

**Minutes of the Livingston Parish Council  
Livingston, Louisiana  
September 30, 2021**

The Livingston Parish Council met in a regular session duly called, advertised, and convened via Zoom on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. with the following Livingston Parish Council members present:

Jeff Ard  
Maurice "Scooter" Keen  
John Wascom  
R.C. "Bubba" Harris

Gerald McMorris  
Tracy Girlinghouse  
Randy Delatte  
Shane Mack

Garry Talbert

Also present: Brad Casio, Parish legal counsel  
Jennifer Meyers, Finance Director

Absent: Parish President Layton Ricks

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The chair called the meeting to order.

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The chair asked the public to please mute or turn off their cell phones.

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The chair announced that Public Input would be accepted from any member of the audience wishing to address an agenda item and explained the procedure to be called upon.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 7a, "Presentations: Financial narrative for funding the Livingston Parish Capital Outlay/Priority List – Jim Ryan". Mr. Ryan notified the office of the Livingston Parish Council that he would be unable to attend as he had a prior engagement scheduled the same night being as the Livingston Parish Council re-scheduled the September 30, 2021 meeting. Councilman Randy Delatte requested that this item be deferred until the next regular meeting of the Council scheduled on October 14, 2021.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 8, "**Introduction of Ordinance:** Authorization to proceed with refinancing \$8,000,000.00 Revenue Refunding Bonds for the "Livingston Parish, Louisiana – North Park Project" – Jim Ryan".

The chair called upon Jennifer Meyers who was representing in Mr. Ryan's absence.

Upon direction of the chair, the Council clerk read the ordinance by title and set the public hearing. The Council clerk will publish the ordinance by title in the Official Journal in accordance with the legal mandates and whereby set a Public Hearing for Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. at the Parish Council Chambers in the Governmental Building located at 20355 Government Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana, at which time comments will be received on the proposed ordinance prior to a Council vote.

**L.P. ORDINANCE NO. 21-25**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PARISH OF LIVINGSTON, STATE OF LOUISIANA TO PROCEED WITH A NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000 FINANCING THROUGH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE PARISH OF LIVINGSTON'S REQUEST OF THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ISSUE ITS REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING BY THE PARISH OF LIVINGSTON OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE THEREOF; APPROVING AND RATIFYING WITHIN CERTAIN PARAMETERS THE TERMS OF THE SALE OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE FORM AND EXECUTION OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE FORM OF AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BONDS AND ANCILLARY FINANCING DOCUMENTS; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

There were no comments and the chair moved to the next agenda item.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 9, “Adoption of the Minutes from the September 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Council”.

**LPR NO. 21- 282**

MOTION was made by Tracy Girlinghouse and duly seconded by John Wascom to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Livingston Parish Council and adopt as written.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair addressed agenda item number 10a, “Parish President’s Report: Presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> draft of 2022 Budget – Jennifer Meyers, Finance Director”, and called upon Jennifer Meyers.

Ms. Jennifer Meyers addressed the Councilmembers and advised that they had been emailed a copy of the budget presentation, along with the Council clerk, in case the public wishes to review it. The email received that afternoon was the first draft of the budget. She explained that the draft submitted was a very rough draft as Administration had not yet received updated health insurance numbers, some grant numbers, some ARP funding numbers, etc. Ms. Meyers suggested that everyone may be running behind due to COVID or the hurricane. She reported that sales tax was still trending upward and they were able to increase the sales tax revenue projections for this year and next year. Ms. Meyers requested that if the Councilmembers had any questions, to please email or call her.

The chair thanked Ms. Meyers and asked if the Councilmembers had any questions or comments that they wished to share. Having none, the chair moved to the next agenda item.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 10b, “Amite River Dredging Report – Steve Kistler”, and called upon Steve Kistler.

Mr. Steve Kistler, Administrative Grant Coordinator, wished to explain the steps that had been taken to get where the Parish currently was positioned in regard to the Amite River Dredging Project. He advised that the Parish started the project as a coastal restoration project, involving the mouths of the Blind and Amite Rivers. The original goal was to restore some coastline between these two (2) rivers. A topographical survey and hydro surveys were needed of a large area, being not only the southern end of the rivers, but also out into the lake and also the areas in between the area that was going to be involved. He further explained that the topographical survey presents the surface features, while the hydro feature delivers the depths and bottoms of the water. There was also a Geotech survey that collected information on the information concern the composition of the soil and rock and the areas that they would be working. During this time frame, the Parish received a challenge from a citizen concerning the Parish’s work as to where the current mouth is actually private property or public. This caused the Parish to collect documentation to submit to the state lands office for their determination, and while the Parish was waiting for that, the Parish had to explore what the other options would be available if that property was determined to be private. Mr. Kistler stated that looking at the old channel in the mouth, the Parish ended up finding that there were ancient burial sites located there. The Parish collected information for a cultural resource survey. Fortunately, the determination came back that the property was public and not private, therefore, the Parish was able to proceed. The Parish’s next step was the permitting phase, which was quite involved. The Parish then began conducting meetings with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Coast Guard. Mr. Kistler stated that during that time frame, it became obvious that the information received from the various surveys that the Parish had another issue that needed to be addressed, which was boater safety. He further explained that the mouths of the two (2) rivers had become so shallow, it was posing a safety issue, whereby changing the focus of the grant from coastal restoration to navigation safety. This meant that after comments and input from those agencies,

the plans were modified and submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers who published them and promulgated them for public comment. He stated that the time that had been established for public comment has since closed and the comments received during that comment period were being evaluated. Questions had been received during that time frame that had been directed to the Parish. Administration has answered those questions and were now waiting for a response from the Army Corps of Engineers as to whether the plans of the Parish would need to be modified further, or if they would now issue the permit. Mr. Kistler advised that if the permit was issued, then the Parish would be moving to the construction phase of the design that he had previously indicated. The current design has changed quite a bit and the rough overview is, the Parish would be creating a channel from the mouth of each of the rivers, out into the lake to satisfy or eliminate the boating safety issue. He continued to explain that the channel for the Amite River would be approximately four thousand (4,000') feet in length, and the channel for the Blind River would be twenty five hundred (2500') feet in length.

Many of the Councilmembers commented and stated that the news that Mr. Kistler shared was great. The chair questioned if Mr. Kistler had anything else to report to the Councilmembers on that particular situation.

Mr. Kistler stated that he was at the end of his report unless the Councilmembers wished to ask any questions of him.

The chair asked if the Councilmembers had any questions. Councilman Gerald McMorris wished to ask when this was sent out to the public for comments and where was it posted. Mr. Kistler advised that he did not have that information. Councilman McMorris desired to revisit the statements made during Mr. Kistler's report where he stated that the landowners owned the land previously and the state advised that they did not own that property now since it became a waterway. Mr. Kistler confirmed that was their determination, since the river had changed course, that property was now state lands and not private. Councilman McMorris asked if they had bought the property from the landowners. Mr. Kistler stated that there was no information that he had where the owners had been compensated.

Councilman Shane Mack questioned if the channel for the Amite River would follow the old route or would it go straight out where the stumps and everything are, where people struggle to go through today. He remembered that the Council had adopted a resolution stating that the channel would go around the old route in front of those camps where it was shallow, and then it's path would swing back around. Mr. Kistler explained that the old route was the area where the ancient Indian burial sites were located, which meant that the Parish would be required to apply for cultural resource for the entire area and if there were any burial sites within the Parish's proposed construction, the Parish would have had to do an actual archaeological dig and remove that and re-interim after they contacted the family. He continued to advise that the ability to bring the channel around that island was almost nil, therefore determination was made to go straight out from the current mouth.

The chair asked if there were any more comments from the Councilmembers. Having none, he thanked Mr. Kistler and moved to the next agenda item.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 11, "Adopt resolution to allow a variance of Section 125-9, "Submittals", to allow the subdivision of lots in a named subdivision located at 25280 LA Highway 1032, Denham Springs, LA 70726 in Pirie Park Subdivision for Tim and Denise Barbee (deferred from the September 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Council) - R.C. "Bubba" Harris". The chair called upon Councilman Harris advising that he had made the contacts necessary and that he had a recommendation for the Council. Councilman Harris concurred and also wished to state that a better plat map had been submitted for their review of the property. He recommended for the Council to approve this variance request and then send it to the Planning Department for approval to sign the plat for the re-subdivision.

The Council clerk wished to state for the record that the agenda indicated that the request was for Tim and Denise Barbee, when it should be recorded that their name is Jim and Denise Barbee.

**LPR NO. 21-283**

MOTION was made by R.C. "Bubba" Harris and duly seconded by Maurice "Scooter" Keen to issue a variance of Section 125-9, "Submittals", to allow the subdivision of lots in a named subdivision located at 25280 LA Highway 1032,

Denham Springs, LA 70726 in Pirie Park Subdivision for Jim and Denise Barbee.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair addressed agenda item number 12, "Adopt resolution to add two (2) additional members to the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors' Bureau (Tourism Board), per Act 146 of the 2021 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, whereby increasing the board membership from seven (7) members to nine (9) members allowing each Council District to have representation – Garry Talbert and Maurice "Scooter" Keen".

The chair advised that this agenda item was presented by himself and Councilman Keen. He asked Councilman Keen if he had any comments on that time. Councilman Keen advised that he did not have any comments and wished to appoint his person at that time.

Councilman John Wascom asked for clarification of the motion. The chair addressed his request and explained the resolution that was being voted upon.

**LPR NO. 21-284**

MOTION was made by Maurice "Scooter" Keen and duly seconded by Shane Mack to add two (2) additional members to the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors' Bureau (Tourism Board), per Act 146 of the 2021 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, whereby increasing the board membership from seven (7) members to nine (9) members allowing each Council District to have representation.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair addressed agenda item number 13a, "Board (re)appointments: Ward 2 Water District - Gerald McMorris and John Wascom".

The chair called upon Councilman Gerald McMorris who advised that the board appointment that he wished to make had requested that the appointment be deferred until the next Council meeting as he desired a chance to meet with the board first. Councilman McMorris asked that this item be deferred.

The chair advised that this item would be deferred until the next regular meeting of the Livingston Parish Council on October 14, 2021.

Councilman John Wascom asked for clarification. The chair explained that the way that this Legislative Act was written, it does not identify anyone's appointments, it allows the Council to add two (2) board members, going from five (5) members to seven (7) members. The chair advised that Councilman McMorris had requested that this item be deferred and it is not anyone's specific appointment. Councilman Shane Mack conveyed that he thought that Councilman Wascom was questioning if they could defer one (1) new board appointment or defer both at the same time. The chair clarified with Councilman McMorris that he wished to defer his proposed board appointment until the October 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Councilman McMorris confirmed that was his wish. The chair stated that the motion was to defer one (1) of the Ward 2 Water board appointments until the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**LPR NO. 21-285**

MOTION was made by Councilman Gerald McMorris and duly seconded by Randy Delatte to defer one (1) of the two (2) eligible board appointments of Ward 2 Water District allowed by the amendment of state law per Act 144 of the 2021 Legislative Session and the adoption of L.P. No. 21-24, Section 70-51 of the Code of Ordinances of Livingston Parish until Thursday, October 14, 2021.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair stated that Councilman John Wascom made a motion and Councilman R.C. "Bubba" Harris seconded that motion to appoint David Strickland to the board of commissioners of Ward 2 Water District.

Councilman Maurice "Scooter" Keen stated that he wished to make a substitute motion to give this board appointment to Council District 3, reasoning that District 3 has more population in Ward 2 Water District and to defer the second appointment of Ward 2 Water District until the October 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Council. The chair asked if there was a second to Councilman Keen's substitute motion.

Councilman Randy Delatte questioned if this would entail any sitting board member to be removed from their board appointment. The chair explained in great detail the schematics of the board and the addition of the two (2) board members to Ward 2 Water District.

The chair called upon Councilman Shane Mack who advised that he was not interested in removing anyone that is a current board member because he felt that all five (5) of the board members were doing a great job of representing everyone within that District. He wished to give more clarification as to what the chair had stated earlier in being that the ordinance and the amended state law implied that all board members would represent the entire district and it was not a specific appointment that one specific Councilman could make. He continued to explain that if the Council proceeded and appointed the gentleman that Councilman Wascom was recommending, that appointment would represent the entirety of the district just like all of the other board members. The chair countered that he did not disagree with Councilman Mack's statements, however, historically board member appointments have been made doled out on population.

Councilman Tracy Girlinghouse requested to comment and concurred with Councilman Mack's earlier statements. Councilman Girlinghouse pointed out that Councilman Wascom brought this to light, asked for it, fought for it, and effectually personally went to the state legislature to help amend state law. He encouraged the Councilmembers to determine if Councilman Wascom would not have brought this forward, would the Council be having the discussion about this at all, and Councilman Keen would still have no representation on this board. Councilman Keen concurred. The chair allowed an open discussion to debate Councilman Keen's substitute motion.

Councilman Randy Delatte explained why he wished to abstain from this vote. The chair allowed the open discussion to continue.

Councilman Jeff Ard advised that he agreed with some of Councilman Girlinghouse's comments, and stated that this should be a Parish Council appointment. He advised that the Councilmembers have got to quit saying that this is my district, your district, and need they need to start working as a team like they are supposed to, it's never going to work, and they were creating lines that should not be in this Parish.

The chair allowed a brief open discussion.

The chair concluded the open discussion and stated that Councilman Keen's substitute motion failed for lack of a second.

**LPR NO. 21-286**

MOTION was made by John Wascom and duly seconded by R.C. “Bubba” Harris to appoint David Strickland (resident of Council District 4 and Ward 2 Water District) to the board of commissioners of Ward 2 Water District; term of appointment is without an expiration date and will serve at the pleasure of the Livingston Parish Council; this additional board member is allowed to be added whereby amending state law per Act 144 of the 2021 Legislative Session and the adoption of L.P. No. 21-24, Section 70-51 of the Code of Ordinances of Livingston Parish.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN, MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair addressed agenda item number 13b, “Livingston Parish Communications District (911 Board)”, and called upon Councilman Randy Delatte and Councilman Gerald McMorris.

**LPR NO. 21-287**

MOTION was made by Gerald McMorris and duly seconded by Randy Delatte to reappoint Kelly Carter Fagan Jennings (resident of Council District 8) and Fire Chief Melvin Wheat (resident of Council District 6) to the Livingston Parish Communications District Board (911) whereby each will serve a four (4) year term both of which will expire on September 4, 2025.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN, MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair addressed agenda item number 13c, “Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors’ Bureau (Tourism Board) – Garry Talbert and Maurice “Scooter” Keen”.

Councilman Keen advised that he wished to appoint Bobbie Jo Cox to the board and would forward their contact information to the Council clerk. The chair advised that his appointment would be contingent upon receiving a letter of recommendation. The chair requested that Councilman Keen add Mr. Clay Parker to his appointment. The chair stated that he had sent the Council office Mr. Parker’s resume, and his appointment would be contingent upon receiving a letter of recommendation.

Councilman Tracy Girlinghouse questioned to be reminded if this is where he had a member of the Tourism Board that moved to the chairman’s district. The chair concurred and advised that Mr. Lawrence had moved to his district. Councilman Girlinghouse asked if this should be his appointment, unless the chair did not wish to appoint the person that moved into his district. The chair stated that he did not appoint that member and he was not reappointing him.

**LPR NO. 21-288**

MOTION was by Maurice “Scooter” Keen and duly seconded by Shane Mack to appoint Clay Parker (resident of Council District 2) and Bobbie Jo Cox (resident of Council District 3) to the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors’ Bureau (Tourism Board), contingent upon having met the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4574, said three (3) year terms will expire on February 11, 2024; whereby increasing the membership of the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors’ Bureau by two (2) members allowing Council Districts 2 and 3 representation on said board upon the amendment of state law per Act 146 of the 2021 Legislative Session.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM  
NAYS: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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The chair addressed agenda item number 14, "Adopt resolution for required variance of Section 50-14, "Halloween; trick or treat hours", to change the calendar day and hours indicated in the ordinance that designates October 31<sup>st</sup> for Trick-or-treating in the Parish of Livingston, and to whereby proclaim that Saturday, October 30, 2021, between the hours of six (6:00) o'clock p.m. until eight (8:00) o'clock p.m., shall be the adjusted calendar date to participate in Halloween Trick-or-treating in the unincorporated areas of Livingston Parish for the year of 2021. (Notice of Livingston Parish Trick-or-treating designated date change to be promulgated by Administration) – R.C. "Bubba" Harris".

The chair called upon Councilman Harris who stated that he thought that it was in the best interest of the children. He acknowledged that he enjoyed seeing the children go out dressed up in their suits as well as giving out candy and everything else to them and that was the reason he asked to change the trick or treat date and hours. Councilman John Wascom concurred and wished to make a second to that motion. He stated that it brings a lot of safety to Halloween by bringing children together with a bunch of adults that are recognizing their community. The chair called for the vote.

**LPR NO. 21-289**

MOTION was made by R.C. "Bubba" Harris and duly seconded by John Wascom to authorize a variance of Section 50-14, "Halloween; trick or treat hours", to change the calendar day and hours indicated in the ordinance that designates October 31<sup>st</sup> for Trick-or-treating in the Parish of Livingston, and whereby proclaim that Saturday, October 30, 2021, between the hours of six (6:00) o'clock p.m. until eight (8:00) o'clock p.m., shall be the adjusted calendar date to participate in Halloween Trick-or-treating in the unincorporated areas of Livingston Parish for the year of 2021. (Notice of Livingston Parish Trick-or-treating designated date change to be promulgated by Administration)

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM  
NAYS: MR. KEEN  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

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

Councilman Maurice "Scooter" Keen asked Councilman Wascom what they had just voted on. Councilman Wascom stated that they had just voted to move Halloween trick or treating.

Some of the Councilmembers questioned if the vote was for Trunk-or-treat or for trick or treat. The chairman confirmed that the motion was for trick or treat and moved to the next agenda item.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 15, "Trunk-or-treat announcement: Public event to be held on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from six (6:00) p.m. until eight (8:00) p.m. at South Park located on Vincent Road in Denham Springs – R.C. "Bubba" Harris".

The chair advised that Councilman Harris wished to advertise for this event and wanted to let the public know that Trunk-or-treat would coincide with the trick or treat hours on October 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at six o'clock (6:00) p.m.

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The chair called upon Councilman Tracy Girlinghouse to address agenda item number 16a, "Committee Reports: Ordinance Committee". Councilman Girlinghouse reported that the

committee met and addressed three (3) items. He acknowledged that they wished to move forward with a recommendation on one (1) of the items, but they had two (2) other ones that were still in committee and he wished to briefly touch on those.

Councilman Girlinghouse stated that one (1) of the ordinances was regarding an impact fee that Councilman Shane Mack was working on that would impact subdivisions. He also advised the money collected from these fees would go in place directly to the drainage district within the developed area. Councilman Girlinghouse advised that there were some logistics and verbiage that needed to be worked out. He questioned if Councilman Mack wished to add any comment briefly on his report. Councilman Mack replied and advised that Councilman Girlinghouse had done a good job explaining the proposed ordinance and that the committee was still working on the ordinance and would continue to work on it until they could get it right.

Councilman Girlinghouse thanked Councilman Mack and moved on to report on the second item, which was the retention pond ordinance that would apply to future development. He discussed things such as a mandatory twenty-five (25') foot servitude area around the pond and mandatory dry retention or pumps and a fee to the residents of those future developments in perpetuity to maintain their ponds to be possibly handled by the drainage districts. He continued to explain that the residents in the future developments will actually pay an extra fee to maintain the retention ponds within those developments and the developments only. Councilman Girlinghouse stated that the committee still needed to work out the logistics on this ordinance.

Councilman Girlinghouse reported that thirdly, the committee wished to present a river safety ordinance that had been discussed at great length and asked if the Councilmembers had a printed copy of the proposed ordinance. Having no objection, Councilman Girlinghouse explained that the committee's recommendation for the ordinance was to require a training video and later, will come up with what they want in the video going forward. He further explained that the content of the video would include topics such as, the hazards of the river, in addition to everyone will be educated on the state of the river at that time. He stated that the Sheriff's office had presented ideas for signage along the way, being presented every tenth of a mile with three (3) inch lettering on both the front and back of the signs and the signage should be placed on both sides of the river once the river width is greater than ..., width to be determined was still needed, and asked the Council chairman if this would need to go back to committee.

The Council chairman acknowledged that Councilman Randy Delatte and Councilman Gerald McMorris had board appointments on the Waterway Commission. He asked if they had knowledge of when posted river signage was affected by the designation and width of the river and when and if such signage was posted on both sides.

Councilman Delatte stated that he wished to comment and advised that there were state regulations, there were no parish ordinances per se, where to put the signage, but anytime that the state says it is needed, whether it's a bridge or selling gas, there is a strict set of rules that are followed.

Councilman Girlinghouse recommended that they have the signage posted on both sides of the river.

Public input: Angie Harris

Councilman Maurice "Scooter" Keen wished to address the fork, or the river's split, and suggested that the ordinance require signage every three hundred (300) yards, two hundred (200) yards, up from the split stating that you must go to the right, allowing people time to go across the river before they get sucked down that left fork. He had been thinking and that was the only solution that he could come up with that may give someone a guide to not go that way. The chair argued that the fork may not be there the next time. Councilman Girlinghouse also commented and stated that the committee would circle back to that issue at a later date.

Councilman Harris stated that Captain Jack Varnado from the 911 office wished to meet with them and discuss this in more detail, and continued to explain that because the way that these signs are going to be set up, Captain Varnado would be going to send someone out on the river and they would map out these signs and being that way, if someone needs to call 911, it's going to come up on their screen as a blue light and show you exactly where the problem is. Councilman Girlinghouse stated that he would be glad to meet with Captain Varnado from the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office 911 Center. He stated that the proposed ordinance was just an introduction and he wished to move onto item "C".

He advised that if it was a business providing the life vest or floatation device, they must provide access to it. He continued to state that the committee would need to get to the specifics of the video. Councilman Gerald McMorris questioned if the Council would be providing the video to

the businesses? The chairman and Councilman Girlinghouse explained that the business owner will be providing the video and the ordinance will be mandating the guidelines of what has to be in the video to educate the people who will be going to get on the river.

The chair stated that the Council would need to vote on the amendments for the introduction of the proposed ordinance:

- ***The striking in part (b)***
- ***The striking of sub(a), one (1) and two (2)***
- ***The striking of three (3)***
- ***Part (b) becomes re-named***

**LPR NO. 21- 290**

MOTION was made by Tracy Girlinghouse and duly seconded by Maurice “Scooter” Keen to introduce the river safety ordinance with the amendments being as follows and read by the Livingston Parish Council chairman:

- ***The striking in part (b)***
- ***The striking of sub(a), one (1) and two (2)***
- ***The striking of three (3)***
- ***Part (b) becomes re-named***

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN, MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

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

The Council clerk stated that the proposed ordinance would be numbered L.P. Ordinance No. 21-26 and the Public Hearing would be set on October 14<sup>th</sup> at six o'clock (6:00) p.m. and read the ordinance by title.

**L.P. ORDINANCE NO. 21-26**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 50, “OFFENSES – MISCELLANEOUS”, BY ENACTING SECTION 50-15 “RIVER SAFETY REGULATIONS”, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES IN AND FOR THE PARISH OF LIVINGSTON AS SET OUT MORE SPECIFICALLY HEREIN.

Thereupon, the Council clerk will publish the ordinance by title in the Official Journal in accordance with the legal mandates and set a Public Hearing for Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. via Zoom at the Parish Council Chambers in the Governmental Building located at 20355 Government Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana, at which time comments will be received on the proposed ordinance prior to a Council vote.

Having no other comment, the chair moved to the next agenda item.

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The chair called upon Councilman Jeff Ard to present a report of agenda item number 16b, “Finance Committee”. Councilman Ard reported that the Finance committee had met earlier that evening. He advised that the Finance Director, Jennifer Meyers, had sent them the rough draft of the Budget for next year and had also attached the check register with other documents presented each month at the committee meetings. He encouraged the Councilmembers to review these documents. Councilman Ard further advised that the Public Hearing for the ordinance adoption will be scheduled on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Council clerk advised that the ordinance will be introduced on November 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Council will have the Public Hearing and adopt the ordinance on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilman Ard advised that Ms. Meyers stated that the Parish taxes are doing extremely well at that time as far as money being collected for the Parish.

The chair asked if Councilman Ard had any other comment. He advised that he did not, and concluded his report.

The chair questioned if Ms. Meyers had any further comment. Ms. Meyers stated that she did not.

The chair called upon Councilman Gerald McMorris wished to comment. He wished to acknowledge that they had lost Mr. Richard Harris that day, who had served on Gravity Drainage District No. 5. He requested that the Councilmembers remember his family. He advised that Mr. Harris had served many years with the Parish. Councilman Ard concurred.

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The chair addressed agenda item 17, "District Attorney's Report:", and called upon Mr. Casio. Mr. Casio advised the chairman that he had nothing to report at that time.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 18, "Councilmen's comments:" and asked if any of the Council members wished to speak.

Councilman R.C. "Bubba" Harris advised that he would like to make a brief comment. He stated that he wished to thank everyone on the board, whether you voted with him, or against him, he did not hold grudges. He was appreciative to everyone for their help with the Trunk or treat event.

Councilman Shane Mack wished to comment and stated that he was present for the Ordinance committee meeting when the river safety ordinance was discussed. He stated that the committee had started with not much data that was available on this subject. He praised the committee for developing such a well-written ordinance that will in the future help protect citizens who enjoy tubing down the river. He commended the committee for doing an exceptional job on the proposed ordinance. Councilman Mack wished to acknowledge that everyone who had participated in the committee meeting was very sincere.

Councilman Jeff Ard advised the chair that he would like to make a statement in regard to the agenda item, "Councilmen's comments". Councilman Harris interjected upon Councilman Jeff Ard's comments and stated that he wished to make another comment and commended his daughter for her part in the river safety ordinance.

After patiently waiting for Councilman Harris to finish comments. Councilman Ard was called upon again for his comments. Councilman Ard stated that he wished to remark on the seriousness of the COVID crisis. He encouraged everyone to still take precautions and not let their guard down. He discussed mutual close friends and acquaintances that had been recently lost whose funerals would be held during the upcoming weekend.

The chair wished to clarify the reasoning of why the Livingston Parish Council was conducting their meetings via Zoom and not in person in the Livingston Parish Council chambers. He agreed with Councilman Ard that the COVID health care crisis was not over and everyone should remain vigilant in taking safety precautions.

Councilman Maurice "Scooter" Keen advised that he agreed with Councilman Ard's statements as well.

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Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was requested until the next regular meeting being scheduled on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. in Livingston, Louisiana.

**LPR NO. 21-291**

MOTION was offered by John Wascom and duly seconded by Tracy Girlinghouse to adjourn the September 30, 2021 regular meeting of the Livingston Parish Council.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MR. HARRIS, MR. MACK, MR. KEEN,  
MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD, MR. TALBERT, MR. WASCOM

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

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

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*\s\ Sandy C. Teal*  
Sandy C. Teal, Council Clerk

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*\s\ Garry Talbert*  
Garry Talbert, Council Chairman