

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
FOR THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**
Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m.
BREC Administration Building
6201 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Commission Minutes
September 24, 2020

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) was held at BREC's Administrative Offices on September 24, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman. Commissioner Sandra Davis offered the invocation. Commissioner Kenneth Pointer led the pledge of allegiance. Roll was taken, and a quorum of Commissioners was present including Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman; Kenneth Pointer, Vice Chairman; William Scheffy, Treasurer; Connie Bernard; Sandra Davis; Jerry Jones Jr., Davis Rhorer; Collis Temple, Jr.; and Rossie Washington, Jr. Staff members present were Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent; Reed Richard, Assistant Superintendent System Planning; Brandon Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Aneatra Boykin, Chief Legal Officer; Andrea Roberts, Chief Operating Officer; Phil Frost; RaHarold Lawson; Michael Raby; Michael Smith; and Chris Marchiafava. Tracy Morganti, legal counsel, was also in attendance. The rest of the audience consisted of other BREC staff, BREC consultants, media, and the general public.

Public Comment

Mr. Benson opened the floor for public comment on the agenda action items. He asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on any agenda action item. Hearing none, Mr. Benson closed the floor.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting of August 27, 2020 be dispensed with, and that they be approved as written.

Motion to approve by Mr. Jones

Second by Ms. Bernard

Unanimously approved

Consent Calendar

Resolved, That the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge does hereby approve the Consent Calendar items.

Motion to approve by Ms. Bernard

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Unanimously approved

The following item was approved as part of the Consent Calendar:

Acceptance of Recommendations for the Human Resources Advisory Committee

Resolved, That the Commission approve the Routine Personnel Transactions for August 12, 2020 to September 11, 2020.

Presentations

Mr. Benson recognized Superintendent Wilson who presented employee service awards to the following staff:

5 Years
Jacobs Land
Leon Franklin

10 Years
Janell Bazile

15 Years
Reed Richard

20 Years
Gilda Conrad

Golf Director Mike Raby introduced Morgan Miley who gave a presentation on The First Tee program at BREC facilities and the outreach efforts throughout the parish. Mr. Raby and Mr. Miley then answered questions from the Commission members.

The Chairman noted that it was time to hold the public hearing to consider adopting Ordinance No. 2 to levy the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and to roll forward the millage in 2020 back to the prior year's (2019) maximum approved millage rates thereby levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval, on all property subject to taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge for operation and maintenance and capital improvements. The item was introduced at the Commission meeting on August 27, 2020.

Chairman Benson then explained the protocol to be utilized and then he opened the public hearing. The Chairman asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak. No one had submitted a comment card and no one came forward to speak. Chairman Benson noted that BREC had received one comment by email and Chris Marchiafava came forward to read the comment submitted by Phillip Lillard. Mr. Benson asked if any of the Commissioners would like to comment, hearing none he adjourned the public hearing.

The Superintendent stated that another service award recipient present. The Superintendent then recognized Michael Wilson for his ten years of service to BREC.

Mr. Benson recognized Reed Richard to give the construction update. Mr. Richard told the Commission about the software that the Planning and Engineering Department is implementing. He stated that the software would assist the department with both short and long term planning and enable staff to provide better presentations for the construction update. Mr. Richard presented the construction update. There was a discussion about the safe rooms being funded through FEMA in three parks as well as other projects.

The Commission viewed a brief video highlighting Adaptive Recreation and upcoming activities throughout the parish in the month of October.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Wilson for the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Wilson stated that there were no administrative matters. He also stated that there may be an item next month regarding allowing staff to be off from work for the upcoming election.

The Superintendent then stated that the Commission members had been provided copies of the 2020 Mid-Year Report which contains information on the status of the goals set for the agency for 2020. He then gave an update regarding impact of COVID-19.

Mr. Wilson noted the recent passing of Bill Ensminger who as a long-time commissioner for Central Area Youth League (CAYL) and was instrumental in their partnership with BREC. He was committed helping youth grow and develop into champions. Mr. Ensminger had a passion for girls' softball and worked to ensure the youth in the Central area had opportunities to play softball and baseball through CAYL.

Mr. Wilson gave an explanation of the ad valorem taxes roll forward process. He outlined BREC's service to the community during the pandemic and the positive impact the parks provide for health and wellness opportunities. He also told the Commission about how parks were used to facilitate the delivery of food to families during this time. He stated that many residents are facing challenging economic situations and many businesses will never recover. He said that BREC was willing to join the community in tightening our belt, continuing to look for efficiencies wherever possible, and identifying alternate sources of revenue. He stated that staff would support whatever decision the Commission makes and continue to serve the community at a Gold Medal level.

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Scheffy for the Finance Committee report. Mr. Scheffy spoke briefly about how BREC is managing the budget and the decline in the self-generated revenues. He stated that Golf and Special Facilities would be making presentations to the Finance Committee regarding revenues in the near future. Mr. Scheffy recognized Finance Director Michael Smith who gave an overview of the financial statements. Mr. Scheffy then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission accept the unaudited financial statements for the eight (8) months ending August 31, 2020 (fiscal year-to-date period January 1 – August 31, 2020), as presented.

Motion to approve by Mr. Pointer

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Scheffy asked if the three items under Contracts and Bids could be taken together since they are all similar annual contracts. The Chairman agreed they could be approved in one action. Mr. Smith read the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Commission award Sealed Bid 1792 – BREC Annual Contract for Grass Seed for BREC Golf Courses and Athletic Fields, to the lowest responsive bidders, GreenPoint AG LLC, for Item 1: 3-way Blended Perennial Ryegrass seed/50 LB bags delivered at \$1.12/pound and SiteOne Landscape Supply for Item 4: POA Trivialis seed, apron treated/50 LB bags delivered at \$3.254 /pound. Estimated annual cost is \$40,000. Contracts will be for 12 months starting on November 1, 2020, with the option to renew for two additional 12-month terms, at same prices, terms and conditions, not to exceed 36 months.

Resolved, That the Commission award Sealed Bid 1793 – BREC Annual Contract for Limestone and Recycled Concrete, to the lowest responsive bidders, Bear Industries, Inc. for Item #3 – Gabion; Beaulieu Plantation, Inc. for Items #4 – Recycled Concrete, Road Base and #10 – Recycled Concrete, Road Base; Perrault's Trucking and Dirt Service, Inc. for Items #9 – Gabion and #10 – Recycled Concrete, Road Base; and Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel Company for Items #1 – 610 Limestone, #2 – Limestone, #7 – Limestone, #8 – Limestone; at the prices listed on their bids. Current contract's last 12-month usage totaled \$40,000/delivered and \$38,000/picked up.

The total estimated contract amount is \$78,000. Contract will be for 12 months starting on December 1, 2020, with the option to renew for two additional 12-month terms, at same prices, terms and conditions, not to exceed 36 months.

Resolved, That the Commission award Sealed Bid 1794 – BREC Annual Contract for Dirt, Sand, Gravel and Clay, to the lowest responsive bidders, Bear Industries, Inc. for Items I and T; Cody Edwards Trucking, LLC for Items L, M, S and V; and Southern Aggregates, LLC for Items C, D, E, F, G, J, N, O, P, Q, R, and U; at prices listed on their bids. Current contract's last 12-month estimated usage is \$26,000/delivered and \$20,000/picked up. The total estimated annual contract usage is \$46,000. Contract will be for 12 months starting on December 1, 2020, with the option to renew for two additional 12-month terms, at the same prices, terms and conditions, not to exceed 36 months.

Motion to approve all three items by Mr. Washington

Second by Ms. Bernard

Approved by unanimous consent

Mr. Benson recognized Mr. Pointer for the Selection of Professionals report. Mr. Pointer recognized Michael Smith who read the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commission approve an increase to Contract #2020-00000079 with Postlethwaite & Netterville, APAC in the amount of \$18,000 for the hours that exceeded the bid/contract for the audit for financial statement prep, delays, and working through unanticipated complex accounting and compliance issues. This will increase the contract from \$94,000 to \$112,000.

Motion by Mr. Jones

Second by Mr. Rhorer

Unanimously approved

Special Orders

Mr. Benson announced his appointments of board members and liaisons as follows:

BREC's Magnolia Mound Plantation Board of Directors (Liaison) / Davis Rhorer

BREC's Baton Rouge Gallery, Inc. Board of Directors (Liaison) / Kenneth Pointer

BREC Foundation Board of Directors (Liaison) / Rossie Washington, Jr.

Knock Knock Children's Museum Board of Directors (Voting Board Member) / Sandra Davis

Baton Rouge Basketball and Volleyball Association Board (Board Member) / Jerry Jones Jr.

Baton Rouge Garden Center, Inc. Board (Board Member) / Brandon Smith

Unfinished Business

Mr. Benson stated that Ordinance No. 1 was introduced at the Commission meeting on August 27, 2020. He then stated that at this time we would hold a public hearing and adopt Ordinance No. 1 to levy ad valorem taxes for 2020, as adjusted after reassessment, on all property subject to ad valorem taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), for the operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission. Authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

Chairman Benson opened the public hearing and stated the speaker protocol. He asked if there any comment cards had been submitted, there were no comment cards or speakers. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Mr. Benson stated that he would entertain a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1. Mr. Scheffy asked if Ordinance No. 1 was to roll back and Ordinance No. 2 was to roll forward. Mr. Benson stated that was correct.

Mr. Scheffy moved that the ordinance be adopted. The motion to adopt the ordinance was seconded by Mr. Rhorer. The roll call vote started but was stopped to clarify the purpose of the ordinance. The roll call vote started from the beginning after the clarification and is recorded below.

The ordinance provides as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 1

An ordinance to levy ad valorem taxes for 2020, as adjusted after reassessment, on all property subject to ad valorem taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, for the operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on September 24, 2020, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following **adjusted** millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2020, for the purpose of raising revenue:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted October 28, 1947, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for operations and maintenance; and	<u>0.60</u> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted June 22, 1954, under the authority of Article 14, Section 3(b) of the 1921 Louisiana Constitution; ratified by Article 6, Section 31; for operations and maintenance; and	<u>0.40</u> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted November 2, 2004, under the authority of Section 4570.4 B of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; to purchase, acquire, construct, develop, improve, operate and maintain public parks, playgrounds and recreational properties and facilities; and	<u>3.082</u> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, for operations and maintenance and capital improvements; and	<u>3.88</u> Mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in a special election conducted April 5, 2014, to provide funds for maintaining and operating its public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and	<u>1.99</u> mills
a tax authorized by the electorate in an election conducted November 8, 2016, to provide funds for maintaining and operating the public parks, recreational properties, and facilities and making available funds for the operating budget; and	<u>3.75</u> mills

the foregoing making a total tax of thirteen and seven hundred two one-thousandths (**13.702**) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation to meet the established liabilities and expenses of the Commission used in acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating the public parks and recreational properties and facilities of the Commission and in making available funds for the operating budget, all as provided for in the respective propositions approved by the voters in the special tax elections above referred to.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Assessor of the Parish of East Baton Rouge shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2020 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The above and foregoing ordinance was moved, seconded, and submitted to a roll call vote for adoption, and the ordinance was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: 9 Mr. Benson, Ms. Bernard, Ms. Davis, Mr. Jones, Mr. Pointer, Mr. Rhorer, Mr. Scheffy, Mr. Temple, Mr. Washington

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINED: 0

ABSENT: 0

The foregoing ordinance was signed and approved by the Chairman, attested by the Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary and declared to be adopted on this the 24th day of September, 2020.

Attest:

/s/ Lloyd H. Benson II

Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman

/s/ Corey K. Wilson

Corey K. Wilson

Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary

Chairman Benson stated that the next item on the agenda was Ordinance 2. He stated that since the public hearing had been held for this item, he would entertain a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2 adjusting and levying ad valorem tax millage rates for 2020, back to the prior year's (2019) maximum approved millage rates, on all property subject to taxation by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), for operation and maintenance and capital improvements of said Commission. Authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Mr. Scheffy asked for clarification on Ordinance No. 2. Ms. Marchiafava explained that Ordinance No. 2 would raise the ad valorem tax millage rates to the rates levied in 2019. Chairman Benson again asked for a motion. Mr. Jones asked if the item to adopt the ordinance would die if there was no motion. The Chairman said the item would die without a motion for approval. Since there was no motion from the Commission the item to adopt Ordinance No. 2 died.

New Business

Mr. Benson announced the introduction of a proposed ordinance authorizing the sale of Cortana Park in Baton Rouge described as Tract P-1-A on plat of Survey by Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc., dated February 20, 2002, located in Section 69, T7S, R1E, containing 14.839 acres, not needed for public recreation purposes, for the minimum price of \$135,000 appraised value. Any opposition received during the fifteen-day notice period of September 30 through

October 15, 2020 will be heard during the regular meeting of the Commission on October 22, 2020 at BREC Administrative Office in Womack Park, 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA. This ordinance shall become effective on November 1, 2020, ten days after its adoption.

Motion to introduce the ordinance by Mr. Scheffy

Second by Mr. Washington

Unanimously approved

Mr. Scheffy asked if there was a list of obsolete property. Superintendent Wilson stated that there is a list of obsolete land and it will be presented to the Commission in October. Mr. Scheffy asked about making the public aware that property is available. Mr. Wilson stated that BREC could not work with a realtor on a commission basis but could sign a contract for a fixed amount for help with advertising property for sale.

Mr. Benson announced that Mr. Rhorer appointed Chad Bradford to the Zoo Committee and asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Jones moved

Mr. Washington seconded

Unanimously approved

Adjournment

Mr. Washington made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Scheffy seconded, and Mr. Benson adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:43 p.m.

Corey K. Wilson, Superintendent
and Ex-Officio Secretary

Lloyd H. Benson Jr., Chairman