

May 21, 1998

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF  
PARISH OF ASCENSION, DONADLSONVILLE, LOUISIANA  
MAY 21, 1998

The Council of the Parish of Ascension met this day in Regular Session in the Council Meeting Room, Courthouse East, Gonzales, Louisiana, 7:00 p.m. with Chairman Thomas Pearce presiding.

The following members were present:

Alvin Thomas	Thomas Pearce
Joseph Pierre	Dudley Brown
Gilbert Buratt	Milton Vicknair
Todd Lambert	Jeffrey Poche
Jerry Savoy	Darnell Martinez

The following members were absent:

Marvin Braud

Parish President Tommy Martinez was also present.

Councilman Alvin Thomas offered the opening prayer and led the pledge to the flag by all present.

Council Chairman Thomas Pearce requested Legal Advisor Ricky Babin to review the Southern Animal Foundation Contract adopted at the regular meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, May 7, 1998.

Parish President Tommy Martinez stated to the Council that his office was notified by area veterinarians of their interest in administering the Spay & Neuter Program. Parish President Martinez introduced Dr. Joseph Breaux, DVM, who addressed the Council on behalf of the area veterinarians, reiterating their interest in administering the program.

Parish President Martinez agreed to meet with the veterinarians to discuss the program.

Moved by Jeffrey Poche, seconded by Joseph Pierre and unanimously adopted, to uphold the Presidential Veto by Parish President Tommy Martinez of the contract between the Southern Animal Foundation and the Parish of Ascension as adopted by the Parish Council at their regular meeting held on Thursday, May 7, 1998.

The following items were presented under Parish President Tommy Martinez's report:

- Change Order - Department of Public Works Building
- East Ascension Hospital Service District Board Vacancy

Architect Henry Chauvin addressed the Council in regard to a change order for the Department of Public Works Building Project for additional computer outlets at a cost of \$4,265.

Moved by Milton Vicknair, seconded by Jeffrey Poche and unanimously adopted, to request a 2/3's vote of the Council to address a non agenda item in regard to a change order for the Department of Public Works Building Project.

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Upon receiving a 2/3's vote of the Council, on a motion by Todd Lambert and a second by Dudley Brown, the subsequent Change Order No.2 for the Department of Public Works Building Project (for a grounded power panel and circuits to feed receptacles for computer equipment - \$4,264.25) was unanimously adopted:

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Parish President Tommy Martinez announced there was a vacancy on the East Ascension Hospital Service District Board.

Moved by Jeffrey Poche, seconded by Todd Lambert and unanimously adopted, to advertise for the vacancy on the East Ascension Hospital Service District Board, with an application deadline of June 18, 1998.

Secretary/Treasurer Clarence E. Speed, Jr. briefed the Council on the amendment to the ordinance appropriating the 1998 Budget.

Moved by Joseph Pierre, seconded by Alvin Thomas and unanimously adopted, to open the public hearing to consider an amendment to the ordinance appropriating the 1998 budget.

No comments were heard from the public.

Moved by Jerry Savoy, seconded by Milton Vicknair and unanimously adopted, to close the public hearing.

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Moved by Joseph Pierre and seconded by Dudley Brown, the subsequent amendment to the ordinance appropriating the 1998 budget was unanimously adopted:

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Legal Advisor Ricky Babin addressed the Council in regard to the proposed ordinances in consideration of the Ascension Parish Land Use Plan and the Development Code. Mr. Babin stated to the Council that publication of Notice of Public Hearings to consider adoption of the Land Use Plan and Development Code must occur three consecutive weeks.

Moved by Jeffrey Poche, seconded by Milton Vicknair and unanimously adopted to call a public hearing on Thursday, June 25, 1998, 6:00 p.m., in the Council Meeting Room, Courthouse East, Gonzales, Louisiana, to consider an ordinance adopting the Ascension Parish Land Use Plan and the Ascension Parish Development Code.

Moved by Alvin Thomas, seconded by Milton Vicknair and unanimously adopted, to call a public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 1998, 6:00 p.m., in the Governmental Office Building, 304 Chetimatches Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana, to consider an ordinance adopting the Ascension Parish Land Use Plan and the Ascension Parish Development Code.

Legal Advisor Ricky Babin advised the Council two separate ordinances had been drafted in reference to redistricting Fire Protection District No. 1, one including the Town of Sorrento and the other excluding the Town of Sorrento from Fire Protection District No. 1.

Moved by Joseph Pierre, seconded by Dudley Brown and unanimously adopted, to continue the public hearing to consider the intent to redistrict Fire Protection District No. 1.

No comments were heard from the public.

Moved by Todd Lambert, seconded by Joseph Pierre and unanimously adopted, to close the public hearing.

Moved by Darnell Martinez, seconded by Dudley Brown and unanimously adopted, to request a 2/3's vote of the Council to address a non agenda item in regard to the Fire Protection

District No. 1.

Upon receiving a 2/3's vote of the Council, it was moved by Darnell Martinez, seconded by Jeffrey Poche and unanimously adopted, to call a public hearing on Thursday, June 4, 1998, 7:00 p.m., in the Governmental Office Building, 304 Chetimatches Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana, to consider an ordinance redistricting Fire Protection District No.1, excluding the Town of Sorrento from said district.

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Chairman Pearce introduced Ms. Winnie Sibley, Executive Director, Quad Area CAA, who presented an up date on the services provided by the Quad Area Community Services.

Councilman Alvin Thomas respectfully requested more advertising be done in the Donaldsonville area notifying the public of available services of the Quad Area Community Services.

Moved by Dudley Brown, seconded by Milton Vicknair and unanimously adopted, to accept the low bid of \$39,760 from EATEL Technology Outlet for twenty Compaq Deskpro 400 Computer Systems as recommended by Purchasing Agent Bonnie Gilbert.

Moved by Todd Lambert and seconded by Milton Vicknair, the subsequent resolution was unanimously adopted:

### **RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ascension Parish Council hereby authorizes Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez to sign and execute all documents related to the implementation of the Governor's Program on Abstinence (GPA).

**In consideration for the receipt of the services from the GPA outlined in letter from State Coordinator Dan Richey dated April 15, 1998, the Parish of Ascension Government agrees to be the responsible for the following:**

**1. Parish of Ascension shall be responsible for serving as fiscal agent for the GPA with the understanding that the full cost of such program shall be paid by the State of Louisiana through GPA; and**

**2. The Parish of Ascension shall be responsible for hiring employees recommended by the State Coordinator for the program; and**

**3. The Parish of Ascension shall be responsible for furnishing the same retirement and insurance benefits provided to the other employees of the Parish Government system.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Ascension Parish Council agrees to support the request by State Coordinator Dan Richey to be the first fiscal agent for the GPA technical staff for the period between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999.**

Grant Writer Madelaine Lightsey briefed the Council on the procurement process for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Application to provide water up-grade in Waterworks District No. 4.

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Moved by Alvin Thomas, seconded by Milton Vicknair and unanimously adopted, to engage the services of Roberto Macedo and Associates, Inc. as administrative consultant for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) for the Waterworks District No. 4 water up-grade project.

Moved by Alvin Thomas, seconded by Joseph Pierre and unanimously adopted, to engage the engineering firm of GSA, Inc. (Glenn Shaheen and Associates, Inc.) for the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) for the Waterworks District No.4 water up-grade project.

Moved by Jeffrey Poche, seconded by Todd Lambert and unanimously adopted, to reappoint Mr. Allison Bob Meche to the Ascension Parish Library Board for a five year term expiring July, 2003, as recommended by the Ascension Parish Library Board of Control.

Moved by Darnell Martinez and seconded by Jerry Savoy, the subsequent resolution was unanimously adopted:

**RESOLUTION**

The Ascension Parish Council hereby supports the Parish of Ascension's participation in the Capital Area Regional Backyard Composting Project through the Department of Natural Resources and authorizes Parish President Tommy Martinez to sign and execute all documents of implementation of this grant.

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Moved by Joseph Pierre and seconded by Alvin Thomas, the subsequent resolution was unanimously adopted:

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Finance Committee Chairman Darnell Martinez presented to the Council the Finance Committee recommendations as approved at their meeting of May 11, 1998.

Moved by Darnell Martinez, seconded by Jeffrey Poche and unanimously adopted, to approve a Cost Sharing Agreement for Planning Assistance between the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ascension Parish Government, whereas Ascension Parish would contribute \$75,000 and the US Corps of Engineers would provide matching funds of \$75,000 to design a shared database with data entry screens for various Parish departments and to link these databases to the Parish GIS.

Moved by Joseph Pierre, seconded by Dudley Brown and unanimously adopted, to approve funding of \$4,734.60 for the Alternative Recreation Pilot Project for at-risk children. Roy Quezaire, Program Director for the Ascension Parish Recreation program, to administer this Alternative Recreation Pilot Project.

Moved by Todd Lambert, seconded by Jeffrey Poche and unanimously adopted, to approve reappropriating \$77,000 for the road maintenance overlay project originally budgeted in 1997 for the Road and Bridge Fund.

Moved by Alvin Thomas, seconded by Joseph Pierre and unanimously adopted, to approve the proposed lease agreement of the old health unit building (Donaldsonville) with BHC Meadow Wood Hospital, subject to deleting "Mental Health Board" referenced in said

agreement.

Legal Advisor Ricky Babin stated to the Council in order to execute the lease agreement of the old health unit building with BHC Meadow Wood Hospital, it would be necessary to adopt an ordinance in this regard.

Moved by Jeffrey Poche, seconded by Alvin Thomas and unanimously adopted, to call a public hearing on Thursday, June 4, 1998, 7:00 p.m., in the Governmental Office Building, 304 Chetimatches Street, Donaldsonville, Louisiana, to consider an ordinance providing for a lease agreement between the BHC Meadow Wood Hospital and Ascension Parish for the lease of the old health unit building in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

Councilman Jeffrey Poche addressed the Council in regard to the appointment of a new Ascension Parish Tourist Commission, introducing Mr. Michael Liffman, Ms. Marilyn Barrett and Ms. Brenda Henney, members of the LSU Sea Grant program. The three-member team, who assists local governmental bodies to establish tourism commissions, gave a detailed slide presentation on selecting the best members to serve on a tourist commission. The team also suggested using a screening committee comprised of various civic groups in the Parish.

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Moved by Jeffrey Poche and seconded by Todd Lambert to respectfully request Ms. Louise Cashat, Executive Director of the Ascension Chamber of Commerce, to conduct a screening process with the assistance of the LSU Sea Grant Program and Ms. Becky Katz, Executive Director of the Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce, in order to present to the Parish Council recommendations for appointees to the Ascension Parish Tourist Commission.

A substitute motion was offered by Joseph Pierre, seconded by Gilbert Buratt and adopted, to take under advisement any further action on selecting members to serve on the Ascension Parish Tourist Commission. Councilman Jeffrey Poche objected to the substitute motion.

Legal Advisor Ricky Babin presented to the Council a proposed ordinance for their review in reference to criteria for accepting roads into the Parish Road System.

Ensuing a lengthy discussion on criteria for accepting roads, it was unanimously agreed by the Council to hold a Special Working Meeting on Monday, June 1, 1998, in the Council Meeting Room, Courthouse East, Gonzales, Louisiana, immediately following the East Ascension Consolidated Gravity Drainage Board meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

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Moved by Todd Lambert and seconded by Milton Vicknair, the subsequent Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Denver Hurst Bridge Replacement Project was unanimously adopted, as recommended by Engineer Mark Debosier of GSA, Inc.:

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Moved by Joseph Pierre, seconded by Dudley Brown and unanimously adopted, to accept the Alternative A Road List (provided said list is within the 1998 Budget approved by the Ascension Parish Council) for the 16<sup>th</sup> Road Improvement Project.

Moved by Todd Lambert and seconded by Dudley Brown, the ensuing road was unanimously accepted into the Parish Road Maintenance System as recommended by Carey Arceneaux, Assistant Director, Department of Public Works:

BRADBURY TRACE SUBDIVISION

Bradbury Lane

1686'

Moved by Joseph Pierre and seconded by Darnell Martinez, the ensuing road was unanimously accepted in the Parish Road Maintenance System as recommended by Carey

Arceneaux, Assistant Director, Department of Public works:

ORICE ROTH ROAD

(from approximately 1314' west of S. Darla Street  
to Boudreaux Road)

Moved by Alvin Thomas, seconded by Joseph Pierre and unanimously adopted, to appoint Murray Walker to the Ascension Parish Recreation Governing Board for a term expiring January 17, 2000. Mr. Walker replaced Gregory Hill, who resigned.

Councilman Milton Vicknair recognized Mr. Rhett Bourgeois, spokes person for a group of concerned citizens from Sorrento, who addressed the Council in regard to a noise disturbance created from Brenda's Corner, Sorrento, Louisiana.

Moved by Jeffrey Poche, seconded by Todd Lambert and unanimously adopted, to respectfully request the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development to maintain the ditches along Louisiana Highway 73 north of Interstate 10.

Moved by Milton Vicknair, seconded by Alvin Thomas and unanimously adopted, that the Council go into executive session.

Moved by Alvin Thomas, seconded by Todd Lambert and unanimously adopted, that the Council reconvene and return to their regular order of business.

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Chairman Pearce stated in the case of Alonzo Bell versus the Parish of Ascension, it was moved by Joseph Pierre, seconded by Milton Vicknair and unanimously adopted, to tender the Parish's self-insured retention.

Moved by Darnell Martinez, seconded by Jerry Savoy and unanimously adopted, to correct the minutes of the meeting of the Ascension Parish Council of February 5, 1998, whereas

equipment bids were accepted, and said bid should read - One Case Model 850G Long Track Dozer - \$67,377 - Crawler Supply Co., Inc.

There being no further business to come before the Council of the Parish of Ascension, Louisiana, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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SECRETARY

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CHAIRMAN