

Tallulah, Louisiana
January 8, 2024

The Madison Parish Police Jury convened at the Courthouse Building, Tallulah, Louisiana on Monday, January 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Visitors: G. Hayden, D. Chase, G. Johnson, T. Bailey, H. Harris, F. T. Williams

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable Marion Hopkins, Clerk of Court, administered the oath of office to the following newly elected police jurors:

District 1 Jerry Hicks
District 2 Stanley Ogden
District 3 Dave Wilson
District 4 Johnny Hughes
District 5 Jane Sanders

The invocation was given by Mrs. Jane Sanders followed by the announcement of a quorum and roll call.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mrs. Sanders acting as chair for the organizational meeting declared all offices vacant.

Election of President: Mr. Hughes nominated Jane Sanders for President. There were no other nominations thus, there was a roll call vote resulting in five (5) yeas and no (0) nays: Mrs. Sanders accepted the position of President.

Election of Vice President: Mr. Wilson nominated Johnny Hughes as Vice-President. There were no other nominations thus, there was a roll call vote resulting in five (5) yeas and no (0) nays: Mr. Hughes accepted the position of Vice-President.

Finance Chairman: Mr. Ogden nominated Mr. Hicks as Finance Chairman. There were no other nominations thus, there was a roll call vote resulting in five (5) yeas and no (0) nays: Mr. Hicks accepted the position of Finance Chairman.

Mr. Hicks offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Ogden to appoint Mrs. Margaret Dew as Secretary/Treasurer for the next two years. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING

A Public Comments Period held at the beginning of the meeting to allow for comments on agenda items received no comments.

President Sanders requested the approval of the Consent Agenda (December 18th and December 22nd minutes, the December Building and Financial Report and the Semi-Monthly Outstanding Invoice Report.) However, there was a correction to December 18th minutes to

replace Preston Walker of District 1 with Jerry Hicks. A motion was made by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to approve the Consent Agenda. No discussion. Motion carried.

There was no report by the President.

The Secretary/Treasurer asked for permission to pay all invoices based on available funds. The President asked for a motion to pay outstanding invoices with available funds or as funds become available. A motion was offered by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Wilson, to pay the outstanding invoices with available funds or as funds become available. No discussion. Motion carried.

Each juror reported on concerns within their district.

Committee appointments were as follows:

- Sewage – Hicks
- Fire – D. Wilson
- Garbage – J. Sanders
- Public Works – J. Sanders
- Road & Drainage – J. Hughes
- Nuisance – J. Hughes

Mr. Ogden offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Hicks, to approval North LA Criminalistics Lab Amended 2023 Budget and their 2024 proposed Budget. No discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to approve the renewal of the Alcohol Beverage Permit for The Ice Box. No discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to approve the renewal of the Alcohol Beverage Permit for The Tallulah Travel Plaza Casino. No discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Hicks offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to issue a resolution calling an election to increase the parish-wide fire millage to four mills. No discussion. Motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Jerry Hicks and seconded by Dave Wilson:

RESOLUTION 2024- 01

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of Madison, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Madison, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Madison, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 26 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION
(FIRE MILLAGE)

Shall the Parish of Madison, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), levy a special tax of 4 mills on all property subject to taxation within the Parish (an estimated \$440,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2025 and ending with the year 2034, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, maintaining, improving, operating and supporting fire protection facilities, equipment and services, including purchasing fire trucks and other fire fighting equipment, to provide fire protection within the Parish?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the Parish once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the President is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Police Jury Meeting Room, 100 North Cedar Street, Tallulah, Louisiana, on **MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024**, at **FOUR O'CLOCK (4:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Parish will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the President and/or Secretary-Treasurer of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Madison Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Madison Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Hicks, Ogden, Wilson, Hughes and Sanders

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 8th day of January, 2024.

There was no discussion of correspondence nor were there any public comments.

Mr. Hughes offered a motion to adjourn.