**MINUTES**

**Livingston Parish**

**September 30, 2021**

Pursuant to notice duly posted in the public lobby of the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, the Livingston Parish Finance Committee met and convened via Zoom on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at the hour of five fifty-five (5:45) p.m. via Zoom with the following members present:

Shane Mack

Gerald McMorris

Jeff Ard – Chair

Also Present: Jennifer Meyers, Finance Director

Garry Talbert, Council Chair

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The Chair, called the meeting to order and asked the Deputy Clerk to call the roll.

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The chair addressed agenda item 3, “Old Business”. Having none, the chair then called upon Jennifer Meyers, Finance Director, to address agenda item number 4, “New Business”.

Ms. Meyers stated that she had sent an email earlier in the day that instead of year-to-date financials, it included the second draft of the budget with the up-to-date numbers as of today. The second draft of the budget has also been updated with the grant money excluding the hazard mitigation in fund 118. She stated that she is still inquiring about some information and it will be updated before we introduce the budget as an ordinance next month. She started with the high points of the budget, stating that if we get reimbursed from OCD four our ten percent (10%) cost share of the 2016 flood PW’s and our ten percent (10%) cost share from the NRCS that we’ve done so far we will have over five million ($5,000,000) dollars to have for future drainage projects with NRCS and they are anticipating getting those reimbursements next year. She reported that if the numbers hold we will have had a very good year at the jail with a small amount of sick inmates or inmates that require expensive medications. If these numbers hold, we will have cut the jail deficit in half by the end of next year. The original deficit was ten million dollars and if the budget holds for this year and next we will be at a five point two-million-dollar deficit.

Ms. Meyers went on to explain that their packet contained the check register, general ledger, and sales tax numbers that we’re updated today. She stated the ordinance will be introduced on November 18th with the Chair affirming.

Finance Chair, Jeff Ard asked if anyone had questions:

Councilman Mack questioned how much we would be spending on the over-lay program next year? Ms. Meyers stated that she has twelve million in that fund right now and she is comfortable with that number as of right now. Putting that twelve (12) million in for over-lay still leaves eight million in the fund balance, when she calculated the grant she only needed a little more than five million dollars so that twelve million could be bumped up as soon as April of next year.

Councilman Mack questioned the twenty seven (27) million special revenue. He questioned where that money comes from and where it’s going. Ms. Meyers stated that fund is separate from the general fund and comes from court funds, court house funds, and the health unit fund. These are reported as special revenue because they are not debt-service funds they are raising revenue for a special purpose.

Councilman Delatte questioned the twelve million and asked how much would be collected in the ¾ cent sales tax. Ms. Meyers stated the seventeen (17) million would be collected in our 75% of the one (1) cent sales tax. Mr. Delatte questioned the debt and Ms. Meyers stated that we have no debt and the bonds have been paid off. Mr. Delatte confirmed that twelve million would be put into the overlay program and questioned the difference of five (5) million dollars. Ms. Meyers stated that it’s going into funds that are a combination of DPW employees and matches for grants for federal funding. The grant matches are associated with Amite Church road, Forrest Delatte road, Buddy Ellis road, Cook road, Juban North extension, the off-system bridge program, Linder road bridge replacement, in all it’s about ten (10) projects currently going on that we are providing match for.

Councilman Talbert questioned Ms. Meyers on the American Rescue Fund (fund 107) and Ms. Meyers stated that we received half (1/2) of our allocation of 13.67 million and we should receive the second half, another 13.67 million, by June of next year (2022). Mr. Talbert asked if that was budgeted in the 2021 budget. Ms. Meyers stated that we did not budget for that 26 million in 2021. Mr. Talbert questioned if we authorized the spending of any of that money and Ms. Meyers stated no. The 13.67 million will be in the 2021 budget but we haven’t spent any. She also stated there are projects they are researching to be funded from that fund this year (2021). Mr. Talbert stated that he was asking because Senate resolution 3011 and house resolution 5735 will allow us to spend that money a lot of other ways than originally intended. If these bills pass we may be able to fund projects that we previously could not, and Mr. Talbert wants to know what we have allocated this year incase that funding use does get amended. Ms. Meyers stated that we have ideas for around ten (10) million dollars in projects between HBAC upgrades and sewer and water improvement projects. She stated they also have earmarked funds or broadband expansions, but they have not put those projects in place yet. Mr. Talbert stated that he wondered if those dollars could be utilized and more appropriate for other projects if those less-restricted funds become available. Ms. Meyers stated that she could email a list of projects that are being funded with the initial 13.67 million.

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Having no other business to come before the committee, it was moved and agreed that the Livingston Parish Finance Committee adjourn.

**MOTION** was made by Gerald McMorris and duly seconded by Shane Mack for the Livingston Parish Finance Committee to adjourn until the next Finance Committee is called.

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. KEEN, MR. MACK, MR. ARD

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Thereupon the chair declared that the Motion had carried and was adopted and that the meeting was adjourned.

\s\ Lauren White\_\_ \s\ Jeff Ard

Lauren White, Deputy Clerk Jeff Ard, Chair