

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY  
REGULAR SESSION, held in the meeting Room in the Courthouse, Marksville, La  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Police Jury of the Parish of Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, met for a Regular Meeting at its meeting place, the Police Jury Room of the Parish Courthouse, 312 North Main Street

There were present: Mark Borrel, Jacob Coco, Darrell Wiley, Clyde Benson, McKinley Keller, Travis Franks, Allen Thomas, Earnest Anderson, Jenny Falls, Rhett Desselle- Pan American Engineers, Joseph Frank- Director of Homeland Security, Laura Gaspard-Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Ronald Coco, Adam Bordelon, Twyla Lemoine, Francis Keller, Julie Laborde, Johnny Rogers, Todd Rabalais, Lem Thomas, Micha White, Mike Gremillion, Assistant District Attorney, Jonathan Gaspard, and Rashad Qaasim

Absent: Sam Pearce

The meeting opened with the prayer by President Wiley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wiley announced all items in the agenda are open for public comment. Anyone desiring to speak, should fill out a Request to Speak card. None requested.

Roll call by Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Jacob Coco, to adopt the minutes of the Police Jury Meeting held on February 13, 2024. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas to adopt the Minutes of the Police Jury Special Meeting held on March 5, 2024. On vote, the motion carried. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas to accept the minutes of the Tourist Commission held on February 26, 2024. On vote, motion carried.

President Wiley announced: Notice is hereby given that on April 9, 2024, at its regular meeting Police Jury plans to adopt a resolution to renew a 3.5 property tax for drainage.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Earnest Anderson to introduce an ordinance to merge voting precincts, as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to call for a public hearing on April 9, 2024, at 4:40 pm to hear any comments regarding precinct mergers. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Earnest Anderson, seconded by Allen Thomas to appoint Francis Keller to the Planning Commission for a term of four years. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Clyde Benson, to table No. 12. On motion, the vote carried.

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On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by McKinley Keller to introduce revisions to Chapter 3, Section 3-7, Alcoholic Beverages- Special event permit.

**Sec. 3-7. - Special event permit.**

(a) Sec. 3-7. - Special event permit.

**CURRENT:** Permit fees. There may be issued by the ~~parish tax administrator~~ a three-day special event permit to individuals or organizations for a permit fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for beverages of both high and low alcoholic content or fifty dollars (\$50.00) for beverages of low alcoholic content only.

**PROPOSED:** Permit fees. A permit shall be issued by the parish Secretary/Treasurer with approval by the President of the Police Jury a three-day special event permit to individuals or organizations for a permit fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for beverages of both high and low alcoholic content or fifty dollars (\$50.00) for beverages of low alcoholic content only.

(b)Time limitation. Permit shall be issued for three (3) consecutive days only; provided, however, that the holder shall observe all the requirements of section 3-3 regarding hours of operation.

(c)Frequency. No more than four (4) such permits shall be issued to anyone (1) person or legal entity within a single calendar year.

(d)Location. The holder shall observe all of the requirements of this article except the requirements of section 3-22 regarding location.

(e)Applications. Applications for the permit shall be filed in writing on a form prescribed by the parish tax administrator.

**Sec. 3-22. - Sale near church, school, public library, playground, full time day care or correctional facility.**

(a)Prohibited. The sale of alcoholic beverage of high alcohol content within five hundred (500) feet and the sale of any alcoholic beverage of low alcoholic content within three hundred (300) feet of any church, synagogue, public library, school, playground, full time day care center as defined in R.S. 17:405(A)(4), or a correctional facility housing inmates, including but not limited to a halfway house outside the corporate limits of municipalities in the parish, is prohibited.

(b)Computation of distances. The distances within which the sale of alcoholic beverages of high alcoholic content and alcoholic beverages of low alcoholic content are prohibited shall be measured as follows:

(1)In unincorporated areas which are divided into subdivisions with streets, blocks and sidewalks the distance shall be measured as a person walks using the sidewalk from the nearest point of the property line of the church, synagogue, public library, public playground, school, full time day care center, or correctional facility housing inmates, including but not limited to a halfway house to the nearest point of the premises to be licensed. For the purpose of this section premises shall be defined as the definite closed or partitioned-in locality, whether room, shop or building wherein alcoholic beverages are sold.

(2)In unincorporated areas which are not divided into subdivisions with streets, blocks or sidewalks, the distance shall be measured as a pedestrian would travel if there would be a sidewalk or paved walk-way along the edge or parallel to the edge or side of the street or roadway from the nearest point of the property line of the church, synagogue, public library, public playground, school, full time day care center, or

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correctional facility housing inmates, including but not limited to a halfway house to the nearest point of the premises to be licensed. For the purpose of this section premises shall be defined as the definite closed or partitioned-in locality, whether room, shop or building wherein alcoholic beverages are sold.

(c)Violations, penalty. Any person, firm, association of persons, corporation or partnership violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days, or both fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, after issuing a Special event permit in accordance with section 3-7, the Secretary/Treasurer is hereby authorized to draft and forward a letter to Alcohol & Tobacco Control authorizing the sale of alcohol. The President will approve the letter prior to issuance.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, authorizing the Secretary/Treasurer to issue a letter to Alcohol & Tobacco Control for the sale of alcohol at special events, e.g., church fairs, trail rides, banquets. On vote, the motion carried.

After a public hearing was held prior to the commencement of this meeting, Lem Thomas stated to the board he is in support of naming the community room after McKinley Keller. A motion was offered by Clyde Benson, seconded by Earnest Anderson, to name the Bunkie Library community room the Keller Earles community room. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas to adopt Resolution No. 0724, to officially appoint the following individuals to the Home Rule Charter Commission:

State Representative Daryl Deshotel (at large), Dr. Jay Callegari (at large) Karen Wiley, Clint Daigrepoint, Jesse Lachney, Daryl Sampson, Chris Augustine, Craig Foster, Blake Tassin, Brock Descant, and Wayne Coco.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas to approve Director of Homeland Security, Joseph Frank, to attend the LEMC conference. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by McKinley Keller, seconded by Jacob Coco, to appoint Randall Ducote to the Planning Commission for the unexpired term of Sullivan Batiste. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Earnest Anderson, approving Housing Director, Trista Laborde and Housing Inspector, Larry Dubea, to attend NSPIRE certification class via Zoom. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Earnest Anderson, authorizing the Secretary/Treasurer to draft a letter to the Louisiana Cemetery Board approving a private cemetery at Raymond Laborde Correctional Facility. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by McKinley Keller, to call a public hearing on April 9, 2024, at 4:45 pm to abandon a portion of Katie E. Road in Plaucheville, turn around must be provided. Civil Works Director, Kevin Bordelon, to provide coordinates. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas seconded by Jacob Coco, to send letters of appreciation to those that volunteered to pick up litter on February 17<sup>th</sup>. On vote, the motion carried.

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On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to appoint AJ Roy to the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, to appoint AJ Roy to the Zachary Taylor Parkway Commission. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, to adopt a motion granting 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 Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

s/ Darrell Wiley  
President

s/Jamey M. Wiley  
Secretary-Treasurer