

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

Comments from the public were made in opposition to the tax proposition for the animal facility.

Motion was made by Daniel Arvie and seconded by Tim Causey to approve the June 19, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes, July 1, 2024 Regular and Public Hearing Minutes. Motion carried.

An update was given on the DRA Grant. Application has been submitted for the Annex Building renovations which will be an accelerated program for new businesses as well as a First Responder Emergency Facility Command Center for the parish.

Katelyn Calhoun with the Cotton Festival Board announced that the location of the Cotton Festival is going to be moved from the downtown Civic Center area to the new Recreational Facility located on Lithcote Road. Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Darion Arvie approving to adopt a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Evangeline Parish Police Jury and the Cotton Festival Association for maintenance of the festival grounds area. Motion carried.

There was no motion for the approval of a resolution ordering and calling an election November 5, 2024 to levy a 1 mill tax for animal control matters, therefore the tax proposition will not be on the ballot.

Motion was made by Tim Causey and seconded by Sidney Fontenot to approve the hiring of Kim Ortego at \$14.50/hour as Litter Abatement Supervisor for Region C, effective July 11, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Kevin Veillon approving Kim Ortego (Region C) and Chad Fontenot (Region A) for purchasing for Litter Abatement. Motion carried.

Siemens contract renewal was then discussed. Siemens provides preventative maintenance at the Courthouse monthly. The proposal renewal is for \$41,021.28 annually which is a \$2,139.28 increase compared to last year's contract.

Motion was made by Kevin Veillon and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve Gulf Coast Mechanical contract proposal for preventative maintenance for the Courthouse Building. Motion carried.

Lease with the City of Lafayette (LUS) to occupy the old USDA Building will be referred to Police Jury's Legal Counsel for review.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve the hiring of CPEX Consulting Firm to assist with the Wind Energy Conversion System process. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Tim Causey to table the adoption of the Wind Conversion System Ordinance at this time until ordinance is drafted and brought before the Jury for discussion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Keith Saucier approving the transfer of \$500,000 out of the Library Operation Account into the Capital Improvements Fund as voted and approved by the Library Board at their July 15, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Darion Arvie approving to adopt the following resolution:

A resolution approving the issuance, sale and delivery of not exceeding \$4,000,000 of Limited Tax Bonds of Ward Five Fire Protection District of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, and other matters related thereto.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Ward Five Fire Protection District of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer"), by resolution adopted on July 9, 2024 proposes to issue not exceeding \$4,000,000 of Limited Tax Bonds (the "Bonds"). The Bonds will bear interest at a rate of not exceeding 6% per annum and shall mature not later than March 1, 2044. The Bonds will be issued for the purpose of (i) acquiring and construction fire protection facilities and equipment and (ii) paying the costs of issuance of the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued under the authority of Part II of Chapter 4 of Subtitle II of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority.

WHEREAS, it is now the desire of the Police Jury of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, to approve the issuance of the Bonds,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Evangeline, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of the Issuer, this Police Jury hereby approved the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$4,000,000 of Limited Tax Bonds of the Issuer, said Bonds to be issued under the authority and for the purposes stated in the preamble hereto.

SECTION 2. Neither the Parish nor this Police Jury shall be liable in any matter for the payment of Bonds.

The above and foregoing, having been submitted to a vote, was unanimously adopted this 5th day of August 2024.

Discussion was held regarding the use of the grass cutting crew and equipment. It was proposed to purchase equipment and hire additional man power to be able to spread out throughout the parish where vegetation could be managed more efficiently. A Road and Bridge Committee meeting will be scheduled on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 4:40 p.m. with the Public Works Director and Foreman's to discuss this item further.

The Library Board is requesting the Jury in accepting an offer from the Town of Basile to accept an abandoned street for the new Evangeline Parish Library Basile Branch. Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Darion Arvie accepting the abandoned street from the Town of Basile. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Darion Arvie authorizing the payment of bills on file in the Police Jury Office. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Darion Arvie to approve the jail supply list as submitted. Motion carried.

Parish Engineer, gave the following report:

- Wyble Subdivision has begun casting for the new structure and will be ready to move out to the site.
- Planning to begin advertising for bids for all the utility extensions by next Thursday for the new Detention Facility.

Secretary-Treasurer, gave the following report:

- Request for an alcohol permit for the Enunciation Catholic Church in Duralde for an event to be held.

Motion was made by Sidney Fontenot and seconded by Keith Saucier to approve an alcohol permit to Mrs. Rebecca Cormier for the Enunciation Catholic Church for an event to be held on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Motion carried.

- Sales and Use Tax year to date collections for 2024 were \$11,242,000 compared to 2023, \$12,139,000. Collections are down by 15.6% due to vehicle sales taxes.

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

Bryan Vidrine, President

Dirk Deville, Secretary-Treasurer