

Odds increase for legislative veto session

By Victor Skinner
The Center Square

Lawmakers are expected to return to Baton Rouge in the coming days to consider vetoes from Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Through Monday, Edwards has vetoed one bill, Senate Bill 196, and 19 line items from the budget supplemental appropriations bill, House Bill 560.

The Louisiana Constitution requires lawmakers to meet on the 14th day following the regular session to consider vetoes for override unless a majority of members of either chamber declare in writing it's unnecessary five days prior. Lawmak-

ers have not submitted such a declaration, signaling a veto session in the coming days. The regular session adjourned on June 8.

Senate Bill 196, sponsored by Sen. Barrow Peacock, R-Bossier City, would have increased transparency in the legal system by requiring disclosure of third-party litigation financing. Peacock points to hedge funds, equity firms and foreign funds financing lawsuits on a contingency basis, effectively using the civil justice system as an investment.

The funding is legal but not currently revealed in the legal process, and Peacock argues

the agreements can create conflicts of interest between a client and their lawyer. He highlights research that shows the agreements incentivize prolonged lawsuits and result in fewer settlement funds recovered for claimants.

Edwards vetoed SB196 because it "only requires plaintiffs to unilaterally disclose their commercial legal financing arrangements," he wrote in his veto message.

"If true transparency is what was intended, the legislation would have required all parties to disclose their legal financing arrangements," he wrote. "The proposed structure has one

desired outcome — to deter commercial legal finance companies from doing business in Louisiana."

SB 196 cleared the House 55-28 with a Senate concurrence vote of 30-8.

Other Edwards vetoes targeted 19 line items totaling about \$2.3 million in local projects slated for the districts of eight House members who voted against raising the state's spending cap. While the legislature ultimately approved the move to spend \$1.65 billion above the threshold, Edwards vowed to punish those who opposed it.

The vetoes impact projects in

the home districts of Republican Reps. Raymond Crews of Bossier City, Dodie Horton of Haughton, Sherman Mack of Albany, Larry Frieman of Abita-Springs, Julie Emerson of Carencro, Johnathan Goudeau of Lafayette, and Danny McCormick of Oil City.

Edwards also vetoed a project in Pollock Republican Rep. Gabe Firmert's district. Firmert voted to lift the spending cap in the constitution but sponsored legislation to prohibit gender transitions for minors that Edwards said he plans to veto.

Another line-item veto for the American Rose Society is

connected to Shreveport Republican Rep. Alan Seabaugh, who voted against the cap and whose wife is the society's former director.

HB560 cleared the House with a vote of 93-9 and the Senate with a vote of 38-1.

Firmert's HB 648 is among three bills dealing with transgender issues Edwards has promised to veto. The others include HB 81 by Crews to prohibit school employees from using students' preferred pronouns without parental consent and HB 466 by Horton to ban discussion on gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools.

Winnsboro man allegedly threatens girlfriend with gun

Ouachita Parish sheriff's deputies arrested a Winnsboro man last weekend after he allegedly strangled his girlfriend and threatened her with a gun in Monroe.

After arrival, deputies made

contact with the victim, who reported that Avery Cameron, 26, of 1329 Hwy 865, Winnsboro, used both hands to strangle her several times during an argument.

According to the victim,

Cameron left her on the floor after strangling her to grab a gun from the living room. The victim told officers that when Cameron returned, he pointed the gun at her head and made threats.

The couple's four-month-old son was on the bed in the same room during the incident, according to the arrest report.

Deputies found Cameron outside of the couple's residence. He fled the scene on

foot, deputies reported. After a brief foot chase, Cameron was arrested.

During questioning, Cameron told deputies the victim pushed him and that was why he strangled her. He denied

pointing a gun at the victim.

Cameron was booked at Ouachita Correctional Center for domestic abuse battery, strangulation, domestic abuse aggravated assault and resisting an officer.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

The Franklin Parish School Board is now accepting sealed bids for the hunting land lease located on Hwy. 135, Newt Williams Road in Liddieville, Sec. 16, T13N, R6E, containing approx. 160 acres known as "Liddieville Cut". This hunting/recreational lease is for a three-year period only. This lease will become effective July 1, 2023 and run through June 30, 2026. The Franklin Parish School Board is putting a \$10.00 per acre minimum on this land lease bid. You can pick up a bid information letter at the school board office, Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sealed bids must be received by 1:00 p.m. June 21, 2023 at the Franklin Parish School Board, 7293 Prairie Road, Winnsboro, LA. Bids will be opened at 1:30 p.m. June 21, 2023 at the School Board Office. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "SEALED BID, Liddieville Cut", if you have any questions, please contact Nan Lee at (318) 435-9046.

The Franklin Parish School Board reserves the right to accept or reject any and or all bids.
6/7,6/14,6/21

PARISH OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC NOTICE

Parcel# 8700824800

Notice is hereby given that the Parish of Franklin has received a request to sell their respective tax interest in the following listed property. This property has previously been adjudicated to the Parish of Franklin for unpaid taxes. A public sale of this property will begin at 10:00 A.M. on June 27, 2023 at the Franklin Parish Police Jury, 6558 Main Street, Winnsboro, LA 71295. The minimum bid has been set at \$1,840.70 Anyone intending to bid must hand deliver your intent letter and processing fee to E & P Consulting Services, LLC, and 1300 Hudson Lane, Suite 5, Monroe, Louisiana 71201 by June 23, 2023. NO faxed, telephoned, mailed or any kind of electronic submission of intent to bid will be accepted. Any intent to bid letter received by the above deadline will allow 1 party into the bid session. If more than one offer for any particular piece of property is received, all parties who have submitted a written offer will be allowed to bid on the property.

For additional information, please contact Parish Adjudicated Property Program at E & P Consulting, LLC: 318-807-0924 or Parishpropertyinfo@escamillaponeck.com
Legal Description: Lots 6 & 7 of Block 9 of Abe Lincoln Addition to Winnsboro, La, Section 31, Township 14 North, Range 4 East
Municipal Address: 121 Avis Street, Winnsboro, LA 71295

TOWN OF WINNSBORO

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES JACK HAMMONS COMMUNITY CENTER

810 ADAMS STREET
WINNSBORO, LA 71295

5:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023
5:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER

Prayer led by Councilwoman Dorothy Swayzer
Pledge led by Mayor Alice Wallace

Roll Call

Aldermen present: Dorothy Swayzer, Eddie Dunn, Jerry Johnson, and Rex McCarthy
Absent: Marteze Singleton

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Winnsboro, Louisiana, met in a special called meeting session on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Jack Hammons Community Center, 810 Adams Street, Winnsboro, Louisiana, with Mayor Alice Wallace presiding.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 1051: Amended Budget for FY 2022/2023

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Jerry Johnson and unanimously approved to introduce this ordinance. Copies are available at City Hall or the Town Clerk's office for public inspection.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 1052: Proposed Budget for FY 2023/2024

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Dorothy Swayzer and unanimously approved to introduce this ordinance. Copies are available at City Hall or the Town Clerk's office for public inspection.

Resolution No. 23-0508: Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and between Winnsboro Police Department and Bossier City Police Department

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Dorothy Swayzer and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 23-0508.

Approval of Alcohol License for AZ Express

Motion by Jerry Johnson, seconded by Dorothy Swayzer and unanimously approved to table this item until a later date.

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Eddie Dunn and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add an item.

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Eddie Dunn and unanimously approved to add Resolution No. 23-0509.

Resolution No. 23-0509: Friends of Crowville Donation

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Dorothy Swayzer and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 23-0509.

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Eddie Dunn and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add an item.

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Dorothy Swayzer and unanimously approved to add Resolution No. 23-0510.

Resolution No. 23-0510: Act 170

Motion by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Dorothy Swayzer and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 23-0510.

Adjournment

There being no more business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Rex McCarthy, seconded by Eddie Dunn and unanimously approved that this meeting be adjourned.

Julia Jackson, Town Clerk

Alice Wallace, Mayor

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NOTICE

THE VILLAGE OF GILBERT MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE GILBERT CITY HALL. THOSE PRESENT WERE AS FOLLOWS: MAYOR MIKE STEPHENS, OUIDA SEWELL CLERK, MELANIE KEYES ASSISTANT CLERK, BOARD OF ALDERMEN RANDY LLOYD, BARBARA EZELL, SUSAN BRITT, POLICE CHIEF ALVIE VICK, FIRE CHIEF BILL MCLEMORE,

AND CITIZENS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Mike Stephens called the meeting to order.

PRAYER:

Mayor Mike Stephens led in opening prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ouida Sewell led in the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES:

Discussion was held. Motion made by Barbara Ezell, seconded by Randy Lloyd to accept the minutes from last month as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS/BUDGET TO ACTUAL:

Discussion was held. Motion made by Randy Lloyd, seconded by Susan Britt to accept the financial documents as presented. Motion carried.

PAY MONTHLY BILLS:

Discussion was held. Motion made by Randy Lloyd seconded by Susan Britt to pay the monthly bills. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Bill McLemore gave monthly report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Alvie Vick gave monthly report.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Mayor gave monthly report. Discussion was held on changing trash disposal companies. Motion made by Barbara Ezell, seconded by Susan Britt to change trash disposal companies to Wolf Disposal. Motion carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Doyle Jeter with Northeast Louisiana Music Trail came to discuss placing a marker for John Brown, Sr by the Gilbert City Hall gazebo at the request of his family. Discussion was held. Motion made by Barbara Ezell, seconded by Susan Britt to place a marker for John Brown, Sr by the Northeast Louisiana Music Trail by the Gilbert

City Hall gazebo. Motion carried.

Cinnamon Gooding, with McManus Engineering gave an update on the LLOP and USDA grants.

Heather Carroll, with Grow Gilbert reported that Gilbert's Farmer's Market is doing good and getting more traffic. Mrs. Carroll also talked about doing some Pop-Up Markets in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Motion made by Susan Britt, seconded by Barbara Ezell to close regular meeting and open public hearing to discuss Ordinance #376 and Ordinance #377. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Motion made by Susan Britt, seconded by Randy Lloyd to closed Public Hearing and re-open regular meeting. Motion carried.

1. ADOPT ORDINANCE #376-TO AMEND THE JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023 BUDGET.

Discussion was held. Motion made by Barbara Ezell seconded by Susan Britt to adopt Ordinance #376. Roll Call vote was as follows: Yeas: Barbara Ezell, Susan Britt, Randy Lloyd. Motion carried.

2. ADOPT ORDINANCE #377-TO ADOPT JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET.

Discussion was held. Motion made by Barbara Ezell, seconded by Randy Lloyd to adopt Ordinance #377.

Roll call vote was as follows: Yeas: Barbara Ezell, Susan Britt, Randy Lloyd. Motion carried.

3. ADOPT RESOLUTION - WRITTEN POLICY AND PROCEDURES.

Discussion was held. Motion made by Susan Britt, seconded by Barbara Ezell. Roll

See PUBLIC NOTICES on Page 14A

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MAIL TO: The Franklin Sun, 514 Prairie St., Winnsboro, LA 71295

