



Parish of Ascension

Office of Finance

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 09, 2026 - 5:30 PM

ASCENSION PARISH COURTHOUSE
607 EAST WORTHEY ROAD
GONZALES, LOUISIANA 70737

MINUTES

- (1) **Call To Order / Invocation and Pledge-** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Hillensbeck. Councilman Oliver Joseph led the committee in the invocation and pledge.
- (2) **Roll Call-** All members were present except for Councilman Travis Turner.
- (3) **Chair's Additions-** There were no additions to the agenda.
- (4) **Public Comment-** Chairman Brian Hillensbeck announced that anyone wishing to speak should sign in now.
- (5) **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. **Approval of Renewal of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Ascension Chamber of Commerce.** Ascension Chamber of Commerce will assist in advocating for the Infrastructure and Industry Coalition, the Parish, Industry, and community leaders to State Officials and assist and support the promotion and advancement of the various projects as a critical infrastructure need and statewide economic driver and participate in appropriate Legislative Committee and Department of Transportation and Development meetings. Ascension Parish Government will provide funds not to exceed \$48,000.00 - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.

- b. Presentation of the Class of 2026 Leadership Ascension Teams/Projects and approval to allocate \$10,000 appropriation to support all Leadership Ascension Teams/Projects** - Amy Velez, Ascension Chamber of Commerce spoke to the committee on this item as well as team leaders Tylor Bourque, Susan Kliebert, Jesse Wingate, and Jared Bercegeay. Councilwoman Jenn DeFrances abstained on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
- c. Approval of Renewal of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Nicholls State University to manage operations of the West Ascension Early Learning Center. Contract amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00-** A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objection.
- d. Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Love Impact Coalition, Inc for a onetime payment of \$100,000.00 to assist with provision of free healthcare services at two (2) free medical/dental/vision clinics in Ascension Parish, one in Donaldsonville and one in Gonzales** - Ken Brass, State Representative, spoke to the committee on this item as well as Donna Collins-Lewis, President of Love Impact Coalition and Dr. Nicole Thomas, Vice President of Love Impact Coalition. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blaine Petite. The motion passed with no objection.
- e. Approval of Ordinance declaring surplus and authorization of the sale and/or transfer of miscellaneous movable equipment-** A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blaine Petite. The motion passed with no objection.
- f. Approval of Renewal of Master Services Agreement with Clean Earth of Alabama, Inc. for the collection of hazardous household material for a term of two years. Total compensation shall not exceed \$300,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.
- g. Approval of Amendment No. 1 for the Geotechnical Assistance Contract with Gulf South Engineering and Testing, Inc., to add an additional \$200,000.00, for a new amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 per calendar year. Gulf South Engineering and Testing, Inc. will only receive a portion of the total amount, dependent on the task orders awarded and provided** – A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for Approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Pam Alonso. The motion passed with no objection.

- h. Approval of Amendment No. 1 for the Geotechnical Assistance Contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc., to add an additional \$200,000.00, for a new amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 per calendar year. Terracon Consultants, Inc. will only receive a portion of the total amount, dependent on the task orders awarded and provided** – A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.
- i. Approval of Amendment No. 1 for the Geotechnical Assistance Contract with Ardman & Associates, Inc., to add an additional \$200,000.00, for a new amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 per calendar year. Ardaman & Associates, Inc. will only receive a portion of the total amount, dependent on the task orders awarded and provided** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blaine Petite. The motion passed with no objection.
- j. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Ascension Parish Government and the City of Donaldsonville. Ascension Parish Government will grant permanent servitudes to the City of Donaldsonville for the construction of a proposed sidewalk along Thibaut Drive and Clay Street in Donaldsonville, LA. The City of Donaldsonville shall assume maintenance of the sidewalk at its expense** - A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objection.
- k. Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Ascension Parish Government and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) for the LA 73 Roundabout at Bluff Road Connector Project, H.014918, and approval for Parish President Clint Cointment to execute the Agreement** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Blaine Petite. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
- l. Approval of additional funding for CSRS, LLC for design and support services for the Energy Transition Parkway Phase II and IIA Projects (Contract 250176); Contract value will increase by \$114,500.00 for a not to exceed value of \$464,500.00** - Daniel Helms, Director of Transportation, spoke to the committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion passed with no objection.
- m. Approval to accept the lowest responsive quote in the amount of \$158,314.99 submitted by HydraTec Services for the FY 2024-2025 Purchase and Install Isolation Valves in Public Water Drinking System Project and to authorize the Parish President to enter into a contract for the project** - A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was

made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objections.

- n. **Approval of Amendment No. 4 to the Master Contract for Professional Services with McKim & Creed, Inc. for the Water Sector Program, to extend the Contract to July 31, 2026, and is retroactive to May 31, 2026. The Amendment only extends the term of the project and does not affect the original contract price** – A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion passed with no objection.
- o. **Approval of Amendment No. 3 to Legal Services Contract with Daigle, Fisse, and Kessenich to increase the contract by \$100,000.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$495,000.00 to continue representation in general legal matters through April 22, 2026** - Jean-Paul Robert, Parish Attorney, spoke to the committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Pam Alonso. The motion passed with no objection.
- p. **Contract Report of all Contracts/Agreements entered into in the month of May 2026** - Chairman Hillensbeck announced that the report was emailed to the Committee ahead of the meeting and if they have any questions, they can contact Legal or Finance.

(6) FINANCE REPORTS

- a. **Budget Amendment No. 2 - Approval to amend 2026 Budget** – Dawn Caballero, Chief Financial Officer spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
- b. **Monthly Report of new positions added to the Ascension Parish Government Classification Plan in the month of May 2026** – Chairman Hillensbeck reported that no new positions were added.
- c. **Financial Update - Open Finance at**
<https://ascensionparishla.finance.socrata.com/#!/dashboard> - Chairman Hillensbeck announced that Open Finance is available for viewing at the URL listed and Finance can be contacted with any questions.

- (7) Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm on a motion made by Councilman Joel Robert, seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon.