

MAY 2021 Minutes

Webster Parish Communications District

The Board of Commissioners of the Webster Parish Communications District met in regular session on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM, at the office of Webster Parish Communications District at 303 Green St., Minden, Louisiana, 71055.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairman Billy Dorsey.

- Roll Call

Present Billy Dorsey
 Kip Mourad
 Chris McGarity via zoom
 Hank Haynes via zoom

Absent: Ursula Hullaby
 Truvesta Johnson
 Ray Brown

- Guests Angie Chapman Executive Director, Brian Williams WP OHSEP Director, Justin McCarty Safety & Training Officer Evergreen Fire Department, Lavetra Johnson Evergreen Fire Department.

- Call for new items to be added to the Agenda: None
- Public Comments-None
- Approval of the Minutes – March 2021
 - On a motion made by K. Mourad, seconded by C. McGarity, the following resolution was unanimously approved: Resolved, the minutes of the April 2021 meeting are approved as presented
- Old Business-None
- New Business-
 - Evergreen Fire Department: J. McCarty expressed a concern about Evergreen Fire Departments dispatch protocol for motor vehicle accidents. After learning the protocol that is currently in place for the department, he was given the steps necessary for requesting a change if necessary and encouraged to contact A. Chapman if needed.
 - Financial Statements-May 2021- Copies of reports including the 911 Budget vs Actual were presented by B. Dorsey and discussed by board.
 - On a motion made by C. McGarity, seconded by K. Mourad, the following resolution was unanimously approved: Resolved, the Financial Statements for May 2021, accepted as presented.
 - Discuss Bills for Payments-
 - On a motion made by K. Mourad, seconded by C. McGarity, the following resolution was unanimously approved: Resolved, bills paid as presented.
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 - WPCD Ordinance 18-001:
 - On a motion made by C. McGarity, seconded by K. Mourad, the following resolution was unanimously approved/adopted:

INTRODUCED BY CHRIS MCGARITY, SECONDED BY KIP MOURAD ON THE 6TH DAY OF MAY 2021

ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO LA R.S. 33:9101 ET SEQ. AS AMENDED BY THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE, UPDATING THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE CHARGE ON FIXED LOCATION WIRE LINE SERVICE USERS TO 2021 AT&T TARIFF RATES; CONVERTING SAID TARIFF RATES TO FLAT RATE BASIS; ESTABLISHING THE RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS FIXED LOCATION WIRE LINE SERVICE USERS; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, in 1990 by majority approval of the voters of Webster Parish the Webster Parish Communications District Number One ("Communications District") was provided the authority to impose a 9-1-1 service charge throughout the entirety of the District at a maximum allowed collection for fixed location wire line service subscribers not to exceed 5% of the tariff rate based on the highest amount charged for basic service within the District by an exchange access service provider or equivalent; and,

WHEREAS, through the passage of Act 1 029 of 1999, the Louisiana Legislature materially modified Louisiana law concerning a communications district's ability to impose telephone emergency service charges, specifically through modifications of R.S. 33:91 06(B), which gave blanket authority to communications districts, subject to voter approval, to impose such fees on a not to exceed 5% of the tariff rate; and

WHEREAS AT&T Louisiana confirms in publication entitled LA-16-0008 General Exchange Guidebook, Effective January 1, 2016 a tariff rate increase for both residential and business wire line subscribers located in Zone 1, which includes Webster Parish and depicts the rate for Residential Flat Rate being \$31.00 per month and Business Single Line Flat Rate Service being \$419.00 per month; and,

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Commissioners in its need to remedy the disparaging loss in revenues due to the critical and ever-increasing loss of wire line service subscribers must consider all responsible funding options and sources with prudence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE WEBSTER PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT NUMBER ONE THAT:

SECTION 1. The Webster Parish Communications District Board, pursuant to LA R.S. 33:9101 et seq. as amended by the Louisiana Legislature, hereby authorizes the conversion from a flat fee of \$1.25 for wire line residential lines to the amount of 5% of the present tariff rate based on the highest amount charged for basic service within the District by an exchange access service provider or equivalent, or \$1.55 per access line per month, for Residential service users of fixed location wire line (i.e., land line telephone exchange service), whose addresses are within the boundaries of Webster Parish.

SECTION 2. The Webster Parish Communications District Board hereby authorizes the conversion from a flat fee of \$3.00 for wire line business lines to the a percentage of the tariff rate; however, in recognition of the burden of taxation on the business community within the Parish, hereby further authorizes the tariff based flat fee emergency telephone service charge paid by Business service users of fixed location wire line, whose address is within the boundaries Webster Parish to the amount equal to 2.5% instead of the 5% as authorized to the present tariff based rate, or \$7.00 per access line per month whichever is less.

SECTION 3. The Webster Parish Communications District shall utilize its revenues for communications enhancements which enable public safety agencies to decrease response times and improve effectiveness and for establishing, maintaining, and operating the 9-1-1 emergency reporting telephone services.

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall affect other provisions herein. In the event of such holding of invalidity, the entirety of this ordinance shall be invalid including but not limited to Section 4 hereof.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall become effective JULY 1,2021.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY CHRIS MCGARITY, SECONDED BY KIP MOURAD WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTING IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 3

AND THIS ORDINANCE WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED. MINDEN, LOUISIANA, THE 6TH DAY OF MAY 2021; AND BECOMES WEBSTER PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT NUMBER ONE ORDINANCE NUMBER 18-001.

- Communications Report was given by A. Chapman to include stats for April 2021, the successful completion of APCO Public Safety Telecommunicator 1 class by 2 WPCD 911 employees and 1 WPSO employee.
- Employee Concerns: none

Announcements: Meetings for 2021: June 3, 2021, July 1, 2021, August 5, 2021, September 2, 2021, October 1, 2021, November 5, 2021, December 2, 2021

- On a motion by K. Mourad, seconded by H. Haynes, to adjourn.
 - Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:43 PM