

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR SESSION, held in the meeting Room in the Courthouse, Marksville, La
Tuesday, June 11, 2024

The Police Jury of the Parish of Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, met for a Regular Meeting at its meeting place, on Tuesday, June 11, 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, 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, Jacob Guillory, Delta Engineering, Marcus Guillory Delta Engineering, Julie LarCart, Kevin Bordelon, Representative Daryl Deshotel, Ronald Coco, Mike Rachal, James Cole, Colby Delahoussye, Francis Keller, and Mitizi Didier

Absent: McKinley Keller

The meeting opened with the prayer by District Attorney, Charles Riddle, 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 Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas, to adopt the minutes of the Police Jury Meeting held on May 14, 2024. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, to adopt the minutes of the Tourist Commission meeting held on May 20, 2024. On vote, the motion carried.

DELEGATIONS:

Representative Daryl Deshotel gave a legislative update. He informed the Jurors and those in the audience he was able to secure \$20,000 for the town of Plaucheville for a truck. Last year he requested \$3,000,000 for Recreational/Educational Complex, which was vetoed by Governor Edwards. This year during the legislative session he was able to finally secure 4,500,000 for the complex, which will be in the form of cash that requires no match from the parish. He went on to say in HB 700, 1.35 billion dollars will go towards making sure every household in Avoyelles has fiber. For road repairs, Representative Deshotel informed the Jury, in a supplemental bill the parish was awarded the following: \$255,00 for Ed Carrol Road, \$255,000 Louie Harmson Road, \$127,000 Firmin Road and \$118,000 J.B. Luke.

In addition, \$2,000,000 was secured for Capital Outlay which requires a 25% match. The coroner will receive \$100,000 for a Toxicology machine, which requires no match, and will be a huge savings for the parish, according to the Coroner, Dr. James Bordelon. \$30,000 was secured for the

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Village of Hessmer for a GPR machine that will aid water systems when installing fiber optic wiring. The machine is also available for other municipalities to use.

Colby Delahoussaye with HUB International gave an update related to health insurance increase.

Mike Rachal, Administrator for AVAP School in Hessmer asked the Jury to provide aggregate for approximately 60 yards of driveway leading to the school. Juror Franks interjected, advising Mr. Rachal, he was aware and addressing the issue. Mr. Rachal thanked the jury for allowing him to speak.

Travis Ducote has been before the Jury since 1999 asking for help with a canal located behind his home that causes significant flooding to his property and 200 or more others. He stated Representative Deshotel promised a grant for drainage two years ago, to which nothing had been received. He then asked about the signage that was recently installed at the maintenance facility for the late, Charles Jones. He wanted to know who authorized the purchase. He stated he reported this to the Attorney General as he felt it was stealing. President Wiley provided an explanation. He then went on to inquire about the \$15.00 RV permit. Juror Pearce as well as District Attorney Riddle provide information as to why the permit is required.

Jenny Falls asked Jurors if they voted on the placement of the Solomon Northup statute. She specifically questioned a detailed plan of placement. She reiterated numerous times she was not against the statute, rather the placement because it will eliminate one of the oak trees on the lawn. She feared placing the large plaza would attract the homeless population and increase litter. District Attorney Charles Riddle, also a member of the Solomon Northup Committee for Commemorative Works advised Ms. Falls and Juror on October 11, 2022, the Jurors at that's time unanimously voted to install the statute. He went on to say after listening to the minutes of that meeting, the possibility of removing the tree was mentioned. In April of 2024, he along with Jacques Goudeau and Reverend Allen Holmes, also members of the Solomon Northup Committee attended the meeting and presented a detailed plan of what to expect. Others in attendance asked for the statue to be erected between the trees. It was stated by doing so, it would obstruct parts of the structure and compromise both trees. President Wiley asked the for both sides to compromise. District Attorney Riddle agreed to inquire if the relocation was possible at this point.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, to table the placement (position) Solomon Northup statute. On vote

Yea	Mark Borrel, Travis Franks, Earnest Anderson, Jacob Coco, Allen Thomas, Sam Pearce
Nay	Clyde Benson
Abstain	
Absent	McKinley Keller

The motion to table carried.

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR SESSION, held in the meeting Room in the Courthouse, Marksville, La
Tuesday, June 11, 2024

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Earnest Anderson, to appoint Chris Lacour to the Port Commission. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to appoint Scott Williams to the Port Commission. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas to adopt the Weekly News as the official journal of the parish. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Mark Borrel, to adopt Marksville City Court budget as presented during Committee, \$102,880.14. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas, to approve Electronic Business System Invoice, on state contract for Marksville City Court recording device down payment \$4,155.00. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Earnest Anderson, to award Health Unit bid for the generator to the low bidder, Craig Electrical, \$120,295.00, warranty unknown. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, to award Road District 2 Round 9 project to the low bidder Diamon B Construction for \$864,000. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Sam Pearce, to adopt a resolution for ACT Director, Wilbert Carmouche to apply for CMP funds. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Sam Pearce to approve estimate from Couvillon Construction \$7,500 to replace the atrium roof. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, approving a quote to reinstall Sammuel Couvillon, HLA Enterprise \$839.55. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, to adopt the adjusted millage rates as listed in the resolution. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Earnest Anderson, to set forth the adjusted millage rates. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Clyde Benson, Blue Cross rates increase of \$3.70 per employee. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to authorize the payment of postage to Secretary of State \$17,237.05. If payment plans are available, I will refer to the Jury with options. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, authorizing the President to work with Delta Engineering Group, LLC to prepare and submit a "Planning and Development Grant"

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
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application for the LDWF Target Range Grant Program, on behalf of the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury. No match is required currently. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Clyde Benson to accept a quote from Service Air for Ag Center AC replacement, cost not to exceed \$6,458.00. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, to accept a quote from St. Romain Electric to replace 3rd Floor AC, cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Clyde Benson to accept a quote from St. Romain Electric to install a mini split in Judge Spruill's office, cost not to exceed \$6,000, price includes a lift. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion Jacob Coco, seconded by Clyde Benson to proceed with a Cash Sale of adjudicated property in Simmesport to Tonya Terell, for Fair Market Value \$4,000. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Clyde Benson to approve a new contract for the Simmesport Health Hub location change. There will be no increased costs associated with said change. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Earnest Anderson to adopt a resolution establishing the Avoyelles Justice of the Peace Litter Court. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Earnest Anderson to grant an RV exemption to build an RV set up for Francis Keller. Mr. Keller applied for the exemption from the state, it was approved Robert Guimbellot advised the Planning Commission it was acceptable. The set up will be 4 RV's, with one treatment plant, with a 200 amp disconnect (50 amp per RV). On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, 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 Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, the meeting adjourned.

s/ Darrell Wiley
President

s/Jamey M. Wiley
Secretary-Treasurer