

# **St. Leonard Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 1, 2023

**Location:** Parish Office

**Called to Order:** 6:04 PM

**Attendees:** Julia Bauscher (Chair), Jay Branham, Will Coburn, Mike Gandolfo, Allison Gousha, Gary Gruneisen, Ray Triplett and Fr. Lou

**Absent:** Katie McCullum (Secretary); Sharon Coonan (Ex Officio)

**Guest:** Teresa Riggs

## **Agenda:**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Getting to know one another...
3. 23-24 Budget Discussion and Approval
4. Parish Mission Statement
5. Joint Parish Council meeting overview (Saturday, September 16, 9:00-3:30, Epiphany Lighthouse) – Fr. Lou
6. Parish Council Vice Chair
7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The Council said the opening prayer created by the Worship Committee.

## **2023-2024 Budget Discussion & Approval**

The sub-committee met six times (one hour each meeting) and had excellent participation. Mike presented the recommendations from the sub-committee and Teresa went over the three options ranging from extreme cuts to the budget to more moderate versions. Main points discussed included repairs and maintenance coming out of savings, no programs being cut, increased parish collections and changes in Immaculata lease which will help cover some of savings' funds. Father Lou expressed he did not want to cut-out CLOUT funds or UCHM funds as these outreach programs assist the poor and help so many. Julia then asked the sub-committee for a recommendation on the three options and they chose number two. Mike made a

motion to approve the budget and it was seconded. Option two was approved, keeping CLOUT and UCHM funds.

## **Parish Mission Statement**

Julia reminded the council to review the sub-committee notes on their discussions about the mission statement.

## **Joint Parish Council Meeting Overview (Saturday, September 16, 9:00-3:30, Epiphany Lighthouse)**

Council reminded of upcoming joint meeting/retreat.

## **Parish Council Vice Chair**

Julia requested council members to consider serving as Vice-Chair.

## **Other Business**

- More creative ways to give were explored and suggestions of live stream with a QR Code, QR Codes at the doors or baskets for those that don't carry cash and a possible "Donate Here" link on the website.
- The council discussed growing membership and offering programs targeting our surrounding community comprised of primarily singles, empty-nesters and refugees. A three-year goal was suggested to grow the parish to a total of 250 families from the current 217. In current efforts to engage existing parish members, council members will be calling and inviting members to coffee and donuts, as well as Homecoming. Talking points were offered by Jay.
- Teresa shared her conversations with Dutch at St Francis of Rome (SFR) regarding the two parishes doing more together since they draw from the same surrounding areas (they are competing). Both parishes are net negative. Cost duplication with two parish offices, five weekend masses, staff moving back and forth and administration fees. There have been huge strides with the two parishes working together but more could be done to eliminate costs. More can

be done together than separately from a business perspective. Conversations will be on-going.

- Mike signed-up to read announcements for the next Sunday mass, and the council was reminded to please sign-up if they have not already done so.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:21 PM

The next meeting will be September 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie McCullum, Secretary