

**Minutes of the Livingston Parish Council  
Livingston, Louisiana  
December 27, 2022**

The Livingston Parish Council met in a special session duly called, advertised, and convened at its regular meeting place, at the Governmental Building in the Parish Council Chambers, 20355 Government Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana, on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. with the following Livingston Parish Council members present:

Garry Talbert	Gerald McMorris
Maurice "Scooter" Keen	
John Wascom	Tracy Girlinghouse
Erin Sandefur	Shane Mack

Jeff Ard

Absent: Randy Delatte  
Parish President Layton Ricks  
Parish Legal Counsel

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The chair called the special meeting to order.

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The chair addressed agenda item number 5, "Councilmen's comments".

Councilmembers' comments: Councilman John Wascom  
Councilman Garry Talbert

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The chair addressed agenda item number 6, "Public Hearing and Adoption of L.P. Ordinance No. 22-63", and opened the Public Hearing.

The chair called upon the Council clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title:

**L.P. ORDINANCE 22-63**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING COMPENSATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS  
AS PER SECTION 2-05(B) OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER AND  
LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 33:1233.

The chair requested that the Council clerk read the Louisiana State statute that authorizes compensation for the Council members.

The Council clerk read Louisiana Revised Statute 33:1233(b)(ii) as follows:

*"...by a vote of a majority of the elected members, to be paid on a salary basis, in which event the maximum salary allowable shall be one thousand six hundred dollars per month for each member of the police jury."*

Councilman Garry Talbert explained that the members of the Livingston Parish Council were at seventy-five (75%) of whatever the state max is.

The chair requested that Councilman Talbert discuss how the Council members made the decision to have this rate of compensation.

Councilman Talbert advised that five (5) years ago there was an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of Livingston Parish that would cause the members of the Livingston Parish Council to bring their compensation up to the state max. He advised that there had been a lot of pushback from the constituents at that point and time. There was an amendment made to make it seventy-five (75%) percent of the state max, which matched what they were currently being compensated for. It also gave future members of the Council the opportunity to get a raise and never have to vote on it. He further explained that the Council must vote a year prior to the end of that Council term for a raise and then the next Council would receive that raise in compensation. He explained that anyone who gives themselves a raise receives political pushback. He discussed the compromise that he had suggested by taking seventy-five (75%) percent of the state max, which is what the current Council was receiving at the present time. Then in the future, the next elected Council members would receive a seventy-five (75%) percent increase in compensation every time

that the state raised the maximum of compensation. Then, future Councilmembers would be allowed to get a raise without having to suffer the political heat of having to give themselves an increase.

He discussed his feelings on the under-compensation of the Council members and the time and effort that these members put in.

Councilmembers' input: Councilman Garry Talbert  
Councilman Maurice "Scooter" Keen  
Councilman John Wascom  
Councilman Gerald McMorris  
Councilman Tracy Girlinghouse  
Councilman Shane Mack  
Councilwoman Erin Sandefur

The chairman suggested an amendment to the proposed ordinance by increasing the percentage from seventy-five (75%) percent to eighty-five (85%) percent that could be considered as a cost of living wage.

Several Councilmembers discussed different percentages that could be made as an amendment and the rising rate of inflation that had occurred that year.

Councilman Talbert asked for clarification if there had been a motion and a second for the current ordinance as presented, or did someone wish to amend it.

The chair closed the public hearing after a very long open discussion.

Councilman Keen stated that he was agreeable with both suggestions, to adopt the ordinance as presented, or if it be the wishes of the Council to amend the proposed ordinance by raising the percentage from seventy-five (75%) percent to eighty-seven and a half (87.5%) percent of the maximum in compensation established by the state legislature.

Councilman Keen stated that he wished to make that motion.

The chair allowed an open discussion.

Councilman Keen stated that he wished to make a motion to adopt the ordinance as drawn and written.

**LPR NO. 22-449**

The following ordinance which was previously introduced in written form required for adoption at a regular meeting of the Livingston Parish Council on December 8, 2022, a summary thereof having been published in the Official Journal together with a notice of public hearing which was held in accordance with said public notice, was brought up for final passage December 27, 2022, on Motion of Maurice "Scooter" Keen and seconded by Gerald McMorris:

**L.P. ORDINANCE 22-63**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING COMPENSATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AS PER SECTION 2-05(B) OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER AND LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 33:1233.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. KEEN, MR. WASCOM, MR. MCMORRIS  
NAYS: MR. TALBERT, MR. MACK, MR. ARD, MS. SANDEFUR, MR. GIRLINGHOUSE  
ABSENT: MR. DELATTE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

And the ordinance **FAILED** to be adopted on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.

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Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was requested until the next regular meeting being scheduled on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. in Livingston, Louisiana.

**LPR NO. 22-450**

MOTION was offered by Maurice "Scooter" Keen and duly seconded by Tracy Girlinghouse to adjourn the December 27, 2022 special meeting of the Livingston Parish Council.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: MR. TALBERT, MR. MACK, MR. WASCOM, MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. ARD,  
MR. MCMORRIS, MR. DELATTE, MS. SANDEFUR

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: MR. KEEN

Thereupon the chair declared that the Motion had carried and was adopted and that the meeting was adjourned.

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*Sandy C. Teal*

Sandy C. Teal, Council Clerk

*Jeff Ard*

Jeff Ard, Council Chairman

The audio and video for this meeting may be found in its entirety on the Livingston Parish Council's YouTube page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMW7dDoxgAE>

It may also be found on the Livingston Parish Council's website at:

<https://www.livingstonparishcouncil.com/>

If you have any questions please contact the Livingston Parish Council office at (225)686-3027.