

**Washington Parish Council
Regular Meeting
Washington Parish Courthouse
908 Washington Street
Franklinton, La 70438
Council Chambers
August 22, 2016
Monday – 6:00 PM**

Item No. 1. - Call to order – Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order.

Item No. 2. - Invocation – Councilman Lewis gave the invocation.

Item No. 3. - Pledge of Allegiance – Councilman McMasters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item No. 4. - Roll Call – Council Clerk Sarah Cook called the roll. Present were Perry Talley, Michael Fussell, Chris Workman, Levi Lewis, Pete Thomas, Reginald McMasters and David Anthony.

Item No. 5. – Approval of Minutes – Approval of minutes dated August 8, 2016.

Councilman Lewis offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fussell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 8, 2016.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) McMasters, Anthony, Talley, Fussell, Workman, Lewis and Thomas

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Councilman McMasters entertained a motion to open the agenda, to speak about the financial report of the Riverside Hospital Board.

Councilman Anthony offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to add the item to the agenda.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) McMasters, Anthony, Talley, Fussell, Workman, Lewis and Thomas

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Councilman McMasters: “The Council would like a financial report from Riverside Hospital before Our Lady of the Angels take over. We would also ask for a financial report periodically from the Hospital Board as we continue forward.”

Mr. Brent King: “Our office will get that for you. You can also visit our Hospital Website to look at our minutes and financial statements.”

Item No. 6. – Adopt Resolution No. 16-725 - Resolution approving the issuance, sale and delivery of \$1,300,000 of Water Revenue refunding bonds of Bogue Lusa Waterworks District of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana.

Chairman Thomas read the heading and asked Mr. Jim Ryan to speak.

Jim Ryan - Government Consultant: "This is a refunded bond. We are simply lower the interest rate on three different bond issues that Bogue Lusa Waterworks has from 1993, 1998 and 2011. It is a total of \$1.12 million of debt which will lower the interest rate to save \$20,000 a year on their debt payment. The term ends in 2039."

Councilman McMasters: "Is this to take care of outstanding debt?"

Mr. Jim Ryan: "Yes."

Chairman Thomas: "Would anyone from the public like to speak?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Lewis offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Workman to adopt Resolution 16-725.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) McMasters, Anthony, Talley, Fussell, Workman, Lewis and Thomas

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 7. - Adopt Resolution No. 16-726 - Resolution Ratifying appointment of Russell Knight to fill vacancy on the Washington Parish Hospital Service District Number one Board of Commissioners from Ward 3.

Councilman Fussell: "I recently received a notice from Mr. Russell Knight. He wishes to retract his name for consideration on that position."

Chairman Thomas: "Seeing how there is no one to vote on, we will move on to the next item."

Item No. 8. Minister Frankie Crosby -

Mr. Crosby resides at 1424 Parker Street, Franklinton, La. Mr. Crosby announced his candidacy for the Board of Alderman at the Town of Franklinton.

Mr. Crosby announced the Annual NFL Punt, Pass and Kick at the Franklinton High School, on September 11, 2016 at 3 pm. This is for boys and girls 6 to 15 years of age and must provide a copy of their birth certificate. It is free and open to the public.

Item No. 9. - Public Participation -

Chairman Thomas: "Would anyone from the public like to come forward and speak? Please state your name and address."

Mr. Brent King: Introduced Mr. Renee Ragas and Mr. Pete Sullivan.

Mr. Renee Ragas: Announced his excitement of hiring Mr. Pete Sullivan for the CEO position at Riverside Hospital starting August 29, 2016.

Mr. Pete Sullivan: Mr. Sullivan thanked everyone for this great opportunity and expressed the excitement of being in a rural community.

Councilman McMasters: "We appreciate you taking the opportunity of becoming CEO. The Hospital is one of our biggest concerns. We are excited about the move and would love to see the financial progress of the Hospital as we go forward. If you could give us the information needed on a timely basis, which will help us keep track of the growth for Riverside Hospital."

President Thomas: "We are glad to have you Mr. Sullivan and welcome to Washington Parish."

Mr. Pete Sullivan: "Thank you."

Councilman Fussell: "I would like to thank Mrs. Lisa McQueen for stepping up and being the interim CEO."

Chairman Thomas: "Would anyone else from the public like to speak?"

No one came forward.

Councilman McMasters offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Fussell to close public participation.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) McMasters, Anthony, Talley, Fussell, Workman, Lewis and Thomas

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Item No. 10. - President's Report -

Adopt Resolution No. 16-727 - Resolution appointments to the Mount Hermon Water District of Washington Parish Board of Commissioners.

President Thomas: "I have a resolution for Mt. Hermon Water District that Mr. Gary Fenner for a term of (3) years and Mr. Avant Vernon for a term of (3) years are appointed to the Mount Hermon Water District of Washington Parish Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Thomas: "Would anyone from the public like to speak on resolution 16-727?"

No one came forward.

Councilman Anthony offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt resolution 16-727.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) McMasters, Anthony, Talley, Fussell, Workman, Lewis and Thomas

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Donna Graham – Financial Director: Handed out a copy of the Washington Parish Government Interim Financial Report – YTD - July 31, 2016. Mrs. Graham let the Council know that most of our funds look healthy and the budget actual look good. She asked the council to start thinking about next year's budget.

Leo Lucchesi – Public Works Director: Handed out and emailed an ordinance on the Animal Shelter, asking the council to review for a later discussion. Some members had concerns of the Zika Virus. Mr. Lucchesi did some research on a mosquito spray fly over and learned that we can fly over but we would be responsible for 25% of the cost.

President Thomas: "In your packet you should find a pamphlet on the Zika Virus which will give you an opportunity to look at the information. We are trying to study on the Zika Virus so

we can know what we need to do in our Parish. This pamphlet came from Homeland Security, Federal and State of Louisiana.”

Donnell Merritt – Transportation Supervisor:

- Picked up 69 bags of trash on 12 roads.
- Installed 7 signs.
- Checked and cleaned signs on 50 roads.
- Sprayed 50 roads and bridges.
- Mowed and cleaned 8 locations.
- 62 flooded roads this time
- 27 of the roads was just flooded water with no repairs.
- 35 of the flooded roads had damage to repair.
- We used around 3,000 yards of clay for all the damaged roads.
- Court house flooded. Crews cleaned and pumped out water.
- We will pick up debris from homes. Just call the office and let us know.

Donna Graham: “The estimated damage for this recent flood is around \$100,000.”

President Thomas: “Washington Parish Government Offices will be closed on September 5, 2016 for Labor Day.”

Item No. 11. Council Discussion –

Councilman Lewis: “I would like to commend the Administration and the staff for collecting the information on the Zika Virus. I especially commend the road crew, keep up the good work.”

Councilman Talley: “I would like to thank the Transportation Department for handling the disaster along with their normal business. A special thanks to our Homeland Security and Administration.”

Councilman Workman: “Thanks to Tommy Thiebaud and all of his work along with Donnell Merritt. I would like to ask everyone to please keep all the folks that were flooded in your thoughts and prayers. If you have an opportunity to help out, please help them. They are in desperate need over there.”

Councilman McMasters: “Thanks to the Transportation, Administration and staff. Please pray for the people who were less fortunate than we are that got hit hard. We appreciate everyone for coming tonight.”

Chairman Thomas: “I would like to encourage each Councilman to meet with the President when you can. He has been here the longest as an elected official and has a lot of knowledge.”

Item No. 12. – Adjourn – No further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman McMasters, seconded by Councilman Workman.

Roll call of vote as follows:

YEAS: (7) McMasters, Anthony, Talley, Fussell, Workman, Lewis and Thomas

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Order of Voting:

Reginald McMasters	Chris Workman
David Anthony	Levi Lewis
Perry Talley	Pete Thomas
Michael Fussell	

Next meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016

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(All Ordinances, Resolutions and Attachments in its entirety are available at the office of Clerk of the Council at 909 Pearl Street, Franklinton, Louisiana or at (985)839-0105 or wpgov.org.)

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