

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

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Brian Barthelemy who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Leonard Ray 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 was made by Council Member Lan Tivet seconded by Council Member Melissa Pizani and unanimously agreed to open agenda to discuss legal matters.

Motion was made by Council Member Lan Tivet seconded by Council Member Melissa Pizana and unanimously agreed close agenda.

Motion by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet to convene into executive session at 1:01 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet to reconvene from executive session at 1:09 p.m.

Delaina LeBlanc with BTNEP was recognized and reports on the following: Thank the Town of Grand Isle and the public for support of annual spring Red Knot bird trapping research that has provided new information about this species.

Motion by Council Member Elgene Gary seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of November 8, 2023 scheduled Town Meeting as written.

The following proposed ordinance was introduced with the hearing schedule for the regular town meetings of November 8, 2023 and December 13, 2023 at which time it will be eligible for adoption.

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

An ordinance amending section 8.101 of the official Grand Isle Zoning Ordinance regulating zoning change fees.

**WHEREAS**, the town has determined that excessive time and expense is involved in a Zoning change, and

**WHEREAS**, the town has determined that in order to alleviate the expense this change is necessary

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** BY the Town Council of the Town of Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, that:

**SECTION I:** Section 8.101 of the Grand Isle Zoning Ordinance, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 8.101 Recommended Schedule of Fees

8.101 Zoning Changes: Before any action shall be taken as provided in this section, the party or parties recommending a change in the zoning ordinance, either text change or map change, shall deposit with the Town Clerk a fee of \$200.00 for each text change not involving acreage or \$50.00 for each acre of land or portion thereof for which a change of classification is proposed or recommended to cover the approximate cost of this procedure; however the maximum fee shall not exceed \$1,000.00, irrespective of the size of the area involved. Under no condition shall such sum or part thereof be refunded for failure of such changes to be adopted by the

legislative body. Additional fees are not included within the fee and shall be due to the Clerk upon recordation and public notices when they are advertised in the official journal as directed by the Zoning rules and regulations. Recordation and public notices are extra and paid by the party requesting the new zone.

This ordinance was considered section by section and as a whole and was offered by Council Member Melissa Pizani and seconded by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr.

Roll call vote thereon as follows:

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

This ordinance was declared adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023 and becomes effective on said date.

Walter Maples Jr. was recognized and reports on the following for November 3 – December 7, 2023. Total callouts 85, medicals 16, total arrest & total summons 10, total citations 4, total violations 6, golf cart summons 0, court fines paid \$433.81, tags sold \$900.00.

Joseph Chauvin with GIS Engineering was recognized and reports on the following: **FEMA Updates** – 2020 Hurricane Zeta still in progress. 2021 Hurricane Ida still in progress. **CPRA Updates** – Stone Contract - Contractor on site. Currently working on west end of island. Construction completion date is December 11, 2023. Dune Repair Updates – Preconstruction meeting week of October 23, 2023 and starting construction by mid-November 2023. **TOGI Pump station rehab**- Sealevel Construction was awarded the job. **Pump Permits Update** – Landry Hole and Cypress pumps Jefferson Parish is working on funding for 2023. Orange Lane pump station if funded by Jefferson Parish. Jackson Lane pump station design package is set for December 20, 2023. **PPDR Program** – 28 homes have been submitted. Estimated cost \$1.01 million. **Other Business** -Motion by Council Member Melissa Pizani seconded by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. and unanimously agreed to award Picciola Construction repairs to the Town of Grand Isle Building. Motion by Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet and unanimously agreed to allow GIS to submit the substantial completion of the baseball & softball field phase II. Council Member Melissa Pizani requested the town to contact DOTD concerning the need for more speed limit signs. Council Member Brian Barthelemy will contact Dufrene's Lumber concerning the baseball field light poles.

Carles Sponge Street Supervisor was recognized and reports on the following: 1.) Working hard on Jackson Lane drainage. Collection facility will be opening soon. There will be a charge for disposal.

Ronnie Sampey with GIGC was recognized and reports on the following: 1.) Ball Park grass seeds were planted and will be adding more seed to the bald area. 2.) Representative Orgeron will be with a group to assist in planting 100 oak trees throughout the town. 3.) Motion by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by council Member Melissa Pizani and unanimously agreed to allow the removal of an oak tree on Minnich Lane. 4.) Restore GI is still working hard on the purchase of the Oleander Hotel. Donations are needed.

Weldon Danos with GIPC was recognized and reports on the following: 1.) Pier & Bulkhead Repair project update – Construction began 10-27-23. The Groundbreaking Ceremony 12-7-23 was a huge success. 2.) FEMA update – Port Facility Rd, Low Land Construction completed. GIPC Office repair will be completed by end of April 2024. 3.) State Capital Outlay 2024 request – Commercial Dock West slip repair & improvements - \$2.5 M. Dry Dock Shrimp Facility repairs \$1.5 M.

**RESOLUTION 2854**

**Supporting the effort to save the historic Oleander Hotel in Grand Isle.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Grand Isle, Louisiana, acting as governing authority of said town:

**WHEREAS**, The Oleander Hotel was built in the late 1920s by John Ludwig and officially opened on April 28, 1929; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oleander was the first modern hotel built on the island, including 50 rooms and a fine restaurant, which was frequented by many notable patrons; and

**WHEREAS**, the new hotel welcomed visitors from New Orleans on tour boats to the Gulf's finest beaches and fishing and contributed greatly to making Grand Isle into a leading tourist destination in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic hotel is an important part of the history of Grand Isle and an historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, the hotel is an important historical landmark and centerpiece of the town's historical district and a vital part of the island's recovery from Hurricane Ida; and

**WHEREAS**, the town and Restore Grand Isle will work to secure designation of the Oleander Hotel as a historic landmark to better protect and promote the hotel and town as we rebound from Hurricane Ida; and

**WHEREAS**, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, State Senator Patrick Connick and State Representative Joe Orgeron support the effort of the town and Restore Grand Isle to purchase and save the historic Oleander Hotel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oleander Hotel will be owned by the town and used as a visitor and cultural center to welcome residents and visitors and provide art and historic exhibits; and

**WHEREAS**, the center will serve to educate residents and visitors to Louisiana's only inhabited barrier island;

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Grand Isle:

1. That it hereby supports an effort to save and restore the Oleander Hotel and designate it as an historic landmark by the National Register of Historical Places; and

2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of Cultural Development Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, United States Department of Interior; Louisiana's delegation to the United States Congress; Governor John Bel Edwards, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Louisiana State Representative Joe Orgeron, State Senator Pat Connick, and the Jefferson Parish Council.

This resolution was jointly offered by the Council Members.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was 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 December 2023.

Joint motion was made to cancel the Regular Town council Meeting of 12-27-23 due to Christmas Holiday.

Motion by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. seconded by Council Member Lan Tivet and unanimously agreed to transfer funds within the Police Department budget. Transfer \$509.00 from 5408-13 to 5611-13 radar guns, transfer \$130.00 from 5408-13 to 5319-13 physical, transfer \$150.00 from 5408-13 to 5309 repair bldg.

Joint motion was made for the eligibility employee benefits for John Combs effective 11-21-23 and Bryston Byard effective 11-27-23.

Leonard Ray was recognized and reports on the following: 1.) Cemetery located on Cemetery Lane open tombs and head stones that were damaged after Hurricane Ida was addressed by Our Lady of the Isle Catholic Church.

Council Member Lan Tivet request/reports: 1.) During WW2, Coastal Patrol Base 9 had Aircraft from the Civil Air Patrol fly Anti Submarine and Rescue patrols here on Grand Isle between 1942-1943. Would like to get a Historical Sign made to mark the area that the runway and headquarters was located. Ronnie Sampey will check on the signs.

Council Member Brian Barthelemy request/reports: 1.) Grass by the old fire station on LA 1 needs to be cut.

Motion by Council Member Melissa Pizani seconded by Council Member Kelly Besson Jr. and unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

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Brian Barthelemy, Mayor Pro-Temp  
Town of Grand Isle

ATTESTED:

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Janet Scardino, Mayor's Assistant  
Town of Grand Isle