



Parish of Ascension

Office of Finance

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 6, 2023 - 5:30 PM

ASCENSION PARISH COURTHOUSE
607 EAST WORTHLEY ROAD
GONZALES, LOUISIANA 70737

MINUTES

- (1) **Call To Order / Invocation and Pledge** - The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Chairman Michael Mason. Councilman Alvin Thomas led the Committee in the invocation and pledge.
- (2) **Roll Call** - All members were present with the exception of Councilman Chase Melancon, Councilman Corey Orgeron, Councilman Aaron Lawler who arrived at 5:35 pm and Councilman Joel Robert who arrived at 5:37 pm.
- (3) **Chair's Additions** - There were no additions to the agenda.
- (4) **Public Comment** – Chairman Mason announced that anyone wishing to speak should sign in now.
- (5) **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between the Parish and the Amite River Basin Commission to provide the Parish's drone equipment, including an operator to pilot said drone, to Amite River Basin Commission for purposes of obtaining aerial footage of the Amite River Basin - Comite Diversion Project. The video will contain the Ascension Parish Channel 21 logo** - Parish President Clint Cointment 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 Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion passed with no objection.
 - b. **Approval of renewal of one (1) year Security Services Contract between Ascension Parish Government (Lamar Dixon Expo Center) and Merchants Security Services, Inc. in the amount of \$104,000.00 to provide one (1) unarmed, uniformed security support officer 4:30 pm - 8:00 am, seven (7) days a week to provide proactive deterrence to criminal activity, enforce policies and procedures**

and aid management, employees and guests - Kyle Rogers, Lamar Dixon Expo Center General Manager 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 Aaron Lawler. The motion passed with no objection.

- c. **Approval for President Cointment to approve and sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with TNT Building Consultants for use of parking at Lamar Dixon at a cost of \$25,000/month to include parking lot upgrades and a completed turf field for Lamar Dixon's sole use** - Kyle Rogers, Lamar Dixon Expo Center General Manager along with representatives of TNT Building Consultants spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Aaron Lawler. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Cagnolatti. Councilman Joel Robert objected to the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with the results being as follows:

Yeas: Dempsey Lambert, Alvin Thomas, Travis Turner, Dal Waguespack, Teri Casso, John Cagnolatti, Aaron Lawler, Michael Mason

Nays: Joel Robert

Absent: Chase Melancon, Corey Orgeron

Not Voting: None

The motion passed 8:1.

- d. **Ascension Economic Development to introduce Honeywell International, Inc. for approval of participation in the ITEP under the 2018 rules** - Kate MacArthur, President & CEO of Ascension Economic Development spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dempsey Lambert. The motion passed with no objection.
- e. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between the Parish and the Ascension Parish Sheriff to facilitate the establishment of a needs assessment and strategic plan for opioid awareness to determine how to effectively use the settlement funds. The Parish shall reimburse the Sheriff for the costs associated with the expenses incurred for the needs assessment and strategic plan for opioid awareness program, not to exceed \$100,000.00** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dempsey Lambert. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion passed with no objection.
- f. **Approval of renewal of Participation Agreement with St. Bernard Parish Sheriff for housing of juveniles** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alvin Thomas. The motion passed with no objection.
- g. **Approval of Amendment #2 to Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Ascension Parish Government and Nicholls State University, to allow the University to operate and administer the West Ascension Early Childhood Development Center at the B Lemann Building on Mississippi Street in Donaldsonville** – 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. The motion passed with no objection.

- h. Presentation of Volunteer Ascension Annual Report and approval of request for funding** - Sherry Denig, Executive Director Volunteer Ascension 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 John Cagnolatti. The motion was amended by Councilman Lambert to add that the amount of funding given would be \$25,000.00. The motion passed with no objection.
- i. Approval to make second installment payment of \$42,500.00 for Professional Liability Coverage for Ascension Parish Government Healthcare workers. Total contract amount of \$89,122.50 with Ironshore** – Patrick Goldsmith, 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 Joel Robert. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion passed with no objection.
- j. Discussion of Shaw Construction Services contract** - Bill Dawson, Utilities Director and Hermina Irvin, Grants Director along with Paul Ladner and Charles Lagreca of Shaw Construction Services and Stanley Duval, Legal Counsel for Shaw Construction Services spoke to the Committee on this item. There was also a public comment by Mr. Brian Burnett on this item.
- k. 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** - Bill Dawson, Utilities Director 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 John Cagnolatti. The motion passed with no objection. Councilwoman Casso then made a second motion that an Executive Session be added to the next Council agenda for Parish Legal Counsel and Administration to provide a thorough timeline history of this project along with expenditures for the project including reasons for the delays and discussion of liability for these delays. The motion was seconded by Councilman Aaron Lawler. The motion passed with no objection.
- l. Bid results and approval to enter into contract for Asphalt Concrete Pavement Preservation 2023 with the lowest responsive bid submitted by Material Resources, Inc. in the amount of \$948,192.50** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion passed with no objection.
- m. Approval of Renewal of Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Army and Co-Applicants, The Ascension Parish Government and The East Ascension Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1 for the expedited processing of Section 10/404 permit applications** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dempsey Lambert. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion passed with no objection.
- n. Approval for President Cointment to enter into an agreement with the Capital Region Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) action plan development grant with the 20% local match paid for by Ascension Parish of \$19,546.79** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilwoman Teri Casso. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion passed with no objection.

- o. **Approval of Amendment 1: Grant Extension to the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Recreation and Park Association and Ascension Parish Government Recreation Department for the South Louisiana Fairgrounds (LaLa Regira Field) Sport Renovation Project, to be extended through June 30, 2024. Total Grant Amount \$40,000** - Michael King, Recreation Director spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to forward to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Alvin Thomas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion passed with no objection.
- p. **Contract Report of all Contracts/Agreements entered into in the month of May 2023** – Patrick Goldsmith, Chief Financial Officer spoke to the Committee on this item. Councilman Aaron Lawler requested follow-up at the next Council meeting with an explanation on the three separate contracts listed on the contract report for Corporate Mechanical.

(6) FINANCE REPORTS

- a. **Budget Amendment #3 - 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 Councilman John Cagnolatti. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dempsey Lambert. The motion passed with no objection.
- b. **Financial Update - Open Finance at**
<https://ascensionparishla.finance.socrata.com/#!/dashboard> - Chairman Mason 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 at 7:05 pm on a motion by Councilman Dempsey Lambert, seconded by Councilman Aaron Lawler.