

**REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 3, 2021, 6:00 PM**

The Town of Lake Arthur Mayor and Board of Council met in Regular session at 102 Arthur Ave, Lake Arthur, LA 70549, on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 6:00p.m. Notice of the meeting being duly exercised per requirements of open meeting law. Mayor Sherry Crochet called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Robinson gave the invocation and Mayor Sherry Crochet led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk, Mindy Marcantel called roll and the following were present: Council Members: David Hanks, Auldon Robinson and Sampson Lejeune. Absent was Ricky Monceaux and Roberta Palermo. Also attending, Town Clerk Mindy Marcantel; Town Attorney Richard Arceneaux; about six citizens; and a representative from Jennings Daily News. Mayor Crochet and council members received a copy of the budget to actual comparison of the general fund printout and/or major special revenues funds that includes a monthly financial statement. Mr. Keith Weekly addressed the Mayor and Councilmembers regarding the possible sale of property located at Lot 1, 2, 22 & ½ alley adjoining BK 3 Lake Arthur, LA 70549.

It was motioned by Sampson Lejeune, seconded by David Hanks to approve adopting the agenda. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

It was motioned by Auldon Robinson, seconded by David Hanks to approve adopting the minutes from regular meeting held on October 6, 2021, as submitted. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

It was motioned by Sampson Lejeune, seconded by David Hanks to approve paying the bills. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

It was motioned by Auldon Robinson, seconded by David Hanks to approve adopting a Resolution calling for an election on March 26, 2022, Ballot for Ad Valorem Tax Renewal. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution**

The following resolution was offered by Sampson Lejeune and seconded by David Hanks:

A resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of special taxes therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), that:

**SECTION 1. Election Call.** Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 27(B) thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Town on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following propositions, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1 OF 3 (RECREATION TAX) (TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a two and eighty-four hundredths (2.84) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$29,100 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of maintaining, operating, and improving recreational facilities and public parks in the Town?

**PROPOSITION NO. 2 OF 3 (STREETS AND ALLEYS) (TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a five and fifty-one hundredths (5.51) mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$56,400 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of streets and alleys of the Town?

**PROPOSITION NO. 3 OF 3 (DRAINAGE)(TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a five and fifty-one hundredths (5.51) mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$56,400 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of the drainage system and drainage ditches in the Town?

**SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election.** A Notice of Election shall be published in the *Jennings Daily News*, a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, published in Jennings, Louisiana, and being the official journal of the Town, once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

**Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election**, the Mayor is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing propositions that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

**SECTION 3. Canvass.** This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Town Hall, 102 Arthur Avenue, Lake Arthur, Louisiana, on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

**SECTION 4. Polling Places.** The polling places for the precincts set forth in the aforesaid Notice of Special Election are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

**SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines.** The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Town will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

**SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers.** The Clerk of the Town is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Mayor and/or Clerk of the Town are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

**SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials.** Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Jefferson Davis Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Jefferson Davis Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

**SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission.** Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special taxes provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Auldon Robinson, David Hanks, Sampson Lejeune

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ricky Monceaux, Roberta Palermo

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 3rd day of November, 2021.

/s/ Mindy Marcantel, Clerk /s/ Sherry Crochet, Mayor

#### **EXHIBIT "A" NOTICE OF ELECTION**

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), on November 3, 2021, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the Town on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the Town qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following propositions, to-wit:

##### **PROPOSITION NO. 1 OF 3 (RECREATION TAX)(TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a two and eighty-four hundredths (2.84) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$29,100 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of maintaining, operating and improving recreational facilities and public parks in the Town?

##### **PROPOSITION NO. 2 OF 3 (STREETS AND ALLEYS) (TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a five and fifty-one hundredths (5.51) mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$56,400 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of streets and alleys of the Town?

##### **PROPOSITION NO. 3 OF 3 (DRAINAGE) (TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a five and fifty-one hundredths (5.51) mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$56,400 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of the drainage system and drainage ditches in the Town?

The said special election shall be held at the polling places for the following precincts, which polls will open at seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, to-wit:

##### **PRECINCTS 01(PART) 02(PART) A-1**

The polling places for the precincts set forth above are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$3,600.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the taxes described in the Propositions shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and

Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Town Hall, 102 Arthur Avenue, Lake Arthur, Louisiana, on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the Town are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used. THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Lake Arthur, Louisiana, on this, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2021.

ATTEST: /s/ Sherry Crochet, Mayor /s/ Mindy Marcantel, Clerk A-2

STATE OF LOUISIANA PARISH OF JEFFERSON DAVIS I, the undersigned Clerk of the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings taken by the Mayor and Council of the Town on November 3, 2021, ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Town of Lake Arthur, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of special taxes therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith. IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Lake Arthur, Louisiana, on this, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2021. /s/ Mindy Marcantel Clerk

It was motioned by Auldon Robinson, seconded by Sampson Lejeune to approve adopting the Town of Lake Arthur Hurricanes Laura and Delta Long-Term Community Recovery Plan Resolution. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

### RESOLUTION

It was moved by Mr. Auldon Robinson, seconded by Mr. Sampson Lejeune, and carried to adopt the following to-wit;

WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis Parish and Southwest Louisiana were severely impacted by Hurricane Laura, which struck the area on August 27, 2020, as a significant Category 4 Hurricane, causing extensive destruction to residential, commercial and public assets of the communities;

WHEREAS, a mere six weeks later, on October 9, 2020, Jefferson Davis Parish and Southwest Louisiana were again targeted by Hurricane Delta, making landfall as a Category 2 storm, and bringing devastating winds and rainfall to the already distressed region;

WHEREAS, these two hurricanes caused extensive personal, emotional, and financial impacts across the region to the citizens that call Southwest Louisiana home, severely affecting thousands of homes, businesses, our workforce, both public and private infrastructure systems, the region's agricultural assets, and the area's numerous natural and cultural resources;

WHEREAS, at the time when both storms struck the region, Southwest Louisiana, and its citizens- much like the rest of our nation and world - were already responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these unprecedented and unique circumstances of two severe hurricanes events just six weeks apart, on two of an already devastating global pandemic, were followed by a winter storm and a spring flooding event, requiring federal support of Southwest Louisiana;

WHEREAS, in spite of all of these compounded challenges, the people of the Town of Lake Arthur and Southwest Louisiana rose to meet every adversity, preparing themselves and their families for all of the natural disasters and the pandemic, quickly assessing damages following their impacts, lending helping hands to friends, families, neighbors and strangers during the time of need, and focusing on the immediate aftermath of the storms and the rebuilding task at hand for our community.

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, has communicated the unmet needs of Southwest Louisiana to both the previous Presidential Administration, as well as the current Presidential Administration, respectfully requesting support of a disaster appropriations package to address the overwhelming recovery needs faced by so many thousands of citizens and families in Southwest Louisiana and across our state;

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards to President Joseph Biden took into account the Federal emergency management Agency ( FEMA) Individual Assistance and Public Assistance being made available to our community following the devastating storms, and showed that, while critical and very much appreciated, this assistance will simply not be sufficient to allow the citizens of Southwest Louisiana to rebuild their home and communities, nor will our local governments be able to sufficiently rebuild and harden damaged infrastructure in order to protect our community from future storms and natural disasters;

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards for a supplemental appropriation from Congress to aid our regions and state was for \$3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to address the unmet needs of our communities; was based on data available following the storms;

WHEREAS, in addition to the CDBG-DR funds, Governor Edwards also requested that a disaster supplemental appropriation from Congress also consider Social Services Block Grant funding, Emergency Solution Grant Program funding, FEMA Cost Share Reduction Conservation Service funding; and

WHEREAS, Title VIII of P. L. 117-43 requires HUD to allocate \$1.6 billion for major disasters that occurred in 2020 by October 30, 2021, with \$3.4 billion remaining available, through the "Community Development Fund" for major declared disasters in 2020 and 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF LAKE ARTHUR, LOUISIANA, in a duly convened session on November 3, 2021, as follows:

1. We, the members of the Lake Arthur Town Council, on behalf of all citizens of Town of Lake Arthur, provide our full support for the recently passed disaster supplemental funding.

2. We call upon our entire Louisiana Legislative Delegation and Congressional Delegation to give full support and lend the full effort and influence of their offices to work with President Biden, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and fellow members of Congress toward an increased disaster appropriations package for our region that gives every consideration to (i) the request of Governor Edwards in January of 2021 and (ii) the two federally declared disasters following that request, to address the significant unmet needs of our region and state.

3. We request that HUD take into consideration the data provided by Governor Edwards, which identifies more than \$1.6 billion in unmet needs, therefore justifying that allocation of the full \$5 billion currently authorized by Title VIII of P.L. 117-43 for use by states of having disasters declared in 2020.

4. We ask that HUD consider the Town of Lake Arthur Hurricane Laura and Delta Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, formally adopted by the Town of Lake Arthur on November 3, 2021, identifying specific priorities and initiatives for long-term disaster recovery, further supporting the need to make the full \$5 billion currently authorized by Title VIII of P.L. 117-43 available for use by states with disasters declared in 2020.

5. In order to quickly address needs and prevent further delays in long term disaster recovery, we request that HUD extend trust to local government entities, allowing flexibility in utilization of CDBG-DR funding, including the ability to use this funding as part of the local cost share for disaster response funding/grants administered by other Federal entities. We ask HUD to recognize during the rule making process that every expenditure by local government is already subject to audit, and that placing onerous pre-disbursement requirements on local and state government entities will further delay rebuilding, further prolonging the suffering of communities.

6. In order to further expedite local recovery efforts, we request that HUD consider providing up-front disbursement of a portion of funding for projects clearly meeting the criteria for inclusion under the State's Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the United States; The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana; Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; The Honorable Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor to the President; and to all members of the Louisiana Legislative and Congressional Delegations. This resolution was declared adopted on November 3, 2021.

/s/ SHERRY CROCHET MAYOR ATTEST:/s/ MINDY MARCANTEL TOWN CLERK

It was motioned by David Hanks, seconded by Auldon Robinson to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.