterion), & BR Fabricators. Most companies only use our water for offices, etc.

- How many of our Parish Wells have been shut down due to salt or pollution intrusion?

Per Mrs. Keowen, No wells have been shut down due to saltwater intrusion, but we have abandoned 2 wells south of the intracoastal, these were shallow wells that started having arsenic levels, once this started the wells were abandoned and plugged.

- How many old wells have had to be replaced with new wells and the reason why?

Per Mrs. Keowen, We replaced Hunters Run well a few years ago due to the hole in the screen and a cracked casing, we tried to repair it but was unable to do so, therefore we drilled a new well to replace the original that could not be repaired.

- Mrs. LeBlanc requested Televised Meetings live stream on Facebook

This is not something that our system is capable of at this point and the cost of doing this would be great. Our agendas are posted 1 week in advance of each meeting, online and in the Westside Journal, and our meeting videos are posted within 2 working days of said meeting.



CHRIS GUERIN, CLDA
CHIEF DEPUTY

Barney M. Altazan, CLA

ASSESSOR

PARISH OF WEST BATON ROUGE
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www.wbrassessor.org

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COURTHOUSE BLDG., ROOM 11
PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA
PHONE (225) 344-6777
FAX (225) 344-6779

September 5, 2019

West Baton Rouge Parish Council
Post Office Pox 757
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767


Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1992, this is to advise you that I have prepared the assessment lists of real and personal property in and for the Parish of West Baton Rouge and that said lists have been exposed daily for inspection by the taxpayers and other interested parties for a period of fifteen calendar days which began August 15, 2019 and ended August 29, 2019 (notice of exposure was published in the July 18 and August 1, 2019 editions of the West Side Journal).

Now that the exposure period is over and the lists have been corrected where necessary for any clerical or assessment errors, I hereby certify the assessment lists of West Baton Rouge Parish for 2019 to you as the Board of Review in the Amount of \$472,300,850.

A period of fifteen days, beginning September 1 and ending September 15, 2019 has been set up for the Board of Review to receive any protest. Any taxpayer desiring to be heard must file their protest by September 19, 2019 which is seven (7) days prior to the final Board of Review meeting. September 15, 2019 being the fifteenth day, is set for the Board of Review to meet and review this year's assessments (notice of the fifteen day protest period and date the Parish Council will meet as the Board of Review has been published in the August 29, and September 13 2019 editions of the West Side Journal).

Yours truly,


Barney M. Altazan, CLA
Assessor

BMA/lt
Attachments
CC: Louisiana Tax Commission

RECEIVED:


West Baton Rouge Parish Council
September 5, 2019



CHRIS GUERIN, CLDA
CHIEF DEPUTY

Barney M. Altazan, CLA

ASSESSOR

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ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES A and B For the Tax Years 2019 & 2018

2019 Schedule A

The schedule below shows a comparison of assessed values determined by the Assessor for 2019 and the net value of the 2018 Assessment Roll. Also shown are the 2019 and 2018 Public Service assessments as determined by the Louisiana Tax Commission.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase (Decrease)</u>
Real Estate(H/E & T/P)	\$ 201,342,130	\$ 193,012,864	\$ 8,329,266	4.3%
Personal Property	<u>270,958,720</u>	<u>239,515,940</u>	<u>31,442,780</u>	<u>13.1%</u>
Total	(1) <u>472,300,850</u>	432,528,804	39,772,046	9.2%
Public Service	(2) <u>44,278,760</u>	<u>42,165,960</u>	<u>2,112,800</u>	<u>5.0%</u>
Grand Total	- <u>\$ 516,579,610</u> (3)	<u>\$ 474,694,764</u>	<u>\$ 41,884,846</u>	<u>8.8%</u>

Notations:

- (1) → \$472,300,850 is the total assessed value of the 2019 assessment list determined by the Assessor and certified to the West Baton Rouge Parish Council as the Board of Review.
- (2) → \$44,278,760 is the total of assessed value for 2019 Public Service assessments as determined by the Louisiana Tax Commission.
- (3) Assessment roll adjusted for 2018 change orders.

2019 Schedule B

The schedule below shows the breakdown of assessments for 2019 and 2018 showing homestead exempted property and taxpayer's property.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase (Decrease)</u>
Homestead Exempt	\$ 48,826,728	\$ 47,947,624	\$ 879,104	1.8%
Taxpayer	(1) <u>467,752,882</u>	<u>426,747,140</u>	<u>41,005,742</u>	<u>9.6%</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$ 516,579,610</u> (2)	<u>\$ 474,694,764</u>	<u>\$ 41,884,846</u>	<u>8.8%</u>

Notations:

- (1) Taxpayer liability base.
- (2) Assessment roll adjusted for 2018 change orders.

RESOLUTION 22 OF 2019

RESOLUTION OF ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads will be inspected, rated for safety load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges is maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post those bridges under the authority of West Baton Rouge Parish in accordance with those Standards is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development to West Baton Rouge Parish.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of West Baton Rouge Parish (herein referred to as the Parish) that the Parish in Regular Meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for the period September 30, 2019 through October 1, 2020:

1. The Parish shall perform all interim inspections on all Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards;
2. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish will be structurally analyzed and rated by the Parish as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the Louisiana DOTD for bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State Law determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings or any missing structural ratings;
3. All Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manual Directive No. 1.1. 1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge will be critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting;
4. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the LA. DOTD are noted.

These stipulations are prerequisite to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

The Above Resolution Has Been Considered, Upon Motion By Council Member Chris Kershaw, Which Was Seconded By Council Member Barry Huggins, And A Vote Being Taken, The Following Result Was Had:

The Resolution Having Been Submitted To A Vote, The Vote Thereon Was As Follows:

YEAS: 8 (Allain, Kershaw, Fair, Spillman, Loupe, Huggins, Porto, Robertson)
NAYS: 0 (None)
ABSTAIN: 0 (None)
ABSENT: 1 (Gordon)

As a result of the votes the resolution was adopted on this **26th day of September, 2019.**

CERTIFICATE

I, Michelle Tullier, Council Clerk of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said body at its Regular Meeting of September 26, 2019 at which meeting a majority of the members were present and voting.


Michelle Tullier, Council Clerk