

MINUTES

**Livingston Parish
February 24, 2022**

Pursuant to notice duly posted in the public lobby of the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, the Livingston Parish Ordinance Committee met on February 24, 2022, at the hour of four thirty o'clock (4:30) p.m. in the Parish Council Chambers, located in the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, 20355 Governmental Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana with the following members present:

Maurice "Scooter" Keen
Tracy Girlinghouse- Vice-chairman
John Wascom- Chairman

The Chair, Councilman John Wascom, called the meeting to order.

The Chair began by addressing Old Business, item 3a, "Master Plan recommendations:
i. Setbacks on State and Federal Roads and Highways".

The Chair recapped the previous conversation about the setbacks and deferred this item until the next ordinance committee meeting.

The Chair then addressed Mr. Billy Taylor in the audience asking if he had wished to speak on an item previously discussed. Mr. Taylor declined, and the chair moved to New Business.

Councilman Garry Talbert approached the podium to go through the ordinance he is proposing. A lengthy explanation ensued. After Councilman Talbert presented his ordinance Councilman Keen stated that making these changes will keep from shutting down all development in the Parish. He continued, that is we don't make these changes it will come down to a moratorium. Councilman Girlinghouse agrees with the need but also stated there will be things that need to be tweaked in this ordinance. He also stated that a moratorium will stop one problem and create another one, if it gets to that point, until the Parish gets zoning in place. The Chair wanted to clarify who "we" Councilman Talbert keeps referring to and he stated that the clerk on leave did the leg work. Councilman Talbert also said he spoke with Morgan (Parish engineer) and other engineers.

The Chair moved on to item 5, "Recommendation of the adoption of Social Media Policy and Procedure".

Councilman Girlinghouse read the following policy aloud:

“Social Media and/or Social Networking Policy:

Employees who fall directly under the supervision of the Livingston Parish Council shall adhere and abide by the following guidelines in regard to Social Media and/or Social Networking:

Purpose:

The personal use of social media and/or social networking can have bearing on departmental personnel of the Livingston Parish Council in their official capacity. As such, this policy provides information of a precautionary nature as well as prohibitions of the use of social media by the

employees who fall directly under the supervision of the Livingston Parish Council. These employees are defined under Section 2-10 of the Livingston Parish Home Rule Charter. This policy is not meant to address one particular form of social media or social networking, but rather social media in general, as advances in technology will occur and new tools will emerge.

Definitions:

Blog: A self-published diary or commentary on a particular topic that may allow visitors to post responses, reactions, or comments.

Page: The specific portion of a social media website where content is displayed and managed by an individual or individuals with administrative rights.

Post: Content an individual shares on social media site or the act of publishing content on a site.

Social Media:

A category of internet-based resources that integrate user-generated content and user participation.

Social Network:

A network of social interactions and personal relationships. A dedicated website or other application which enables users to communicate with each other by posting information, comments, messages, images, etc.

Speech:

Expression or communication of thoughts or opinions in spoken words, in writing, by expressive conduct, symbolism, photographs, videotape, or related forms of communication.

Policy:

This policy identifies potential uses that may be explored or expanded upon as deemed reasonable by the Livingston Parish Council.

On-the-Job Office Sanctioned Use:

Employees of the Livingston Parish Council will update the official webpage/website of the Livingston Parish Council and/or YouTube account in their official capacity. All employees shall have a staff login and password for this use.

Viewing social media or social networks during working hours is not prohibited.

Employees of the Livingston Parish Council may engage in social networking websites with a specific purpose that focuses on professional networking for career development, being as such to connect, share, access knowledge, insights and employment opportunities, etc. (Such sites known as “LinkedIn,” etc.)

Employees may also be permitted to use social media and/or social networking to take required mandated educational classes; or if it is conducive, to conduct meetings where it is not possible to attend in person.

Personal Use Precautions and Prohibitions:

Although employees of the Livingston Parish Council have a right to express and discuss public issues as a private citizen, employees shall not blog or post any information referring to Livingston Parish Government.

It is advised to use extreme caution while using speech “off the clock,” made pursuant to their official duties. Employees using such speech must know that it is not protected under the First Amendment and may form the basis for discipline if deemed detrimental to the Livingston Parish Government to the degree that their speech impairs working relationships for which loyalty and confidentiality are important, impede the performance of duties, or if it negatively affects the public’s perception of the Livingston Parish Council or Parish Government.

As public employees of the Livingston Parish Council, no one shall post, transmit, or otherwise disseminate any information to which they have access as a result of their employment. If an employee sees information online that they believe a Livingston Parish Council member should be made aware of, they may notify and inform that Council member by phone, email or text message, but shall not post anything in response to the content of that online social media outlet.

Employees must always remember that anything posted through social media is public, even if it posted to a so-called “private” group or restricted page. This means that everything on the internet is public, and everything posted is digitally archived and permanently available. Employees must think before they post. Anything posted in violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action causing termination even if you believed the content was “private.”

In addition, as public employees of the Livingston Parish Council, any personal postings or blogging on social media or social networks shall be prohibited during hours worked “on the clock.”

Anyone that is an employee that is under direct supervision of the Livingston Parish Council, as defined under Section 2-10 of the Livingston Parish Home Rule Charter, that may be found in violation of this policy and procedure, shall be subject to termination.”

A **MOTION** was offered by Tracy Girlinghouse and duly seconded by Scooter Keen to recommend approving this policy to the Council. Whereas none opposed the motion passed.

With the Chair calling for an adjournment Councilman Girlinghouse announced that they would have an item on the next agenda pertaining the pond ordinance to have access for future detention ponds. The Chair also announced there would be an ordinance for highway setbacks.

Having no other business, a **MOTION** was offered by Tracy Girlinghouse and duly seconded by Maurice “Scooter” Keen to adjourn the February 24, 2022, meeting of the Livingston Parish Ordinance Committee, with no further discussion and where none opposed.

/s/ Lauren White
Lauren White, Deputy Clerk

/s/ John Wascom
John Wascom, Chairman