

**MINUTES**  
**POINTE COUPEE PARISH HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION**  
**January 25, 2016**

The Pointe Coupee Parish Home Rule Charter Commission met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2016 at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order and directed Secretary Gerrie Martin to call the roll:

PRESENT: Mr. Price Gay, Mrs. Gail Hurst, Messrs. Jeremy LaCombe, Jacques LaCour, Cletus Langlois, Richard Maciasz, Albert Sneed and Jimmy Lyles, Chairman.

**OTHERS**

PRESENT: Attorney Dannie Garrett, Messrs. Mitch Langlois and Charles Morgan.

ABSENT: Messrs. Alden Andre, Albert Dukes and Cornell Dukes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ADOPT MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Maciasz:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 12, 2016 meeting be accepted as written and be published.

Unanimously carried.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE DESCRIPTION OF COMPENSATION AND VACANCY PERTAINING TO THE PARISH PRESIDENT**

Chairman Lyles made open comments and presented each commissioner with copies of information on statistics to compare with Pointe Coupee from Iberville, St. Landry, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana Parishes, and an article from Fox 8 News of New Orleans about the Parish President salaries.

Attorney Garrett discussed and reviewed the description of compensation, benefits and vacancy for the Parish President. He reviewed salaries presented for the parish assessor, clerk of court, sheriff, school superintendent and mayor that resulted in an overall yearly average of \$134,974.65 as a comparison. He reviewed the annual salaries of a Parish President in Natchitoches, St. Landry, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana Parishes. After discussion, the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Sneed and seconded by Mr. Maciasz:

RESOLVED, That the salary of the Parish President be set at \$80,000 annually to be adjusted by ordinance no more often than every two (2) years.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote that resulted as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Gay, Mrs. Hurst, Messrs. LaCombe, LaCour, Langlois, Maciasz, Sneed and Lyles.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Messrs. Andre, A. Dukes and C. Dukes.

On a vote of 8-0-3, the motion carried.

Attorney Garrett and commissioners discussed benefits for the Parish President that should be the same as a full-time employee. After discussion, the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Gay and seconded by Mrs. Hurst:

RESOLVED, That the Parish President be entitled to the same benefits of a full-time employee, use of a parish vehicle and reimbursement of reasonable expenses approved in accordance with a policy adopted by the council.

Unanimously carried.

Attorney Garrett and the commissioners discussed the vacancy in the office of Parish President.

Motion by Mrs. Gail and seconded by Mr. Gay:

RESOLVED, That the Parish President shall have 90 days consecutive absences or disability, and enforce through a quo warranto.

Unanimously carried.

Commissioner LaCombe left the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Attorney Garrett discussed when to fill the vacancy of the Parish President, when the council makes an appointment to fill the remainder of the President's term and when a special election is called.

Commissioner Hurst left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

After discussion, the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Maciasz and seconded by Mr. Gay:

RESOLVED, That in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Parish President, an interim Parish President/replacement will be appointed by a majority of the council, and If there is greater than two (2) years remaining in the term of the Parish President at the time of the vacancy, there is an appointment of an interim and a calling of a special election at the next available regular election date, and if it is two (2) years or less, the person appointed serves out the remainder of the term.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE DESCRIPTION OF THE POWERS AND DUTIES PERTAINING TO THE PARISH PRESIDENT

Attorney Garrett discussed and reviewed the description of the powers and duties pertaining to the Parish President. After discussion the following resolution was offered:

Motion by Mr. Sneed and seconded by Mr. Gay:

RESOLVED, That the Parish President have the powers and shall be responsible to perform the duties as following:

- A. Ensure compliance with all laws and ordinances;
- B. Submit Annual Operating Budget and five-year Capital Budget
- C. Submit Annual & Monthly Fiscal Reports;
- D. Submit all other reports as requested by the Council;
- E. Sign contracts for expenditures identified in the budget or as approved by the Council;
- F. Attend Council meetings personally or thorough a designee;
- G. Perform other duties identified in Charter or as required by Council;
- H. Veto power over ordinances and line-item in the budgets;
- I. Appoint or removed any Parish employee, subject to personnel policies adopted by the Council with the authority to delegate that authority to department heads;
- J. Direct and supervise all departments.

Unanimously carried.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Monday, February 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

The agenda items will be as follows:

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- Discussion and consideration of action on a proposed article pertaining to the Parish Council.

### OPEN DISCUSSION

At the request of Commissioner Gay, Attorney Garrett gave a timeline for the commission to complete the charter.

- The commission is required to complete the charter in 18 months, which ends March 2017.
- Once the charter is completed, the Jury is required to place the charter on the ballot of the next available election, which voters will decide whether to accept the charter. If accepted, the election for a Parish President and Council could be held in the spring of 2018 (serving one year) or the fall of 2019 (serving a full four-year term).
- Deadline for March 25, 2017 election is December 14, 2016.
- Deadline for April 29, 2017 election is March 14, 2017.
- Deadline for October 2017 election is June 14, 2017, which the charter would be the only item on the ballot.

Motion by Mr. Maciasz and seconded by Mr. Langlois, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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Jimmy Lyles, Chairman