

MINUTES

**Livingston Parish  
September 17, 2024**

Pursuant to notice duly posted in the public lobby of the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, the Livingston Parish Ordinance Committee met on September 17, 2024, at the hour of six-thirty (6:30) p.m. in the Parish Council Chambers, located in the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, 20355 Governmental Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana with the following members present:

Dean Coates – Chairman  
Ryan Chavers  
Billy Taylor

-----  
The Chairman, Dean Coates, called the meeting to order.  
-----

The Deputy Clerk called roll. With three members present and having a quorum, the Chair began by addressing item:

**3. New Business:**

**a. Discussion of Ordinance about board member removals on boards that were created by the Livingston Parish Council – Ryan Chavers**

Councilman Ryan Chavers explained that he has got with the Clerks at our office and did some research about which boards have no state law or term limits. He states that this Ordinance will allow the Council to remove a member for each Committee/ Board for malfeasance and inefficiency. Mr. Chavers then states the definition of inefficiency is the state of not achieving maximum productivity, failure to make the best use of time or resources and the definition of malfeasance is wrongdoing.

Councilman Chavers then makes a motion to send this Ordinance to the Council for Introduction on September 26, 2024.

Councilman Billy Taylor then asked for clarification of what this Ordinance is going to achieve. Mr. Chavers then explains that of the committees/boards that have no term limit or state law regarding term limits that the Council can remove them at any time for inefficiency or malfeasance. Mr. Chavers was told by the Deputy Clerks that those specific boards already serve at the pleasure of the Council, and they can remove them at any time.

Mr. Chavers then explains how state law has just changed with the Library Board, and before they were not able to remove them until State Law went into effect. The Deputy Clerks then explain that since state law has changed for the Library Board, they (the Library Board) now serve at the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Chavers asks if the Library Board was just added to this list, to which they stated that it had. Mr. Chavers then stated that he was unaware of that. Mr. Chavers then states that this Ordinance was not about the Library Board, and just wanted that to be stated for the record. Mr. Chavers ultimately decided that this Ordinance was no longer needed and retracted his motion.

The Chair then moved to the next item.

**4. Old Business:**

**a. Discussion of a one (1) year Moratorium prohibiting the division or re-subdivision of any lot, tract, or parcel of land in Council District 2 – Ryan Chavers**

Mr. Chavers explains that they made a few changes to this Moratorium. He then explains that this will be a six (6) month Moratorium, instead of having no subdividing of property you can subdivide into five (5) lots or less, or in the event of a hardship. The Deputy Clerk then read the definition of “Medical Hardship” – waiver shall be granted to someone who is experiencing severe injury or illness with prolonged recovery and/or ongoing close medical monitoring severe complications of a chronic medical condition and/or diagnosis of a life-threatening condition. Mr. Chavers explains that the purpose behind this is because subdividing is happening in District 2 where lots are being thrown up, where I feel that if Zoning was in place, it would not be allowed. He states that he is actively working on his Zoning Map with WSP and Mr. Jerome Fournier, to which they are making progress and moving forward.

A **MOTION** was made by Billy Taylor and **SECONDED** by Ryan Chavers to send this ordinance to the full Council with a favorable recommendation.

The Chair then moved to the next item.

**4. Old Business:**

**b. Discussion of Ordinance amending “Sec. 18-28. - Declaration of Parish waterway closures.”  
– Dean Coates**

Mr. Coates explains that this is an Ordinance to set certain criteria for when the Waterways will close and open. The Parish currently has none and it is done in a subjective kind of way. Mr. Coates wants to make it more of an objective process so that things are in place to know when the correct time is to close and open the waterways. Mr. Coates is suggesting when the river stage at French Settlement reaches three (3) foot and the river stage at Tickfaw reaches four (4) foot is when the waterways should be closed. He said there are several reasons for these numbers, such as, having our people of the Parish know exactly when the waterways will be closed, to make sure all the debris and hazards are out of the way, and to prevent the premature opening of the waterways to prevent homes from flooding. Mr. Coates states that he wants everyone to enjoy the waterways but also, he wants to make sure they stay safe as well.

Mr. Coates then asked for the changes to be read.

A **MOTION** was made by Ryan Chavers and **SECONDED** by Billy Taylor to send this ordinance to the full Council with a favorable recommendation.

The Chair then moved to the next item.

**4. Old Business:**

**c. Discussion of Ordinance amending “Sec. 50-3. - Speed of boats.” – Idle Zone, Tickfaw River.  
Three hundred (300') feet on either side of the Prop Stop (or current name of establishment).  
– Dean Coates**

Mr. Coates explained that he has many constituents from the Tickfaw area, that have expressed that the “Prop Stop” has not been open for over two years and has no intentions of opening back up. Since this business is currently not operating there is no need for a “No Idle Zone” at that location.

Mr. Taylor states that this has been brought up before, and that people that came to speak on this item expressed that when the water gets rough, they will go and tie up to the pier just to get out of the rough waters until the storm passes.

Mr. Coates stated that state law reads “in addition to speed limits established by governing authority of a parish or municipality under the provisions of this section there are hereby established certain no wake zones, which each vessel shall operate at a bare steering speed. The slowest the vessel can travel while allowing the operator to maintain directional control of the vessel to produce minimum water surface turbulence. The “No Wake Zones” are established on all waterways within 300ft of all these facilities.” Mr. Coates explains there are instances that are stated in state law, one being a boat launch and two is a docking facility adjacent to a boat launch. That current location does have a dock, but it is not open to the public, so it does not qualify as one of those two instances.

A **MOTION** was made by Ryan Chavers and **SECONDED** by Billy Taylor to send this ordinance to the full Council with a favorable recommendation.

With no other business to discuss, a **MOTION** was offered by Ryan Chavers and duly **SECONDED** by Billy Taylor to adjourn the September 17, 2024, meeting of the Livingston Parish Ordinance Committee, with no further discussion and where none opposed.

*/s/ Raven Watts*  
Raven Watts, Deputy Clerk

*/s/ Dean Coates*  
Dean Coates, Chairman