



Parish of Ascension

Office of Finance

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 9, 2023 - 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 at 5:30 pm by Vice Chairman John Cagnolatti. Councilman Alvin Thomas led the Committee in the invocation and pledge.
- (2) **Roll Call** – All members were present with the exception of Councilman Joel Robert who arrived at 5:37 pm, Councilman Michael Mason, Councilman Aaron Lawler and Councilman Travis Turner who arrived at 6:00 pm.
- (3) **Chair's Additions** – There were no additions to the agenda.
- (4) **Public Comment** – Vice Chairman Cagnolatti announced that anyone wishing to speak should sign in now.
- (5) **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. **Approval of Renewal of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and A&M College represented by LSU Agriculture Center and Ascension Parish Government, to provide 4-H Youth Development Programs that are both relevant and useful to all Louisiana citizens. Total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 per year** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dempsey Lambert. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
 - b. **Consideration to grant variance for Belle Maison Subdivision to allow a third party utility provider to furnish wastewater treatment. Chapter 18 of the Ascension Parish Code of Ordinances in Section 117.2 (m) outlines variances in this code** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Alvin Thomas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. Councilman Corey Orgeron objected to the motion and made a substitute motion that the item be put on the Council agenda under General Business for further

discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alvin Thomas. The motion passed with no objection.

- c. **Consideration to grant variance for waiver of sewer connection and development fee of \$2,500.00 per lot per Section 18-117.2 and 18-117.5 for Belle Maison Subdivision** – A motion to approve placing the item on the Council agenda under General Business for further discussion was made by Councilman Corey Orgeron. Councilman Chase Melancon objected to the motion and made a substitute motion that the item be approved to forward to the full Council for approval as is. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dal Waguespack. Councilman Corey Orgeron objected to the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with the results being as follows:

Yeas: Joel Robert, Dempsey Lambert, Chase Melancon, Dal Waguespack, Teri Casso, John Cagnolatti

Nays: Corey Orgeron, Alvin Thomas

Absent: Michael Mason, Travis Turner, Aaron Lawler

Not Voting: None

The motion passed 6:2.

- d. **Approval of Amendment #1 to Professional Services Contract with Joey Thibodeaux's Drain Cleaning and Plumbing for Parish Utilities of Ascension distribution system, labor and material as needed to repair leaks, install taps and any other work necessary to maintain the distribution system to increase the total contract amount by an additional \$80,000.00 for a new total contract amount of \$129,000.00** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Alvin Thomas. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Teri Casso. Councilman Corey Orgeron objected to the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with the results being as follows:

Yeas: Joel Robert, Dempsey Lambert, Chase Melancon, Dal Waguespack, Teri Casso, John Cagnolatti, Alvin Thomas

Nays: Corey Orgeron

Absent: Michael Mason, Travis Turner, Aaron Lawler

Not Voting: None

The motion passed 7:1.

- e. **Approval of Maintenance Agreement , including mowing and litter pick-up between the Parish and LADOTD. Parish to perform maintenance related to mowing, herbicide application and litter collection along State Roadways located within Ascension Parish. The maximum amount of reimbursement to Parish is \$154,640.00** - Jonathan Samuel, Transportation spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dempsey Lambert. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
- f. **Approval of Legal Services Contract, to hire the law firm of Daigle, Fisse & Kessinich, Attorney Stephen Brouillette, to represent the Parish in the matter of Ascension Parish vs Demco Electric** - Jean Paul Robert, Parish Attorney and Attorney Stephen Brouillette spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Joel Robert. The

motion was seconded by Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion passed with no objection.

- g. **Approval of Amendment #5 to the Master Contract for Traffic Engineering Consulting between the Parish and Gresham Smith to extend the original contract term through July 31, 2023. The amendment will not affect the contract price** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion passed with no objection.

- h. **Contract Report of all Contracts/Agreements entered into in the month of April 2023** - Vice Chairman Cagnolatti asked that the Committee members review the contract report and contact Legal or Finance with any questions.

- i. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - Approval of Settlement Claim - Shaw Construction Services** – A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Teri Casso. A roll call vote was conducted with the results being as follows:

Yeas: Joel Robert, Dempsey Lambert, Chase Melancon, Dal Waguespack, Teri Casso, John Cagnolatti, Alvin Thomas

Nays: Corey Orgeron

Absent: Michael Mason, Travis Turner, Aaron Lawler

Not Voting: None

The motion passed 7:1

A motion to reconvene from Executive Session was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion passed with no objection.

- j. **Approval of Change Order #9 - Shaw Construction Services Ascension Parish Sewer Program Improvements for additional scope of services for an additional amount of \$82,588.00. Total contract amount \$5,056,157.66** – A motion was made by Councilman Chase Melancon to table the item until another meeting when a Shaw Construction representative can be present to explain the necessity for the change order. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion passed with no objection.

(6) **FINANCE REPORTS**

- a. **Budget Amendment #2 - Approval to amend 2023 Budget** - Dawn Caballero, Comptroller spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alvin Thomas. The motion passed with no objection.
- b. **Financial Update - Open Finance at**
<https://ascensionparishla.finance.socrata.com/#!/dashboard> - Vice Chairman Cagnolatti advised 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 on a motion by Councilwoman Teri Casso, seconded by Councilman Alvin Thomas.