



Parish of Ascension

Office of Finance

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11, 2024 - 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 Chairman Michael Mason. Sheriff Bobby Webre led the Committee in the invocation and pledge.
- (2) **Roll Call** – All members were present with the exception of Councilman Brett Arceneaux, Councilwoman Pam Alonso, and Councilman Travis Turner who arrived at 5:34 pm.
- (3) **Chair's Additions** – There were no additions to the agenda, but it was announced that the agenda order would be altered. Item 5-k would be heard first, and Item 5-g would be heard second due to Sheriff Webre being in attendance and needing to leave to attend another meeting.
- (4) **Public Comment** – Chairman Mason announced that anyone wishing to speak should sign in now.

(5) GENERAL BUSINESS

***Item 5-k was heard first and Item 5-g was heard second. Remainder of items were heard in order as they appeared on the agenda.**

- a. **Volunteer Ascension Annual Report as required by Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Ascension Parish Government for \$25,000.00 funding given annually** - Sherry Denig with Volunteer Ascension spoke to the Committee on this item.
- b. **Explanation and review of Reagent Chemical & Research, Inc. Notice of Non-Compliance from Louisiana Economic Development for the 2022 reporting period** - **Contract #20190153-ITE and approval to forward to the next Council meeting for vote** - Lisa Laws with Ascension Economic Development Corporation along with Jake

Nickens with Summit Credits and Quinn Gautreau with Reagent Chemical spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council to vote on whether or not to impose a penalty was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objection.

- c. **Approval of 2024-2025 Ascension Parish Government Health Care Services Professional Liability Insurance** - Bret Hughes with Hughes Insurance spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion passed with no objection.
- d. **Approval to enter into a Subrecipient Agreement with East Ascension Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1 for the management of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative - Round 2 John LeBlanc Detention Improvements** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion passed with no objection.
- e. **Approval to enter into a Subrecipient Agreement with East Ascension Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1 for the management of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative - Round 2 Lower Bayou Conway Drainage Improvements** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
- f. **Approval of Amendment #2 to the Professional Services Contract with ELOS Environmental, LLC to increase the not to exceed amount by \$200,000.00, for a total not to exceed amount of \$220,000.00 to cover the cost of additional services provided, such as concerns with LAlumina and hauling of red dirt** James LeBlanc, Director of Governmental Affairs, Ruth Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer and Mike Bellone with ELOS Environmental 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 Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objection.
- g. **Approval of Renewal of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for maintenance and upkeep of the jail by Ascension Parish Sheriff Bobby Webre. Total not to exceed amount of \$2,500,000.00 per year for the four (4) year renewal term** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion passed with no objection.
- h. **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Ascension Parish Government and the Town of Sorrento for the Parish to assist with certain road repairs within the boundaries of the Town of Sorrento** - Ruth Phillips, Chief Administrative 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.
- i. **Approval of Renewal of the Participation Agreement with St. Bernard Parish Sheriff for housing of juveniles to accommodate six (6) male juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 at a cost of \$250.00 per day per bed** - Ruth Phillips, Chief

Administrative Officer spoke to the Committee 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 Blaine Petite. The motion passed with no objection.

- j. **Approval of Amendment #3 to the Master Services Contract with Enmon Enterprises, LLC dba Jani-King of Baton Rouge to increase the contract amount by \$300,000.00, for a total not to exceed amount of \$1,594,093.00 due to additional events at Lamar Dixon Expo Center, and to pay the remaining invoices for the contract term** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joel Robert. The motion passed with no objection.
- k. **Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Ascension Parish Government and the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office to contribute funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 each to the Bobby Webre's Community Outreach Initiative, Inc., a 501(c)3 public charity for the operation and administration of the newly created "Eyes on Ascension" program** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion passed with no objection.
- l. **Presentation of spending plan for Opioid Settlement Funds** - Colleen Arceneaux, Health & Community Development Director spoke to the Committee on this item.
- m. **Approval of Ordinance declaring surplus and authorization of the sale and/or transfer of miscellaneous movable equipment** – A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion passed with no objection.
- n. **Bid Results and approval to enter into contract with R.J. Daigle & Sons Contractors, Inc. for asphalt concrete reconstruction and overlay improvements (indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract) 2024. Total Contract amount not to exceed \$4,419,335.00** – 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.
- o. **Approval of Amendment #2 to the security services contract with Merchants Security Services, Inc. to extend the contract term through July 16, 2024, and to add another \$10,000.00 to the contact amount for a total not to exceed amount of \$114,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.
- p. **Results of Request for Qualifications and approval to enter into a contract with Rollo Security Services, Inc. for overnight security services to include one unarmed security officer to perform services in a manner that enhances security of the interior and exterior of the Lamar Dixon Expo Center buildings and grounds. Pricing as per fee schedule** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.

- q. **Approval of Amendment #1 for the contract with Corporate Mechanical Contractors, Inc., to increase the not to exceed amount by \$50,000.00, for a total of \$400,000.00. Total budget amount to be shared between two providers** - Jason Thompson, Maintenance Department spoke to the Committee on this item. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objection.
- r. **Approval of Amendment #1 for the contract with Gallo Mechanical Services, LLC, to increase the not to exceed amount by \$50,000.00, for a total of \$400,000.00. Total budget amount to be shared between two providers** - 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.
- s. **Approval of Change Order #2 - GeoSport Lighting Systems, LLC for South Louisiana Fairgrounds Lighting Upgrades Project, to increase contract time by an additional 131 days for a new substantial completion date of July 2, 2024 and decrease contract price by an additional -\$20,000.00 for a total contract price of \$462,393.32 for deduction of punch list items** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Chase Melancon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Travis Turner. The motion passed with no objection.
- t. **Results of Request for Qualifications for the Lamar Dixon Gym Leak Remediation and approval to enter into a contract with Holly Smith Architects to assess existing building and infrastructure and to define and design repairs needed to remediate moisture intrusion/condensation problems at the Ascension Gymnasium located on the grounds of the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, LA** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Travis Turner. The motion was seconded by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion passed with no objection.
- u. **Results of Request for Qualifications for Feed Water Storage Tanks Project and approval to enter into a contract with Principal Engineering to support the Parish by providing professional design services under a professional services contract to renovate our water storage tanks** - 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.
- v. **Approval of Change Order #1 with Ready Power, LLC for the Ascension Parish 5% Initiative Generator Project - HMGP 4263-DR-LA #20 Project. This change order is for a decrease in the amount of -\$6,450.00 to the contract amount for a total contract amount of \$146,848.00, as a credit for the cost between the plans and this modification to the feeders from the generators to the transfer switches** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Oliver Joseph. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion passed with no objection.
- w. **Contract Report of all Contracts/Agreements entered into in the month of May 2024** - Chairman Mason 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. 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.
- b. Monthly report of new positions added to the Ascension Parish Government Classification Plan in the month of May 2024 - No new positions were added –**
Chairman Mason stated that there were no new positions added to the Classification Plan in the month of May 2024.

- (7) Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm on a motion by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck, seconded by Councilman Todd Varnado.