

PARISH RESOLUTION NO. PR-007-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL CREATING THE "CPA" - CITY-PARISH ALIGNMENT COMMISSION, TO INFORM BY MEANS OF AN ONGOING PERFORMANCE AND PROCESS REVIEW, TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL DELIVERY OF SERVICES, IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, AND ADVISE THE LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE AND THE PARISH OF LAFAYETTE

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lafayette Parish Council, that:

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parish Council is the governing authority of the Parish of Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parish Council must consider not only the interests of the Parish of Lafayette, as a whole, but also the unincorporated area of the Parish of Lafayette, the City of Lafayette, and the municipalities of Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Scott, and Youngsville; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, civic leaders of the City of Lafayette, seeking a stronger parish and to promote growth of the city, formed a Charter Commission to recommend the creation of a consolidated City-Parish Government, pending approval by voters; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the voters of the City of Lafayette approved consolidation by an overwhelming 67% to 33% margin in a high turnout election; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, a Charter Commission, chaired by George Lewis, recommended a vote for deconsolidation; and

WHEREAS, in September 2011, voters in both the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette overwhelmingly rejected deconsolidation – by a 63% to 37% margin overall; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, the “Fix the Charter” amendments to the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Home Rule Charter (the “Charter”) were placed on the ballot by the consolidated Lafayette City-Parish Council; and

WHEREAS, the “Fix the Charter” amendments narrowly passed by a 53% to 47% margin in a low turnout election, with no organized opposition; and

WHEREAS, the “Fix the Charter” amendments suffer from serious flaws that were denied by its proponents, resulting in unforeseen, unintended, unknown, and poorly understood consequences, after it passed; and

WHEREAS, similarly, deconsolidation would also result in consequences that are unforeseen, unintended, unknown, and not understood, until after passage; and

WHEREAS, the version of the Charter as amended by the “Fix the Charter” amendments has been in effect for one-year, in the midst of a global pandemic, and may not yet have sufficient track record to provide an accurate picture of its strengths and weaknesses; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parish Council believes that the Lafayette City Councilmembers and the Lafayette Parish Councilmembers can and should work together for the benefit of both, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, decorum and collegiality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Lafayette Parish Council, that:

SECTION 1: The "Whereas" clauses in the preamble of this resolution are adopted as part of this resolution.

SECTION 2: The Lafayette Parish Council hereby forms the City-Parish Alignment Commission (the “CPA”), an advisory committee of the Parish of Lafayette.

SECTION 3: The CPA shall be composed of nine (9) members, appointed as follows:

APPOINTMENTS MADE BY:

- Lafayette Parish Council, District 1 - direct appointment
- Lafayette Parish Council, District 2 - direct appointment
- Lafayette Parish Council, District 3 - direct appointment
- Lafayette Parish Council, District 4 - direct appointment
- Lafayette Parish Council, District 5 - direct appointment
- Lafayette Parish Council, as a whole
- Lafayette Mayor-President
- Area Mayors, as a whole
- Lafayette City Council, from among its members.

All nine (9) members shall be registered voters and Parish and/or City of Lafayette residents.

SECTION 4: The CPA shall meet monthly, or as necessary. The initial terms of the CPA members shall be for six (6) months following the first (1st) meeting, without the possibility of an extension. At the CPA's first meeting, it shall elect from its members a chair and vice-chair.

SECTION 5: The mission of the CPA is to provide continuous review of performance and processes of the Parish of Lafayette, the City of Lafayette, and Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government; to identify strengths and weaknesses in the past, present and proposed forms of government for the Parish of Lafayette, the City of Lafayette, and Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government; to improve the working relationship between the Parish of Lafayette

and the City of Lafayette; to seek and identify opportunities to strengthen local government for the benefit of the citizens of Lafayette Parish; and to allow the Lafayette Parish Council to address issues of concern that do not require the delay and expense of a Charter Commission. The CPA shall report to the Lafayette Parish Council on a regular basis at such times and by such means as may be specified by the Lafayette Parish Council, and at such additional times and by such additional means as the CPA may determine in its discretion. The CPA shall examine and provide recommendations on the following questions and issues:

- As the parish governing authority, how can the Lafayette Parish Council best fulfill its responsibility to protect Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government tax dollars?
- How can the Lafayette Parish Council, all of whose members have constituents in the City of Lafayette, best protect the interest of all of our Parish of Lafayette citizens?
- How can the Lafayette Parish Council best determine whether Lafayette Consolidated Government has fulfilled the purposes for which the consolidation of the City of Lafayette and Parish of Lafayette was advocated in 1992 when it was voted on?
- How can the Lafayette Parish Council best evaluate the system of administrative cost allocations to determine whether there is significant deviation from the actual division of work between the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette?
- Are parish tax dollars being spent within the city limits of Lafayette?
- Is consolidation fair to all taxpayers of the Parish of Lafayette?
- What are the likely consequences of deconsolidation?
- Would a repeal of the “Fix the Charter” amendments, and a return to a consolidated Lafayette City-Parish Council, better serve the interests of the people of the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette?
- How can working relationships be improved between the Lafayette City Council, the Lafayette Parish Council, and the Lafayette Mayor-President and executive branch of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government?
- The commissioners shall investigate and evaluate the findings and report of the Protect the City Committee.

The CPA shall report their initial findings to the Lafayette Parish Council within the first year.

SECTION 6: The Lafayette Mayor-President and the executive branch of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government are requested to provide information as requested by the CPA so that it may be successful.

SECTION 7: All resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote on behalf of the Lafayette Parish Council thereon was as follows:

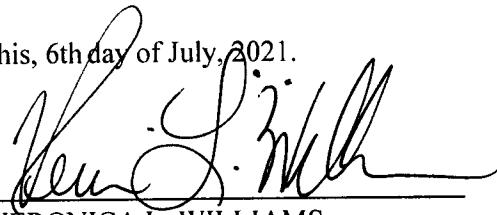
YEAS: Tabor, Naquin, Carlson, Guilbeau

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Rubin

ABSTAIN: None

AND the resolution declared adopted on this, 6th day of July, 2021.



VERONICA L. WILLIAMS
LAFAYETTE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL FORM

1) JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST: A resolution of the Lafayette Parish Council creating the "CPA" - City-Parish Alignment Commission, to inform by means of an ongoing performance and process review, to improve the overall delivery of services, identify strengths and weaknesses, and advise the Lafayette Parish Council on recommendations to strengthen the working relationship between the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette

2) ACTION REQUESTED: Adoption of Resolution

3) REQUESTED ACTION OF COUNCIL:

A) INTRODUCTION: July 6, 2021

B) FINAL ADOPTION: July 6, 2021

4) DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED WITH THIS REQUEST:

A) Resolution ^{4 ch} (6 pages)

B) Submittal Form (1 page)

5) FISCAL IMPACT:

 Fiscal Impact

 X No Fiscal Impact

COAUTHORED BY:

/s/ John J. Guilbeau

JOHN J. GUILBEAU, DISTRICT 4
LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL

/s/ Josh Carlson

JOSH CARLSON, DISTRICT 3
LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL

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WHEREAS, in 1992, civic leaders of the City of Lafayette, seeking a stronger parish and to promote growth of the city, formed a Charter Commission to recommend the creation of a consolidated City-Parish Government, pending approval by voters; and

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WHEREAS, in September 2011, voters in both the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette overwhelmingly rejected deconsolidation – by a 63% to 37% margin overall; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, the “Fix the Charter” amendments to the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Home Rule Charter (the “Charter”) were placed on the ballot by the consolidated Lafayette City-Parish Council; and

WHEREAS, the “Fix the Charter” amendments narrowly passed by a 53% to 47% margin in a low turnout election, with no organized opposition; and

WHEREAS, the “Fix the Charter” amendments suffer from serious flaws that were denied by its proponents, resulting in unforeseen, unintended, unknown, and poorly understood consequences, after it passed; and

WHEREAS, similarly, deconsolidation would also result in consequences that are unforeseen, unintended, unknown, and not understood, until after passage; and

WHEREAS, the version of the Charter as amended by the “Fix the Charter” amendments has been in effect for one-year, in the midst of a global pandemic, and may not yet have sufficient track record to provide an accurate picture of its strengths and weaknesses; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Parish Council believes that the Lafayette City Councilmembers and the Lafayette Parish Councilmembers can and should work together for the benefit of both, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, decorum and collegiality.

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The CPA shall report their initial findings to the Lafayette Parish Council within the first year.

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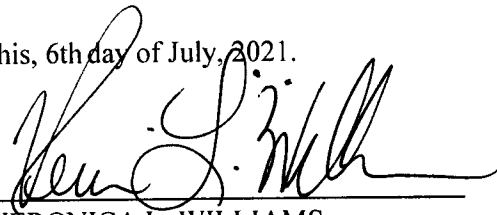
YEAS: Tabor, Naquin, Carlson, Guilbeau

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Rubin

ABSTAIN: None

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VERONICA L. WILLIAMS
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 Fiscal Impact

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COAUTHORED BY:

/s/ John J. Guilbeau

JOHN J. GUILBEAU, DISTRICT 4
LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL

/s/ Josh Carlson

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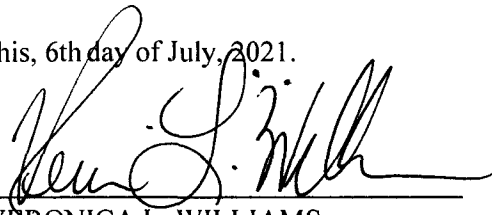
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NAYS: None

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COAUTHORED BY:

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