

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent, Louisiana, on Wednesday, February 6, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Clyde Cooper, Vondra Etienne-Steib, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Kraemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Ryan Louque, Chairman, duly convened the Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, and stated that the Council was ready for the transaction of business.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the January 23, 2019 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the January 23, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for December 2018 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michelle Octave provided this report in President Roussel's absence: Last week several traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the RREDI breakfast. There were over 200 guests, all Congressional delegation was present. She indicated it was a successful trip, they visited with NACo staff, and attended GNO Inc.'s press release conference in reference to the National Flood Information Insurance Program. Mrs. Octave informed everyone that CivicSource will list St. James Parish adjudicated properties, allowing bidders to participate in the on-line auction.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

PJ Hahn with Pelican Coast Consulting and Kyle Jones with Arcadis provided an update of FEMA and DOTD grant funding for Parish wide drainage.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – getting ready to begin culvert replacement on Humble, St. James, Michelle, Wendy and Amy Streets on the East Bank and North Rosary and High Ridge on the West Bank.
- District 5 Alternate Access Route – no additional update
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – on hold due to weather

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-18, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE FEBRUARY 8, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-19, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-20, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF AN OCE' COLORWAVE 3500 PRINTER/SCANNER/COPIER AND FOR PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO ENTER INTO MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH LETTERMAN'S AND TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS THEREWITH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-21, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2019 F150 SUPERCAB TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-22, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2019 350 PICKUP TRUCK WITH UTILITY TOOL BED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2019 F250 SUPERCAB TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT

OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-24, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR (2) 2019 F250 4X4 SUPERCAB PICKUP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-25, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-26, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2019 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-01, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR FUTURE STATE AND PARISH PROJECTS, was introduced on a motion offer by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearing, which was scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-02, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offer by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearing, which was scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

After Mr. Gravois explained that the **PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED A PUBLIC HEARING FOR WANHUA CHEMICAL LAND USE APPLICATION #18-46**, and after brief discussion by the council, a Public Informational Meeting was set for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 5:45 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 7:14 p.m., on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried. Members of the Council, along with Cody Martin, and Grant Guillot, with Adams and Reese, withdrew to an adjoining chamber for "*discussion of proposed electrical franchise agreement, including related legal counsel opinions and communications that are privileged under La. Code Evid. Art. 506(B)*". All returned at 7:25 p.m., and the regular session reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no action was taken.

At this time Councilman Kraemer made a motion to terminate the service contract with Adams and Reese. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre said the Washington trip was very productive. He said, in addition to meeting with NACO and attending GNO's press conference, they spoke with Cassidy, Kennedy, Richmond, Entergy, and the Union Pacific representative.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested an update on the Hwy 641 lighting project. Mr. Gravois indicated an agreement was sent to Entergy. Councilman Amato requested a meeting with Mr. Gravois, and Mayor St. Pierre to discuss the Road Program.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Gravois to check on the turnaround on Braud St. and the large ruts at Landry-Geason St., coming off of Hwy 3127 at the tee on the asphalt. Councilman Cooper asked for a status of the lights on Hwy 18. Mr. Gravois indicated the poles were marked and is waiting on Entergy. Councilman Cooper inquired about the Mosaic situation. Mr. Hymel indicated he receives daily updates, he added they have been hauling dirt to get ahead of it and culverts are on standby if needed. Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Martin to find out when the items in the FG LA resolution would begin and if night classes are included at BRCC.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said the Washington trip was very enlightening. She said she will reach out to the UP representative. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib asked Mr. Gravois to look into the drainage on Magnolia Heights and the turnaround on Luther King St.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested to have a condolence letter sent to the family of Lois Chenier, and he inquired about the issue on Elm Street. Mr. Gravois said he sent someone there today but hadn't received a response.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque said the Washington trip was very eventful and it is always a good opportunity to meet our representatives and convey our needs.

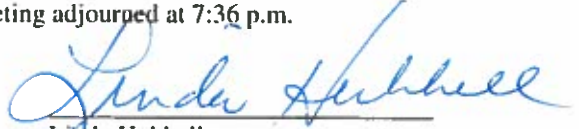
DIRECTOR REPORT

BLAISE GRAVOIS – said they are ready to start the Road Program and asked each Council Member to provide recommendations of the streets needed.

INGRID LEBLANC – reminded the everyone that the Black History Program will be on February 20th at the Convent Senior Center, the Elderly Carnival Social is on February 28 at the St. James Parish Reception Hall, and tax preparations are underway, free of charge for our residents.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Linda Hubbell
Secretary