

**WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27, 2012
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH COUNCIL/GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING
880 NORTH ALEXANDER AVENUE, PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA
6:30PM**

The Regular Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council was held on Thursday, September 27, 2012 and called to order. Council Chairman Gary Spillman requested that all electronic devices be silenced and recognized Phil Porto, Jr., who led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following members being present:

Messrs. Phil Porto, Jr., Chris “Fish” Kershaw, Ms. Charlene Gordon, Messrs. Ricky Loupe, Gary M. Spillman, Edward G. “Bob” Robertson, Ms. Naomi Fair, Mr. Barry Huggins

Absent: Mr. Randal “Randy” Mouch

Parish President Riley Berthelot, Jr. was also present.

The Council Clerk had notified the members by email that Mr. Mouch could not attend tonight’s meeting due to work schedule.

Public comments, amendments to the agenda, and communications with Council members and/or elected or appointed officials were requested at this time and there were none.

Mr. Berthelot was recognized and stated Halloween normally from 5:30-7:30 on the 31st (Wednesday), which should be no activity conflict. A motion was made by Ms. Charlene Gordon, seconded by Mr. Phil Porto, Jr. to set the date and time for Halloween Trick-or-Treat for the unincorporated areas of West Baton Rouge Parish from 5:30PM – 7:30PM on Wednesday, October 31, 2012.

Roll call vote on the motion was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Messrs. Porto, Kershaw, Ms. Gordon, Messrs. Loupe, Spillman, Robertson, Ms. Fair, Mr. Huggins)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Mouch)

As a result of the roll call vote the motion was unanimously adopted by those members present.

At this time the West Baton Rouge Parish Council met as the Board of Review for the purpose of considering protests and hearing complaints from taxpayers desiring to be heard on the 2012 tax assessment values of property as determined by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor. Assessor Barney Altazan was recognized to certify totals for year 2012, confirmed reevaluation as mandated every 4 years, reviewed and read into record comparison numbers shown on assessment schedules A & B for the tax years 21012 & 2011. Mr. Altazan confirmed Schedule B Taxpayer amount of \$388,653,767.00 is total to be certified or 8.9 per cent increase. Mr. Altazan briefly reviewed, read into record, and explained supplemental information sheet provided on residential units, additions, increase due to re-valuation, homestead exemptions, new commercial improvements and/or additions, percentage of taxes paid by businesses and taxable value, public service increase attributable to Cargill Barge

assessment, LED exempt contracts expiring 12/31/11 & 12/31/12 (mills reduced from 89 to 84 mills for 2012). Mr. Altazan offered to answer any questions. Mr. Loupe confirmed with Assessor residential value increase of 2.5 per cent was based on 4 year re-valuation of sales during last 6 months of 2010 as determined by inflation, cost of living and CPI. Mr. Altazan clarified loss of 4 to 5 mills rolling off, which should result in reduction in tax bill for residents and businesses. Mr. Huggins confirmed increase from Louis Dreyfus project. Discussion held on 2011 & 2012 expiring exempt contracts and buildings and inventory calculations. Mr. Altazan informed currently in process of obtaining picture of each parcel of land. The Council thanked the Assessor for presentation. Certifying resolution appears elsewhere in these minutes.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ricky Loupe, seconded by Mr. Barry Huggins

RESOLUTION

A Resolution to ratify the action taken at the Board of Review to certify the assessment lists of West Baton Rouge Parish for 2012

WHEREAS, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1992, the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor has determined the assessment lists of real and personal property in and for the Parish and has exposed same for inspection by the taxpayers and other interested persons for a period of 15 calendar days as advertised, and

WHEREAS, now that said period has expired and the lists have been changed where necessary for clerical errors or erroneous assessments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the West Baton Rouge Parish Council does hereby ratify the action taken at the Board of Review to certify the assessment lists of West Baton Rouge Parish for 2012 in the amount of \$388,653,767.00 as presented by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Louisiana Tax Commission and West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor Barney M. Altazan.

Roll call vote on the resolution was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Mr. Kershaw, Ms. Gordon, Messrs. Loupe, Spillman, Robertson, Ms. Fair, Messrs. Huggins, Porto)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Mouch)

As a result of the roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted by those members present.

CERTIFICATE

I, Sharon Zito, Council Clerk of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said body at its Regular Meeting of September 27, 2012 at which meeting a majority of the members were present and voting.

/s/Sharon Zito

Mr. Berthelot was recognized under item 9 (consider status report, change order and/or other matters as required on current projects) and presented change order for approval on Commercial Drive Improvements. Mr. Berthelot confirmed South Westport Road was completed and Commercial Drive Improvements (alternate - blacktopped portion) requires \$132,533.20 change order for items listed on project engineer summary sheet, bringing total project to \$677,000.00, requested approval, and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Kershaw confirmed this project would not complete all Commercial Drive Improvements.

A motion was made by Mr. Phil Porto, Jr., seconded by Mr. Chris Kershaw to approve Change Order No. 1 for completing the segment along the east end of Commercial Drive of the South Westport Road and Commercial Drive Improvements – Phase VII Project (Industrial Enterprises) in the amount of \$132,533.20 as aforementioned, as recommended by the Project Engineer and Administration, and authorizing the Parish President to execute the necessary documentation.

Roll call vote on the motion was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Ms. Gordon, Messrs. Loupe, Spillman, Robertson, Ms. Fair, Messrs. Huggins, Porto, Kershaw)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Mouch)

As a result of the roll call vote the motion was unanimously adopted by those members present.

Riley Berthelot was recognized under Parish President's Report regarding the following:

GOHSEP (Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness) meeting held on Monday confirmed that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) would be in parish on either Tuesday or Wednesday to assess approximately 140 houses, provided and distributed list of FEMA and/or local emergency contact phone numbers, and website (disasterrecovery.com) for assistance;

Present for Governor's announcement of Exxonmobil 215 million dollar expansions (Baton Rouge and Port Allen facilities) providing construction and permanent jobs;

Invited everyone to attend the Hurricane briefing meeting scheduled for 10/4/12 at 9:00AM.

Mr. Spillman requested Bernadette forward email reminder;

Invited everyone to attend Ethics Training scheduled for 7:00AM 10/2/12 at the Port Allen Community Center;

La. 1/I-10 Connector traffic field survey to be scheduled shortly through DOTD as part of investment grade study to determine project revenue.

Executive Assistant Jason Manola regarding the following:

Clarified individual FEMA assessment to be based on calls received and drive-by of homes will determine parish threshold;

Reported on status of Hurricane canal debris clean-up;

Council meeting room voting cards in and training to commence shortly;

Bids will be opened 10/22/12 for procurement and installation for emergency generators for lift stations (29 sites). Discussion held on type and location of lift stations.

Mr. Berthelot discussed letter received from Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission regarding submission of list of nominees to Governor for selection as Mr. Rills is term-limited and requested that same be placed on the 10/11/12 agenda for consideration.

Finance Director Phillip Bourgoyne was recognized regarding publication error to be retracted by The West Side Journal stating parish had received \$8 million dollars for yearly food and nutrition program when amount was actually \$8,400.00.

Gary Spillman was recognized under Council Chairman's Report and announced through hard work during rating process the Rosehill Fire Department maintained class 4 rating, and expressed congratulations.

Mr. Manola was recognized and explained that resolution of annual certification of compliance with the State of Louisiana Off-System Bridge Replacement Program was requirement in conjunction with yearly state audit. Said resolution appears elsewhere in these minutes.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Barry Hughhins, seconded by Ms. Naomi Fair

RESOLUTION OF ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public roads will be inspected, rated for safety load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards and that an inventory of these bridges is maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load post those bridges under the authority of West Baton Rouge Parish in accordance with those Standards is delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development to West Baton Rouge Parish.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of West Baton Rouge Parish (herein referred to as the Parish) that the Parish in Regular Meeting assembled does hereby certify to the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (herein referred to as the DOTD) that for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012:

1. The Parish has performed all interim inspections on all Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards;
2. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish have been structurally analyzed and rated by the as to the safe load capacity in accordance with AASHTO Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges. The load posting information that has been determined by the Louisiana DOTD for bridges where the maximum legal load under Louisiana State Law determined above has been critically reviewed by the Parish. Load posting information has been updated by the Parish to reflect all structural changes, any obsolete structural ratings or any missing structural ratings;
3. All Parish owned or maintained bridges which require load posting or closing are load posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manual Directive No. 1.1. 1.8. All DOTD supplied load posting information concerning a bridge has been critically reviewed by the Parish Engineer prior to load posting;
4. All bridges owned or maintained by the Parish are shown on the attached list in the format specified by the DOTD. Corrections to data supplied to the Parish by the LA. DOTD are noted.

These stipulations are prerequisite to participation by the Parish in the Off-System Bridge Replacement Program.

Roll call vote on the resolution was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Messrs. Loupe, Spillman, Robertson, Ms. Fair, Messrs. Hugghins, Porto, Kershaw, Ms. Gordon)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Mouch)

As a result of the roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted by those members present.

CERTIFICATE

I, Sharon Zito, Council Clerk of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said body at its Regular Meeting of September 27, 2012 at which meeting a majority of the members were present and voting.

/s/Sharon Zito

Council Clerk read by title the below proposed ordinance being introduced and publicized by title and considered for adoption following public hearing at the meeting of November 15, 2012 at 6:30PM in the Council Meeting Room, 880 North Alexander Avenue, Port Allen, La.: Amend Chapter 104 Zoning for rezoning request of Craig Bergeron, 11192 Rosedale Road, Port Allen, La., 5.669 acres being Tract SF-1-2 located in Section 8, T7S-R11E from Agricultural District to Residential Minor Subdivision District.

At this point under Correspondence Report the Council Clerk read excerpts from the following:

West Baton Rouge Parish Planning & Zoning Commission agenda scheduled for October 2, 2012;

Resignation letter from Ralph Bergeron (Secretary-Treasurer Fire Protection District No. 1) representing Sub-District No. 3 (City of Port Allen) effective December 31, 2012. The Clerk clarified Sub-District No. 3 will have to make appointment and new Secretary-Treasurer would be elected for Fire Protection District No. 1 at next board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Spillman nominating the following individuals, who were approved by acclamation for submission to the Governor for 3 year terms commencing 10/9/12 to fill WBR Parish position on the Capital Area Human Services District:

Lynn Robertson and Cora Stewart.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Charlene Gordon and approved by acclamation at 7:10PM.

/s/Gary M. Spillman

Gary M. Spillman, Council Chairman

/s/Sharon Zito

Sharon Zito, Council Clerk

