

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR SESSION, held in the meeting Room in the Courthouse, Marksville, La
Tuesday, July 9, 2024

The Police Jury of the Parish of Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, met for a Regular Meeting at its meeting place, on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in the Police Jury Room of the Parish Courthouse, 312 North Main Street, Marksville.

There were present: Mark Borrel, Jacob Coco, Darrell Wiley, Clyde Benson, Travis Franks, Allen Thomas, Earnest Anderson, Tookie Pearce, Dr. Jenny Falls, Rhett Desselle- Pan American Engineers, Josph Frank- Director of Homeland Security, Angelle Barbin, Twyla Lemoine, District Attorney Charles Riddle, Reverand Allen Holmes, Maria Trichell, Amy Guidry, Marcus Guillory Delta Engineering, Julie LarCart, Kevin Bordelon, Ronald Coco, Francis Keller, David Skoug, Sherril Austin, Jimmy Landry, Dr. L.J. Mayeux, Adam Bordelon- Registrar of Voters, Robert Mayeux, Torrick Friels-Marksville City Councilman, Michael Gremillion-Marksville City Councilman, Brendon Gaspard-Pan American Engineers, Travis Laborde, Danny Smith-Marksville City Councilman, Mark Sayes, Jermaine Williams-Waste Connections and Chris Normand

Absent: McKinley Keller

The meeting opened with the prayer by Sam Pearce followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wiley announced all items on the agenda are open for public comment. Anyone desiring to speak, should fill out a "Request to Speak" card.

Roll call by Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, to adopt the minutes of the Police Jury Meeting held on June 11, 2024. On vote, the motion passed.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Sam Pearce, to adopt the minutes of the Tourist Commission meeting held on June 24, 2024. On vote, the motion passed.

DELEGATIONS:

Doug Burke-Kolder & Slaven presented the audit report.

Marcus Guillory-Delta Engineering Group

Gave an update on the submission of the Target Range application.

Travis Laborde-in opposition of the proposed garbage can requirements. Urged the board to vote against the change.

Prior to the following motion, two delegates were recognized to speak.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Earnest Anderson, affirming a previous motion to allow cutting the tree and placing the statute and plaza on the Main Street side of the courthouse. The Solomon Northup Committee agrees to plant 8-10 trees of the boards choice in a location they choose.

President Wiley asked for questions/comments.

Juror Mark Borrel stated he supports the statute, but he is opposed to cutting the tree and placing the plaza when there are plenty of beautiful places to put it, by the fountain was one place. He went on to say the fountain lasted one year and most people do not know it is there.

Franics Keller asked when the motion was made if he (Juror Borrel) voted to cut the tree and install the plaza. He stated he did not vote for that. He voted for placing the statue, only, nothing was mentioned about a tree.

District Attorney Charles Riddle gave a timeline of events for the planning of Solomone Northup Statue. He advised the Jury the Solomon Northup Committee of Commemorative Works has agreed to plant 8-10 trees of the board's choice, in a location they desired. He suggests cedar elm after consulting a tree expert. SNCC has spent \$220,000, two hundred volunteer hours. He went on to say many people stated they did not know who Solomon Northup was. Mr. Riddle informed

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the jury, white politicians of the parish freed Solomon. In closing he asked the jury to move forward with the placement of the plaza.

Dr. Jenny Falls was recognized to speak regarding the statute. She handed out two color documents. One containing photographs of the statue with the tree and shade dated October 2022 and the statute with the plaza she labeled as after-the-fact, without the tree and shade. Both showed differences in its position as it relates to the courthouse. Dr Falls provided another document containing four other locations that would be alternatives to cutting the tree, which includes the stairway landing, fountain, fountain/niche, or the current main plaza. She felt that there was no compromise with its placement and seemed as though it was already decided. The first discrepancy she pointed out was that the jury was never presented with renderings of the plaza. She spoke to four jurors who said they never received anything. She went on to say there was no doubt the statute was approved, but no other indication of a twenty-eight-foot plaza was mentioned. Dr Falls also disagreed with a local newspaper, that the headline was misleading as there was no issue between the tree and a statue. In closing, she advised the board there was a meeting on the lawn where they stood under the tree, she felt removing it would be detrimental to visitors during the hot summer months. She stressed again, the jury should have been informed before, not after, of the plaza.

The audience made comments.

Juror Borrel pointed out at a recent meeting on the lawn, all in attendance stood under the tree.

On vote:

Yea	Allen Thomas, Clyde Benson, Jacob Coco, Earnest Anderson
Nay	Sam Pearce, Travis Franks, Mark Borrel
Abstain	None
Absent	McKinley Keller

The motion carried.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Allen Thomas to adopt changes for garbage can requirements.

On vote:

Yea	Allen Thomas and Travis Franks
Nay	Clyde Benson, Sam Pearce, Jacob Coco, Earnest Anderson, and Mark Borrel
Abstain	None
Absent	McKinley Keller

On vote, the motion failed.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Sam Pearce to adopt the change to blighted property ordinance. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas to accept the audit report as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas to approve Road District 2 culvert, \$14,000, On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas to adopt a policy for organizations hosting events at the Big Bend Museum to purchase general liability insurance. For events with 50 or less participants the liability policy would need to be \$50,000-\$100,000. For events with 50-100 participants the liability coverage needs to be \$1,000,000. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Earnest Anderson to call for a public hearing August 13th at 4:45 p.m. to abandon a portion of GL Strange Road, make private, grant landowners' access. On vote, the motion carried.

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On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Clyde Benson to reappoint Brenda Sampson to the Bunkie Hospital Board. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Clyde Benson to reappoint Dr. LaPrairie to the Bunkie Hospital Board. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Clyde Benson to add DOT standard to our existing Fiber Optic application in parish Right-of-Way. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded Clyde Benson that R.V. permit renewals will be done once per year, \$30 per camper, photos required. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to sponsor Keep Louisianan Beautiful litter campaign, initial cost of \$250, and \$150 annual thereafter. (Polly Campbell will be the organizer). On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas to approve Rubert Ward asbestos invoices \$675 will be reimbursed by FEMA. On vote, the motion carried.

President to announce the intent to call for special election on December 7, 2024, to renew the library tax millage.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas, granting Secretary/Treasurer to pay all bills and waive a reading of the whole.

There being no further business, on motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

s/ Darrell Wiley
President

s/Jamey M. Wiley
Secretary-Treasurer