

**PARISH POLICE JURY
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The Police Jury of Concordia Parish met this day in regular session convened. There were present the following members:

President:	Joseph Parker, Sr
Members:	Maurice Bachus, Willie Yearby, Genesia Allen, Collin Edwards Scottie Whittington, Adam Probst
Absent:	Brad Adams
Secretary Treasurer:	Sandi T. Burley
Invocation:	Mr. Yearby
Pledge of Allegiance:	Mr. Probst

The Pledge, Invocation, and Roll Call were conducted by Mr. Parker. A quorum was present.

- 1) A motion was made by Mr. Probst seconded by Mr. Yearby to approve the November 22, 2021 regular meeting minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Mr. Paul Jahn, Commercial Manager with Syrah Technologies, addressed the Jurors on the upcoming expansions planned to their facility. Mr. Jahn discussed the plan growth of Syrah Technologies from 21 to 80 employees over the next 2 years. With the growth, plans for expanding and adding to the facility with both equipment and building and materials.

Mr. Jahn asked the Jurors for a resolution of support for the Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) Application. The resolution would allow Syrah Technologies to receive an 80% property tax exemption for an initial term of 5 years and an additional term of 5 years at 80% if ITEP thresholds and guidelines are met. This would amend the previously approved resolution of a 100% property tax exemption for 5 years and an additional term of 5 years with 80% exemption.

Mr. Neal asked Mr. Jahn about the effects of the output put on the sewer system. Vidalia Mayor, Buz Craft, was also in attendance and spoke to the question. Mr. Craft stated that the Town of Vidalia just passed its annual inspection of its sewer plant. All levels meet the sampling planned during the original design and establishment of Syrah Technologies. Mr. Edwards asked when will the new addition begin construction. Mr. Jahn responded that funding sources are being pursued and should start in January of 2022. The plan is to be operating by 2023 in the additional facility.

With no further comments, a motion was made by Mr. Probst seconded by Ms. Allen to pass Resolution 2021-018 to support the ITEP Application for Syrah Technologies. Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 2021-018 attached as addendum to minutes.)

- 3) Ms. Karen Mohlberg with Enterprise Fleet Management addressed the Jurors to discuss the Fleet Management Program. By taking older trucks out of inventory through trade in, the Parish's costs of repairs and maintenance are greatly reduced. The rotation of inventory would allow the Parish to use the equity in the newer trucks toward replacing future trucks. Currently only the Ford F150 is on state contract. These will be the focus of replacing in FY 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Probst seconded by Mr. Neal to approve the President to execute the Fleet Management Agreement with Enterprise. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Mr. Bryant Killen spoke on passing an ordinance to create the Northeast Railroad District. Mr. Killen shared statutes that supported the creation of the district. The railroad projects are planned to provide rail from Tallulah to Vidalia using the existing footprint where possible. The District would be made of nine members. Two members from each parish and one member appointed jointly by the governing authorities of the parishes in the district to serve at large. A motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Mr. Bachus to approve publishing a public hearing notice to create an ordinance establishing the Northeast Railroad District. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Dixon Cole, Chairman of the Lake Concordia Advisory Board brought forward information of the elevations and pool stages conducted and established for Lake Concordia. In his written request, Mr. Cole asked the Jurors for permission for the Advisory Board to place boards or plates to 49.0 feet on the gated structure to maintain water levels. Permission to oversee and operate the gate by the Board was also requested. A motion was made Mr. Probst seconded by Ms. Allen to authorize the Lake Concordia Advisory Board to place the appropriate boards and operate the gate in which to maintain proper levels of the lake. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Census and re-districting were to be discussed next. Mr. Bill Blair was not able to make the meeting, therefore further discussion will be held at the next regular meeting.
- 7) A recommendation for appointment renewals for Recreation District #3 was received. The letter recommended Mr. Glen Perilloux, Frank Duson, Jr., and Mr. Kale Davis to renew their 4 year term expiring on December 31, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Mr. Whittington to approve the renewals. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Discussion of allocations and information needed for the GUMBO application for broadband was held. Formal information for ARPA allocations is being gathered. A motion was made to table discussion and hold a special meeting if needed by Mr. Probst seconded by Mr. Bachus. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) Committee Reports and Actions were next discussed.
 - a. Finance – A motion was made by Mr. Probst seconded by Mr. Yearby to approve the minutes of the 2022 Budget Public Hearing held November 23, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Finance – A motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Mr. Probst to ratify the proposed FY 2022 Budget for advertising and public comment. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Finance – A motion was made by Mr. Probst seconded by Mr. Bachus to ratify the purchase orders and bank statements for November. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Public Works/Solid Waste – Bulk limb pickup will resume for residents depending on the weather and access to the debris site.
- e. Courthouse – A proposal for a maintenance agreement on the elevator lift was reviewed. The agreement allows for planned maintenance and contacts for repairs. A motion was made by Mr. Whittington seconded by Mr. Yearby to approve the execution of the maintenance agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

10) Under Projects, updates were given on Brushy Bayou, DR-4462, DR-4590, and ARPA.

- a. Wetland Mitigation Credits have been purchased and the 404 and 408 permits have been approved by USACE. All documentation has been sent to FEMA for further review. DOTD final designs are expected to be completed by year end.

11) Under Ordinance Violations, a motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Mr. Edwards to approve Superintendent Guillory to look into water flow at the Work Release building brought forward by Mr. Whittington. Motion carried unanimously.

12) A motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Ms. Allen and carried unanimously to approve the following Occupational Licenses:

Laurco LLC – Gift Shop – 4677 Hwy 569, Ferriday – Lauren Maroon
St. Andrew’s Thrift Shop – 4284 Hwy 84, Vidalia – Sales and Use Tax Form

13) Under the Secretary / Treasurer’s Report, Ms. Burley offered the following:

- a) Discussed upcoming meetings, holidays, and vacation schedules.
- b) The boiler at the courthouse has become inoperable. A quote for renting a boiler and purchasing a boiler was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Whittington seconded by Mr. Yearby to move forward with the emergent purchase of a new boiler system. Motion carried unanimously.

14) Superintendent’s Report

- a) Work Orders were brought forward:

610 (yards) – 30 on Poole Road, Monterey; 15 on Bodark; 15 on Dr. Gibson; 105 on Kemps Landing; 15 on Eagle; 8 on Boggy Bayou; 7.5 on East; 7.5 on Thomas; 7.5 on Crestview; 31 on Mooselodge; 15 on Haphazard; 1 on Boggy Bayou; 1 on Passman; 2 on Smart Lane; 2 on Mack Moore; 1 on Lincoln; 1 on Serio; 1 on Robert Webber; 2 on Airport
Maintenance Gravel (yards) – 30 on Plouden Bayou; 15 on Coop Road; 15 on Poole Road, Ferriday; 15 on Cynthia Bayou
Pitrun (yards) – 15 on Bodark

A motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Mr. Edwards to approve the work orders. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) Mr. Peoples has retired as Mechanic/Asst Superintendent. An in-house application period is open for the dual role. Discussion was held on the title exemplifying the dual position. Mr. Yearby offered a term from his former work history called Mechanic Leadman. This was acceptable to the Jurors. A motion was made by Mr. Yearby seconded by Mr. Probst to approve the revised title and begin in-house advertising for applications. Motion carried unanimously.

- 15) Work Orders from the Jurors were next discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Probst seconded by Mr. Yearby and carried unanimously to approve the following:
Neal – 159 Belle Grove drainage issues; 106 and 117 Garden Drive – ditches are silted in.
- 16) Public Comment Period and Correspondence –
 - a. Mr. Parker recognized Mr. Stanley Nelson from the Concordia Sentinel. Mr. Nelson has covered the news of the Parish for several decades and will be retiring at the end of the year. On behalf of the Police Jury – we wish you all the best on your retirement!
- 17) There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Whittington and seconded by Ms. Allen to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Sandi T. Burley, Secretary / Treasurer

Resolution No. 2021 - 018

A Resolution of the Concordia Parish Police Jury Authorizing its President to Sign a Letter of Intent Supporting Syrah Technologies LLC's Pending Louisiana Industrial Property Tax Exemption Program Application

WHEREAS, Syrah Technologies LLC (“Syrah”) spent roughly \$37M to construct a new manufacturing facility in Vidalia, LA (“initial project”) that became operational in 2019; and

WHEREAS, this initial project brought new investment dollars and new jobs to the community; and

WHEREAS, Syrah has been and continues to be a good corporate citizen and partner with the City of Vidalia, neighboring communities, and the Parish of Concordia; and

WHEREAS, Syrah is considering an expansion project at its new manufacturing facility in Vidalia, LA that could bring over \$137 million of investment dollars and 30 new full time permanent (LA-Domiciled) jobs paying, on average, over \$55,000 per job, to the community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Loren Scott performed an economic impact analysis that states the proposed expansion project would have a very significant positive impact on the City of Vidalia, neighboring communities, and the Parish of Concordia; and

WHEREAS, Syrah operates in a globally competitive marketplace; and

WHEREAS, current market conditions are having a dramatic impact on material and equipment pricing; and

WHEREAS, Syrah is a manufacturing establishment eligible to participate in the Louisiana Industrial Property Tax Exemption Program (“ITEP”); and

WHEREAS, the ITEP is a property tax exemption that, if approved, would have a significant impact on the economic viability of the proposed expansion project; and

WHEREAS, Syrah timely filed its ITEP application with the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (“LED”) for consideration by the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry (“BC&I”) at its upcoming meeting on December 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Syrah’s intent was to complete the ITEP review and approval process with the Concordia Parish Police Jury (“Police Jury”) prior to Syrah’s corporate board making a decision to proceed or not to proceed with the project in December 2021 regarding the proposed expansion project; and

WHEREAS, LED has notified Syrah that its application has been reviewed and marked complete, but that the ITEP application will not be heard at the December 10, 2021 BC&I meeting; and

WHEREAS, the next BC&I meeting is on February 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the timeline for the LED ITEP approval process prevents the Police Jury from taking formal action on Syrah’s ITEP application prior to Syrah’s board making a decision to proceed or not to proceed with the project investment; and

WHEREAS, the Police Jury wishes to extend its conditional support of Syrah’s pending ITEP application to Syrah’s corporate board prior to its investment decision; and

WHEREAS, Syrah has provided a copy of its ITEP application and supporting documentation to the Police Jury for review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, Syrah has provided a summary of the economic impact study performed by Dr. Loren Scott to the Police Jury for review and consideration; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon consideration of the foregoing and the public discussion held this day, that this Concordia Parish Police Jury approves the President indicating support of this Police Jury for Syrah’s pending Louisiana Industrial Property Tax Exemption through execution of a Letter of Intent, providing the following conditions are present in the Letter of Intent:

- a) the ITEP application was recommended by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry for approval; and
- b) the ITEP application was approved by the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry.

This resolution was considered as a whole, and upon the motion of Mr. Probst being seconded by Ms. Allen and carried unanimously was adopted by the following vote on 13th day of December, 2021.

Yeas: 8
Nays: 0
Absent: 1
Abstained: 0

ATTEST:

Joseph Parker, Sr.
President

Sandi T. Burley
Secretary / Treasurer