

House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
March 12, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Mike Huval, chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mike Huval, chairman
Representative Mary DuBuisson
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Markham Scott McKnight
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Cedric B. Glover
Representative Joseph A. Stagni, vice chairman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tina Righteous, attorney
Valarie Banks, committee administrative assistant
David Gauthier, analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Hammatt Babin, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. REMARKS**Mike Huval, Chairman**

Chairman Huval stated that, in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, fewer interactions with the public would occur. Only staff and legislators would be allowed to approach the dais. He asked for cooperation from the legislators on the dais and from those in the meeting room.

Chairman Huval allowed the members of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to introduce themselves. Representatives Farnum, DuBuisson, Marcelle, Willard, Fontenot, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Freiberg, Newell, McKnight, Green, Edmonds, Kerner, and Lyons spoke in turn.

IV. ORIENTATION ITEMS**Consideration and adoption of the minutes of 2019 Regular Session committee meetings held on April 25, May 2, May 8, May 16, and May 22, 2019**

Chairman Huval stated that members received copies of the 2019 Regular Session committee meeting minutes via email on Thursday, March 5, 2020, and entertained a motion to adopt the minutes.

Representative McKnight offered a motion to adopt the 2019 RS minutes for meetings held on April 25, May 2, May 8, May 16, and May 22, 2019. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Consideration and adoption of committee rules

Chairman Huval stated that members received the committee rules via email on Thursday, March 5, 2020, that were included in their meeting folders (Exhibit A in these meeting minutes). He entertained a motion to adopt the rules.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the committee rules as presented in members' folders. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, Marcelle, McKnight, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Willard voted yea.

Committee jurisdiction: Tina Righteous, Committee Attorney

Tina Righteous presented a memorandum entitled "Committee Jurisdiction", labeled Exhibit B in these committee meeting records. She discussed the governmental entities over which the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs has jurisdiction.

V. PRESENTATIONS

Representatives of other local government entities

Kevin Hayes, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 412 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 268-2725, gave an overview of the history of the association and its efforts to limit the number of bills relative to the question of elected or appointed chiefs of police.

Fabian Blache, executive director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 387-3261, recounted the work he had done with the committee for more than 20 years.

**Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, office of the lieutenant governor, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7009, narrated a PowerPoint presentation, a hard copy of which was distributed to the members and is included in a package labeled Exhibit C in these meeting minutes. In addition to the PowerPoint printed slides, entitled "Louisiana: Feed Your Soul", the package includes a letter with a list of bills filed in the House relative to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the Louisiana Folklife Commission; a 2019 State of the Tourism Industry Report for Louisiana; a copy of the Official Visitors Guide to Louisiana; a booklet entitled "The Historic Tax Credit: Building the Future in Louisiana"; and a booklet entitled "A Shared Table: A Study of the Impacts of Louisiana Main Street".

Representative Fontenot expressed his concern that Louisiana retain its character as a "sportsman's paradise" and the department would work to prevent the restriction of waterways.

Representative Marcelle noted that Lieutenant Governor Nungesser routinely made in-person appearances to support less well-known local events and festivities and applauded his hands-on approach to marketing Louisiana inside and outside of the state.

Police Jury Association of Louisiana

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented an informational booklet on the association entitled "Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs Presentation, March 12, 2020". It is labeled Exhibit D in these meeting minutes.

Office of State Examiner - Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service

Adrienne Bordelon, office of state examiner, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 901, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4416, presented a handout, "Office of State Examiner Fire & Police Civil Service", and explained that the office provided support and guidance to the fire and police departments of small municipalities (populations from 7,000-13,000) and large municipalities (populations greater than 13,000). The handout is labeled Exhibit E in these meeting minutes.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Louisiana Municipal Association

Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), 700 North 10th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, distributed a package to members labeled Exhibit F in these meeting minutes that contained a booklet entitled "Congratulations! You've been Elected. NOW WHAT?!: A Quick Guide for Newly-Elected Municipal Officials"; a booklet entitled "Fight The Blight: A Guide To Addressing Common Public Nuisances"; a pamphlet with the pictures and job descriptions of LMA's legislative advocacy team; a bookmark with LMA member benefits printed on it; and a booklet entitled "Mayor–Police Chief Relations Handbook, A Guide for Lawrason Act Municipalities". Ms. White narrated a PowerPoint presentation that was distributed via the package distributed to members.

Representative Freiberg asked for an explanation of the difference between the functions of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the LMA. Ms. White responded that incorporated municipal governments are covered by the LMA and parish governments are covered by the Police Jury Association of Louisiana. Ms. White stated that Mound, Louisiana, is the smallest town/village/city in the state with a population of 19. She also stated that in Representative Freiberg's district, Central is a municipality with membership in the LMA.

Paulette Bailey Wilson, LMA, no address given, invited committee members to attend LMA meetings held in their districts.

Representatives of other local government entities

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana (PFFA), 1535 Pollard Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 572-8483, spoke on PFFA's interest in extending health benefits to retired firefighters beyond the 10 years currently in state statutes, and alerted members to a Senate bill he hoped would receive a hearing in the committee relative to firefighters benefits.

Chairman Huval expressed thanks to paid and volunteer firefighters in Louisiana.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Huval announced that, during the 2020 Regular Session, the committee would hear instruments that were noncontroversial in its first few meetings; then, as the session progressed, the committee would hear instruments that likely would prompt lengthy debates.

Chairman Huval recognized staff who assisted at today's committee meeting: David Gauthier, legislative analyst, and Hammatt Babin, intern.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Representative McKnight offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Huval, DuBuisson, Edmonds, Fontenot, Freiberg, Gadberry, Green, Kerner, Lyons, McKnight, Newell, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mike Huval
House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

Date adopted: