OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL

IN REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 2, 2005

The Chairman, Mr. P. Rhodes, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the Terrebonne Parish Council Meeting Room. Following the Invocation, offered by Councilwoman T. Cavalier, Councilman H. Lapeyre led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon roll call, Council Members recorded as present were: A. Tillman, W. Thibodeaux, K. Elfert, T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre, C. Voisin, and P. Rhodes. P. Lambert was recorded as absent due to employment commitment. A quorum was declared present.

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Council approve the minutes of the Regular Council Session held on 10/12/05.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Ms. K. Elfert moved, seconded by Mr. C. Voisin, “THAT, the Council approve the Parish Manual Check List for September 2005.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. K. Elfert.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

There were no items to be addressed under agenda item 1 – Resolutions, Change Orders, Substantial Completions, & Final Payments.

The Chairman recognized Ms. Jeanne Roddy, Meechant Dr. resident, who referenced a letter sent from Representative Gordon Dove to Parish President Don Schwab requesting additional funding for the levees in Terrebonne Parish, with partial funding from the Parish’s Emergency Contingency Fund. She stated that she believes the recent flooding caused by Hurricane Rita should be considered an emergency and those funds should be used for the levees. She also stated that she learned that the Parish has almost 12 million dollars in surplus
funds and believes that protecting houses in the Parish should be top priority in utilizing those funds. She stated that she believes funding from the State and Federal Governments will be hard to receive and that the Parish should take the responsibility of funding to protect the Parish with adequate levees.

Chairman P. Rhodes stated that Administration could explain to Ms. Roddy where the 11 million dollars comes from and where it is allocated. He stated that the Parish Government is working with the Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District to address the levee systems in the Parish.

The Chairman called for a report on the Policy, Procedure, & Legal Committee meeting held on 10/31/05, whereupon the Committee Vice-Chairman, rendered the following:

POLICY, PROCEDURE, & LEGAL COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 31, 2005

The Vice Chairman, Wayne Thibodeaux, called the Policy, Procedure, & Legal Committee meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. in the Terrebonne Parish Council Meeting Room with the Invocation led by Mr. H. Lapeyre and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. P. Rhodes. Upon roll call, Committee Members recorded as present were: T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre, P. Rhodes, W. Thibodeaux, A. Tillman, and C. Voisin. Committee Members K. Elfert and P. Lambert were recorded as absent. A quorum was declared present.

The Vice Chairman announced that Committee Members K. Elfert and P. Lambert were unable to attend this evening’s meeting due to prior commitments.

Council Clerk Paul Labat stated that letters regarding establishing “sister parish” contacts in the event of an emergency have been sent to various parishes in central and northern Louisiana, and added that two parishes have indicated their willingness to begin dialogue regarding said matter.

Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated that the Communications District Director, Mark Boudreaux, has offered assistance in contacting other 911 Communication Districts regarding providing emergency telecommunications services in the event of an emergency, and also recommended visiting or holding teleconferences to discuss the matter further with the interested districts. Mr. Blackwell stated that Administration is also working with other governmental entities with respect to the “sister parish” concept and added that a report is forthcoming. In response to questioning regarding a preferential location, Mr. Blackwell stated that Rapides Parish or the City of Alexandria would be a location to consider due to ease in accessing the interstate.

Mr. H. Lapeyre moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Policy, Procedure, & Legal Committee retain the matter relative to the ‘sister parish’ concept with respect to lines of communication during an emergency.”

The Vice Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. H. Lapeyre.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WASRecorded:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Vice Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Mr. P. Rhodes, “THAT, there being no further business to come before the Policy, Procedure, & Legal Committee, the meeting be adjourned.”

The Vice Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WASRecorded:

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Council accept and ratify the minutes of the Policy, Procedure, & Legal Committee meeting held on 10/31/05.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. K. Elfert.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

The Chairman called for a report on the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on 10/31/05, whereupon the Committee Chairman, noting that ratification of the minutes calls public hearings on 11/16/05, rendered the following:

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 31, 2005

The Chairman, Wayne Thibodeaux, called the Budget & Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. in the Terrebonne Parish Council Meeting Room with the Invocation led by Minute Clerk Suzette Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. A. Tillman. Upon roll call, Committee Members recorded as present were: T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre, P. Rhodes, W. Thibodeaux, A. Tillman, and C. Voisin. Committee Members K. Elfert and P. Lambert were recorded as absent. A quorum was declared present.

The Chairman announced that Committee Members K. Elfert and P. Lambert were unable to attend this evening’s meeting due to prior commitments.

OFFERED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.
SECONDED BY: Mr. P. Rhodes.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-382

WHEREAS, sealed quotations were obtained by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government for the purpose of performing all work (labor, materials and equipment) necessary for and incidental to the demolition and removal of two (2) abandoned structures and one (1) slab for the Planning and Zoning Department pursuant to FEMA requirements of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Lili/Isadore), and

WHEREAS, after careful review by Pat Gordon, Planning and Zoning Director, it has been determined that the total price of Twenty-two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars ($22,500.00) from V.J. Caro, Jr. Building Contractor, Inc. for the above referenced services should be accepted per the attached documents, and
WHEREAS, the Parish Finance Department has verified that funds are budgeted and available in the 2005 Account Number 213-622-8363-05 for the aforementioned referenced services, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Administration has recommended the acceptance of the price for the aforementioned demolition services at a total cost of Twenty-two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars ($22,500.00) as per the attached documents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Budget & Finance Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that the recommendation of the Parish Administration be approved and that the quotation for the aforementioned demolition services be accepted as per the attached forms.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 31st day of October, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

OFFERED BY: Mr. A. Tillman.
SECONDED BY: Mr. P. Rhodes.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-383

WHEREAS, prices were obtained through the Louisiana State Commodity Catalog by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government for the purpose of purchasing eleven (11) each computers with software, upgrades, docking stations, and mounting brackets for the Houma Police Department under State Contract #405773, and

WHEREAS, after careful review by Neal Prejean, Information Technology Manager, and Patrick Boudreaux, Police Chief, it has been determined that the total price of Twenty-four Thousand, One Hundred Ninety-seven Dollars and Three Cents ($24,197.03) from Insight Public Sector for the purchase of eleven (11) each ToughBook Computers, Software, Upgrades, Docking Stations, and Mounting Brackets should be accepted as per the State Purchasing Contract Catalog, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Finance Department has verified that funds are budgeted and available through a grant provided by a FY 2003 LLEBG in the 2005 Account Number 206-210-8915-04 for the purchase of the aforementioned computers, software, docking stations, upgrades, and mounting brackets, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Administration has recommended the acceptance of the price for the aforementioned computers, software upgrades, docking stations, and mounting brackets purchase at a total cost of Twenty-four Thousand, One Hundred Ninety-seven Dollars and Three Cents ($24,197.03) as per the attached State Purchasing Contract Catalog.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Budget and Finance Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that the recommendation of the Parish Administration be approved and that the purchase of the computers, software, upgrades, docking stations, and mounting brackets be accepted as per the attached forms.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 31st day of October, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

OFFERED BY: Mr. P. Rhodes.
SECONDED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-384

WHEREAS, proposals were obtained by the Jefferson Parish Department of General Services and Procurement for the purpose of providing scheduled maintenance and repairs to various two-way radios (portable, mobiles) system backbone, interconnects, data equipment and system hardware for the parishwide radio systems (RFP 0048), and

WHEREAS, after careful review by Pat Boudreaux, Chief of Houma Police Department it has been determined that prices be accepted and that award be made in the amount of Forty-five Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty-nine Dollars and Thirty cents ($45,949.30) to Motorola, Inc. to provide two (2) radio repeaters and seventy-five (75) public safety speaker microphones for the City of Houma Police Department utilizing funds provided by the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant should be accepted as per attached documents and under the provisions set forth in the Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 39:1701 et seq., and

WHEREAS, Donald Picou, Assistant Comptroller/Budget Officer, has verified that funds are budgeted and available in the 2005 Account Numbers 206-210-8915-08, and 206-210-8915-06 for the purchase of the aforementioned communication equipment, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Administration has recommended the acceptance of the prices for the aforementioned purchase at a total cost of Forty-five Thousand, Nine Hundred Forty-nine Dollars and Thirty Cents ($45,949.30) as per the attached documents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Budget and Finance Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that the recommendation of the Parish Administration be approved and that the purchase of the communication equipment be accepted as per the attached documents.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 31st day of October, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

Houma Police Department Grant Coordinator Sergeant Bobbie O’Bryan explained that the aforementioned purchase is for two Quantar Repeater Systems and public safety microphones. He added that the new system would have a capacity of 800 mega hertz and noted the frequency would be above the Parish’s current frequency.
Purchasing Manager Angela Guidry stated that only the Parish’s interest in the property located at Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the NW/4 of NW/4 of Section 5, containing approximately 188.61 acres being located NW/4 of SE/4 of Section 6 is being declared surplus, which is approximately .1380%.

Mr. C. Voisin moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee introduce an ordinance which will declare as surplus 1/720 of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the NW/4 of NW/4 of Section 5, containing approximately 188.61 acres being located NW/4 of SE/4 of Section 6 owned by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Ward 4 – Grand Caillou and call a public hearing on said matter on November 16, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.”

(RESOLUTION OFFERED AFTER DISCUSSION)

Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock stated that the aforementioned property was acquired through an adjudicated property sales tax lien, and noted that the 1/720 interest is undivided.

Comptroller Jamie Elfert interjected that the aforementioned surplus property is being declared surplus and will be disposed of by selling it to the highest bidder.

Upon questioning, Mrs. Guidry stated that the undivided 10% of 1/72 interest belongs to Mr. Joseph J. Ayo and added that the assessed value is based upon the Tax Assessor’s appraisal.

Committee Member P. Rhodes requested that the Legal Department determine the actual lien value of the property.

OFFERED BY: Mr. C. Voisin.
SECONDED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-385

A resolution giving Notice of Intent to adopt an ordinance declaring 1/720 of lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 and NW/4 of NW/4 of Section 5, containing approximately 188.61 acres being located in T20S R17E. NW/4 of SE/4 of Section 6 T20S R17E, owned by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, as surplus property: and to address other matters relative thereto.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Budget and Finance Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that Notice of Intent is given for adopting an Ordinance to declare 1/720 of lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 and NW/4 of NW/4 of Section 5, containing approximately 188.61 acres being located in T20S R17E. NW/4 of SE/4 of Section 6 T20S R17E, owned by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, as surplus property: and to address other matters relative thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing on said ordinance to be called for Wednesday, November 16, 2005.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 31st day of October, 2005.

* * * * * * * *

Ms. C. Duplantis moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee introduce an ordinance to amend the 2005 Budget so as to provide funds for 1) Hurricane Katrina Crisis Assistance Program and 2) The Floyd Duplantis Bridge, and that a public hearing on said matter be scheduled for November 16, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.”
The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Ms. C. Duplantis.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

OFFERED BY: Mr. C. Voisin.
SECONDED BY: Ms. C. Duplantis.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-386

WHEREAS, bids were obtained by the Terrebonne Parish School Board for an auxiliary department requirement contract (Blanket Order Number 4060-05-06-93 Labor/Service – Environmental Abatement), and

WHEREAS, after careful review by David Drury, Government Facilities Manager, and Al Levron, Public Works Director, it has been determined that the estimated cost of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00) from Louisiana Service and Contracting Company, Inc. for providing environmental abatement services should be accepted as per the attached documents and under the provisions set forth in the Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 39:1701 et seq., and

WHEREAS, Donald Picou, Assistant Comptroller/Budget Officer, has verified that funds are budgeted and available in the 2005 Account Number 151-194-8932-01 for the aforementioned services, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Administration has recommended the acceptance of the price for the aforementioned services at an estimated cost of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00) as per the attached documents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Budget and Finance Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that the recommendation of the Parish Administration be approved and that the proposal for the environmental abatement services be accepted as per the attached documents.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 31st day of October, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated that the administrative branch of the Coroner’s Office will be moved into the old Shady Oaks Building, and noted that some remediation of the building is necessary prior to the move. Mr. Blackwell continued that due to recent hurricanes, there has been some delay in locating contractors to complete the remediation work and added that the aforementioned contract is being “piggy backed” onto a contract that the Terrebonne Parish School System has. In response to questioning, he stated that Administration investigated
the possible use of property owned by Hospital Service District No. 1 near the Cardiovascular Institute of the South and Dunn Street, but the location was not feasible. Mr. Blackwell added that the feasibility of expanding the Coroner’s Office was also evaluated and was not practical. He continued that the Shady Oaks site was the best solution, and stated that the morgue will remain at the corner of Dunn Street.

Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock stated that because the aforementioned contract provides a service, it is not subject to public bid laws. She added that the Legal Department would review the matter.

Mr. P. Rhodes moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee introduce an ordinance to amend the 2005 Budgets for various projects due to the sale of the Public Improvement Bonds, Series 2005, and call a public hearing on said matter on November 16, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.” (**MOTION ADOPTED AFTER DISCUSSION)

Upon questioning regarding use of the local Federal Court House Building, Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated that discussions were stalled when the Federal Court moved back into the building as a result of Hurricane Katrina. He continued that the Federal Court would soon vacate the premises again to return to the New Orleans area, and added that the building’s owner is still interested in discussing options of allowing City Court to lease the building.

**The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. P. Rhodes.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

OFFERED BY: Ms. C. Duplantis.

SECONDED BY: Mr. A. Tillman.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-387

WHEREAS, the residents of Lafayette Woods Subdivision have proposed that a drainage study should be conducted in the area of their subdivision to alleviate drainage problems for the many residents in this community, and,

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish Council and the Parish Administration acknowledge that the drainage in the area is in need of upgrading and appreciate the concern and ideas of the subdivision residents, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Council is currently reviewing the proposed 2006 Budget as proposed by the Parish President, and

WHEREAS, the Council would like to see adequate funds budgeted to allow a drainage study to be performed, which could provide the Parish Government with a clear method of addressing the drainage problems in Lafayette Woods Subdivision and the surrounding area.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Budget and Finance Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that the Parish Administration be instructed to obtain a cost estimate to retain the services of an engineering firm to conduct a study on the drainage in Lafayette Woods Subdivision and the surrounding area and that Administration be further requested to attempt to locate sufficient funds to conduct the study and to perform the proper corrective action.
THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 31st day of October, 2005.

* * * * * * * *

In response to questioning, Mr. Blackwell stated that Administration is evaluating numerous locations within Terrebonne Parish that have drainage issues, and noted that the aforementioned request is for consideration for placement on the Parish’s priority list. He added that Administration would submit a priority level list at a later time.

Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock requested additional information with respect to drafting an affidavit for the bid requirement for financial fiscal agents in conjunction with the Community Investment Act.

The Chairman stated that the Parish currently refers to the Community Investment Act in its bid packet for financial fiscal agents.

Comptroller Jamie Elfert stated that the FDIC is responsible for auditing banking institutions and ensuring that the banking institutions are in compliance. She added that the FDIC posts its findings on their website. Mrs. Elfert stated that Administration could require that the financial institutions place the information in an affidavit during the bid process, and that Administration can also verify the information.

The Chairman expressed his desire in seeing financial institutions practice fair policies with respect to Federal regulations and their employees.

Ms. Alcock interjected that the Legal Department can prepare an affidavit expanding the bid requirements to include verification of a financial institution’s compliance with the Community Investment Act.

Mr. C. Voisin moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee retain the matter relative to criteria for financial institutions interested in becoming fiscal agents for the Parish Government in committee for further evaluation.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. C. Voisin.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

A review of the proposed 2006 Budget began on the following departmental budgets:

a) Fire District No. 8 – The Chairman announced that Fire District No. 8 Chief Michael Adams requested that the district’s budget hearing be postponed to a later date.
Mr. C. Voisin moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee postpone the budget hearing for Fire Protection District No. 8 until a future date.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. C. Voisin.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS:  None.

ABSTAINING:  None.

ABSENT:  K. Elfert and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

b) FTA Grant Fund (Good Earth Transit) – Transit Administrator Wendell Voisin presented a highlight of the proposed 2006 FTA Grant Fund budget, and noted that the Good Earth Transit System would continue to provide the same service as currently established. In response to questioning, Mr. W. Voisin stated that there has been a small increase in the system’s ridership. He attributed the increase in ridership to the transporting of evacuees housed at the Civic Center and to various shelters. Mr. W. Voisin stated that the only strain the system has experienced is delays due to an increase in traffic in Terrebonne Parish. In response to questioning with respect to replacing some of the system’s fleet, he stated that funding is available and noted that additional funding may become available for physical plant replacement as a result of recent hurricanes. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

c) Federal Highway Administration (Rural Transit) – Transit Administrator Wendell Voisin stated that the Terrebonne Council on Aging has assumed the responsibility of providing rural transportation services through State funding. He noted that ridership has averaged the same amount of riders when the service was provided by the Parish, and added that the Council on Aging has indicated that the “on demand” ridership service is increasing at a high rate. In response to questioning, Mr. Voisin stated that the Parish is still the grantee for rural transit services and the Council on Aging is the provider and sub-grantee for said services.

In response to questioning, Comptroller Jamie Elfert stated that grant funding for the Federal Highway Administration (Rural Transit) would now be reflected in the Council on Aging budget.

Terrebonne Council on Aging Executive Director Diana Edmonson presented statistics relative to the September and October ridership figures for the rural transit services. She noted that the Council on Aging is pleased with the success of the services.

The Chairman requested a breakdown of ridership for each rural area. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

d) Centralized Fleet Maintenance – Fleet Maintenance Superintendent John Daigle stated that additional services have been provided with respect to fueling emergency vehicles, expenses have been level, and there has been a reduction in the cost of purchasing parts. He continued that there are some problems in hiring equipment operators, but noted that the item refers to training for operators. Mr. Daigle noted that there are 6 to 7 vacant equipment operator positions and added that the Parish currently has a fleet of 567 items that includes vehicles and equipment. He stated that Administration is in the process of devising a “life expectancy vehicular list” and explained that other services & charges include guard services, travel, training, contracts, communication equipment, and utility billing. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

e) Engineering - Engineering Analyst Jeanne Bray presented a highlight of the proposed 2006 Engineering budget, which includes the transfer of the Construction
Inspector’s position to the Drainage Division, and the Right-of-Way Agent will be merged with a more technical GIS Planner position.

Parish Manager Barry Blackwell explained that Administration has received several inquiries with respect to filling the Parish Engineer’s position; however, no one has met the criteria outlined in Administration’s overview of the position. He continued that Administration provides secondary engineering services to the Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission and added that Administration believes that the taxpayers of Terrebonne Parish are paying for engineering services that have nothing to due with projects affecting them.

Public Works Director Al Levron stated that Ms. Joan Schexnayder recently received her certified engineering license and noted that Ms. Jeanne Bray is working toward obtaining her licensing. He noted a desire to “promote” from within the Parish Government with respect to the Parish Engineer’s position. During questioning, Mr. Levron stated that it is not the Government’s position to require developers to get their own engineers, and explained that David Waitz Engineering Consultant is providing engineering consultant services for subdivision reviews. He added that funding is being derived from the Engineering Department’s budget.

In response to questioning, Ms. Jeanne Bray stated that she was unable to take the engineering licensing exam due to recent natural events, and added that she is tentatively scheduled to take the exam in April.

Upon additional questioning, Mr. Levron stated that the staff engineers’ salaries are commensurate with their experience and training.

The Chairman requested that Administration include an allocation for a Parish Engineer in the proposed 2006 Budget, and expressed some concern with respect to services provided by David Waitz due to his completing work for developers and providing consulting services for the Planning Commission.

Mr. Levron interjected that, previously, in-house engineering consulting services became quite stressful for staff and Administration believed it would better to allow staff to work on Coastal Restoration projects. In response to questioning, Mr. Levron stated that Coastal Zone Management & Preservation Director Leslie Suazo has recommended that a plan be devised for hiring an engineering consultant for the Coastal Restoration & Preservation Department. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

f) Parish Council - Council Clerk Paul Labat stated that a capital outlay request for a filing system is being split between the Council and the Council Clerk’s budgets. He continued that the proposed 2006 Budget also includes funding for new computers, and added that the Council Fiscal Agent recommends separating the Travel & Training Fund in order to precisely identify the two items. Mr. Labat also noted an error in including a 3% increase in compensation for Council Members.

Committee Member H. Lapeyre commended the Council Staff for the excellent job they perform.

The Chairman requested consideration including funding for television cameras for the Parish’s Public Access Channel.

In response to questioning, Mr. Labat stated that consideration would be given to allocating funding for cameras after the Government Access Channel Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

g) Council Clerk - Council Clerk Paul Labat, again, noted the cost sharing of a filing system between the Council and Council Clerk’s budgets. He continued that funding has been allocated for computers, a color copier, television/VCR, noted that the Fiscal Agent’s position is still a part-time position, and stated that the Council should begin producing paperless agendas by January 1, 2006.

Committee Member C. Duplantis commended the Council Staff for their job performance. (NO ACTION TAKEN)
h) **Capital Area Legal Services** - Comptroller Jamie Elfert stated that the proposed 2006 Budget reflects the same level of service as last year.

i) **Customer Service** - Customer Service Manager Ed Lawson provided an overview of the proposed 2006 Customer Service budget, and noted future increases in utility bills due to an increase in gas costs. Mr. Lawson explained that due to recent hurricanes, billing cycles were lengthened, which increased the cost on some utility bills. He added that Administration has offered assistance to those consumers who received increased bills.

Committee Member T. Cavalier was recorded as exiting the proceedings at 7:01 p.m.

Committee Member C. Duplantis requested that Administration consider placing a “billing drop off” receptacle in East Houma, and that Waterworks be requested to do the same in West Houma.

In response to questioning, Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated Administration is in the process of devising a public access workshop. He explained that by transferring the Parking Meter Technician position transfer to the Houma Police Department, the revenue generated from parking meter would be used to pay the salary of a new officer.

Mr. H. Lapeyre moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee request Administration to research the possibility of establishing a pilot program for determining other power sources.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. C. Voisin.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

**YEAS:** C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre, W. Thibodeaux, A. Tillman, and C. Voisin.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINING:** None.

**ABSENT:** T. Cavalier, K. Elfert, P. Lambert, and P. Rhodes.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

In response to additional questioning, Mr. Lawson stated that the Parking Meter Technician position is not being eliminated only transferred to another department.

Additional discussion continued relative to increased utility billing.

The Chairman requested that Administration place an explanation of the increase utility billing cost on utility bills as well as a contact person for consumers to contact. He also requested that Administration expedite the placement of a “utility bill drop off” receptacle in East Houma.

Mr. Blackwell stated that Administration has met with several companies regarding conserving energy costs and noted that funding has been set aside for replacing the HVAC in the Government Tower Building.

The Chairman requested that Administration contact Lafourche Parish regarding its energy cost saving program.

Lengthy discussion transpired relative to reducing energy costs. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

j) **Legal Services** - Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock stated that funding for the Legal Services is derived from the General Fund, and noted that the Legal Services proposed 2006 Budget include an increase in Assistant District Attorney’s salaries in addition to funding for periodicals, Capital Area Legal Service, legal publication costs, legal opinions, grievance issues, and garnishments. She added that the Legal
Department incurred an increase in cost due to assisting the Home Rule Charter Commission, working on the creation of TEDA, and meeting with the Revolving Loan Program. Ms. Alcock noted a decrease of 16.5% in the proposed budget. In response to questioning, she stated that the Legal Department has closed several lawsuits, settled several cases, and intervened in getting money back for workmen’s compensation claims.

In response to questioning, Comptroller Jamie Elfert stated that Administration’s legal costs are spread among various departments and the Council’s legal fees are taken from the General Fund.

Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated that the Parish’s 5-year average for Legal costs are approximately $1,400,000.00 per year and noted a 19% decrease in the overall Legal budget. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

k) Parish President - Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated that there are no material or staff changes in the proposed 2006 Parish President’s budget. In response to questioning, Mr. Blackwell stated that the Parish President’s office provides auxiliary staff personnel for the Port Commission and Coastal Zone Management and Preservation Departments.

Committee Member A. Tillman requested that Administration provide the Council Members with the code for accessing the 7th Floor Administrative Offices. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

l) Ward Court - Comptroller Jamie Elfert noted that discussion of the proposed 2006 Ward Court budget was considered at a previous meeting, and in response to questioning, stated that there have been no pay increase for said division in quite some time. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

m) Dedicated Emergency Fund - Comptroller Jamie Elfert noted a proposed transfer of $600,000.00 into the Dedicated Emergency Fund and that the current balance is $3,700,000.00. She continued that Administration did not use any funding from said storm during recent hurricanes because funding from Hurricane Lili and Tropical Storm Isadore were received around the same time. Mrs. Elfert stated that Administration’s goal is to reach a minimum fund balance of $5,000,000.00 in said account.

Discussion transpired relative to how the aforementioned funding could be spent and what project could receive funding from said account. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

n) Sales Tax Revenue Fund - Comptroller Jamie Elfert explained that the Sales Tax Revenue Fund funding is derived from money collected from the .25-quarter cent sales tax and is used for Debt Service payments and capital projects.

Committee Member C. Duplantis requested Administration’s consideration of, at some point, including north Hollywood Road on the capital outlay project list. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

o) General – Other - Comptroller Jamie Elfert stated that the proposed 2006 General – Other budget includes general expenses with respect to the collection of property taxes. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

p) Road District # 6 O & M - Council Clerk Paul Labat stated that Committee Member Pete Lambert has requested that the aforementioned proposed budget review be postponed.

Ms. C. Duplantis moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Budget & Finance Committee postpone the budget review for Road District # 6 O & M until a future meeting.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Ms. C. Duplantis.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: T. Cavalier, K. Elfert, and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Mr. H. Laperey, “THAT, there being no further business to come before the Budget & Finance Committee, the meeting be adjourned.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: T. Cavalier, K. Elfert, and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Wayne Thibodeaux, Chairman
Suzette Thomas, Minute Clerk

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. H. Laperey, “THAT, the Council accept and ratify the minutes of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on 10/31/05.” *(MOTION VOTED ON AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION.)*

Upon questioning, Parish Attorney C. Alcock stated that she has ordered the actual lien value of the property being proposed to be declared surplus, of which TPCG owns a small portion in Ward 4 – Grand Caillou, and has not received the information as of yet, but will provide it to the Council once she does.

*The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: A. Tillman, W. Thibodeaux, K. Elfert, T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Laperey, C. Voisin, and P. Rhodes

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

The Chairman called for a report on the Public Services Committee meeting held on 11/1/05, whereupon the Committee Chairman rendered the following:

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 1, 2005
The Chairman, Alvin Tillman, Sr., called the Public Services Committee meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the Terrebonne Parish Council Meeting Room with the Invocation led by Mr. P. Rhodes and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. H. Lapeyre. Upon roll call, Committee Members recorded as present were: T. Cavalier, K. Elfert, H. Lapeyre, P. Rhodes, W. Thibodeaux, A. Tillman, and C. Voisin. Committee Members C. Duplantis and P. Lambert were recorded as absent. A quorum was declared present.

The Chairman announced that Committee Members C. Duplantis and P. Lambert were unable to attend this evening’s meeting due to prior commitments, and then wished Councilman Wayne Thibodeaux a Happy Birthday.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-388

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government has entered into a construction contract with Valentine & LeBlanc, Inc., for Parish Project No. 05-GAS-10, known as “Gibson Gasline Relocation”, filed under Entry # 1214531 in the Terrebonne Parish Courthouse, and

WHEREAS, the Project Engineer has submitted Plan Change No. 1 as the Final & Equalizing Plan Change for the project,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Public Services Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does hereby approve Plan Change No. 1 in the amount of $57.50 underrun.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terrebonne Parish Council, on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does authorize Parish President Don Schwab to hereby execute this Change Order # 1 to the contract for the Gibson Gasline Relocation, and does authorize and direct the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Recorder of Mortgages of Terrebonne Parish to note this acceptance thereof in the margin of the inscription of said contract under Entry No. 1214531 in the records of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the CONTRACTOR, Valentine & LeBlanc, Inc.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-389

A resolution providing for the approval of Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Shaw Coastal, Inc. to provide engineering services in connection with the Bayou Terrebonne Dredging Project, Parish Project No. 04-DRA-24 and authorizing the Parish President to execute the appropriate engineering contract amendment for the project.
WHEREAS, the Parish contracted with Shaw Coastal in August of 2004 to perform a hydrologic study of the portion of Bayou Terrebonne, located between the Terrebonne-LaFourche boundary and the Intracoastal Waterway, and

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government has accepted the report which delineates recommended channel improvements, and weir removal, and

WHEREAS, Amendment No.1 provided costs for Task 1 (Project Management), Task 2 (Permit), Task 3 (Surveys – Broadmoor Weir to Coteau Weir), and

WHEREAS, this Amendment No. 2 will provide other direct costs associated with Tasks 1, 2 & 3 and the preparation of the Statewide Flood Control Application, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Shaw Coastal, Inc. has been asked to perform these activities under the Additional Services sections of the Engineering Agreement for this project, and

WHEREAS, the TPCG is desirous of having these services continued so that there is a need to increase the upset limits for these services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Public Services Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does hereby approve this Amendment No. 2 to the Engineering Agreement for an increase of $25,850.00 in Additional Services and authorizes Parish President Don Schwab to execute this Amendment No. 2 to the Engineering Agreement for the Bayou Terrebonne Dredging Project, Parish Project No. 04-DRA-24, with Shaw Coastal, Inc.; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Engineer, Shaw Coastal, Inc.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS:  None.

ABSTAINING:  None.

ABSENT:  C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

OFFERED BY: Mr. P. Rhodes.
SECONDED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-390

A resolution authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 to the construction contract with the firm of Dolphin Services, Inc. for Upper Montegut Pump Station Expansion, IEB Emergency Funding Project (Contract 3) TPCG Project No. 05-IEB-08, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government entered into a contract with Dolphin Services, Inc. for Upper Montegut Pump Station Expansion, IEB Emergency Funding Project (Contract 3), TPCG Project No.05-IEB-08, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Engineer has prepared Change Order No. 1 dated October 11, 2005 which indicates an increase in the contract amount of Three Thousand, Three Hundred Seven Dollars and No Cents ($3,307.00), and two (2) additional days in contract time to compensate the contractor for replacing the existing 3 flanges on the existing discharge pipes so that a proper connection can be made to the 3 new vertical propeller pumps to be installed under this contract and thirty (30) additional days as per an agreement made with the contractor prior to start of construction, for a total increase of thirty-two (32) contract days, and
WHEREAS, this Change Order No. 1 has been recommended for approval by the Engineer for this project, T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Public Services Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does hereby approve and authorize the execution by Terrebonne Parish President Don Schwab of Change Order No. 1 to the construction agreement for Upper Montegut Pump Station Expansion, IEB Emergency Funding Project (Contract 3) TPCG Project No. 05-IEB-08, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Engineer (T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc.).

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

The Chairman recognized Mr. Larry Dupre of T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc. who explained that the aforementioned change order encompasses the utilization of two existing pumps at the Montegut Pump Station, and noted that, on an emergency basis, the pumps were hooked up to existing discharge pumps. He continued that the intent is to install three new pumps and replace the existing flanges with the new flanges. In response to questioning, Mr. Dupre stated that the old flanges do not match the connections on the new equipment.

OFFERED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.

SECONDED BY: Mr. W. Thibodeaux & Mr. C. Voisin.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-391

A resolution for the approval of Change Order No. 1 (Balancing), Parish Project No. 04-PARK-10, Valhi Lagoon Recreational Park (Westgate Park), Phase I, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, a certain contract was entered into between the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and Sealevel Construction, Inc. designated as Parish Project No. 04-PARK-10, Valhi Lagoon Recreational Park (Westgate Park), Phase I, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 (Balancing) is required to adjust contract items quantities to final quantities used and add an item for conflict manhole for the above reference project, with no increase in contract time and a decrease of $5,695.55 in the contract amount, and

WHEREAS, the Engineer recommends that this change order be accepted for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Public Services Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does hereby approve this Change Order.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

Committee Member H. Lapeyre requested that Administration allow the remaining $5,695.55 to stay in the Valhi Lagoon Recreation Park Account for future expansion projects.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Phil Schexnayder of GSE Associates, Inc. who explained that there were 12 items on the balancing change order, of which 11 items were deductions and 1 item incurred an increase. He continued that the total amount the change order was $8,012.55 for the “under run” and a $2,317.00 “over run”, resulting in a net “under run” of $5,695.55. Mr. Schexnayder then presented a copy of the balancing summary.

OFFERED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.
SECONDED BY: Ms. K. Elfert.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-392

A resolution for the approval of Change Order No. 1, Parish Project No. 95-DRA-67, Phase I, Drainage Improvements, Excavation of Drainage Lateral Along Clyde Landry Property, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, a certain contract was entered into between the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and Sealevel Construction, Inc. designated as Parish Project No. 95-DRA-67, Phase I, Drainage Improvements, Excavation of Drainage Lateral Along Clyde Landry Property, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 is required to reduce the retainage amount from 10% to 5% since the project bid amount exceeded $500,000.00 for the above referenced project, with no increase in contract time, and

WHEREAS, the Engineer recommends that this change order be accepted for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Public Services Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does hereby approve this Change Order.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

* * * * * * * * *

The Chairman recognized Mr. Phil Schexnayder of GSE Associates, Inc. who explained that for any State contract which exceeds $500,000.00, the retainage amount is 5% and for any project under $500,000.00, the retainage amount is 10%. He added that the aforementioned change order corrects the actual retainage amount percentage.
Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock noted the difficulty in enforcing excessive noise ordinances due to the only persons with decibel readers being law enforcement personnel. She continued that the Legal Department has attempted to simplify the excessive noise ordinance as much as possible, and added that a draft ordinance has been submitted. Ms. Alcock stated that the proposed ordinance removes enforcement of excessive noise from the Planning and Zoning Department and establishes a misdemeanor offense.

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, the Public Services Committee retain the matter relative to a proposed ordinance to regulate excessive noise generated from businesses until the next committee meeting.” (**MOTION ADOPTED AFTER DISCUSSION)

Committee Member P. Rhodes questioned why motorcycles were excluded in the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Alcock stated that the Legal Department would review the matter and submit a revised ordinance for consideration at the next committee meeting.

Committee Member W. Thibodeaux explained that the aforementioned proposed ordinance is an attempt to regulate noise emission in the area of Geraldine Road.

In response to questioning, Ms. Alcock stated that the proposed ordinance would regulate noise emission between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at 80 decibels and from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at 70 decibels.

Committee Member K. Elfert expressed her concern relative to the proposed ordinance impacting those commercial entities that are attempting to “catch up” on lost construction days as a result of the recent hurricanes by beginning their workdays earlier. She noted impending problems with enforcement of the proposed ordinance.

**The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Council Clerk Paul Labat stated that Utilities Director Tom Bourg informed him that FEMA representative Jerry Stalder would be late for this evening’s meeting. Mr. Labat suggested deferring the matter until later in the proceedings or for an “add-on” during the Community Development & Planning Committee meeting.

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Public Services Committee defer discussion with respect to hurricane debris clean-up crews until later in the proceedings.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.
ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. H. Lapeyre moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Public Services Committee retain the matter relative to multi-way ‘Stop’ signs at various intersections of Duval Street until the next committee meeting.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. H. Lapeyre.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Parish Manager Barry Blackwell stated that Administration has received complaints regarding debris falling from vehicles transporting said items to disposal sites, and has been assured by FEMA that the problem is being corrected. He noted additional problems with piles of debris without signs remaining along roadways, and those sites with debris that have not been inspected by insurance adjusters.

Mr. C. Voisin moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, there being no further business to come before the Public Services Committee, the meeting be adjourned.”

The Chairman called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. C. Voisin.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairman declared the motion adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Alvin Tillman, Chairman

Suzette Thomas, Minute Clerk

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, the Council accept and ratify the minutes of the Public Services Committee meeting held on 11/1/05.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

The Chairman called for a report on the Community Development & Planning Committee meeting held on 11/1/05, whereupon the Committee Chairwoman, noting that ratification of the minutes calls condemnation hearings on 11/14/05 and public hearings on 11/16/05 and 12/7/05, rendered the following:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

The Chairwoman, Teri Cavalier, called the Community Development & Planning Committee meeting to order at 5:52 p.m. in the Terrebonne Parish Council Meeting Room with the Invocation led by Ms. K. Elfert and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. C. Voisin. Upon roll call, Committee Members recorded as present were: T. Cavalier, K. Elfert, H. Lapeyre, P. Rhodes, W. Thibodeaux, A. Tillman, and C. Voisin. Committee Members C. Duplantis and P. Lambert were recorded as absent. A quorum was declared present.

The Chairwoman announced that Committee Members C. Duplantis and P. Lambert were unable to attend this evening’s committee meeting due to prior commitments, and announced that she may leave the meeting early to attend another meeting.

OFFERED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.
SECONDED BY: Mr. A. Tillman.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-393

A RESOLUTION CALLING A CONDEMNATION HEARING ON THE STRUCTURE SITUATED ON LOTS 11, 12, 13, & 14, BLOCK 2 OF PARK VIEW SUBDIVISION AND LOCATED AT 124 THIRD STREET FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2004, the Department of Planning and Zoning was notified of extensive violations to the Terrebonne Parish Nuisance Abatement Ordinance occurring at 124 Third Street and legally described as Lots 11, 12, 13, & 14, Block 2 of Park View Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, from an inspection of the property conducted by the Department of Planning and Zoning on April 6, 2004, it was found that the structure located at 124 Third Street was, in fact, in such condition that it was formally declared a derelict and abandoned structure, as defined under Section 14-26 of the Terrebonne Parish Code of Ordinances and, therefore, constituted a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, after numerous attempts to work with the property owner to remedy the violations over the last year, an inspection of the property conducted on October 13, 2005, revealed that the conditions have worsened.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Community Development and Planning Committee), that a condemnation hearing on the structure located on Lots 11, 12, 13, & 14, Block 2, Park View Subdivision, 124 Third Street be called for Monday, November 14, 2005, at 6:00 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate notice be sent to the property owner(s) requiring him/her to show just cause at the hearing as to why the structure should not be condemned.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairwoman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

* * * * * * * *

OFFERED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.
SECONDED BY: Ms. K. Elfert.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-394

A RESOLUTION CALLING A CONDEMNATION HEARING ON THE STRUCTURE SITUATED ON LOTS 11, 12, 13, & 14, BLOCK 2 OF PARK VIEW SUBDIVISION AND LOCATED AT 126 THIRD STREET FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2004, the Department of Planning and Zoning was notified of extensive violations to the Terrebonne Parish Nuisance Abatement Ordinance occurring at 124 Third Street and legally described as Lots 11, 12, 13, & 14, Block 2 of Park View Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, from an inspection of the property conducted by the Department of Planning and Zoning on April 6, 2004, it was found that the structure located at 124 Third Street was, in fact, in such condition that it was formally declared a derelict and abandoned structure, as defined under Section 14-26 of the Terrebonne Parish Code of Ordinances and, therefore, constituted a nuisance; and

WHEREAS, after numerous attempts to work with the property owner to remedy the violations over the last year, an inspection of the property conducted on October 13, 2005, revealed that the conditions have worsened.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Community Development and Planning Committee), that a condemnation hearing on the structure located on Lots 11, 12, 13, & 14, Block 2, Park View Subdivision, 126 Third Street be called for Monday, November 14, 2005, at 6:00 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate notice be sent to the property owner(s) requiring him/her to show just cause at the hearing as to why the structure should not be condemned.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairwoman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

* * * * * * *
RESOLUTION NO. 05-395

A resolution authorizing the Parish President to execute a Food Service Agreement between St. Lucy Day Care and Child Development Center and Terrebonne Parish Head Start, a program in the Department of Housing and Human Services within Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government.

WHEREAS, St. Lucy Day Care and Child Development Center has expressed an interest in preparing and serving meals at two Terrebonne Parish Head Start sites, and

WHEREAS, the facilities of the Sponsor are not adequate for preparing and serving meals to children, the Sponsor wishes to contract with the Vendor for the preparation and service of meals to children participating in this Program, and the Vendor agrees to supply approved meals to the Sponsor, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that a Food Service Agreement be executed by St. Lucy Day Care and Child Development Center and Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terrebonne Parish Council (Community Development and Planning Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, does hereby authorize the Parish President, Don Schwab, to execute the Food Service Agreement to provide meals; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish President be authorized to sign any certifications that may be associated with the implementation of this agreement.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairwoman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-396

A Resolution giving Notice of Intent to adopt an Ordinance to dedicate and accept the maintenance/operation of the street(s), drainage servitudes, utilities, gas, sewer, and rights-of-way for “SUGAR MILL OLDE TOWNE, PHASE A” and to incorporate “RUE ST. RACHEL” into the Enhanced 911 Emergency Response System for the purpose of providing a better means of locating addresses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council, on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that Notice of Intent is given for adopting an ordinance to dedicate and accept the maintenance/operation of the street(s), drainage servitudes, utilities, gas, sewer, and rights-of-way for “SUGAR MILL OLDE TOWNE, PHASE A”, and to incorporate “RUE ST. RACHEL” into the Enhanced 911 Emergency Response System for the purpose of providing a better means of locating addresses; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing on said ordinance be called for Wednesday, November 16, 2005.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Chairwoman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.

Planning & Zoning Director Pat Gordon stated that the aforementioned development is in compliance with Parish regulations and noted that the subdivision would have private alleys with no public usage.

The Chairwoman announced that Item No. 5 (Expressing the Parish Government’s endorsement of the participation of TESCO, Inc., Cutting Underwater Technologies USA, Inc., Peppers Pizzeria of Houma, LLC, and Chet Morrison Diving, LLC in the benefits of the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program) has been withdrawn from the agenda as per the request of Administration.

OFFERED BY: Mr. W. Thibodeaux.
SECONDED BY: Mr. H. Lapeyre.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-397

A Resolution giving Notice of Intent to adopt an Ordinance to amend applicable sections of the Houma Zoning Ordinance so as to prohibit the placement of mobile homes/trailers for commercial and/or residential use in the C-2 (General Commercial District), C-3 (Neighborhood Commercial District), C-4 (Transition-Commercial District), C-5 (Commercial Business Park District), and MS (Medical Services District) zoning districts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council, on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that Notice of Intent is given for adopting an ordinance to amend applicable sections of the Houma Zoning Ordinance so as to prohibit the placement of mobile homes/trailers for commercial and/or residential use in the C-2 (General Commercial District), C-3 (Neighborhood Commercial District), C-4 (Transition-Commercial District), C-5 (Commercial Business Park District), and MS (Medical Services District) zoning districts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public hearing on said ordinance be called for Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis and P. Lambert.

The Acting Chairwoman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 1st day of November, 2005.
Committee Member W. Thibodeaux noted that the matter was being addressed prior to the hurricane and explained the “weird” zoning along Naquin Street, which provides for residential and C-3 zoning.

Planning & Zoning Director Patrick Gordon explained that the aforementioned problem on Naquin Street has brought to light similar zoning problems throughout the City of Houma. Mr. Gordon concurred with the aforementioned proposed ordinance. In response to questioning, he stated that utilities will not be provided to mobile homes until a permit has been obtained.

Committee Member A. Tillman requested that Administration consider some form of regulating mobile home movers to prevent movers from placing mobile homes on property where a permit has not been obtained. He also requested that the Legal Department research the possibility of requiring movers to remove illegally placed mobile homes.

The Chairwoman relinquished the chair to Committee Member K. Elfert and exited the proceedings to attend another meeting.

Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock noted that the Planning Commission, serving as the Zoning Commission, recommended the aforementioned proposed ordinance.

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Community Development & Planning Committee ‘add on’ to the agenda the matter relative to hurricane debris clean-up crews.”

Committee Member K. Elfert called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT:  T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, and P. Lambert.

Committee Member K. Elfert declared the motion adopted.

Committee Member K. Elfert recognized FEMA Representative Jerry Stalder who stated that he has been informed of only one incident in which debris fell from a vehicle transporting trash to a disposal site. He noted that weekly safety meetings are conducted to discuss safely transporting debris and added that FEMA is working with Administration and the Sheriff’s Office to resolve complaints.

In response to questioning regarding Parish laws requiring vehicles transporting solid waste to be covered, Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock stated that the disposal contract with SWDI contained a provision requiring that its trucks be covered, and noted that disposal efforts by FEMA are handled through FEMA regulations.

Committee Member P. Rhodes commended Mr. Stalder for the prompt assistance from FEMA when called.

Upon additional questioning, Mr. Stalder stated that the reimbursement period for debris removal has been extended until November 26, 2005. He continued that many of the remaining sites with debris are sites where an initial collection has been completed and additional debris has been placed near the right-of-way after the initial collection. Mr. Stalder added that a process of mapping Parish streets for debris collection has begun.
Committee Member W. Thibodeaux requested that the location at 3579 Highway 316 be investigated for collection purposes. Mr. Thibodeaux noted that crews are picking up a little bit of trash at the site each time they pass, but are not picking up the entire load.

Committee Member P. Rhodes exited the meeting to attend another meeting at this time.

Mr. Stalder stated that residents are being requested to place debris on the right-of-way for collection because crews can’t go on to private property.

Committee Member W. Thibodeaux expressed concern relative to conflicting directives from FEMA with respect to trash collection on private property and the wording of the FEMA regulations. Mr. Thibodeaux noted that Terrebonne Parish adopted an emergency ordinance per FEMA guidelines to allow for collection of debris on private property.

Parish Manager Barry Blackwell inquired about future problems with those sites with debris that have not been collected, which may be affected by FEMA’s deadline for collection of debris.

The Chairwoman re-entered the proceedings at 6:15 p.m., but did not resume the chair.

Mr. Stalder noted frustration in being able to collect debris that has not been inspected by insurance adjusters and requested that property owners remove “Do Not Remove” signs from the debris when it is ready for collection. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, there being no further business to come before the Community Development & Planning Committee, the meeting be adjourned.”

Committee Member K. Elfert called for the vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:
NAYS: None.
ABSTAINING: None.
ABSENT: C. Duplantis, P. Lambert, and P. Rhodes.

The Chairwoman declared the motion adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Teri C. Cavalier, Chairwoman
Suzette Thomas Minute Clerk

Ms. T. Cavalier moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis and Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Council accept and ratify the minutes of the Community Development & Planning Committee meeting held on 11/1/05.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. T. Cavalier.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:
NAYS: None
ABSTAINING: None
The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Council approve attendance at the following meetings as per the current Council Travel Policy:

A) Louisiana University of Medical Sciences Conference; December 2, 2005; Baton Rouge.
B) Louisiana Wetlands Permitting Workshop; December 5 & 6, 2005; Baton Rouge.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Ms. K. Elfert moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, the Council hold nominations open for two weeks for the vacancy on the Terrebonne Parish Tree Board.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. K. Elfert.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Ms. K. Elfert moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, the Council accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Cindy Rogers from the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, that nominations for the vacancy be opened, that SCIA’s nominations of Mr. Bobby Bartel and Mr. Don Hingle be accepted, that nominations be closed and that a voice vote of the Council be taken to determine who will fill the vacancy.” *(SUBSTITUTE MOTION OFFERED AFTER DISCUSSION.)

Councilman W. Thibodeaux expressed his concerns relative to whether the initial appointment procedure of SCIA submitting six names from which to choose three is being followed when an individual is appointed from two nominees submitted.

Parish Attorney C. Alcock requested that she be given time to review this matter and report her findings to the Council.

*Mr. W. Thibodeaux offered a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman and Mr. C. Voisin, “THAT, the Council hold nominations open for two weeks for the vacant position on the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, representing SCIA, to allow the Parish Attorney to review and offer counsel on the appropriate appointment procedure.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.
UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. H. Lapeyre moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, the Council hold nominations open for two weeks for the vacancy on the Terrebonne Port Commission, and accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Gary Landry.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. H. Lapeyre.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Ms. K. Elfert moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, the Council open nominations for the expired term on the Houma Visitors & Convention Bureau, that the Civic Center Development Corporation’s nomination of Mrs. Tammy Usie be accepted, that nominations be closed, and that Mrs. Usie be appointed to said position.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. K. Elfert.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

The Chairman recognized Mrs. Tammy Usie, who thanked the Council for the appointment and stated that she looks forward to working with board members in attracting visitors to Terrebonne Parish and promoting a positive image for the area.

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, the Council hold nominations open for the upcoming expiring terms of Mr. Greg Fakier (Parish Council), Mr. Keith Kenny (Parish President) and Mr. Steve Daigle (Historical Society) on the Downtown Development Corporation.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.
UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS:  None

ABSTAINING:  None

ABSENT:  P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. C. Voisin moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, “THAT, the Council hold nominations open for two weeks for the expired terms of Mr. Ritchie LeBouef and Mr. Terrel J. Hebert, Jr. on the Recreation District No. 5 Board.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. C. Voisin.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS:  None

ABSTAINING:  None

ABSENT:  P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lapeyre, “THAT, the Council hold nominations open for two weeks for the expired term of Ms. Nellie Smith on the Recreation District No. 7 Board.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS:  None

ABSTAINING:  None

ABSENT:  P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

There were no items to be addressed under agenda item 6A – Council Members Request Discussion.

Council Clerk P. Labat reminded Terrebonne Parish voters of the November 12, 2005 election, and that on the ballot there are four propositions dealing with the Home Rule Charter and also a proposition regarding the proposed Parishwide Road Lighting District, and encouraged citizens to go out and cast their votes.

Councilman W. Thibodeaux referenced a recent article in the newspaper that did not explain all the facts and encouraged voters to investigate the Home Rule Charter propositions to understand clearly that the propositions are not about giving a salary increase to the Parish President and Council. He explained that the propositions are clearly to address a compensation plan that has expired since it was written twenty years ago.
Chairman P. Rhodes stated, in reference to the recent newspaper article regarding the proposed Parishwide Road Lighting District, that the article did not portray the true picture because some individuals currently pay more than 4.5 mills and some pay less for road lighting purposes.

Councilman C. Voisin reminded voters of the following polling place changes for the 11/12/05 election:

1) Precinct 58 – from the Point-aux-Chenes Fire Station to the KC Home, Council #8616
2) Temporarily – Precinct 53 – from the Grand Caillou Branch Library to the KC Home, Council #7722
3) Temporarily – Precinct 33, 35, & 36 – from the East Houma Recreation Center along Boundary Rd. to the School for Exceptional Children cafeteria.

Councilwoman C. Duplantis announced that the United Veterans’ League wants to invite everyone to the dedication of the mural on the side of the Park Theatre at the corner of Park and Williams on Friday, 11/11/05, at 4:00 p.m. She stated there will be a 21-gun salute.

Ms. K. Elfert moved, seconded by Mr. A. Tillman, “THAT, it now being 6:30 p.m., the Council open public hearings.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. K. Elfert.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

The Chairman recognized the public for comments on the following:

A. The proposed 2006 Operations and Maintenance Budget of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and the Five-Year Capital Outlay Budget, as presented by the Parish President

There were no comments from the public on the proposed ordinance.

Mr. W. Thibodeaux moved, seconded by Ms. K. Elfert, ‘THAT, the Council continue the public hearing on the proposed 2006 Operations and Maintenance Budget of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and the Five-Year Capital Outlay Budget, as presented by the Parish President, until 11/16/05.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. W. Thibodeaux.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert
The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Councilman W. Thibodeaux announced to the public that the Council and Administration would be continuing in the 2006 budget hearings on Monday and Tuesday, November 7 & 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. A. Tillman moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, the Council continue with the regular order of business.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. A. Tillman.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Parish President D. Schwab announced that as of today, there are six people left in the shelter at the gym on Boundary Road and Emergency Preparedness Director M. Deroche believes they will placed in housing by this Friday. He expressed appreciation to everyone who assisted with displaced evacuees, especially Mr. Rene Rhodes.

Council Clerk P. Labat noted there was a request for an add-on to approve a street light.

Mr. C. Voisin moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, the Council allow an add-on to tonight’s agenda to address a street light.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Mr. C. Voisin.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Ms. T. Cavalier moved, seconded by Mr. C. Voisin, “THAT, the Council approve the following street light list:

INSTALL STREET LIGHT BETWEEN 106-108 HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE IN SCHRIEVER; ROAD LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 1; ENTERGY; TERI CAVALIER.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. T. Cavalier.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None
The Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Upon questioning, Parish President D. Schwab stated that no place in Terrebonne Parish has been earmarked for travel trailers. He stated he has received no contact with FEMA in the last five days. Upon further questioning, he stated he could provide a list to the Council of where evacuees that were in shelters in Terrebonne Parish were placed. He further stated that federal aid was applied for to FEMA for reimbursement for the use of the Civic Center as a hurricane shelter.

Ms. K. Elfert moved, seconded by Ms. C. Duplantis, “THAT, there being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting be adjourned.”

The Chairman called for a vote on the motion offered by Ms. K. Elfert.

UPON ROLL CALL THERE WAS RECORDED:


NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: P. Lambert

The Chairman declared the motion adopted and the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

VENITA H. WHITNEY
MINUTE CLERK

ATTEST:

/S/PETER RHODES
PETER RHODES, CHAIRMAN
TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL

/S/PAUL A. LABAT
PAUL A. LABAT, COUNCIL CLERK
TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL