

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE  
SCHEDULED REGULAR TOWN MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023  
1:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor David Camardelle who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Joseph Chauvin followed with a prayer. Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Council Members – Melissa Pizani, Kelly Besson Jr, Lan Tivet,  
Brian Barthelemy, Elgene Gary  
ABSENT: None

Motion by Council Member Brian Barthelemy seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet and unanimously agreed to open agenda.

- 1.) Resolution Declaring a Fisheries Catastrophe Arising from the Surge of Imported Shrimp.
- 2.) James Cheramie - regarding water on LA Hwy 1
- 3.) Kevin Belcher – regarding dilapidated houses on island

Motion by Council Member Melissa Pizani seconded by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. and unanimously agreed to close agenda.

Motion by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet and unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of August 23, 2023 regular town meeting as written.

The following proposed ordinance was introduced with the hearing schedule for the regular town meetings of September 13 and September 27, 2023 at which time it will be eligible for adoption.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance approving the re-division of property owned by Odson Danos, Jr. Estate, identified as Tract E of property formerly belonging to the John Plaisance Estate, fronting on Melon Lane, located in Section 28, T-22-S, R-24-E, Town of Grand Isle, Louisiana, in accordance with a plat by Picciola & Associates, Inc., dated November 22, 2022, and revised November 28, 2022.

Walter Theriot Jr. was recognized and reports on the following for August 18 – September 7, 2023. Total callouts 136, medicals 17, total arrest & total summons 13, total citations 21, total violations 30, golf cart summons 0, court fines paid N/A, tags sold \$9,600.00.

Joseph Chauvin with GIS Engineering was recognized and reports on the following: TOGI FEMA Repairs – Multiplex Bldg \$370,850 obligated, Town Hall Repairs \$75,920.00 obligated, Pump Stations \$1,357,946 obligated, Community Center ballfields & playground \$1,058,850 obligated, Grand Isle Fishing Pier \$737,769, Oak Lane Tennis court \$18,709 obligated, TOGI Playgrounds \$284,376 obligated, Park Storage Bldg Repairs \$48,650 obligated, Gas Dept Bldg Repairs \$46,485 obligated, Cheniere Fishing Pier \$905,186 not yet obligated, Community Center not yet obligated, PPDR Program waiting on Thompson to complete all reports on batch #3, GIS submitted cost estimated to FEMA. Motion by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by Council Member Brian Barthelemy and unanimously agreed to allow GIS Engineering to move into phase #2 on the ball field not to exceed \$157,900. Joint motion was made to design, survey and get permits for the Jackson Lane Pump at the cost of \$100,000. Joint motion was made to allow GIS Engineering to submit Capital Outlay application/request.

Carles Sponge was recognized and reports on the following: 1.) Laborers are needed for employment to work with the outside employees.

David Michel was recognized by Mayor Camardelle and reports that the TOGI Permit/Bldg was doing a great job.

Ronnie Sampey with the GI Garden Club was recognized and reports on the following: 1.) Some sign crossings going to beach are not corresponding with some signs crossings that are in place. 2.) Restore Grand Isle is working hard on funding for the Historical Buildings.

Weldon Danos with GIPC was recognized and reports on the following: Announcement – Bob Sevin passed away on September 10, 2023. Bob Sevin was President of the GIPC for the past 8 yrs. His vision for some projects will carry forward and he will be sorely missed. GIPC will coordinate with the State Boards & Commissions Office & TOGI town council to fill the now vacant Port Commissioner Position.

The following proposed ordinance was introduced with the hearing schedule for the regular town meetings of September 27 and October 11, 2023 at which time it will be eligible for adoption.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

An ordinance repealing the amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Grand Isle by adding 2.202(A) restricting temporary signs on vehicles other public property including the Grand Isle Beach and providing for fines and penalties associated therewith.

**RESOLUTION 2852**

**"Resolution Declaring a Fisheries Catastrophe Arising from the Surge of Imported Shrimp in Unrestricted Volumes"**

**WHEREAS**, the fisheries industry is a cornerstone of both the economy and cultural heritage of our region, and it has been brought to our attention that the state of Louisiana accounts for 924.4 million pounds of wild-caught shrimp per Wildlife and Fisheries data.

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana encompasses 5303 commercial fisheries licenses, which underscores the significance of the fisheries sector within our state. One out of every 70 jobs in Louisiana is related to the seafood industry, which as a whole has an economic impact of over \$2.4 billion annually for Louisiana. Many of these jobs are in family-owned-and-operated companies that have worked for generations to bring the finest seafood to the tables of the world.

**WHEREAS**, since the 1980, the Gulf States accounted for 86% of commercially wild-caught white shrimp, totaling more than 3.3 billion pounds. In 1980, the average dockside wild-caught shrimp price was valued at approximately \$6.50 per pound, which fell to \$2.50 per pound in 2014, and has now plummeted to approximately less than \$1.00 per pound. While today's average price of fuel is \$3.70 per gallon. In the 1980's fuel prices were approximately \$.75 a gallon. The American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters of the Gulf of Mexico are facing some of the lowest prices due to foreign shrimp being dumped into the United States markets from many foreign countries.

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, the International Trade Commission (ITC) issued a determination based on Section 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, stating that the United States industry had suffered material injury due to the import of certain non-canned warmwater shrimp and prawns from Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand, and Vietnam, subsequently sold in the United States below fair value, as confirmed by the Department of Commerce.

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing distressing trends faced by our American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters are unsustainable, pushing numerous industry participants to the brink and compelling them to leave their vessels unused and docked. Also doors shutting for docks and processors.

**WHEREAS**, despite the ITC's recent unanimous affirmation of anti-dumping duty orders on imported shrimp from China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam following their third five-year review, a dire need persists for more comprehensive actions addressing the deluge of imported shrimp from Ecuador and many other foreign countries.

**WHEREAS**, Ecuador has emerged as a global leader in shrimp supply growth, with exponential expansion, importing over 713 million pounds of farmed shrimp annually into the United States, experiencing a 54% surge since 2020.

**WHEREAS**, the scale of Ecuador's shrimp imports to the U.S. has escalated by an astonishing 24% in the last year alone, exerting an undue strain on American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters, Docks, and Processors who find themselves entangled in the repercussions of foreign shrimp dumping.

**WHEREAS**, while acknowledging Ecuador's advancements in production efficiency, genetics, and its geographic proximity to the United States, it is crucial to recognize the severe implications American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters, Docks and Processors on the Gulf Coast confront as they grapple with the inundation of foreign shrimp, including the potential introduction of white spot disease to the Gulf of Mexico due to the shrimp farming practices of Ecuador.

**WHEREAS**, further compounding the issue are health concerns associated with imported shrimp, which often fall short of adhering to domestic health standards. A 2017 GAO report revealed that 12% of shrimp samples tested positive for unsafe drugs, with the FDA examining a mere 1% of all seafood imports for potential issues.

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has highlighted grave apprehensions regarding the substantial contribution of imported shrimp and fish to the global health crisis of antibiotic resistance. In light of this concern, considering the multitude of countries involved beyond those merely enumerated in the antidumping list, it becomes apparent that safeguarding the health of our citizens and addressing the fisheries catastrophe caused by the imported farmed shrimp is imperative. It is evident that the existing capacity of the FDA to scrutinize all inbound shrimp shipments into our nation is insufficient. Historical data, even prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic, indicated that a meager 2% of all seafood underwent FDA testing, a figure that subsequently plummeted to a mere 1%. This unsettling decline underscores the heightened risk posed to a significant portion of our populace.

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Commerce has exercised its discretionary authority to reduce antidumping duties applicable to Indian shrimp.

**WHEREAS**, operating within the framework of the Seafood Nutrition Partnership initiative, NOAA actively supports a comprehensive seafood marketing endeavor with the goal of nurturing the consumption of U.S. seafood, spanning across both domestically sourced and imported varieties. Notably, entities of significant scale involved in seafood importation and major chain restaurants, exclusively reliant on imported shrimp, are in pursuit of a funding allocation of \$25 million annually for a span of five years, as part of their proposal submitted to NOAA.

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to note that numerous top-volume shrimp-importing countries to the United States uphold lower wages, diminished workplace safety, compromised health and environmental standards, and inferior labor practices, in stark contrast to the United States.

**WHEREAS**, the protection of American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters, Docks and Processors through commerce and trade policies is paramount, safeguarding them from foreign competitors, including instances of slave labor.

**WHEREAS**, the economic value of the shrimping industry in Louisiana is substantial and must not be underestimated.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it proclaimed by the **Mayor and the Town Council of Grand Isle** that a declaration of disaster is warranted by shrimp dumping, owing to the magnitude of the potential damage and future damages, the rapidity of the continuing decrease in marketability of domestic wild-caught shrimp, and the imminent threat of disaster.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the declaration of disaster empowers the implementation of controls on activities that exacerbate the risk of public harm.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these controls hold the potential to protect lives, safeguard property, and mitigate the threat of the destruction of the economies throughout coastal communities, upon which the residents of **the Town of Grand Isle** depend.

This resolution was jointly offered by the Council Members.

Vote thereon as follows:

YEAS: Melissa Pizani, Kelly Besson Jr., Lan Tivet, Brian Barthelemy, Elgene Gary

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

This resolution was declared adopted this 13<sup>TH</sup> day of September 2023.

Joint motion was made for approval letter of no objection for proposed work under Joint Permit Application P20230595, Vic and Dina Rivoli, 134 Tiger Lane for bulkhead and fill.

James Cheramie was recognized and reports on the following: Standing water on LA 1 is dangerous on the highway. State of Louisiana DOTD is responsible for highways and drainage.

Kevin Belcher was recognized and reports on the following: What is the status of the blighted houses? People need to call elected officials to see that is holding up the project.

Council Member Kelly Besson, Jr. request/report: 1.) Reminder about the Caminada Redfish Rodeo the weekend of September 22-24, 2023 at the Grand Isle Marina.

Council Member Brian Barthelemy request/report: 1.) Mosquitos are terrible because of the light rain . Everyone should address the standing water. Aerial spray is requested. Plane will be flying soon.

Representative Joseph Orgeron was recognized and reports on the following: **1.)** DOTD Is responsible for the safety, sewerage and striping of LA 1. Looking into a meeting with the mayor and DOTD. **2.)** Reach out to the Governor state has money for pier refurbishment. **3.)** Reminder about the Cheniere Caminada 1893 Hurricane memorial on October 1, 2023. **4.)** Working on USCG building for affordable housing. **5.)** Volunteers were at the 90\* West Park clearing the overgrown plants and picking up debris. **6.)** In his new legislative office since Hurricane Ida has destroyed the old one.

Mayor's Report: 1.) Chenier Caminada 1893 Hurricane 130 years memorial on October 1, 2023. The event starts at the Cheniere Cemetery at 12:30 p.m. Call the town hall for more information. 2.) Coast Guard Station looking into affordable housing. Surplus Federal property should go out to the municipality to which it is located.

Motion by Council Member Lan Tivet seconded by Council Member Melissa Pizani and unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

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David J. Camardelle, Mayor  
Town of Grand Isle

ATTESTED:

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Janet Scardino, Mayor's Assistant  
Town of Grand Isle