

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, Louisiana, at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Ralph Patin, Clyde Cooper, Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilman Jason Amato was absent.

Those also in attendance were: Hollie Zeringue, Deputy Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; 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 Cooper 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 Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the February 7, 2018 public hearing minutes were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Favorite and seconded by Councilman Kraemer, the minutes of the February 7, 2018 regular meeting minutes were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for December 2017 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Favorite.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Kraemer offered a motion to deviate from the agenda to move the executive session to a later time in the meeting due to Attorney, Vic Franckiewicz not being present. Councilman Cooper seconded with a roll call vote with Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Ralph Patin, Clyde Cooper, Jarred Favorite, Eddie Kraemer, Chairman Ryan Louque in favor and Jason Amato absent, the motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) St. James Parish Youth Baseball and Girls Softball has started registration and will run through March 9, 2018. Please refer to our FB pages, our website or call the Recreation Department for dates & times. The cost is \$35 per child.
- 2) I plan on placing a resolution on our March 7th agenda pertaining to the Opioid suit as presented by attorney John Young a few meetings back. If any of you have any recommendations or suggestions, please let me know.
- 3) We are getting close with bringing the adjudicated property issue before the Parish Council for their possible approval. We recently sat in a meeting with two representatives from Civic Source, Mr. Cody Martin, Michelle Octave and myself. Michelle can provide you with any further details needed.
- 4) I just want to inform you that we recently went through property insurance renewals and we will experience a 7.5% increase in premiums. The national average for the year is peaking at a 14% increase, so we consider ourselves lucky.
- 5) There will be a "Crazy 'Bout History" tour coming on March 10th. The tour will begin at the Tourist & Welcome Center in Gramercy and tour the east & west banks of the Parish.
- 6) I have a few reminders for you:
 - We have one more session of our Super Tax day and it is slated for Saturday, February 24th at the Vacherie Branch Library
 - Our Senior Black History Program is scheduled for February 21, 2018 at the Vacherie Senior Center at 10 am
 - The NAACP will hold their Black History program at the PR Building in Litcher from 5 – 8 pm on Saturday, February 24
 - COA / CSBG Board meeting will take place on March 6th at the Vacherie Senior Center @ 3 pm
 - Senior Olympics will take place in Paulina Park on April 10th from 9 am to 1 pm

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Jude Gravois presented the annual report from the Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board.

President Roussel presented the members of the Krewe of M.A.C. with a "Key to the Parish" for their commitment and dedication of promoting good fellowship.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

After Mr. Vic Franckiewicz explained the ordinance and a discussion took place, the two suggested amendments were read into the ordinance for adoption. 1) integrating with the Parish's emergency response ordinance; simplifying reporting for nonconforming uses; establishing a process for administrative appeals; and minor corrections for clarification in the language, and 2) dealing with buffer/impact areas. **ORDINANCE 17-21, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 86-37 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, TO AMEND THE AND USE PLAN, AND TO AMEND SECTION 18-5 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO PERMITS, COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN, AND EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Jr., Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato absent, the ordinance was adopted.

The following updates were provided:

- **North Vacherie evacuation route project** – awaiting schedule to move forward.
- **North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade** – awaiting schedule to move forward.
- **North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update** – awaiting schedule to move forward.
- **Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal** – no additional update.
- **5th District Evacuation Route Update** – Mrs. Octave requested Councilman Cooper set up a meeting with the land owners.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, Mr. Vic Franckiewicz, continued the discussion of the land use plan map changes.

RESOLUTION 18-41, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE FEBRUARY 23, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite and was seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Jr., Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-42, 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 was seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Jr., Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-43, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A HOSTED VOICE NETWORK SOLUTION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin.

RESOLUTION 18-44, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH PG CONSULTING, LLC FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Jr., Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-45, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Cooper.

RESOLUTION 18-46, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR COMPANY FOR ONE (1) 2018 FORD EXPLORER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre.

RESOLUTION 18-47, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR, CO., INC FOR TWO (2) 2018 FORD EXPLORERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilman Patin.

After an explanation by Michelle Octave, and suggested by Chairman Louque to table A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PELICAN COAST CONSULTING, LLC, for further review. Councilman St. Pierre offered a motion to table and Councilman Kraemer offered a second. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Jr., Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato absent, the motion to table was accepted.

An Executive Session convened at 8:32 p.m., when Mr. Vic Franckiewicz was present, a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman and a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kramer, and Louque, and Amato absent, the motion carried. Members of the Council, along with Legal Advisor Cody Martin, and Operations Director Blaise Gravois withdrew to an adjoining chamber until 9:05 p.m. to discuss Lamar Contractors, LLC v. SRF Group Consulting, LLC et al., Docket No. 36,600, 23rd Judicial District Court, St. James Parish (District 5 Building). All returned and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no action was taken at this time.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer informed everyone about the Bayou Chevreuil information meeting being held on March 1st at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at the Annex.

COUNCILMAN FAVORITE – Councilman Favorite requested the status of the grease containers. Mr. Gravois indicated that he is still working on it. Councilman Favorite requested a few items to be added to the 6 District Park Building. He congratulated Mrs. Octave for the Black History Program.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked that the ants, and grass on the walking track at the 5th District Park be addressed. He also indicated that the grass needs to be cut in the ditch behind Bank Street. Councilman Cooper thanked Mr. Gravois for addressing the pot holes on Pecan Street. Councilman Cooper also requested an update on the 5th district building.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato was absent.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre informed the council there is a meeting scheduled with Clay Schexnayder on March 1st to discuss St. James Parish items previously discussed in Washington D.C.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque thanked Mr. Gravois for the culvert replacement on N. Angelle St and asked to check the barricade tape. Chairman Louque requested the status of the hydrants on Belmont Lane. Mr. Gravois indicated that they will be installed within the next week.

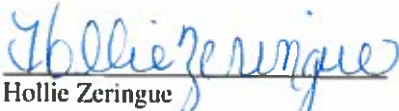
DIRECTOR REPORT

Mrs. Waguespack – Informed the council that she sent out the January Revenues and Expenditures report.

Mrs. Octave– reminded everyone that there is a small business lunch-n-learn workshop scheduled at the Annex tomorrow. She indicated that this is will kick off a series of workshops and she asked the council to encourage residents who are thinking of starting a small business and local business to take advantage of this service.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Cooper and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.


Hollie Zeringue
Deputy Secretary