

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 FOLLOWING AGENDA REVIEW

ST. TAMMANY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX  
21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LA.

Call to order by Honorable Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Chair

Roll Call: Michael R. Lorino, Jr.  
Rykert O. Toledano, Jr.  
Cheryl Tanner  
Michael "Mike" Smith  
Maureen "MO" O'Brien  
Jerry Binder  
Jacob "Jake" A. Airey (ex officio member)  
Chris Canulette (alternate)

Also present: Cazaubon, Davis, Laughlin, Randolph

-Lorino - 1. Review of Monthly Finance Reports generated by the Finance Department.

-Leslie Long – explained the reports that she handed out.

-Sales Tax District No. 3 – current through May 2023 and on budget with 1.5% variance

-Budget-to-actual – current through June 30, 2023 and on budget with taxes meeting the timing threshold.

-Tanner – asked about the CDBG report she previously asked for.

-Jeanne Marino – said it is being prepared.

-Tanner – asked what happened to the district balance reports they used to get.

-Long – explained what happens now, but said she can put something together. She also explained the MUNIS system.

-Lorino - 3. Discussion of 2024 budget requests from State Mandated Agencies—Finance Dept. to provide update.

-Long – explained the budget binders she put together with information they received from State Mandated Agencies. She said it also has fund balances. She explained the spreadsheet she handed out for the departments and agencies. She said there was about \$34 million requested and about \$18 million deficit.

-Lorino – asked does she anticipate any additional funding that is not known about?

-Long – explained that last year they used ARPA funds and that has been exhausted. She explained things further about the fund balance.

-Lorino - 4. Discussion of 2024 budget timeline.

-Lorino – asked when will they have a final document so they won't have to guess?

-Long – said they will present the budget book on September 27. She then went over the budget schedule.

-Lorino – said that nothing prevents them from getting it a little early.

-Canulette – said they are in a pickle and they knew they were in a pickle. He said they sent a letter on the 17<sup>th</sup> saying that they need the budget sent to them by the 7<sup>th</sup>. He said that last year he felt like they didn't get it soon enough. He said they don't want to have a special meeting to have time to go over the budget. He asked them to please try to get it to them by the 7<sup>th</sup>.

-Long – said they can have meetings in between when information is received from agencies.

-Laughlin – asked what effort are they taking to consolidate, cut budgets, save money?

- Long – said they put together a list she could send to him.
- Lorino – gave a suggestion on Long creating a sheet that lists things.
- Long – explained further what they always do and said they would provide a list.
- Binder – asked about needs that are not attached to a funding source.
- Long – explained that this begins with the departments submitting their requests.
- Randolph – said this has to keep them up at night. He said the bottom line is they are still operating at a loss.
- Long – explained that they are not operating at a loss because it wasn't in the budget, but the agencies are invoicing them and they will have exhausted their funding by the end of the year.
- Randolph – said they are facing scrutiny from constituents along with the financial loss. He asked when they would have an opportunity to renew a tax.
- Long – explained that for November 2023 it would be the resolution already on the agenda; for March 2024 they would need to start working on it now; for April 2024 they would need to have it ready by December, but they would need to start working on it now. She said if a millage was passed in April, it could go on the tax roll. If it were a sales tax, it could go on July 1<sup>st</sup> if passed in April.
- Randolph – said they need to make sure they communicate things that are asked for by Councilmembers to the public so they don't think they have money but aren't performing services.
- Davis – asked if the Public Health millage is passed, would that only be \$3 million, and they would still be down \$15 million, right?
- Long – confirmed.
- Tanner – spoke about looking at fund balances, but they still won't be \$18 million. She said there are things they can start doing with millages to see what can be done.
- Binder – said they would have to get a ruling on where their hands are tied.
- Lorino - 5. Update on rate study being performed on Tammany Utilities and issuance of Utility Revenue Bonds.
- Smith – asked for an update on the bonds.
- Chris Tissue – explained.
- Discussion ensued between Council, Grant Schleuter from Foley and Judell, Long, Tissue, and Gina Campo.
- Lorino - 2. Review of proposed Finance Ordinances and Resolutions on the August 03, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda. (Meeting Agenda available in Council Office or on Parish website: [www.stpgov.org](http://www.stpgov.org))

**ITEMS TO PULL**

Ords for Intro	Resos
10. Ord. Cal. No. 7339	
11. Ord. Cal. No. 7340	
12. Ord. Cal. No. 7341	
13. Ord. Cal. No. 7342	
14. Ord. Cal. No. 7343	
15. Ord. Cal. No. 7344	

- Lorino - 10. Ord. Cal. No. 7339 - Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Operating Budget - Amendment No. 11. (Lorino/Cooper)
- Long – explained that the purpose of this ordinance is the adjustment of the beginning fund balance to the audited number along with some other items.
- Lorino - 11. Ord. Cal. No. 7340 - Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Grants Budget – Amendment No. 08. (Lorino/Cooper)

- Long – explained that the purpose of this ordinance is for a grant for Louisiana Housing Corp. Emergency Solutions grant.
- Lorino - 12. Ord. Cal. No. 7341 -Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Operating Budget – Amendment No. 12. (Laughlin/Cooper)
- Long – explained that the purpose of this ordinance was to mend the Public Works fund for the Tammany Trace maintenance for 3 cross signals.
- Tanner – asked if this was because of the accident.
- Long – said yes, it would be reimbursed.
- Lorino - 13. Ord. Cal. No. 7342 -Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Assets – Amendment No. 42 – Disaster Relief Capital Projects. (Laughlin/Cooper)
- Long – explained that the purpose of this ordinance.
- Lorino - 14. Ord. Cal. No. 7343 - Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Assets – Amendment No. 43 – Parishwide Roads & Drainage Capital Projects. (Binder/Cooper)
- Long – explained that the purpose of this ordinance was for a Capital Outlay grant for South Slidell levee protection.
- Lorino - 15. Ord. Cal. No. 7344 - Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Assets – Amendment No. 44 – Trace Maintenance. (Laughlin/Cooper)
- Long – explained that the purpose of this ordinance was to list the alert signals on the Trace.
- Toledano – moved to refer all of the finance items that were pulled and discussed to full Council, seconded by O’Brien. Unanimous with no absent.
- Lorino – thanked Long.
- Binder – asked for an update on FEMA obligated funds.
- Long – said they haven’t heard yet, but GoSEPH is recommended replacement instead of repair about 2-3 weeks ago.
- There being no further business, meeting adjourned at the call of the Committee Chairman.

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MICHAEL R. LORINO, JR., COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK