

AVOYELLES PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR SESSION, held in the meeting Room in the Courthouse, Marksville, La
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

The Police Jury of the Parish of Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, met for a Regular Meeting at its meeting place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 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, Allen Thomas, Sam Pearce, Ingrid Wilson, Travis Franks, Rhett Desselle- Pan American Engineers, Civil Works Director, Kevin Bordelon; Assistant District Attorney, Jonathan Gaspard; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Laura Gaspard; Dr. Jenny Falls, Twyla Lemoine, Jacob Guillory-Delta Engineers, District Attorney, Charles Riddle; Rayford Laborde, Tookie Pearce, Ronald Coco; Ron Bordelon; Cedric Myers; Assistant District Attorney, Jenny Donaghey; Dr. Jay Callegari; Allison Laborde, Brian Bordelon, Terry Laborde

Absent: McKinley Keller

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

Roll call by Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Sam Pearce, to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 11, 2025, as printed in the Weekly News and emailed/mailed to all Jurors.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Ingrid Wilson, to adopt the minutes of the Tourist Commission meeting held on November 24, 2025, as presented.

Allen Thomas-adopt the minutes of the Tourist Commission meeting held on November 24, 2025

Delegates:

Amy Guidry from Acadian Ambulance reported that their average response time is currently 14 minutes. She noted that the highest call volumes are observed in the areas of Marksville, Bunkie, Mansura, Simmesport, and Moreauville. Additionally, Acadian Ambulance is actively seeking to fill positions for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs).

Brian Bordelon addressed the Jury concerning the recent road grading on Simmesport Cutoff Road. He raised a concern regarding the side cutter operator's failure to trim back the overhanging limbs in the roadway. Mr. Bordelon respectfully requested that the Jury take action to resolve the issues on both Simmesport Cutoff Road and Log Road. In response, Juror Coco inquired whether the Civil Works Director could assess the conditions of the roads, to which the Director agreed.

Rashad Qaasim informed the jury that District 4 was not adequately represented following the passing of the late Honorable Shawn Wilson. There was a request for clarification on the decision to schedule the election for the fall of 2026 instead of the spring, emphasizing the importance of allowing voters to determine the timing of the election.

Juror Franks indicated that, out of respect for the late Shawn Wilson, his spouse has been asked to assume his position as juror for District 4 until the upcoming election in the fall of 2026.

Additionally, he stated the Police Jury did not appoint a representative from District 4 during the drafting phase of the proposed Home Rule Charter. The resolution adopted by the jury specifies that representation should come from each district. Appreciation was expressed to the jury for the opportunity to speak on these matters.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco to adopt a resolution providing for canvassing the return and declaring the results of the special election held in Road District 2 on November 15, 2025. On vote, the motion carried.

Following a public hearing conducted before the meeting, and with no objections raised by attendees, Clyde Benson proposed a motion, which was seconded by Allen Thomas. The motion to restrict access to H. Dauzat Road, with landowners committing to purchase, install, and maintain

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gates for this purpose. On vote, the motion carried.

*The public hearing was duly advertised in the Weekly News.

Following a public hearing during which no objections were raised, a motion was proposed by Clyde Benson and seconded by Mark Borrel, to transfer the rights and maintenance responsibilities of Garan Lane back to its owner. The motion carried.

*The public hearing was duly advertised in the Weekly News.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Allen Thomas, to adopt the 2025 revised budget, as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

Clyde Benson offered a motion to amend the proposed budget for 2026. The motion was seconded by Mark Borrel, to include an allocation of \$2,500 for the Courthouse Christmas lighting event. This funding will contribute to a community celebration during the holiday season. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Clyde Benson, to adopt the proposed 2026 budget, as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Clyde Benson, to adopt the District Attorney revised budget, as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Travis Franks, second by Ingrid Wilson, to adopt the District Attorney proposed 2026 budget, as presented. On vote the motion carried.

A motion was proposed by Jacob Coco and seconded by Allen Thomas to grant a 5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for employees. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Ingrid Wilson, to adopt a commendation resolution for Solomon Northup statue unveiling. On vote, the motion carried.

Following a public meeting during which no objections were raised by the audience, a motion was put forth by Sam Pearce and seconded by Mark Borrel to adopt the proposed Waste Tire Ordinance as presented. On vote, the motion carried.

*The public hearing was duly advertised in the Weekly News

A motion was made by Allen Thomas and seconded by Ingrid Wilson to relocate the office of Veteran Affairs from its current location at the LSU Ag Center to the District Attorney's office. The motion was put to a vote and was approved.

After requesting RFQs, the Project Oversight Committee met earlier today to score the submissions. A motion was made by Travis Franks and seconded by Allen Thomas to select Pan American Engineers for the upcoming roadway projects, which include Business Loop Road, Beauregard Landry Road, and Ridge Road. The engineering services will not exceed \$50,000. Upon voting, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, to sell adjudicated property to adjoining landowner Kasey Rico, Parcel #0110899550, fair market value \$200. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas to approve purchase of security cameras from Computers 911 for Bunkie Health Unit. Cost not to exceed \$5,584.00. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, to approve Change Order for Parish Roadway Improvement for 2025, increase \$9,611.32. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Ingrid Wilson to adopt Holiday/Meeting schedule. On vote, the motion carried.

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On a motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Ingrid Wilson, the Police Jury has agreed to conduct a one-time cleanup of a ditch to resolve Suit #2021-923-B, Lawrence Adams et al v. Nicholas James Dupuy. The Police Jury will obtain servitudes from the property owners. Additionally, it is stipulated that the ditch cannot be widened. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded Ingrid Wilson, the Police Jury to make a one-time cleanup of a ditch to be released from Suit # 2021-923-B, Lawrence Adams, et al v. Nicholas James Dupuy.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas to purchase caps for maintenance employees, not to exceed \$750. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Sam Pearce to enter an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bunkie that the APPJ shall handle all permitting for the Bunkie Industrial Park, and in exchange the APPJ shall share one-half of all permitting fees with the City of Bunkie. Monies to be distributed on a quarterly basis, all in accordance with Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article VI, Section 20, and by La. R.S. 17:87.6 and La. R.S. 331321, *et seq.* Further, the motion also authorizes the president to sign the agreement. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, to donate adjudicated property Parcel #0191380300C, 1 LOT (0.35 AC) IN SEC 17 T1SR5E & BEING SHOWN AS "TRACT 2 - 0.35 AC" PLAT (611-694) N & S- UNKNOWN E- LA HWY 1181 W- AVOYELLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD. FROM DOWNS (693-174) to the Avoyelles Parish School Board. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel seconded by Clyde Benson to select Engineering firm.

On motion by JACOB Coco, seconded by Sam Pearce, the matter tabled and sent to the Project Oversight Committee for a recommendation. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, authorizes Delta Engineers to apply for EPA Brownfields Program FY 2026. On vote, the motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Ingrid Wilson, granting Secretary/Treasurer to pay all bills and waive a reading of the whole.

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