

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR SESSION, held in the meeting Room in the Courthouse, Marksville, La
Tuesday, May 9, 2023

The Police Jury of the Parish of Avoyelles, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session, in the Meeting Room, Courthouse, Marksville, La, on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

There were present: Mark Borrel, Bobby Bordelon, Jacob Coco, Kirby Roy, McKinley Keller, Darrell Wiley, Clyde Benson, Glenn McKinley, John Earles, Laura Gaspard- Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Rayford Laborde- Avoyelles Parish Planning Commission; Jenny Falls, Twyla Lemoine, Charles Riddle-District Attorney, Jen Piazza-Legislative Aide, Teryl St. Romain, Rev. Allen Holmes, Johnny Rogers, Rev. Guillory, Rev. Chris Augustine, Dr. Holcombe, Liz Leger, Jenny Falls, Julie Benne-Police. Gerad Lacour, Maria Trichel, Phillip Bartel, Donald Barker, Kevin Bordelon, Terrell Pierite, Glenn Goudeau, and Jacob Guillory

Absent were: None

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by McKinley Keller, followed by a prayer.

Roll call by Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion by Bobby Bordelon, seconded by Jacob Coco, to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 11, 2023, printed in the "Weekly News", and mailed to all Jurors. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Glenn McKinley, seconded by Mark Borrel, to accept the minutes of the Tourist Commission Meeting held April 24, 2023, as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Bobby Bordelon: Kirby I'd like to say I attended a luncheon hosted by the LSU Ag Center.

Mr. Kirby Roy: Bobby, why don't you bring up about the black bear.

Mr. Bordelon: Also, I live in Spring Bayou we've been having a lot of problems with black bears, again, and the population is growing. I've gotten with Wildlife and Fisheries and on the 18th, at 6 p.m. at the LSU Ag Center, we have a Wildlife Biologist coming in and will do a Q & A with the people and we have to come together. He will have some valuable information.

motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Glenn McKinley, to accept the financial report offered by the Secretary/Treasurer. On vote, the motion carried.

Persons to address the Jury:

Donald Barker-Engineer for Mohr Associates on behalf of the Cocoville Estates

I'm here on behalf of the developer of Cocoville Estates, thank you again for putting me on the agenda. I wasn't here at the last meeting. I think the final acceptance of the plat was tabled. We're just trying to find a way to get approval from you guys. We worked with the Planning Commission and Kevin Bordelon, we've addressed his comments and provided the parish with a three-year maintenance bond, which link a developer to fit any issues in the subdivision in that three-year period before the roads are turned over to the parish. We feel like we've done what we've needed to, to satisfy the requirements to get final approval. I don't know if this is the forum as a delegate to get this approved tonight. Are there other situations out there. We haven't been provided with anything.

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Mr. Bordelon: I will gladly let you know that is in my district and that subdivision is coming apart. I was very disappointed to see a six- to eight-month-old road crumbling, and you want the police Jury that has a very poor infrastructure that we can't take care of already to take over a road that's failing. My fellow Juror, Mark Borrel brought a big chunk of the road last month during a meeting. I just feel like a road that's crumbling this quick, six months, you go in there and do a quick update and in three years we are stuck with it. We're talking two hundred-fifty to three hundred-thousand-dollar houses. I can promise you if I am the Police Jury then and they call me and I tell them we don't have the funds, and go throw cold mix in it, that will be unacceptable.

Mr. Barker: Is it appropriate to set up a visit through Kevin Bordelon to have us go out there and look it and address the issues.

D.A. Riddle: You are aware of the minimum standards for roads for a road to be accepted?

Mr. Barker: Yes.

Mr. Riddle: Did they meet the standards?

Mr. Kevin Bordelon: They have met the standards. There were issues with drainage and erosion, we had issues with the asphalt, but I wanted to wait for them to fix the asphalt to see if anymore came out. We had two areas we were concerned with. At the time we went out in January, we had no shoulders breaking up. Once the concrete trucks started coming in, and the whole part of the three years warranty is anywhere there's a weak spot, but if the Jury wants everything fixed now, we get the contractor to come back, we can meet with them. The contractor called me back, I said look, we will turn it over to Pan American to see if they can find something I did wrong and let them do it in the future.

Mr. Bordelon: I don't think we want to get stuck with something and your subdivision goes bankrupt and in a year, you've sold all the lots you want to sell and we're stuck like we were in Kirby's district, and we had to go to court. We have to look at taxpayer's dollars and what they represent.

MR. Terryl St. Romain: Kirby, I rode on it this afternoon, there's already some potholes, holding water, it rough, and whoever did the asphalt job should not be in the construction business. That thing isn't going to last.

Mr. Roy: Donald, I went riding today too. Two months ago, I would have disagreed with these guys, but I took pictures and there are cracks, especially along the shoulders, towards the T, going into the T. There was an indent I'm going to call it, the last road on the left, it still has that dip. I was stunned Mark brought a piece of the road last month. There are some concerns.

Mr. Bordelon: To be a road this soon, and even if you turned it over in three years, we have this problem now, what will we have in four years, five years.

Mr. Roy: This is true in years to come. Yes, it met the specs, but it's not holding up.

Mr. Mark Borrel: It's the shoulders, and the slope of the ditch. How do you cut that? You can still get permits and build homes, it's just the Jury Is not comfortable right now taking it on.

Mr. Borrel: Johnny, do you still have a problem?

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Mr. Johnny Rogers: Yea, most of their water, in the front, is draining on my property. I promise you, if I put a dam where the water wouldn't come on my property they will fix it then, because the water would lay right next to that office.

Mr. Roy: Donald, I want this man pleased.

Mr. Bordelon: Every time they come, its always they are going to take care of him, and they never do.

Mr. Barker: I wasn't aware of that. I wasn't involved in the building process, but that is something we can work on.

Mr. Rogers: They've been saying, but they haven't been doing nothing.

Mr. Roy: Donald, work with Kevin to bring this up to par.

Mr. Barker: We will set a meeting.

Mr. Borrel: What did you say Johnny?

Mr. Rogers: When they were doing the soil cement, I told them the water was going to be drainage on my property. They said they would take care of it.

Mr. Roy: Alright. Thank Donald.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Allen Holmes.

Mr. Allen Holmes: Mr. President and Board Members, there was a letter that was sent to the board and myself about the petition that was certified earliest his year. There are some concerns. We live by the law. We have to live by law and order. Everyone has the right to do a petition, but you shouldn't be able to do one when the Registrar of Voters came here and the questioned was asked, was it did properly, and did she follow the guidelines. She said to this board, and I have it right in front of me, no, it was not because the law which was Louisiana Revised Statute 18:3stated there were certain rules and obligations that had to be followed. Let me tell you, I had great respect for our Registrar of Voters, but this will have to be decided in District Court, not by the Jury because one, the Registrar will be out on the stand, and the question would be asked of the rules that she did not live up to. You know there was a separate rule, it should have been posted in the newspaper, and it had to be out there for everybody to view it. If you look at the signatures, there's some real concerning things. So, everybody has a right, but we do have a court system, and I encourage the Jury to let his thing go before the Judge, and as the attorney said last month, we have two Judges. By doing so it will become legal under the law. If you made your decision, the letter from the lawyer stated the guidelines, but he didn't give you the rules it had to follow. Coming into Marksville is a 35-mph speed limit. If I do 70, I'm breaking the law. You have to follow the law, and as Charlie will tell you we we're in federal court for 387 years, and we followed the rules. I have great respect for each of you and the petitioners, but we must follow the law. Mr. President and Board members the attorney from Baton Rouge said follow the rules which should have been followed. Are there any questions?

Mr. Roy: Any questions? Thanks, Mr. Allen.

Dr. Holcombe: Can you start the timer? This will be very brief. As you know this is in relation to establishing a health hub in Simmesport, that is one of the poorest and sickest places in the state. So, the Jury in its wisdom has decided it can help that area by establishing this health hub at a very modest cost to

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the jury and you will reap great health benefits. This is a very good visionary project. I appreciate your support. You should have a budget there, very detailed, with many health benefits.

Mrs. Liz Leger: Dr Holcombe and I both have spent a lot of time on the tv the last two years, and I just want to thank everyone who's helped Gerad LaCour he's a big part of this. As a non- profit, we work very hard in the community to meet people's needs, Bobby Bordelon brought some better news about this today.

Mr. Bordelon: Kirby, if I could just, Tim Curry who is the administrator of Avoyelles Hospital sent me a text and I want to share it with

Mr. Clyde Benson: Does this have to do with the health unit? Can we just wait until we get to that on the agenda.

Mr. Bordelon: It will be quick. Well, yes, it has something to do with the health unit.

Mr. Benson: Yea, it's on the agenda.

Mr. Bordelon: I understand, but I'm going to get it over with real quick.

Mr. Roy: It's alright, Danny.

Mr. Bordelon: I read the Avoyelles Parish Police jury report regarding the new health unit, just an FYI the hospital is currently constructing a new health clinic in Moreauville. If you would like us to do something later in Simmesport, this is the reason I brough it up, we will. I imagine having a hospital run a local health clinic would be ideal. Please share with other Jurors. Hope you have a good day. I wanted you to hear that as well Dre. Holcombe.

Mr. Roy: Thank you. Thanks everyone who has been working together, putting this together the past few months.

Mr. Borrel: Charles, we don't have no problem with that?

Mr. Riddle: With what? Without bidding?

Mr. Roy: Lets wait that on the agenda. Charles, you're next, autopsy, accident that happened in Mansura.

Mr. Riddle: Yea, they have my name because Jonathan is on vacation. I just found out about this a few days ago. I think the Town of Mansura sent a letter to the Police Jury saying they dint want to pay for the autopsy of the death that occurred in Mansura because the person was an employee of the Police Jury. The law is clear, and there is no exception. We just need authority from you all to respond and say if they don't pay we will file a suit.

On motion by Bobby Bordelon, seconded by Clyde Benson authorizing the District Attorney to write a letter to the Town of Mansura to pay the Autopsy invoice.

On vote:

Yea	Clyde Benson, McKinley Keller, Mark Borrel, Darrell Wiley, John Earles, Bobby Bordelon and Jacob Coco
Nay	None
Absent	None
Abstain	Glenn McKinley

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The motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Darrell Wiley, authorizing the President to enter into an Agreement with the Fifth Ward Community Center for a Library Branch. On vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Terryl St. Romain: Kirby, I went to the Library Board Meeting \$60,000 was allocated for Plauchville.

Mr. Bordelon: Bordelonville is on hold, and I don't know why. I assume it's because of Fifth Ward and Plaucheville

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Bobby Bordelon, Clyde Benson, Glenn McKinley, McKinley Keller, Mark Borrel, Darrell Wiley, and John Earles Mr. Bordelon: Before we make this motion, can we please have our attorney weigh in on this.

Mr. Riddle: As of this time no one has filed suit against the authority to establish the commission. It is my understanding that certain people want to file a suit, but no suit has been filed. The court cannot decide something without it going before the court. The Police Jury cannot be the entirety it has to be a citizen of the parish. The attorney in New Orleans sent a resolution authorizing the Jury to determine the number of commissioners as it stand now, and I wasn't at the meeting when you decided to send it off to the state what the Registrar did, but I understand they sent it back and said listen to your local DA, well you know.

Mr. Benson: I don't think the DA's name was mentioned.

Secretary/Treasurer: The District Attorney and Attorney General.

Mr. Benson: It says legal counsel.

Secretary/Treasurer: Yes, that's him (points to District Attorney, Riddle)

Mr. Riddle: Basically, the petition has been certified, no one has challenged it in court. Therefore, it is certified. Your obligation is to determine the number of commissioners. Failure to do that is administrative duty. If you fail to do that, my prediction is there is going to be a Writ of Mandamus filed that will require you to do an administrative act.

Mr. Bordelon: Who's going to file this against us?

Mr. Riddle: I would assume the group who got the petition passed.

Mr. Benson: That's a threat!

Mr. Riddle: I'm not making that threat; I'm simply saying what I expect. The Writ of Mandamus requires you to show cause why you shouldn't enact it, and you will be slammed with attorney fees. Now any tother party can step in.

Mr. Holmes: There were multiple problems with the petition. We will blink our eyes and hope it just goes away? I think the Jury should vote, and they have a right to file a motion with the judge as Charles assistant recommended. We can close our eyes and follow what should not legally be done, and they can file the Mandamus, but the Judge will ask these questions. So, I would say to the Jury vote no.

Mr. Roy: Mark, are you going to make the motion?

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Mrs. Twyla Lemoine: What's the motion?

Mr. Roy: to adopt a resolution calling for an election for a Home Rule Charter Commission.

Secretary/Treasurer: That shall consist of Mr. Mark? That is the option.

Mr. Borrel: I think we should go with the nine.

Mr. Bordelon: So, again, you are telling us as a Jury we don't certify...

Mr. Riddle: That's something I want to make really, really clear if this comes back with attorney fees, don't fuss at me. You can't certify it, only the Registrar does.

Mr. Bordelon: So, you're saying even if some thinks it's not done correctly, we still have to vote?

Mr. Riddle: Yes, and I'm not saying they wouldn't win the lawsuit.

Mr. Roy: Any other discussion?

Audience: I heard the petition was incomplete if the Judge says ok. That is how this town operates, just pass it anyway.

On vote:

Yea	Mark Borrel, Darrell Wiley, Jacob Coco, and Bobby Bordelon
Nay	Clyde Benson, Glenn McKinley, McKinley Keller, John Earles, and Kirby Roy
Absent	None
Abstain	None

The motion failed.

On motion by Darrell Wiley, seconded by Mark Borrel to adopt a non-roll forward millage resolution. On vote, the motion carried.

Mrs. Lemoine: I put my name up there and once again, I'm just saying.

Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs. Twyla would like to speak. She signed up to speak.

Mr. Roy: She didn't raise her hand.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Bobby Bordelon, to advertise a public hearing to hear objection to reducing the speed on Couvillion Street to 15 mph. On vote:

Yea	McKinley Keller, Mark Borrel, Darrell Wiley, John Earles, Bobby Bordelon and Jacob Coco
Nay	Clyde Benson
Absent	None
Abstain	None

The motion carried.

On motion by John Earles, seconded by McKinley Keller to accept Round VI Roadway Improvements as substantially complete. On vote, the motion carried.

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On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Mark Borrel giving authority to Acadian Ambulance to place a new office on Government Street. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by John Earles, seconded by Bobby Bordelon, to replace the roof on the mechanic shop not to exceed \$15,000.00. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by John Earles, seconded by Clyde Benson, to accept the quote from Advanced Environmental Services, \$ 25,000. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Clyde Benson to name Glenn Gremillion as an alternate to LWI, Region 2. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Bobby Bordelon to advertise seeking a location in Simmesport to accommodate a Health Hub. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Clyde Benson, granting authority to the Secretary-Treasurer to pay all bills and waive a reading of the whole. On vote, the motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by John Earles, the meeting adjourned.

s/Kirby Roy
President

s/Jamey M.Wiley
Secretary-Treasurer

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