

The Police Jury met in special session assembled with the following members present: Bryan Vidrine, Tim Causey, Ryan Ardoin, Darion Arvie, Kevin Veillon, Daniel Arvie and Keith Saucier. Absent and excused were Brent Guillory and Sidney Fontenot. A quorum was present.

Several constituents in the audience had comments regarding the agenda items on the consideration of the Jury adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to consider a tax proposition for animal control

Mrs. Cindy Briley address the Jury stating that others are not taking the responsibility of spaying or neutering their pets, which are allowing them to reproduce more litters which are not wanted and then discarded throughout the Parish. It was questioning why property owners of Evangeline Parish are to be taxed to carry the burden of the irresponsible pet owners and feels the people should not be taxed more than they are already. In response to Mrs. Briley's question, Parish President Bryan Vidrine stated that according to the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, it is the responsibility of the Police Jury for animal control.

Mrs. Elaine Savant also addressed the Jury questioning what this tax would be used for. President Vidrine explained the tax will be used for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining and operating a parish wide animal control facility. Mrs. Savant stated she does not feel the people should be taxed.

Mr. Brady Fontenot then spoke in asking the Jury why revenues from the Solar Panel cannot be used towards an animal control facility. President Vidrine stated that opportunity to use those revenues for animal control was available, however, when the pilot was voted on, it was approved to divide those solar revenues between agencies across the board as per the normal millage ad valorem tax rates. All of those agencies have a specific tax purpose and does not have the flexibility to use the revenues for other purposes. Once a tax is allocated for a specific purpose, in order to move that money for another purpose it would have to go back on the ballot to the people for a vote.

President Vidrine wants the public to understand, it's not just about building the animal control facility. In order to have an animal shelter there needs to be sustainable income to continue to operate, which includes the hiring of staff, purchase of vehicles, obtain insurance, and monthly utilities.

Police Juror, Tim Causey mentioned that the Jury does not advocate for the tax. The people have been persistent in expressing the needs for animal control. The Jury is trying to bring this tax proposition to the ballot in order for the people to have a vote on the matter. Legal Counsel clarified that the agenda item tonight is not for a vote for the tax. It's to put the issue out to the people for them to decide and has to be done following certain procedures. President Vidrine stated that another option besides the tax proposition the Parish may be able to afford, is if all other entities that have animal control would agree to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Police Jury in assisting these municipalities with their animal control operations.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Tim Causey approving to adopt a resolution of the Police Jury of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, ordering and calling a special election to be held in conjunction with the already scheduled elections for November 5, 2024, to be held within the boundaries of the Parish of Evangeline to consider a tax proposition and authorize the purpose for the revenues derived from that tax to be used for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining and operating a parish wide animal control facility; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote and adopted by the Governing Authority, with the votes on the Resolution recorded as follows:

YEA: Ryan Ardoin, Daniel Arvie, Darion Arvie, Tim Causey, Keith Saucier

NAY: Kevin Veillon

ABSENT: Sidney Fontenot, Brent Guillory

ABSTAINING: Bryan Vidrine.

This Resolution was adopted on June 11, 2024.

Motion was made by Tim Causey and seconded by Ryan Ardoin approving to call a public hearing on Thursday August 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Courthouse Building, 200 Court Street, Ste. 207, Ville Platte, La to hear public comments and/or questions on the Police Jury of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, ordering and calling a special election to be held within the boundaries of the Parish of Evangeline to consider a tax proposition and authorize the purpose for the revenues derived from that tax to be used for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining and operating a parish wide animal control facility (\$280,000) expected to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year, for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2025 and ending with the year 2034. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Soileau with LUS addressed the Jury to give an update on operations on the fiber optic project.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier, seconded by Darion Arvie and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the following item:

1. Transfer of funds from the General Fund to Wyble Sewer Fund for Wyble Subdivision Sewer Project.

Motion was made by Ryan Ardoin and seconded by Darion approving to transfer \$19,490.75 out of General Fund into Wyble Sewer Fund to pay for Sewer Project Invoices until grant funds are received. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Keith Saucier, seconded by Ryan Ardoin and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the following item:

1. Change of caretaker for Campbell Cemetery (2).

Motion was made by Tim Causey and seconded by Keith Saucier approving to hire Scott Johnson as cemetery caretaker of Campbell Cemetery (2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier approving to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried.

Bryan Vidrine, President

Dirk Deville, Secretary-Treasurer