

And the Ordinance FAILED on this the 8th day of April, 2021.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 9i and offered with changes. Without objection, so ordered.

There was a brief presentation by Chip Kline with CPRA. Many residents and fishermen spoke in opposition of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. President Lepine read comments into the record and also announced when and where all public meetings will be held beginning the week of April 12, 2021. He encouraged the residents who would be affected by this project to attend the meetings and make comments. President Lepine also expressed his concern of the effects on marine life, residents and increasing the impacts to Plaquemines Parish. He also stated that he is looking for specifics on the project, generalities is not acceptable. Lepine said that he is especially concerned on the increase in coastal flooding to Myrtle Grove, Wood Park, Suzie Bayou, Deer Range, Hermitage, Grand Bayou and Happy Jack due to the diversion operations. He also referred to page 24 in the index that planning is progressively under assumption that the CPRA would mitigate for inundation caused by the project to properties. Mitigation measures would include elevation of homes, other structures, full and preferred partial property rights acquisitions, infrastructure, roads, utilities raising floodproofing, etc. without knowing who might qualify, what type of mitigation is offered, when, where and how it would be performed with cost determined, secure and set aside with fund contingency to satisfactorily perform. Plaquemines Parish cannot support the EIS in its current form. The President also said that he looks forward to future discussions.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-99

On motion of Council Member Cognevich with a unanimous second, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Member Blink who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution relative to expressing opposition to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project; and to provide for other matters.

WHEREAS, The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is proposing the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project; and

WHEREAS, while the loss of coastal wetlands is a valid concern, the resolution or remediation of that problem must avoid ancillary damages to the people and wildlife of Plaquemines Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Impact Survey related to the current proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project indicates that the Project will do harm to the wildlife of Plaquemines Parish; and

WHEREAS, the environmental remediation efforts related to the potential harm caused by the current proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project is in sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Mid-Barataria Diversion Project is not a cost-effective method of rebuilding our coast; and

WHEREAS, the use of diversion canals is not a proven and efficient means of rebuilding our coast; and

WHEREAS, dredging the Mississippi River and pumping the dredge material was not considered as an option which may be a more cost-effective and efficient method of rebuilding our coast; and

WHEREAS, the potential benefits in minimal land development are far outweighed by the unremediated damage that the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project will occasion to the people and wildlife of Plaquemines Parish; and

WHEREAS, the long-term damage occasioned by the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project

to the wildlife and fisheries of Plaquemines Parish will destroy the livelihood of countless Plaquemines Parish businesses and people; and

WHEREAS, the EIS has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed project and a range of reasonable alternatives including No Action, on the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, of the 7 alternatives carried forward for evaluation in the EIS, 6 of those alternatives were for sediment diversion and 1 for No Action; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of those livelihoods will lead to the loss of the Plaquemines Parish tax revenues that are used to fund vital services to the people of Plaquemines Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT Plaquemines Parish Government opposes the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana dated March 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it urges all stakeholders, residents and interested citizens to attend hearings on the matter and to express their thoughts and comments during the proposed comment period.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT through the Office of the Parish President, Kirk Lepine, that all information as to the dates, times and locations of any and all proposed hearings and any and all information relative to providing comments by the public to CIPRA be posted in all customary locations for posting of public information, including emails and messaging, and in the Plaquemines Gazette.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT this Resolution be forwarded to all of the following:

- Governor John Bel Edwards
- The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- The House Natural Resources and Environment Committee
- The Senate Natural Resources Committee
- Representative Mack Cormier, Representative Ray Garofalo, Senator Sharon Hewitt and Senator Troy Carter

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish officials and employees are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Council Member Cognevich moved to Agenda Item 2, “Executive Session”. Without objection, so ordered.

Council Member Barthelemy left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-100

On motion of Council Member Cognevich, seconded by Council Member Black, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Council Members Barthelemy, Arbourgh, Guey and Blink who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby resolves itself into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. for the purpose of hearing a report and recommendations and strategy advice for the management of litigation from its attorney concerning: Pursuant to La R.S. 42:17 A. (2) : *Keiotia Brown-Watson v. Shelter Mutual Insurance Company, Plaquemines Parish Government, Robert Jackson and Tawanna Lambert, Case No. 19-6626*, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans – Attorney William Culver; and Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17 A. (10) receive attorney client privileged communication for Agenda Item No. 9a(5). – Attorney Rennie S. Buras, II.