

April 5, 1988
Jonesboro, LA

The Jackson Parish Police Jury met in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 1988, with the following members present: Gilbert Pickens, Ernest Conn, David McManus, Donald Wyatt, Roger Young, Dr. Charles Garrett, Gene Dark, Troy Smith, Jessie James Parks, and James Bradford. Also present: State Representative Rodney Alexander.

The meeting was called to order by the President and the invocation was given by Mr. Pickens.

The President then asked if there were any comments from those in attendance. There were none.

The agenda was then amended.

Mr. Gaylon Simmons, Chairman of the Jackson Parish Watershed Commission, came before the Jury to update the Jury on the Caney Lake project.

Mr. Kennie Bowman, Chairman of the PIC Council, came before the Jury to discuss the JTPA program.

Mr. Ron Riley, Project Engineer, came before the Jury to discuss the DUCA project.

Motion Mr. Bradford seconded Mr. Parks to authorize the Project Engineer to release funds being held on the contractor when the Engineer is satisfied that that the final punch list items have been completed. The Jury also agreed that the question on the satellite receiver is between the owner and the contractor and not the Jury. Motion carried.

Dr. John Tollett, Superintendent of Jackson Parish Schools, came before the Jury to discuss a parking area problem at Jasper Henderson School. Dr. Tollett stated that the School Board would provide the materials, if the Jury would provide the labor and equipment for the project.

Motion Mr. McManus seconded Dr. Garrett to approve the request of the Jackson Parish School Board for repair of the Jasper Henderson parking area, with the School Board furnishing materials, pending receipt of a letter of request from the Board. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Pickens seconded Mr. Young to deny the beer permit application of Fred Waggoner and W. D. Walker because they have not been residents of Jackson Parish for the past two years as required by the Parish Ordinance. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Parks seconded Mr. Dark to approve the bills for payment and the minutes as published. Motion carried.

Bids on equipment were then discussed.

Motion Mr. McManus seconded Mr. Parks to accept the bid of Ag-Con Equipment Company for a used tractor and front end loader. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Parks seconded Mr. Bradford to accept the bid on Jonesboro Ford on a pickup truck. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Bradford seconded Mr. Pickens in following Ordinance:

JACKSON PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED on this the 5th day of April, 1988, before the Jackson Parish Police Jury, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, in regular session, and by a majority vote of all members present and in accordance with the power conferred upon the Jackson Parish Police Jury in Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4574, it is hereby enacted and ordained that:

SECTION 1-A - CREATION

There is hereby created the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission within the territorial limits of Jackson Parish.

SECTION 1-B - PURPOSE

The Jackson Parish Tourist Commission shall have as its general purpose the promotion of tourism, through development, maintenance and initiative of the tourist industry by the Commission itself and any agencies hereinafter created by the Commission, to include preservation and development of historic sites and areas, museums and tourist attractions.

1. To promote the parish's history, culture, art, folklife, recreational and leisure opportunities, natural and scenic resources, transportation, sites, attractions, accommodations, and events.
2. To cooperate and enter into agreements with governmental agencies, tourist promotion agencies, and private non-profit association and organizations for the promotion or development of the parish and area.
3. To foster a greater awareness and understanding of the parish, its history, and its potential.
4. To acquire or lease movable and immovable property in accordance with applicable law and ordinances.

SECTION 1-C - COMMISSION GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Commission shall be governed by a board of seven directors to be appointed by the Jackson Parish Police Jury. Appointments shall be made from list of nominees submitted to the Jackson Parish Police Jury by private, non-profit groups, corporations or associations that have an interest in one or more aspects of the tourist industry. The directors so appointed, shall be appointed for a term of three years. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Jackson Parish Police Jury may appoint as one member of said Commission the President of the Jackson Parish Chamber of Commerce. Any member so appointed shall serve on said Commission for the duration of his or her term as President of said Chamber of Commerce.

SECTION 1-D - ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The seven directors so appointed by the Jackson Parish Police Jury shall elect from among themselves a chairman who shall serve as the chairman for a term of one year. Vacancies among the directors shall be filled in the same manner that the original appointments were made. In addition to the chairman, the Commission shall elect from its membership a vice chairman, secretary and treasurer. The office of secretary and treasurer may be combined if the Commission so elects.

SECTION 1-E - POWERS OF COMMISSION

The Commission shall have the power to sue or be sued, to accept grants or donations of every type and kind from public or private sources, to make capital improvements for the purpose of obtaining federal or state funds, to do all things necessary for the promotion and advertisement and publication of information related to tourism and historical attractions within the boundaries of Jackson Parish. However, the Commission or any of its agencies hereinafter created by the Commission, shall not exercise any function which results in competition with retail businesses, industries or enterprises located within the territorial boundaries of Jackson Parish.

SECTION 2-A - TAXING AUTHORITY

In order to provide funds for the operation of the Commission, the Jackson Parish Police Jury or authorities of the parish or parishes creating the Commission is hereby authorized and empowered to levy and collect a tax upon the occupancy of hotel rooms, motel rooms and overnight camping facilities with the jurisdiction of the Commission. Said tax shall not exceed two percent of the rent or fee charges for such occupancy. The word hotel as used herein shall mean and include any establishment, both public and private, engaged in the business of furnishing or providing rooms and overnight camping facilities intended or designed for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes to transient guests where such establishment consists of two or more guest rooms and does not encompass any hospital, convalescent or nursing home or sanitarium, or any hotel-like facility operated by or in connection with a hospital or medical clinic providing rooms exclusively for patients and their families. The tax shall be paid by the person who exercises or is entitled to occupancy of the hotel room and shall be paid at the time the rent or fee of the occupancy is paid. The word "person" as used herein shall have the same definition as that contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:301(8). The tax shall not apply to the rent for hotel room rented to the same occupancy for a period of thirty or more calendar days, or those hotel rooms rented on an annual basis for consecutive or non-consecutive days. The Jackson Parish Police Jury shall impose the tax by ordinance, and shall have the right to provide in the ordinance necessary and appropriate rules and regulations for the imposition, collection, and enforcement of the tax.

The proceeds of the tax so levied, less a reasonable sum to be retained by the Jackson Parish Police Jury for a collection fee, shall be appropriated to the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission and its agencies and shall be used by the Commission for the purposes of attracting tourists into the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission shall have the authority to spend money for advertising, promotion and publication of information from said tax proceeds and from any other sources of revenue given, donated or pledged to said Tourist Commission

SECTION 2-B - BUDGET, BORROWING MONEY, AUDIT

(a) The Jackson Parish Tourist Commission shall annually submit to the Jackson Parish Police Jury a budget for its operations during the ensuing year, and the Jackson Parish Police Jury shall have the right to approve or disapprove such budget. Upon approval of the budget, the Commission shall proceed to act thereunder.

(b) The Jackson Parish Tourist Commission by its own initiative may borrow money to pay its obligations that cannot be paid at maturity out of current revenue from the tax authorized hereinabove but shall not borrow a sum greater than can be repaid out of the revenue anticipated from the tax authorized herein during the year in which the money is borrowed.

(c) The books of the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission shall be audited by an independent certified public accountant annually, and said accountant shall make a written report of his audit to the Jackson Parish Police Jury and to the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission. Such audit report shall be furnished not less than thirty days prior to the submission by the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission of its proposed budget as required hereinabove in sub-section (a).

(d) The Jackson Parish Tourist Commission, with the approval of the Jackson Parish Police Jury, may borrow money to construct a tourist information center on Commission property provided that the funds are borrowed from a licensed financial institution; and that the loan is secured by a first mortgage upon the immovable property of the Commission; and that the sum borrowed is less than the market value of the immovable property pledged as security for the loan; and that the payments under such loan can be repaid out of the revenue anticipated from the tax authorized hereinabove during the period in which the loan is to be repaid.

SECTION 2-C - AFFECT OF ORDINANCE

The ordinance herein enacted shall not in any way be construed as limiting the existing authority of any agency promoting tourism in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance, but shall be considered to be supplemental and additional authority for such, Jackson Parish Tourist Commission, except that this ordinance shall not grant to any governing authority whether it be the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission or the Jackson Parish Police Jury, already authorized to levy a tax on hotel rooms, motel rooms and overnight camping facilities any authority to levy an additional tax.

SECTION 3-1 - PUBLICATION

Therefore be it ordained and enacted that the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission is hereby created by a unanimous vote of the Jackson Parish Police Jury members present.

Be it further ordained and adopted that the above and foregoing ordinance be published in accordance with law in the official journal of Jackson Parish in the time limit prescribed by law.

Motion Mr. Bradford seconded Mr. Parks to donate the Statlander Building (Building only) to the Jackson Parish Tourist Commission and allow the Commission to leave the building on the Police Jury property adjacent to the Courthouse. Motion carried.

Mr. Elmer Coss, Chairman of the Claiborne Electric Co-Op, came before the Jury to request that the Police Jury grant a franchise to Claiborne Electric to operate in Jackson Parish.

Motion Mr. Bradford seconded Dr. Garrett to deny the franchise request of Claiborne Electric. Motion carried.

Motion Mr. Wyatt seconded Mr. Parks to accept the existing road to the Caney Lake State Park into the Parish Road System for a period of one (1) year, with the approval and rights of way from the landowners, and with an opinion from the District Attorney stating that it is legal to accept a road into the Parish Road System for a certain period of time.