

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
MAY 28TH, 2008
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a special session on this 28th day of May 2008 at approximately 6:00 p.m.

With Kenneth Vidrine, Chairman, presiding, the meeting was called to order. The Chairman announced that the Council was ready for the transaction of business.

The Chairman requested the Council Clerk to call roll. Roll was called and the following council members were PRESENT: Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Gary Courville, Jerry L. Red, Leon Robinson, Fekisha Miller, Ronald Buschel, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout, and Kenneth Vidrine, Chairman. ABSENT: Hurlin Dupre.

Councilman Dexter Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Chaplin Jerry L. Red led the invocation.

#1 – A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Buschel, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to adopt the following Amended 2007 Budget and the Proposed 2008 Budget along with the budget message:

-2008 Budget-

2008 BUDGET MESSAGE

The 2008 Budget of the St. Landry Parish Government is presented herewith. This Budget is prepared according to Louisiana Legislative Act 186 of 1984, and is a balanced budget. The Budget Act directs a budget of the General Fund and each special revenue fund and also requires a budget message signed by the budget preparer. The purpose of this Annual Operating Budget for St. Landry Parish Government is to provide direction for the next year.

The St. Landry Parish Government budget for 2008 does not vary greatly from the 2007 adopted budget. Revenue sources are stable and are currently increasing at a rate to meet the expenditure needs. This budget serves as a financial plan for recording and control by identifying revenue sources and amounts as well as approving expenditures to deliver services and reflecting the impact of this activity upon the financial position of the Parish. It also serves as a device to guide departments in spending, focusing direction and establishing goals.

This budget is prepared on a cash basis of accounting of which anticipated receipts are estimated net funds to be received by the Parish Government during the fiscal year. Once the anticipated receipts are established, the anticipated disbursements are determined and are confined to the limits of the receipts. The budget may be amended by ordinance throughout the year. The amendments are in order to carry over any encumbrances obligated but not recognized as an expenditure as of the end of the year and to adjust revenues and expenditures in order to come within five percent of anticipated revenues and expenditures as required by state law.

The Parish has the following fund types and account groups:

General Fund – The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Parish. It is used to account for all financial resources except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds – Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

Debt Service Funds – Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest and related costs.

The Parish Government has continued in 2007 to strictly monitor the General Fund Budget on a line item basis each month. We have accepted challenges as opportunities and have exercised care in the handling of the taxpayers' money. The General Fund presently is operating with sound and efficient management from the Parish Government. No change in this policy is expected in 2008. All other funds in this budget are special revenue funds and are budgeted in accordance with the dedicated revenues for each specific fund.

The primary long and short-term concerns of the Parish heading into 2008 include the following: 1) maintaining Parish services at current levels in the face of continuous residential and commercial growth, 2) ensuring quality of life for residents and visitors through infrastructure maintenance, and 3) employing an effective and efficient workforce to provide Parish services.

I commend the Parish Government staff for their dedication, support and spirit of cooperation in the preparation of this budget.

We trust that this budget contributes to the safety, health and well-being of our community within the bounds of fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Menard
Parish President

On roll call vote: YEAS: Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Gary Courville, Jerry L. Red, Leon Robinson, Fekisha Miller, Ronald Buschel, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Hurlin Dupre.

WHEREUPON, this resolution was declared adopted on this 28th day of May 2008.

#2 – A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Buschel, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby adjourns with the next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Landry Parish Council Meeting Room 132, St. Landry Parish Courthouse, Opelousas, Louisiana.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Gary Courville, Jerry L. Red, Leon Robinson, Fekisha Miller, Ronald Buschel, Hurlin Dupre, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Hurlin Dupre.

WHEREUPON, this resolution was declared adopted on this 28th day of May 2008.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
/s/ Glenda H. Zachary, Council Clerk