

Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting – 6:00 pm
July 28, 2003

Item No. 1 Call to Order – Council Chairman Brown called the meeting to order.

Item No. 2 Invocation – Councilman Miley gave the invocation.

Item No. 3 Roll Call - Sandra Miller called the roll. Present were Rodney Brown, Relton Sumrall, Clinton Miley, Darwin Sharp, Kenneth Wheat, Marvin Thomas and Charles Nassauer.

No members were absent

Item No. 4 Consent Calendar – Councilman Miley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Sharp that the consent calendar be adopted with the exception of the approval of the minutes of July 24, 2003, but including approval of minutes of special meeting of July 21, 2003, adoption of Financial Report and introduction of an ordinance relative to LCDBG for 2004-2005. President Taylor brought to the council's attention information on the 2004-2005 LCDBG grant applications. With the extra points awarded when an applicant agrees to pay the consulting and engineering fees on a grant, he feels it is important for the Parish Government to pay those fees from parish funds. This will help ensure that our grant applications are awarded. Motion passed unanimously.

Item No. 5 Public Hearing –

Jim Ryan, Grant Consultant, addressed the council explaining the details. The Washington Parish Council has the Citizen's Participation Plan available to anyone who would like one. LCDBG funds available for 2004-2005 are \$600,000. for housing grants and the same for fire protection, \$750,000. for water grants, \$1 million for sewer grants, \$800,000. for multi-purpose community center grants, \$225,000. for demonstrated needs grants and \$500,000 for LaSTEP grants, a minimum of \$150,000 and a maximum of \$500,000 for street grants may be requested. It is estimated that any amount the parish would apply for would be for the benefit of low and moderate-income persons. Washington Parish will not conduct any activities with grant funds that will displace any persons. The parish's performance has been good on prior LCDBG programs funded by the state.

Motion was made by Councilman Wheat with a second by Councilman Miley to open the public hearing for the 1st Citizen's Participation for the Parish's 2004-2005 LA Community Development Block Grant Program. All in favor.

There was no participation from the public.

Councilman Miley made a motion to close the public hearing with a second by Councilman Sumrall. Motion passed.

Item No. 6 Public Participation – No one commented during the public participation

Item No. 7 Parish President's Report – President Taylor explained briefly the continuing infiltration of water in the courthouse basement and asked the council to open the agenda for the consideration of emergency ordinance # 03-323 and additional items. With Emergency Ordinance # 03-323 the bid process can be by-passed even though we will get written quotes to be able to take preventive measures to minimize further infiltration in the courthouse basement. Leo Lucchesi, Director of Public Works commented he is preparing documents for bidding. We will be inviting three or four bidders. We have a design that appears reasonable to prevent further flooding. At this time, the town is not mitigating their system to stop the flooding in our basement. We are going to have to do something on our own to prevent re-flooding.

Continued . . .

Ordinance 03-323

We have two valves, they will shut down automatically when there is a power failure or if there is an indication of backup in the system; a flow switch will be triggered to shut the valves. We will have a redundant system, meaning we will have two valves to shut down.

Councilman Sumrall made a motion that the agenda be opened with a second by Councilman Sharp. All in favor.

Councilman Wheat made a motion that Emergency Ordinance # 03-323 be adopted, with a second by Councilman Miley. Roll call vote was held with Rodney Brown, Relton Sumrall, Marvin Thomas, Darwin Sharp, Kenneth Wheat, Clinton Miley and Charles Nassauer voting for, and no votes against. Motion passed.

President Taylor stated that according to our charter, an emergency ordinance has to be made permanent and he requested the council do that with the introduction of ordinance #03-325 with a public hearing on August 11, 2003. Councilman Sharp made a motion with a second by Councilman Wheat that Ordinance #03-325 making permanent the Emergency Ordinance No # 03-323 adopted on July 28, 2003 be introduced with a public hearing scheduled for August 11, 2003. Motion passed unanimously.

President Taylor also asked the council to introduce an Ordinance for Budget Adjustment Number One that will incorporate the adjustments talked about for our road improvement program to give us permission to get the equipment and hire the personnel to do the drainage work and shoulder to compliment our road program. The public hearing will be held on August 11, 2003. Councilman Miley, with a second by Councilman Wheat, made a motion to introduce Ordinance #03-326 to adopt Budget Adjustment Number One to the 2003 Annual operating budget for the Parish Government with a public hearing scheduled for August 11, 2003. Motion passed.

President Taylor brought to the attention of the council the correspondence he received from Walthall County Board of Supervisors in reference to the Turnage-State Line Road. We had entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with them to repair and improve this road. They are now requesting cooperation in resealing the road with an estimate of \$12,150.00 and are requesting that we contribute \$6,000.00. They will take the lead and do all of the work. Councilman Sumrall made a motion that we contribute the \$6,000.00 matching funds they requested to help with this resealing, with a second by Councilman Miley. Motion passed unanimously.

President Taylor advised he had received correspondence from Varnado Water Works District requesting the appointment of Randall Thomas to an opening on their board. The council was asked to confirm this appointment. On motion of Councilman Sumrall, with a second by Councilman Thomas to ratify the appointment of Mr. Thomas, the motion passed with all in favor.

President Taylor recommended the appointment of Daniel Keaton to the opening on the Washington Parish Fire Protection District # 5. Councilman Sumrall, seconded by Councilman Sharp made the motion to confirm the appointment of Mr. Keaton. All in favor.

Washington Parish Fire Protection District # 6 requested the appointment of Timothy Duncan to one of the openings on their board. President Taylor asked the council for their confirmation of this appointment. The Village will be requested to make a recommendation on the other vacancy. On motion of Councilman Sumrall, with a second by Councilman Miley to confirm this appointment, motion passed.

President Taylor brought to the attention of the council the copies of petitions he had provided them he has received from residents of Carroll-Sheridan and Russ Williams Road requesting assistance in the council moving the road up on the overlay list. The council requested that correspondence be sent to these people concerning their request and acknowledgement of receipt of petitions.