

MINUTES
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
GOVERNMENT BUILDING
880 North Alexander Avenue, Port Allen
Thursday, October 12, 2023
5:30 PM

The Following Minutes Are Summarized For Brevity, For Precise Meeting Information Please Refer To Meeting Audio Or Video.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER & REQUEST ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BE SILENCED

A Regular Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 and called to order at 05:30 PM. Council Chairman Carey Denstel asked that all electronic devices be placed on silent.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Atley Walker Jr. led everyone in an opening prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Denstel recognized Mr. Zack Weimer, who led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. LOG ATTENDANCE

The following members were recorded as being present: Messrs. Brady Hotard, Carey Denstel, Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Kenneth Gordon, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, and Atley Walker.

Absent: Mr. Gary Joseph

Also present were, Mr. Riley Berthelot Jr, Parish President, Mr. Phillip Bourgoyne, Director of Finance, Mr. Jason Manola, Executive Assistant, Mr. Chance Stephens, Assistant Director of Finance, Mr. Kevin Durbin, Director of Public Works and Mrs. Michelle Tullier, Council Clerk.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. Approval of Minutes from the September 28, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Brady Hotard, seconded by Councilman Kenneth Gordon to approve minutes from the September 28, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed**.

6. CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no items to consider at this time.

7. PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Riley Berthelot was recognized and covered the following items:
Work is starting back up again soon on the Intracoastal project, with an estimated completion date of last quarter 2024;
WBR Parish Employee Cabbage Ball Tournament October 22nd;
Reminded everyone this Saturday is election day.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public at this time.

9. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND/OR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

There were no communications at this time.

10. BOARD OF REVIEW TO HEAR ANY AND ALL PROTESTS FROM TAXPAYERS ON THE 2023 TAX ASSESSMENTS

A. Board of Review Approval of 2023 Tax Assessment Report

At this time, the West Baton Rouge Parish Council met as the Board of Review for the purpose of considering and hearing complaints from taxpayers desiring to be heard on the 2023 tax assessment values of property as determined by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor. West Baton Rouge Assistant Tax Assessor, Zack Weimer, introduced himself. He then reviewed and read into the record excerpts from schedules A & B for real estate, personal property & public service for the tax years 2022 and 2023, as well as homestead exempted property totals and personal property value changes for the same. Mr. Weimer certified the assessment lists of West Baton Rouge Parish for 2023 to the Board of Review, in the amount of \$752,084,140.00, with the additional total assessment for 2023 Public Service from the Louisiana Tax Commission being \$46,006,490.00 for a Grand Total of \$798,090,630.00, which is an increase of 17.2% overall. Mr. Weimer notified the Council there were no protests recorded for this tax assessment year.

A motion was made by Councilman Alan Crowe, seconded by Councilman Kirk Allain to certify Assessment Schedules A and B for the Tax Years 2022 and 2023 as determined by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor. Board of Review Approval of the 2023 Tax Assessment Report.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 8 (Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 1 (Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed**.

11. AG LOGISTICS ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL IN REGARDS TO 3790 ROSEDALE RD. ZONING ISSUES

Chairman Denstel took the floor on this item explaining to the Council and audience what has taken place in regards to the aforementioned property since the last meeting.

Chairman Denstel explained that a temporary special use permit was signed in order for AG logistics to operate on the property in question, which will last only 6 months.

Chairman Denstel noted there is a Special Use Zoning request which will be considered at a later public hearing for this property, and the tenant has advised they will be using alternate routes in order to help lessen traffic on certain streets.

12. PUBLIC HEARING ON PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED ORDINANCES

There were no items to consider at this time.

13. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Mrs. Tullier, Council Clerk read by title the below proposed ordinance/s being introduced and publicized by title, and considered for adoption following a public hearing as specified below, at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers, located at 880 North Alexander Avenue, Port Allen, La.:

- A. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 104 Zoning to Incorporate Amended Zoning Designation Map (Zoning Plan) under Section 104-3 Establishment of Districts, Official Zoning Map For Rezoning Request of Court Bradford for David P. Rumfola ETALS Property. Located at 4826 Rougon Road Port Allen, La 70767. File #2023-20: Request to rezone two proposed 2 +/- acre lots described as: LOTS 4 5 & S/150' OF LOT 3 CONT 9.35 AC SD OF PROP OF W SPEIGHTS IN SEC 21 T6S R11E 14-7. Master Plan Change. Rezoning From AG-3 (Agricultural Full Scale) to AG-2 (Agricultural Moderate Scale). Rezoning from AG-3 to AG-2. Public Hearing Date: November 16, 2023
- B. An Ordinance Amending The Compiled Ordinances, Parish Of West Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Amending Chapter 50 (Miscellaneous Licenses and Business Regulations) Article VI (Hotels and Motels), Section 50-130, & Chapter 58 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions), Article V (Hotel and Motels), Sec 58- 130 and 131. Public Hearing Date: November 16, 2023

14. CONSIDER STATUS REPORT, CHANGE ORDER AND/OR OTHER MATTERS AS REQUIRED ON CURRENT PROJECTS

There were no items to consider at this time.

15. **RESOLUTIONS**

There were no items to consider at this time.

16. **CONSIDER SUBDIVISION PLATS, CONDEMNATIONS, WAIVERS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

There were no items to consider at this time.

17. **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

Correspondence Report from Council Clerk, Mrs. Michelle Tullier included the following items:

- Planning & Zoning Meeting is Tuesday October, 17, 2023 at 5:30pm;
- 2024 Budget Hearings Tuesday October 24th and Wednesday October 25th at 5:30pm;
- Quarterly Fire Board Meeting Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 5:00pm;
- Council Meeting Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 5:30pm.

18. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Chris Kershaw and was adopted by acclamation at 05:46 PM.



Carey Denstel, Council Chairman

Michelle Z. Tullier, Council Clerk



LISA H. TATE, CLDA
CHIEF DEPUTY

Christopher P. Guerin, CLA

ASSESSOR

PARISH OF WEST BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 76
PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA 70767-0076
www.wbrassessor.org

850 8TH STREET
COURTHOUSE BLDG., ROOM 11
PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA
PHONE (225)344-6777
FAX (225) 344-6779

September 5,2023

West Baton Rouge Parish Council
Post Office Pox 757
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1992, this is to advise you that I have prepared the assessment lists of real and personal property in and for the Parish of West Baton Rouge and that said lists have been exposed daily for inspection by the taxpayers and other interested parties for a period of fifteen calendar days which began August 15,2023 and ended August 30,2023 (notice of exposure was published in the July 20 , and August 3, 2023 editions of the West Side Journal).

Now that the exposure period is over and the lists have been corrected where necessary for any clerical or assessment errors, I hereby certify the assessment lists of West Baton Rouge Parish for 2023 to you as the Board of Review in the Amount of \$ 752,084,140.

A period of fifteen days, beginning September 1 and ending September 15, 2023 has been set up for the Board of Review to receive any protest. Any taxpayer desiring to be heard must file their protest by September 14,2023 which is seven (7) days prior to the final Board of Review meeting. September 15, 2023 being the fifteenth day, is set for the Board of Review to meet and review this year's assessments (notice of the fifteen-day protest period and date the Parish Council will meet as the Board of Review has been published in the August 30th, September 14th, September 21st and October 5th editions of the West Side Journal).

Yours truly,


Christopher P. Guerin, CLA
Assessor

CPG/lt
Attachments
CC: Louisiana Tax Commission

RECEIVED:


West Baton Rouge Parish Council
September 5, 2023



Christopher P. Guerin, CLA

ASSESSOR

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ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES A and B For the Tax Years 2023 & 2022

2023 Schedule A

The schedule below shows a comparison of assessed values determined by the Assessor for 2023 and the net value of the 2022 Assessment Roll. Also shown are the 2023 and 2022 Public Service assessments as determined by the Louisiana Tax Commission.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase (Decrease)</u>
Real Estate(H/E & T/P)	\$ 257,906,600	\$ 246,952,121	\$ 10,954,479	4.4%
Personal Property	494,177,540	385,485,070	108,692,470	28.2%
Total	(1) 752,084,140	632,437,191	119,646,949	18.9%
Public Service	(2) 46,006,490	48,371,830	(2,365,340)	-4.9%
Grand Total	\$ 798,090,630	(3) \$ 680,809,021	\$ 117,281,609	17.2%

Notations:

- (1) \$752,084,140 is the total assessed value of the 2023 assessment list determined by the Assessor and certified to the West Baton Rouge Parish Council as the Board of Review.
- (2) \$46,006,490 is the total of assessed value for 2023 Public Service assessments as determined by the Louisiana Tax Commission.
- (3) Assessment roll adjusted for 2022 change orders.

2023 Schedule B

The schedule below shows the breakdown of assessments for 2023 and 2022 showing homestead exempt property and taxpayer's property.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>% Increase (Decrease)</u>
Homestead Exempt	\$ 54,664,549	\$ 52,830,622	\$ 1,833,927	3.5%
Taxpayer	(1) 743,426,081	627,978,399	115,447,682	18.4%
Grand Total	\$ 798,090,630	(2) \$ 680,809,021	\$ 117,281,609	17.2%

Notations:

- (1) Taxpayer liability base.
- (2) Assessment roll adjusted for 2022 change orders.



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Assessed Values 2019 - 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5yr change
Property Classes:						
Real Estate	201,226,592	205,039,550	238,853,485	246,782,420	257,906,600	28.2%
Personal Property	270,888,560	305,698,730	340,307,010	385,040,570	494,177,540	82.4%
Public Service	44,278,760	49,598,650	49,384,780	48,371,830	46,006,490	3.9%
Total Assessed Value	516,393,912	560,336,930	628,545,275	680,194,820	798,090,630	54.6%
Year to Year Increase	41,884,846	43,943,018	68,208,345	51,649,545	117,895,810	\$ 323,581,564
Total Taxable Value	467,081,822	510,552,765	576,566,782	627,878,642	743,426,081	59.2%
Total Homestead Exemption	49,312,090	49,784,165	51,978,493	52,830,622	54,664,549	10.9%



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Taxes Collected 2019 - 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5yr change
Parish Council:						
Central Communications	1,403,259	1,537,140	1,744,594	1,569,697	1,486,852	
Community Center	1,403,259	1,024,760	1,163,062	1,255,757	1,486,852	
Council on Aging	1,169,382	1,280,950	1,453,828	1,569,697	1,858,566	
Drainage	3,367,821	3,176,757	4,117,241	4,131,442	5,352,668	
General Fund	1,646,490	1,803,578	2,046,990	2,210,133	2,616,860	
Health Unit	818,568	896,665	436,148	470,909	557,570	
Library	1,917,787	2,100,758	2,384,278	2,574,303	3,048,047	
Museum	935,506	1,024,760	1,163,062	1,255,757	1,486,852	
Recreation	<u>2,338,764</u>	<u>2,561,901</u>	<u>2,907,656</u>	<u>3,139,393</u>	<u>3,717,131</u>	
Total Parish Council	15,000,836	15,407,269	17,416,859	18,177,088	21,611,398	44.1%
SchoolBoard:						
Constitutional	2,053,435	2,249,349	2,552,922	2,756,387	3,263,640	
General Fund	7,016,294	7,685,702	8,722,968	9,418,180	11,151,392	
Bonds & Interest	6,899,355	7,557,607	7,240,063	6,253,672	7,434,261	
Special-Salaries I	5,613,035	6,148,561	6,978,374	7,534,544	8,921,114	
Special-Salaries II	<u>5,613,035</u>	<u>6,148,561</u>	<u>6,978,374</u>	<u>7,534,544</u>	<u>8,921,114</u>	
Total SchoolBoard	27,195,154	29,789,780	32,472,701	33,497,327	39,691,521	46.0%
Assessment District	1,155,351	0	785,071.00	1,550,863	921,849	-20.2%
Law Enforcement District	7,530,826	8,249,325	9,362,656	10,108,851	11,969,165	58.9%
Atchafalaya Levee District	1,882,163	2,046,638	2,323,639	2,508,969	2,993,802	59.1%
Total Taxes Collected	52,764,330	55,493,012	62,360,926	65,843,098	77,187,735	46.3%



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Millage Rates 2019 - 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Parish Council:					
Central Communications	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.50	2.00
Community Center	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Council on Aging	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Drainage	7.20	6.20	7.08	6.58	7.20
General Fund	3.52	3.52	3.52	3.52	3.52
Health Unit	1.75	1.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Library	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
Museum	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Recreation	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total Parish Council	32.07	30.07	29.95	28.95	29.07
SchoolBoard:					
Constitutional	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39
General Fund	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Bonds & Interest	14.75	14.75	12.45	9.96	10.00
Special-Salaries I	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Special-Salaries II	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Total SchoolBoard	58.14	58.14	55.84	53.35	53.39
Assessment District	2.47	-	1.35	2.47	1.24
Law Enforcement District	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10
Atchafalaya Levee District	4.04	4.01	4.01	4.01	4.04
Parishwide Millage Rate	112.82	108.32	107.25	104.88	103.84