

TOWN OF ADDIS MINUTES
MAY 13, 2025 – REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Addis was called to order by Mayor David Toups at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Addis Municipal Center. The Pledge to the flag was recited

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Toups; Councilors Rusty Parrish, Rhonda Kelley, Kevin LeBlanc, Dustin Hebert

Absent: Councilor Bliss Bernard

MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 8th, 2025, regular meeting were approved on a motion by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously by those present.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilor Bernard motioned to amend the agenda to include a discussion of expenses related to the John Foster – American Idol Hometown Celebration. The motion was seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and was unanimously approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several members of the public addressed the Council to express concerns regarding drainage issues in various areas of the Town of Addis following the flash flood event on April 24th. Citizens described flooding that occurred during the storm and voiced frustration over recurring water retention in low-lying neighborhoods.

Mayor Toups and members of the Council responded by acknowledging the severity of the weather event, stating that the town received approximately 8 -10 inches of rain within a two-hour timeframe. Mayor Toups explained that while the storm overwhelmed the drainage system temporarily, the floodwater receded promptly once the rainfall ceased, indicating that the infrastructure was functioning but was pushed to its limits during the flash flood.

CORRESPONDENCE

JOHN FOSTER, AMERICAN IDOL HOMETOWN CELEBRATION: Mayor Toups announced that local resident John Foster has advanced to the Top 3 of *American Idol* and will be returning home on Wednesday, May 14th, for a celebratory event. Mayor Toups noted that John has proudly represented the state of Louisiana and the westside communities, and the community plans to give him a warm welcome. Multiple municipalities, along with West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes, are collaborating and sharing costs associated with the celebration. These expenses include items such as parade throws, banners, concert sound and lighting, and other related necessities. A motion to approve the expenses associated with the hometown parade and mini concert, as well as the issuance of the following proclamation in honor of John Foster, was made by Councilor Parrish, seconded by Councilor Hebert, and unanimously approved by those present:

Proclaiming JOHN FOSTER BENOIT DAY in recognition of his outstanding representation of Addis and his success on American Idol.

WHEREAS, John Foster Benoit, a proud native of Addis, Louisiana, has brought national recognition and pride to his hometown through his extraordinary musical talent and unforgettable journey on ***American Idol***; and

WHEREAS, John Foster's *American Idol* journey began with his Nashville audition where he showcased his country roots and soulful voice by performing "***Don't Rock the Jukebox***" by Alan Jackson and "***Goodbye Time***" by Conway Twitty; and

WHEREAS, John Foster warmed the hearts of the judges—***Lionel Richie, Carrie Underwood, and Luke Bryan***—not only with his voice and charm, but also by bringing a true taste of Louisiana with Cajun food from ***Benoit's Cajun Meat Market***, a beloved local business in Addis; and

WHEREAS, Carrie Underwood affectionately referred to John Foster as a “Cutie Patootie”, capturing the light-hearted and lovable spirit he brought to the Idol stage; and

*WHEREAS, John Foster advanced to **Hollywood Week**, delivering a moving rendition of “**I Believe**” by Brooks & Dunn, followed by a stirring performance of “**In Color**” by Jamey Johnson in the Showstoppers Round; and*

*WHEREAS, at the **Aulani Disney Resort & Spa in Hawaii**, John performed a heartfelt duet of “**Until I Found You**” by Stephen Sanchez with fellow Louisianan **Clara Rae**, a performance that helped secure his spot in the **Top 24**; and*

*WHEREAS, John Foster continued to shine with his high-energy performance of “**Calling Baton Rouge**” by Garth Brooks, earning him enough votes from America to reach the **Top 20**; and*

*WHEREAS, he returned to Hollywood and performed his emotional original song “**Tell That Angel I Love Her**”, which resonated with audiences across the country and carried him into the **Top 14**; and*

*WHEREAS, in the LIVE Top 14 round, he delivered a standout performance of “**Neon Moon**” by Brooks & Dunn, further cementing his place as one of America's rising country stars; and*

*WHEREAS, in the **Top 12 round**, under the mentorship of legendary singer-songwriter **James Taylor**, John Foster brought rock-and-roll charisma to the stage with an electrifying performance of “**Jailhouse Rock**” by Elvis Presley; and*

*WHEREAS, in the **Top 10 round**, after being mentored by **Fantasia**, one of American Idol's most powerful vocalists and past champions, John Foster delivered a deeply heartfelt rendition of “**I Told You So**” by Randy Travis; and*

*WHEREAS, during the **Iconic Women of Music Top 9 Round**, John Foster had the honor of being mentored by his boyhood crush, country superstar **Miranda Lambert**, and brought bold energy with his performance of “**Something to Talk About**” by Bonnie Raitt; and*

*WHEREAS, John advanced to the **Top 7** after performing “**I Cross My Heart**” by George Strait, a song personally selected for him by **Carrie Underwood**, showcasing his classic country heart and emotional depth; and*

*WHEREAS, in the **Top 7 Disney Night**, John Foster performed “**Almost There**” from *The Princess and the Frog*, a powerful nod to his Louisiana roots and the spirit of determination; and*

*WHEREAS, as part of a **Mother's Day tribute**, John delivered a deeply personal and emotional performance of “**Believe**” by Brooks & Dunn in honor of his mother, **Amanda**, moving viewers across the nation; and*

*WHEREAS, John Foster advanced to the **Top 5**, and during **Disney Night Part 2**, delighted fans with a joyful and playful performance of “**The Bare Necessities**” from *The Jungle Book*, followed by a touching rendition of “**Rainbow Connection**”, earning him a place in the **Top 3** of American Idol; and*

*WHEREAS, John's Top 3 status brought him home to **Addis** for a **hometown celebration**, where the community welcomed him with open arms and celebrated the pride, humility, and talent he brings to every stage; and*

WHEREAS, John Foster Benoit has not only displayed exceptional musical ability, but also brought honor to his family, his town, and the entire state of Louisiana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Mayor and Council of the Town of Addis** do hereby proclaim **May 14, 2025**, as:

JOHN FOSTER BENOIT DAY

in the Town of Addis, Louisiana, in recognition of his accomplishments, dedication to his craft, and the pride he has brought to his hometown.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ARPA PROJECT (PHASE I) – ADDIS LANE PUMP STATION - PAY APP NO. 2: Councilor Parrish offered a motion to approve Pay Application No. 2 in the amount of \$162,121.50 to Tullier Services, LLC. for the ARPA project (Phase 1) – Addis Lane Pump Station Improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously by those present.

ARPA PROJECT (PHASE I) – FIRST STREET PUMP STATION - PAY APP NO. 2: Councilor Kelley offered a motion to approve Pay Application No. 2 in the amount of \$193,878.00 to Tullier Services, LLC. for the ARPA project (Phase 1) – First Street Pump Station Improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously by those present.

2025 HURRICANE PREP – GENERATOR & PUMP PROPOSALS: Bourgoyne presented cost proposals from GIS and Better Pumps & Solutions (BPS) for generator and bypass pump rentals to be utilized in the event of a hurricane or other emergency. He recommended approval of both proposals, noting that GIS and BPS were the only companies to fully meet the specified requirements of the emergency preparedness plan. A motion to approve the 2025 Hurricane Preparation proposal submitted by GIS was made by Councilor Hebert, seconded by Councilor Parrish, and adopted, with Councilor LeBlanc abstaining due to his employment with GIS. A motion to approve the 2025 Hurricane Preparation proposal submitted by BPS was made by Councilor Kelley, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, and adopted unanimously by those present.

NOISE ORDINANCE REVIEW: Councilor LeBlanc requested that the noise ordinances from St. John County, Florida, and the City of New Orleans be reviewed and considered for discussion, as the Town of Addis is exploring potential amendments to its own Noise Ordinance at a future date. He requested input from fellow council members as well as Jason Langlois, Chief of Police, to help guide the review and amendment process.

MONTHLY REPORTS

ENGINEER:

- i. **Flood | Stormwater Mitigation:** Councilor LeBlanc suggested that the Town explore additional methods to mitigate flooding beyond improvements to the existing gravity drainage system, which continues to face challenges due to structural limitations at LA-1, First Street, and the railroad—persistent choke points that restrict water flow. He proposed considering a mechanical solution, specifically a stormwater pump system and a retention pond on the east side of LA-1, from Benedetto's to Addis Lane, to retain and manage runoff during major weather events. Once the event has passed, the water could be released into the drainage system at a controlled rate. He noted that other municipalities have successfully implemented similar systems. He identified several potential pump locations as well as areas for a retention pond, which could also serve a dual purpose as a public park and recreational area alongside the levee trail. He emphasized these as preliminary options and requested that the Town's Drainage Engineer, Toby, provide feedback and conduct due diligence to determine the feasibility and cost of such a project.

Toby, the Town's Drainage Engineer, presented several key components and design considerations for a potential stormwater pumping system. After further discussion, a motion was made authorizing Toby to conduct further research into stormwater pumping concepts, including potential locations, system design, and cost estimates. The motion also included authorization to explore funding opportunities, such as the Statewide Flood Control Program. The motion was made by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously by those present.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION: Mayor Toups advised that the minutes from the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting held on May 6th were included in the council's meeting packet for review. However, there is no business requiring discussion or action at this time.

PARISH COUNCIL: No report.

POLICE: The April 2025 police report, given by Chief Langlois, consisted of 99 traffic citations issued; 203 calls for service; 2 misdemeanor arrests; 3 felony arrests; and 7 auto accidents.

PUBLIC WORKS & WASTEWATER: The April 2025 sewer report, given by Travis Bourgoyne, included 37 residential and commercial equipment calls; 18 residential and commercial tank issues; 45 collection system issues; 0 sewer plant issue; 0 new inspection and 71 one-call tickets completed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON INTRODUCED ORDINANCES

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE:

- i. **Pay Bills Found in Order:** A motion to pay bills found in order was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously by those present.
- ii. **Monthly Budget to Actual Reports:** The monthly budget to actual reports were reviewed with no comments.

POLICE: No report.

PERSONNEL: No report.

SEWER: No report.

DRAINAGE: No report.

BUILDINGS: No report.

STREETS AND ROADS: No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into an executive session to discuss police personnel and pending litigation was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously by those present. A motion to return to regular session was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously by those present. As a result of the executive session and recommendation by Chief Langlois, a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Keegan Allen and the resignation of Officer Logan Anderson, was made by Councilor Hebert; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously by those present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilor Parrish; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously by those present.

/s/ Jade V. Simpson

JADE V. SIMPSON, TOWN CLERK

/s/ David H. Toups

DAVID H. TOUPS, MAYOR