

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

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 7, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Alvin St. Pierre Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin Jr., Clyde Cooper, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilman Jarred Favorite entered the Courthouse Chambers at 6:40 p.m. and assumed his seat on the platform.

Those also in attendance were: Ashley Poche, Assistant Deputy Council Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Office; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DEPUTY SECRETARIES

RESOLUTION 18-27, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ASSISTANT DEPUTY COUNCIL SECRETARIES FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL IN THE EVENT COUNCIL SECRETARY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ARE ABSENT AND UNAVAILABLE TO ACT IN THIS CAPACITY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Favorite, the minutes of the January 23, 2018 regular council meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report to the council.

- 1) As you all know our Council Secretary, Ms. Linda Hubbell is out due to an injury. Her replacement, or Deputy Council Secretary, Ms. Hollie Zeringue is also out for medical reasons. As of now, we do not know when either will return to work. So, in essence, tonight we will have to pass a resolution to appoint two additional deputy Council Secretaries to ensure coverage for now and possibly in the future. I ask for your support with this matter. If any of you desire any further information, please let us know.
- 2) Our EB Drainage & Flood Task Force developed a draft of the St. James Parish East Bank Stormwater Master Plan, along with a proposed action plan listing our proposed objectives and goals. Thanks to Mr. Richard St. Pierre for the great job he did as Chairman of this task force as he spent numerous hours of perfecting the numerous documents and final presentation. Our plan is to bring this draft before the Parish Council at our next meeting. Richard is on hand to provide us with this draft presentation, hopefully for your approval. Approval of this plan does not authorize the expenditure of funds.
- 3) Following our last Council meeting some officials from the Town of Lutecher, Port of South Louisiana, St. John Parish and St. Charles Parish traveled to Washington, DC. On top of our agenda, of course, was Flood Protection, Levees, Flood Recovery efforts, Manufacturing prospects and the like. You know, I often wondered if it is all worth it; (you know, spending tax payers money to travel to DC), well, only a couple days upon returning, a Congressman texted me stating that one of requests will be taken care of. Not sure of the timeframe, but will be taken care of. This alone places a true value to a trip of this nature making it well worth it.
- 4) A full road closure will take place on LA 18 from Jones Street to King View Street on Saturday, February 10, 2018 through Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The closure is necessary to string pipe across the roadway for a pipe bore under the river.
Detour routes are available:
LA 18 North, traffic should detour to the right onto LA 70 for approximately 3.9 miles until they reach LA 3127 on the left. Turn left onto LA 3127 and drive for approximately 12.5 miles until you reach LA 3219. Turn left on LA 3219 for approximately 1.2 miles and you will once again hit LA 18.
Emergency vehicles will be allowed to pass through the closure.
- 5) A derailment took place Monday, February 5th on CN Rail at Convent Station crossing area. There were no injuries and no need for hazmat. All is clear with this incident.
- 6) The W-2's were mailed out this past week. If you receive any complaints from any employee, please refer them to the Finance Department.
- 7) Our DHR department began a house-to-house assessment on Burton Street, Burton Lane & Celestin Lane with an offering of help from the non-profit legal group, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services. This group will be able to help these families go through succession and other legal needs. Mr. Cooper, we did receive a report of the 75 addressees that were focused on. I know it is not your district, but if any other Councilman desire this report, please let me know.

- 8) An employee of one our contractor groups, RES, working on the Raw Water Intake at the East Bank Water Plant area had a foot injury recently. Of course, the employee received the necessary medical help and this project is very near completion.
- 9) The Convent water and gas line near Shell and Veolia plants are very near completion also.
- 10) A bipartisan group of Louisiana's state senators urged Gov. John Bel Edwards to call a special session this month to replace expiring taxes, even if he can't strike a pre-session deal with House Republicans. Fourteen of 39 senators — including Senate President John Alario, a Republican, and Finance Committee Chairman Eric LaFleur, a Democrat — sent a letter saying a February special session is needed to balance next year's budget without damaging programs. About \$1 billion in temporary taxes expire July 1. If lawmakers want to replace any of the expiring revenue with taxes, that requires a special session, either before the regular session starts March 12 or after it ends June 4. Otherwise, they'll have to slash spending, cuts expected to fall most heavily on health services and college programs. No lawmaker has offered a proposal for how to close the gap entirely with cuts.
- 11) We are announcing a Small Business Lunch & Learn series; so, come and join the conversation as we present a variety of business topics that are trending and useful for your company.
 - Session 1: Access to Opportunity**
11:30am - 1:00pm February 22, 2018
St. James Parish Courthouse Annex, 2631 LA Hwy 20, Vacherie, LA
 - Session 2: 5 Steps for Starting a Food Business**
11:30am - 1:00pm March 15, 2018
St. James Parish Courthouse Annex, 2631 LA Hwy 20, Vacherie, LA
 - Session 3: Small & Emerging Business Development Registration - Get Registered NOW**
10:00am - Noon March 24, 2018
St. James Public Relations Building
Behind the School Board Office
1876 West Main Street, Litcher, LA

All sessions are free of charge.
Bring Your Laptop!
After the presentation participants, will be encouraged to access the online registration and become an official Small & Emerging Business!
Please look for our posting on our FB page & website.
- 12) Mr. Cody Martin, Mr. John Young came before our Council meeting 2 weeks ago to provide us with a presentation on the opioid situation. Do we have your approval upon us moving forward in passing a resolution to join in with that effort? I read in the Advocate that Ascension voted to do the same.
- 13) I have a few reminders for you:
 - The St. James Parish LEPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2018 at 10 am in our EOC
 - Our VITA Program began yesterday. Our Super Tax days is slated for Saturday, February 17th at the Litcher Branch Library and Saturday, February 24th at the Vacherie Branch Library
 - Commodity Distribution is scheduled for February 16, 2018
 - The St. James Parish Fire Association meeting will take place on February 20th at 6:30 pm in South Vacherie
 - Our Senior Black History Program is scheduled for February 21, 2018 at the Vacherie Senior Center at 10 am

Thank You ... May God Bless you; may God bless all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi !!!

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard St. Pierre, Chairman of the East Bank Task Force, presented the East Bank Storm Water Plan to the Council. The Task Force has 10 objectives to enforce maintenance to drainage systems in District 1, 2, 3 and 4 ensuring drainage a parish priority. Once adopted, the Council will work with Parish Administration to bring the plan into action.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 18-28, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING YVETTE MELANCON TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Favorite offered a second and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-29, RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOHNNY LAWRENCE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilman Favorite.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 18-01, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A FINAL REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with all seven Councilmen voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-30, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE FEBRUARY 9, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote with all seven Councilmen voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-31, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a roll call vote with all seven Councilmen voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-32, A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE EAST BANK STORM WATER MASTER PLAN, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with all seven Councilmen voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-33, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH SAVE OUR AMERICAN CHILDREN AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second. Voting for the resolution were Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Jr., Clyde Cooper, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilman Jarred Favorite abstained from the vote.

RESOLUTION 18-34, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH POINT COUPEE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION WITH REGARD TO POTENTIAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with Councilmen Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque voting in favor and Ralph Patin, Jr. and Clyde Cooper abstaining from the vote.

RESOLUTION 18-35, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION WITH REGARD TO POTENTIAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque voting in favor and Ralph Patin, Jr. and Clyde Cooper abstaining from the vote.

RESOLUTION 18-36, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH DIXIE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION WITH REGARD TO POTENTIAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Clyde Cooper, Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque voting in favor and Ralph Patin, Jr. abstaining from the vote.

RESOLUTION 18-37, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ROOF-TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH ADULT DETENTION CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with all seven Councilmen voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-38, A RESOLUTION RENEWING CONTRACT WITH JAM RENTAL, LLC FOR THE EAST AND WEST BANK LAWN SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Jr., Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque voting in favor and Councilman Clyde Cooper voting against.

RESOLUTION 18-39, A RESOLUTION RENEWING CONTRACT WITH SID'S LAWN AND TRACTOR SERVICE, INC. FOR THE LAWN MAINTENANCE AROUND THE COURTHOUSE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote with Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Jr., Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque voting in favor and Councilman Clyde Cooper voting against.

RESOLUTION 18-40, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE KREWE OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE (M.A.C.) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING WITH THE KREWE OF M.A.C. MARDI GRAS DAY PARADE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with all seven Councilmen voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre thanked Ashley Poche for stepping in when needed as Council Secretary. He wished Linda and Hollie, Council Secretaries, a speedy recovery. He also thanked Mr. Steve Nosaka, Gramercy Town Mayor, for being on the task force committee. Councilman St. Pierre asked Mr. Nosaka about the Hot Water Ditch right of way. Mr. Nosaka said they have the right of way from Imperial and are scheduling to have all work done as soon as possible. Councilman St. Pierre asked Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations, about an update on Farerra Canal. Councilman St. Pierre said he would be sending out an email soon if anyone would want to join him in meeting with Clay Schexnayder. He wished everyone a Happy Mardi Gras!

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked Mr. Richard St. Pierre for all his hard work on the East Bank Task Force. He attended the M.A.C. Brunch and said it was a wonderful and first class event. Councilman Amato spoke of recent house fires in Baton Rouge and the Red Cross going out with smoke alarms to hand out to residents. He got with the Director of Human Resources, Bedar Warren, to help in our parish to get smoke alarms into resident's homes. He then asked Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations, about culverts on T. Poche Street. Mr. Gravois said that the work had been executed. Councilman Amato thanked the parish for upcoming assistance with drainage on Alexander Street and Lionel Washington Street to Highway 3125. He then wished everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras!

COUNCILMAN PATIN – No comments.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations, about drainage on Sugar Hill. Mr. Gravois stated they were still working on getting right of ways. Councilman Cooper asked for an Executive Session at the February 21st Council Meeting in reference to the District 5 Building.

COUNCILMAN FAVORITE – Councilman Favorite thanked Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations, for the progress of the Church Street repairs. He asked for additional items to be brought to the District 6 Park that residents had requested. Councilman Favorite asked Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness, about pay for the volunteer fire personnel. He then wished everyone a blessed day.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer asked Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations, for an update on drainage issues on North Spruce Street. Councilman Kraemer also asked about the status of cameras for Red Falgoust Boat Launch. Blaise Gravois responded that they were still getting quotes for the cameras. Councilman Kraemer reminded everyone about the March 1st meeting at the Courthouse Annex at 6:30 p.m. in reference to the Bayou Chevreau Road.

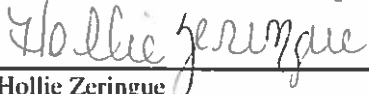
CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque thanked Mr. Richard St. Pierre for all his hard work on the Drainage Task Force for the East Bank residents. He stated the importance for smoke alarms and wants to get as many possible out to the parish residents. He asked for help with this from Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BLAISE GRAVOIS – Director Gravois recognized the East Bank Drainage Task Force at this time for all their hard work over the last three years.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Favorite and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:34p.m.


Hollie Zeringue
Deputy Secretary