

The Police Jury of the Parish of Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, met for a Regular Meeting at its meeting place on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, in the Police Jury Room of the Parish Courthouse, 312 North Main Street, Marksville.

There were present: Mark Borrel, Jacob Coco, Clyde Benson, Allen Thomas, Sam Pearce, Travis Franks, Craig Foster, Darrell Wiley, Rhett Desselle- Pan American Engineers, Kevin Bordelon, Laura Gaspard, Marcus Guillory-Delta Engineers, Ronald Coco, Bobby Pierite, Sr, Amy Guidry, Joseph Frank-Director of Homeland Security, Jarred Couvillion, Dr. Jenny Falls, Chris Normand, Travis Ducote, Nicole Doucet, Jimmy Landry, Terry Laborde, Jenny Donaghey-Assistant District Attorney, Ray Reece, Rev. Darrel Sampson,

Absent: Ingrid Wilson

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

Roll call by Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Mark Borrel, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2026, as printed in the Weekly News and emailed/mailed to all Jurors. Motion carried.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Allen Thomas, to accept the minutes of the Tourist Commission meeting held on February 23, 2026. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Sam Pearce, to accept the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on February 25, 2026. Motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Allen Thomas, to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 19, 2026. Motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, to accept the minutes of the Litter Committee meeting held on March 5, 2026. On vote, the motion carried.

Amy Guidry, Operations Coordinator for Acadian Ambulance Service, gave the monthly report for February. Acadian's average response time is 13 minutes and 46 seconds. They responded to 529 emergency calls and 214 non-emergency calls. The City of Marksville remains the highest call volume area with 162 calls. On April 1, 2026, Acadian will host "A Day in the Life of a First Responder." The event will take place on E. School Street in Hessmer and will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nicole Doucet, a member of a group opposed to carbon capture storage and a chemical engineer, provided very informative information regarding Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). She advised the Jury and the public that CCS proponents consist mainly of out-of-state and foreign companies. She explained that the CO₂ will be compressed, transported for miles through pipelines, and injected into the ground. Additionally, the CO₂ will be under intense pressure, which is very hazardous and potentially fatal. Studies have suggested that over time the CO₂ could rise toward the surface and contaminate groundwater. Louisiana Senate Bill 353 (2020 Regular Session), which became Act No. 61, granted eminent domain (expropriation) authority to companies for

carbon capture projects. She urged everyone to attend a meeting on March 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Moreauville Fire Department. For more information, she asked that anyone interested email nicoledoucet18@gmail.com

Dr. Jenny Falls presented the results of a recent survey of Avoyelles Parish residents to determine the need for an animal shelter. There was a total of 184 responses. She asked the Jury to provide monthly updates regarding the status of the animal shelter. The Secretary-Treasurer advised Dr. Falls that she submitted a request for an Attorney General opinion at the request of the Jury to determine whether the parish could utilize Health Unit funds to construct and maintain the shelter. The letter was submitted in November, and there has been no response.

Chris Normand informed the Jury that landowners on Bayou Des Sot have installed a gate and destroyed the main road, rendering it impassable. Since the matter is still in litigation, Assistant District Attorney Jenny Donaghey advised the Jury to discuss the issue in executive session.

Juror Mark Borrel, read the memorial resolution for Wilton Anthnoy "Twine" Desselle. A motion was offered by Mark Borrel, seconded by Clyde Benson, to accept the resolution as a part of the official minutes. Motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Alen Thomas, to accept the financial report given at Committee by Secretary-Treasurer. Motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Craig Foster, to introduce into the record a copy of the proposed Solar Farm ordinance. A copy was offered to the public. Motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded by Mark Borrel, to advertise a public hearing on April 14, 2026, at 4:40 pm, to hear comments about the proposed solar farm ordinance. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, to appoint Corey Roblin from the Zachary Taylor Association to the Zachary Taylor Commission, replacing the late Carlos Mayeux. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacon Coco, to appoint Natalie Roblin to the Zachary Taylor Association to replace Corey Roblin. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Craig Foster, to reappoint Wilbert Carmouche to the Atchafalaya Trace Commission. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, Clyde Benson seconded, approving a 2% health insurance increase. Motion carried.

On motion by Sam Pearce, seconded Allen Thomas to motion to adopt a One Acre Lot Size Requirement ordinance. The entire ordinance was read aloud by Surveyor, Jarred Couvillion.

One Acre Lot Ordinance

Section 1: Title and Applicability

1.1. Title. This section shall be known as the "Minimum Lot Size and Area Requirements" for the Avoyelles Parish Subdivision Ordinance.

1.2. Applicability. The standards set forth in this section shall apply to all proposed land divisions/subdivisions, creating new lots for residential or non-residential purposes within the jurisdiction of all non-incorporated land which falls under the Avoyelles Parish Subdivision Ordinance.

All land previously subdivided, conveyed and recorded with the Avoyelles Parish Clerk of Court before November 12, 2025, shall be exempt from this ordinance.

Section 2: Minimum Lot Area and Dimensions

2.1. Minimum Lot Area. No lot created within any subdivision shall have a gross area of less than one (1) acre. One acre is defined as forty-three thousand five hundred and sixty (43,560) square feet.

2.2. Minimum Lot Dimensions. Each lot shall meet one of the following minimum dimensions:

- Minimum Lot Width: one hundred twenty (120) feet.
- Minimum Lot Depth: one hundred fifty (150) feet.

Section 3: Health and Sanitation Requirements

3.1. On-Site Sewerage Disposal and Water Supply. Where individual on-site sewerage disposal facilities (septic systems) and/or individual water supply systems (wells) are to be utilized, the minimum lot size specified in Section 2.1 shall apply. Larger areas may be required by the Louisiana Department of Health if soil, topography, or other conditions indicate the necessity for a larger area to ensure adequate separation and safe operation of facilities.

3.2. Public Utilities. If connections to public or community water and sewerage systems approved by local municipality or state Health Department are provided, the minimum lot area shall remain one (1) acre unless a separate zoning district with different density standards is applicable.

Section 4: Compliance and Variances

4.1. Compliance. All lots created through the subdivision process must also comply with the minimum lot size requirements and all other applicable regulations of the ordinance. If the ordinance specifies a larger minimum lot size, the more restrictive requirement shall control.

4.2. Variances. The Avoyelles Parish Planning Commission may only grant a variance from these minimum lot size requirements in cases of;

1. Demonstrable exceptional hardship, as provided for by state law and the relevant procedures of this jurisdiction.
2. Land to be subdivided by family to be given to family. Valid family partitions cannot be sold within a period of 2 years.
3. Special cases where the property has an odd configuration or circumstance that would have to allow for certain size lot configuration.

4. Sewer Connectivity: the one-acre requirement only applies to lots using on-site septic systems. If a developer connects the subdivision to a public or private community sewer system, they may be permitted to use significantly smaller lot sizes.

Variations shall not be granted if they would result in lots not meeting the minimum requirements for health and safety established by this ordinance.

Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Craig Foster to proceed with the sale of adjudicated property to adjoining landowner, Lloyd Robinson, Parcel #0100845001, \$1,500. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Mark Borrel, to proceed with the sale of adjudicated property to Lydia Bradford, adjoining landowner of Parcel # 0131084570, \$1,500. Motion carried.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Mark Borrel, to appoint Scott Williams as Commissioner on the Port Commission board for 4 years. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Craig Foster, to authorize the president to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement with the office of Veteran Affairs. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Clyde Benson, to appoint Donald Milligan the Avoyelles Ward 3 Water District, replacing Chris Burke, Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas to reappoint Todd Saucier to the Avoyelles Ward 3 Water District for 2 years, Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Clyde Benson, to reappoint Arlene Schexnyder to the Avoyelles Ward 3 Water District for 3 years. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Clyde Benson to reappoint Joan Decuir to the Avoyelles Ward 3 Water District for 5 years. Motion carried.

Mark Borrel made a motion to pay damage to AT&T line on Bedo Street in Hessmer, \$260.17; however, the motion failed for lack of a second.

Craig Foster, read a resolution recognizing McKinley Keller service to the PJ. A motion was then offered by Craig Foster, seconded by Clyde Benson to accept the resolution as a part of the minutes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to accept a quote from Rabalais Flooring to replace floor on 3rd floor, \$10,247.78, Prices includes material, instillation, and remove/dispose of old flooring. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to accept quotes from Gremillion Painting to paint and repair damage to wall on the 3rd floor, \$5,230, and \$460 to paint metal doors on first floor. Motion accepted.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, to allow the personnel committee to draft a job description, and determine a salary for Code Enforcer to assist with Tire ordinance. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Jacob Coco, to amend the new construction permit fee schedule to include non-profit life safety organizations, establishing a flat permit fee of \$35. Motion carried.

~~Motion to accept the Fire Marshal's determination that Building A, the Culinary Arts building in Bayhills, is classified as a Career Academy. The remaining buildings are classified as Industrial and assembly and therefore do not qualify for the permit fee reduction.~~

Marcus Guillory with Delta Engineers stated that the contractor contacted the Permit Office and was provided with an estimate of the construction permit fees. He was unsure whether the contractor indicated that the project was for a school or for commercial use. The estimate provided by the Permit Office was approximately \$20,000. Mr. Guillory stated he felt the amount was steep considering the parish would benefit from having access to the 6-inch sewer line, which could be tapped into to serve the ballpark.

Dr. Callegari previously presented this matter to the Avoyelles Parish Planning Commission, wherein the board agreed to a 50% reduction, which was also agreed upon by the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury.

Mr. Guillory stated that he reviewed the permit fees listed on the parish website and noted that there are fees for commercial construction, new construction, and churches, but there is no distinction between what is considered an assembly or industrial building. For that reason, he felt the Fire Marshal's classification of the building should not determine the parish's permit fee.

Travis Tranks, Police Juror, stated he had only heard bits and pieces regarding the ballpark project. However, given that the Jury is now more involved, he did not see a problem with charging a \$35 flat fee for each building.

In closing, Mr. Guillory requested that each building be classified as a school.

On motion by Jacob Coco, seconded by Allen Thomas, to charge a flat fee of \$35 per building. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, to accept the Planning Commission recommends implementing a reconnect permit fee following a storm. An inspector will evaluate the meter to determine whether any damage is storm related. If the damage is confirmed to be storm-related, the fee may be waived. Customers will have five (5) business days to request a refund. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, to have a public hearing April 14th at 4:45 to consider abandoning a portion of Smith Road, approximately 510 feet from 202 Smith Road to the end. Landowner has requested. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, authorizing the Personnel Committee to begin the process of drafting a job description and salary recommendation for part-time Beautification employees. Motion carried.

On motion by Clyde Benson, seconded by Mark Borrel, to approve cleaning lift station at Tricia Park, \$1,500. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Jacob Coco, to proceed with the sale of adjudicated property that is jointly owned by the City of Marksville, located on Felix Street, Parcel #0171268340- \$2,600. Motion carried.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Mark Borrel, to appoint Tracey Tassin to Avoyelles Water District 1 for 3 years. Motion carried.

On motion by Travis Franks, seconded by Mark Borrel, authorizing the president to sign a letter to Treasury requesting reallocation of remain funds for Ed Carroll and Firmin Road to be used on Roy Lane. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, Craig Foster seconded, readvertise to receive quotes to repair soffits, fascia boards at the library. Motion carried.

On motion by Mark Borrel, seconded by Allen Thomas, authorizing the president to sign a letter to send to Facility Panning, Richard Hebert, requesting confirmation that House Bill funding totaling \$1,600,000 can be used as a match for the Avoyelles Youth Complex. The motion was tabled.

- Avoyelles Youth Community Based Program - \$350,000 - ACT 170 (HB 592 – 2022 RLS) Fully executed agreement dated January 23, 2023, CEA 23-945-251. Extension ends June 30, 2026.
- Avoyelles Sports Complex (Bay Hills) - \$500,000 - ACT 397 (HB 560 – 2023 RLS) – Fully executed agreement dated September 27, 2023, CEA #24-945-66. Extension ends June 30, 2026.
- Avoyelles Youth Community Based Program - \$750,000 - ACT 776 (HB No. 782 – 2024 RLS) - Fully executed agreement dated June 30, 2025, CEA #25-945-583. Extension ends June 30, 2026.

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Sam Pearce to table awarding Recreation and Education Complex project to the low bidder, Bayou Rapides Corporation-base bid \$3,567,160 plus additive alternate No. 1, total bid \$3,976,160.00. Motion carried.

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

On motion by Allen Thomas, seconded by Craig Foster to adjourn. Motion carried.