

TOWN OF ADDIS MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 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, October 14, 2025, at the Addis Municipal Center. The Pledge to the flag was led by Karen White. Mayor Toups asked for a moment of silence for the Iberville Parish Sheriff Department deputies and their families affected by the recent tragedy that took place on October 6th.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES:

The September 9, 2025, regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Hebert and adopted unanimously by those present.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A motion to add the following item to the agenda under New Business was made by Councilor Bernard and seconded by Councilor Parrish:

- **ARPA Project Phase I (First Street Pump Station Improvements) – Tullier Services Pay Application No. 4**

The motion to amend the agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

WBR SCHOOLS TAX RENEWAL: Dr. Chandler Smith, Superintendent of West Baton Rouge Parish Schools, provided an overview of the upcoming school millage renewals that will appear on the November 15th ballot. He explained that the ballot includes two (2) millage renewals, each at 12 mills, which directly support teacher and staff salaries and benefits. The renewal period is for 10 years. Dr. Smith noted that, despite rising operational costs, the WBR School Board has voted to roll back millages, and the total millage rate for WBR Schools remains middle-of-the-pack among regional school districts. He also highlighted significant academic performance improvements within the district. WBR Schools is now ranked 22nd out of 69 school districts statewide. In 2024, WBR moved up seven (7) spots in district performance scores and recorded the highest growth of all school districts in Louisiana. WBR was one of only 25 districts to show growth in Mastery+ across all tested subjects, marking the third consecutive year of increasing percentages of students scoring at Mastery or above. Additionally, students in grades 3–8 demonstrated major gains in mathematics, and K–3 literacy proficiency increased from 57% to 68%. Dr. Smith encouraged the public to participate in the election. Early Voting will be held November 1–8, and Election Day is November 15, with polls open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at local precincts.

CORRESPONDENCE

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION DAY: Mayor Toups reminded the public that Hazardous Materials Collection Day will take place on Saturday, October 25th, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Alexander Park in Brusly. Residents are encouraged to use this opportunity to properly dispose of items such as paint, batteries, chemicals, and tires that should not be placed in regular household trash due to safety & environmental concerns.

ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD: Mayor Toups reminded everyone of the upcoming Rockin' on the Railroad events scheduled for Friday, October 17th and Friday, November 7th. He encouraged the community to attend and enjoy the live music, food, and free activities for children.

NOVEMBER 2025 COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Toups reminded everyone that the November 2025 Council Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, November 10th due to the Veterans Day holiday and the closure of offices on Tuesday, November 11th.

NOVEMBER 15TH ELECTION: Mayor Toups encouraged residents to participate in the upcoming election on Saturday, November 15th, noting that several parish-wide tax renewals will be on the ballot, including the WBR

Schools Teacher Pay & Benefits, West Baton Rouge Library, and West Baton Rouge Parish Drainage. He reminded voters that early voting will be held November 1–8 at the Registrar of Voters Office, Courthouse Annex Building, 883 7th Street, Suite A, Port Allen, and at the Waterworks District Office, 158 East St. Francis Street, Brusly. Election Day will take place on November 15th with polling hours from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at each voter's local precinct.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

WBR DRAINAGE TAX RENEWAL: WBR Parish President Jason Manola provided an overview of the upcoming drainage tax renewal. He explained that the renewal is a 10-year, 7.2-mill levy generating nearly \$6 million to support critical drainage projects, improvements, and maintenance that protect families and businesses across West Baton Rouge Parish. The millage serves as the sole funding source for the Drainage Department, which is responsible for maintaining over 700 miles of waterways, strengthening infrastructure to safeguard businesses, schools, and critical facilities, and proactively addressing problem areas to mitigate flooding. President Manola also discussed recently completed projects as well as upcoming initiatives. He encouraged residents to vote, noting that early voting will be held November 1–8, and Election Day is November 15th.

PUBLIC HEARING | FINAL PLAT SUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY (LOT MH-2): The Council reviewed the final plat showing the subdivision of lot MH-2 into lots MH-2-A, MH-2-B, MH-2-C, and MH-2-D, as requested by Blayze M. Olano, Sandi J. Gunnells, Donald and Jennifer Drinkwater, and Brennon M. Hebert. The 11.2-acre property is being divided into four lots: three of 2.5 acres each and one of 3.7 acres, with the larger lot containing an Entergy utility servitude restricting development within a 225-foot area. Mayor Toups opened a public hearing; hearing no comments, the hearing was closed and turned over to the Council for discussion. It was confirmed that a 72-inch drainage pipe will be installed and that the property will be accessed via Georgette Avenue. The existing 35-foot servitude remains, with an additional 20-foot private all-purpose servitude required. Following review, a motion to approve the Final Plat was made by Councilor Bernard, seconded by Councilor Hebert, and adopted unanimously.

SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE EXTENSION COST REVIEW: PeeWee Berthelot, representing his son Toby, informed the Council of a sewer infrastructure issue affecting the commercial lot at 7441 LA 1 South and presented preliminary cost estimates ranging from \$25,850 to \$35,575. The property lacks an existing sewer tie-in, and connection would require work through driveways, sidewalks, and existing utilities. Council discussion addressed whether the Town should assist with the connection or require the property owner to cover costs, noting that the original developer did not install service and is no longer active. Legal guidance confirmed the Town has authority to extend utility mains in the public interest, but local ordinances typically require the property owner to pay. Council members also raised concerns regarding precedent and access across neighboring property. With several issues still needing clarification, the Council decided to table the request and asked Public Works Director Travis Bourgoyne to obtain an independent cost estimate with confirmed measurements, as well as a detailed engineering plan and cost proposal, before the matter is reconsidered, along with a legal review and participation from the property owners.

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING: The Council set Halloween Trick-or-Treating for 2024 in the Town of Addis for Thursday, October 31st, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The motion was made by Councilor Kelley, seconded by Councilor Hebert, and adopted unanimously.

LA DOTD HIGHWAY 1 MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: The Council was informed that additional state funding has become available for maintenance of DOTD right-of-way statewide. Consequently, the 2025–2026 maintenance agreement between the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and the Town of Addis is being amended to increase the minimum number of maintenance mowing cycles for fiscal year 2025 from four (4) to five (5). This amendment covers work performed by the Town of Addis for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. A motion authorizing Mayor David Toups to sign the amended agreement was made by Councilor Kelley, seconded by Councilor Hebert, and adopted unanimously by those present.

PETER MESSINA ROAD EXTENSION PROPOSAL: Mayor Toups provided a follow-up on the proposed Peter Messina Road Extension Project, which had been discussed at the previous Council meeting. The project, funded in part through Act 2 of the 2025 Regular Session Capital Outlay Appropriations, included \$7,600,500 in state funding (\$760,000 Priority 2 and \$6,840,500 Priority 5) for the extension and related improvements, with an estimated local match of approximately \$2.5 million. The project was intended to extend Peter Messina Road on the east side of the railroad tracks, north to the back of Sugar Mill Subdivision, providing an alternative route for neighborhoods affected by prolonged rail yard closures, thereby improving safety and emergency access. Mayor Toups noted that the initial phase would include preliminary surveys, engineering, traffic studies, and property acquisition, with construction funding anticipated in a later phase. Town Attorney Karen White highlighted that limited access across the rail crossings is considered a critical safety concern by the Federal Railroad Administration, particularly for emergency response. Some residents expressed opposition, citing concerns over potential industrial and cut-through traffic, cost, neighborhood impact, and questions about whether emergency access is already sufficient through existing routes. Council members also expressed hesitation regarding costs, potential neighborhood impacts, property acquisition, and overall project feasibility, noting that advancing the project would require committing significant local resources beyond the initial capital outlay. After discussion, no motion was made to proceed, and the Council took no action on activating Priority 2 funding through the State Bond Commission. Mayor Toups stated he would notify legislators that the Town will not move forward with the project under the current plan.

ARPA PROJECT PHASE I – TULLIER SERVICES PAY APP NO.4 (FIRST STREET STATION): A motion to approve Pay Application No.4 in the amount of \$62,374.50 to Tullier Services for ARPA Project Phase I (First Street Pump Station Improvements), was made by Councilor Parrish, seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted unanimously by those present.

MONTHLY REPORTS

ENGINEER: None

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION: Mayor Toups advised that the October 2025 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting was cancelled and, therefore, there was no business to report. It was noted that a vacancy still exists on the board. A motion to appoint Brian Caillouet to fill the vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission was made by Councilor Kelley, seconded by Councilor Parrish, and adopted unanimously by those present.

PARISH COUNCIL: No report

POLICE: Chief Langlois presented the September 2025 Police Report. During the month, the department issued 192 citations, responded to 184 calls for service, made 5 misdemeanor arrests, 8 felony arrests, and investigated 16 auto accidents. Misdemeanor arrests included: 2 warrants, 1 DWI (assisted by Louisiana State Police), 1 battery of a dating partner, 1 violation of a protection order, and 1 criminal trespass. Felony arrests included: 4 felony warrants, 1 aggravated flight from an officer, 2 possessions of Schedule II drugs (methamphetamine and oxycodone), 1 domestic abuse battery with child endangerment, and 1 purse snatching.

PUBLIC WORKS & WASTEWATER: The Public Works and Sewer Department provided their monthly report for September 2025. The department responded to 54 residential and commercial tank and panel issues, 34 collection system issues, 75 One Call tickets, and conducted 2 new sewer inspections. Sewer Department Activities included placing Basin #2 South Rotor back in service on September 18th, which subsequently failed and went out of service on September 29th. An air jammer was rented from Better Pump Solutions on September 19th. A failed fecal sample was reported due to the rotor issue. The packing on both effluent pumps at the sewer plant was replaced. Bypass pumps were installed at Messina and Sugar Mill Basins 1 & 2, with startup expected later in the week. Additionally, a residential tank and panel were relocated on Tullier Lane. Public Works Activities included grass and trash maintenance, repair of the remote mower actuator, replacement of two tires on the John Deere 6130 tractor, and installation of a water line for bathrooms at Railroad Park.

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 Councilmember Parrish; seconded by Councilmember Kelley and adopted unanimously by those present.
- ii. **Monthly Budget to Actual Reports:** The monthly budget to actual reports were reviewed with no comments.
- iii. **SimpleTexting:** Mrs. Simpson explained that SimpleTexting, a web-based platform, would allow the court clerk to send text messages to individuals who have received citations from the Addis Police Department, providing reminders for upcoming court dates, 10-day notices, and other updates. The service costs \$25 per month for up to 500 text messages, which is expected to be sufficient for Addis court communications. The recommendation follows recent changes and transitions within Addis Court and was discussed with both Magistrate Dana and Town Attorney Karen, who agreed that the platform would be an effective communication tool. It was noted that no contract or agreement is required, and the service can be canceled at any time as it is billed monthly. A motion to approve the use of the web-based platform was made by Councilor Hebert, seconded by Councilor Kelley, and adopted unanimously by those present.
- iv. **Finance Committee Meeting:** A meeting to review and discuss the 2026 budget proposals was scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th at 6:00 pm.

POLICE: Chief Langlois reported that the newly hired officers are continuing their in-service training and performing well. Councilmember Hebert expressed gratitude to the Addis Police Department for attending Deputy Riley's services and thanked everyone for their prayers and supportive messages.

PERSONNEL: Mrs. Simpson informed the Council that the Annual Employee Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 4th at 6:30 pm.

SEWER: None

DRAINAGE: None

BUILDINGS: None

STREETS AND ROADS:

- i. **2025 Road Rehab Project – Bid Acceptance & Contract Review/Approval:** Mayor Toups advised that the bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15th. He requested that the Council authorize him to accept the lowest bidder based on the engineer's review and recommendation prior to the next Council meeting, to avoid delaying the contract award. The Council authorized the mayor, engineer, and legal counsel to review the bids and proceed with awarding the contract if all requirements are met. Council members were reminded that only two members may attend the bid opening without triggering a public meeting. A motion to authorize Mayor Toups to award the contract to the lowest bidder following review and recommendation was made by Councilmember Bernard, seconded by Councilmember Kelley, and adopted unanimously by those present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into an executive session to discuss potential litigation and police personnel was made by Councilmember Hebert; seconded by Councilmember Parrish and adopted unanimously by those present. A motion to return to regular session was made by Councilmember Hebert; seconded by Councilmember Bernard and adopted unanimously by those present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilor Hebert; 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