



Parish of Ascension

Office of Finance

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 8, 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. Councilman Brett Arceneaux led the Committee in the invocation and pledge.
- (2) **Roll Call** - All members were present with the exception of Councilman Joel Robert, Councilman Travis Turner, and Councilman Chase Melancon.
- (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. **Quarterly update on Ascension Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) activities including meetings with stakeholders, allies and current business retention meetings and review of projects in the pipeline** - Kate MacArthur, President/CEO Ascension Economic Development Corporation spoke to the Committee on this item.
 - b. **Approval of renewal of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Ascension Economic Development Corporation to promote, encourage and develop industry and commerce in the Parish of Ascension and for the purpose of providing and serving the residents of Ascension Parish with greater economy and efficiency related to economic development within the Parish. Total agreement amount not to exceed \$322,800.00** - Kate MacArthur, President/CEO Ascension Economic Development Corporation and 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 Dennis Cullen. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brett Arceneaux. The motion passed with no objection.

- c. **Approval of Resolution to approve funding for the New River Stormwater Management Pump Station Project by allocation of funds from the Mega Fund in the amount of \$15,000,000.00** – Parish President Cointment spoke to the Committee on this item. A public comment in favor of the item was made by Mr. Shelby Ballard. A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.
- d. **Approval of renewal of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish, Fire District #3 and Prairieville Fire Department for the compensation of part-time firefighters for the 2025 calendar year. Total agreement amount not to exceed \$490,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Blaine Petite. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brett Arceneaux. The motion passed with no objection.
- e. **Approval of renewal of the Master Services Contract with Lofton Industrial Services, LLC for temporary staffing. Total contract amount not to exceed \$125,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion was seconded by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion passed with no objection.
- f. **Approval to amend the Ascension Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - Animals and Fowl, Article III, Animal Control, to clarify language related to registration and rabies tags and to align the ordinance language with state statute** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilwoman Pam Alonso. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion passed with no objection.
- g. **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 Brian Hillensbeck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.
- h. **Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Maintenance Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Office of Engineering for mowing and litter pickup, to increase the stipulated minimum number of maintenance cycles in Fiscal Year 2025 from four (4) to five (5). This agreement is DOTD funded** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion passed with no objection.
- i. **Approval of Addendum #2 to AIA Document B133 with Grace Hebert Curtis Architects, LLC for the Ascension Parish Courthouse Construction. This contract came in under budget at \$150,000.00; therefore, the new not to exceed amount of the contract is being reduced from \$180,000.00 to \$151,404.85, which includes reimbursable expenses in the amount of \$1,404.85** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brett Arceneaux. The motion passed with no objection.

- j. **Approval of Amendment #1 to the Master Contract for Professional Services with McKim & Creed, Inc. for the Water Sector Program. The amendment only extends the term of the project through September 25, 2025, and is retroactive to September 25, 2024, and does not affect the original contract price** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion passed with no objection.
- k. **Approval of Change Order #9 - Hendrick Construction, Inc., for the PR 929 and Parker Road Roundabout Project in the Move Ascension Program, Project H.006457.6, for partial project acceptance. This change order value is \$0. The total contract amount remains unchanged at \$2,597,730.94** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Brian Hillensbeck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion passed with no objection.
- l. **Approval of renewal of the Legal Services Contract with Larry W. Buquoi for real estate acquisitions and miscellaneous land related work. Total contract amount not to exceed \$50,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion was seconded by Councilman Todd Varnado. The motion passed with no objection.
- m. **Approval of renewal of the Legal Services Contract with Stemmans & Alley, PLLC to represent the Parish in insurance litigation, including Workers' Compensation and any other legal matters necessary. Total contract amount not to exceed \$45,000** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilwoman Pam Alonso. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion passed with no objection.
- n. **Approval of renewal of the Legal Services Contract with Jeff Diez for legal advice, advisory opinions, counsel and legal assistance to the Parish President, and the staff and administrators of the Executive Office on an as-needed, on-call continuing basis. Total contract amount not to exceed \$90,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilman Dennis Cullen. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Pam Alonso. The motion passed with no objection.
- o. **Approval of renewal of the Legal Services Contract with Ledet Law Group, LLC as Counsel for Alan Braud vs Ascension Parish Council, Delacey Joseph vs Ascension Parish, and use of his services on any further personnel or employment issues or lawsuits against Ascension Parish Government. Total contract amount not to exceed \$60,000.00** - A motion to approve forwarding to the full Council for approval was made by Councilwoman Pam Alonso. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blaine Petite. The motion passed with no objection.
- p. **Contract Report of all Contracts/Agreements entered into in the month of September 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. Monthly Report of new positions added to the Ascension Parish Government Classification Plan in the month of September 2024** – Chairman Mason announced that there were no new positions added in the month of September.
- b. Financial Update - Open Finance at**
<https://ascensionparishla.finance.socrata.com/#!/dashboard> - Chairman Mason 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 5:46 pm on a motion by Councilman Todd Varnado, seconded by Councilman Blaine Arceneaux.