

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 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, March 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; Timmy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; and Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources.

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 Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the February 20, 2019 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the February 20, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Mrs. Waguespack informed the Council that the Revenues and Expenditures Report for January 2019 had not been distributed, due to an emergency. Councilman St. Pierre offered a motion to table the approval until the March 20, 2019 meeting. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and after a unanimously roll call vote, the motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) The Mississippi River level is still extremely high at 16.57 feet and rising at present at the Carrollton gage even though the Bonnet Carre Spillway is open. On March 1, 2019 Gov. John Bel Edwards, through Proclamation #33 JBE 2019, declared a State of Emergency for the State of LA due to imminent flooding of the Mississippi River and its tributaries and other State rivers & water bodies. To assist the CPRA Board is adopting emergency rules which restrict all activities on all levees and flood control structures in the coastal areas of the State. The Levee Districts are stating that they have implemented a "zero tolerance" for anyone on the levees that is not supposed to be there.
- 2) We will have Federal monitors in St. James Parish for the following programs on the specified dates:
 - DOTD monitoring of Transit March 14th
 - AmeriCorps monitoring of YouthBuild March 20th and 21st
 - Department of Labor to monitor YouthBuild program- May 13th-17th
- 3) Our Youth Commissioners are planning two events this year—Annual ARC Ball- date and location TBD and a Teen Summit tentatively scheduled for late August or Early September 2019
- 4) I placed a flyer in your folders regarding a "Mobile App Launch." NACo is seeking our (and all of our friends) help in acquiring actual accurate broadband connectivity data. Of course, NACo want to provide this important data to FCC, to aid in their decision making processes where it pertains to investments in broadband infrastructure. The FCC presently depend on broadband service carriers for internet speeds in comparison to national averages and minimum standards. I attempted to run the test inside of our Administration building and could never receive a reading. Please share this with your friends throughout the Parish and beyond to help in providing our best information to NACo.
- 5) LED is allowing a 2-day business bootcamp on various business-related topics that support small businesses in St. James Parish. The topics include the following:
 - Entrepreneur Business Planning
 - Marketing/Social Media
 - Financial Management - Overview of Quick Books

The workshops are planned for March 14 & 21 at the Vacherie Annex for 6 pm.

6) Just a few reminders:

- COA Advisory Board Meeting Tuesday, March 12th at Vacherie Senior Center
- Youth commission Meeting Tuesday, March 12th at Vacherie Senior Center
- Fire Association Meeting in South Vacherie @ 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 13th
- We have a scheduled meeting with Sec. Shawn Wilson, Senator Ed Price, Rep. Ken Brass to discuss the unsafe conditions of the intersection of Hwy 3127 & Hwy 3213 on Thursday, March 14th @ 3 pm
- There is a Public Informational meeting put on by the US Postal Service to address the need of a new St. James Post Office. The USPS will be seeking input for available land or a building. The meeting will take place on Thursday, March 14th at 4:30 pm at the Welcome Senior Center.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – ready to move forward. Two meetings are scheduled for the 19th and 26th.
- District 5 Alternate Access Route – Price/Brass letter has not been sent.
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – should be able to get to it on Friday, pending weather.

During the public hearing, Mr. Gravois stated that there was a typographical error in paragraph (a) of Section 118-43 Natural Gas rates established, Usage should be \$.675 not \$6.75 per 100 cubic feet for Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. **ORDINANCE 19-03, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF ST. JAMES PARISH, STATE OF LOUISIANA, CHAPTER 118 UTILITIES, ARTICLE II NATURAL GAS, SEC. 118-43 NATURAL GAS RATES ESTABLISHED, PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b), ADDING THERETO NEW SECTIONS, SEC. 118-43 REVENUE STABILIZATION FACTOR (RSF) AND SEC. 118-46 CALCULATION OF THE RSF, AS AMENDED (ROUSSEL)**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Kraemer, and Louque in favor, and Etienne-Steib against, the ordinance was adopted, as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-36, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MARCH 8, 2019 PAYROLL, 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 19-37, 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 Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-38, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS, CONTACT AMENDMENTS, OR REVISIONS FOR FUNDS UNDER THE BAYOU REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL, LOUISIANA DECENTRALIZED ARTS FUNDING PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL, PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN SUCH CONTRACT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-39, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH 2COUSINS FOR SERVICE OF RECYCLING USED COOKING OIL/GREASE FOR THE DISTRICT PARKS AND JAILHOUSE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-40, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO SIGN FUNDING APPLICATIONS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND ONE-TIME FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES LIHEAP PROGRAM FUNDS INCLUDING APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES, AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS IN ORDER FOR ST. JAMES PARISH TO ADMINISTER EXISTING OR NEW LIHEAP PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE YEAR OF 2019, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-41, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH LASDESIGNS FOR THE MURAL PAINTING PROJECT AT THE WELCOME TOURIST AND INFORMATION CENTER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After Councilman Cooper's questions regarding the proposal were answered, Chairman Louque stated that there was a typographical error in the resolution, that FY20 in paragraph #3 needed to be changed to FY19, and asked if the resolution is approved that it be approved pending legal review because he needed clarification on the requirement of the deposit. **RESOLUTION 19-42, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE DÉCOR SHOPPE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CARPET AND FLOORS AT THE VACHERIE LIBRARY**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted, as amended, pending legal review.

RESOLUTION 19-43, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO SIGN A SERVICE CONTRACT WITH HOMELAND SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC. FOR INTERNET PROTOCOL CAMERAS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-44, A RESOLUTION FOR A ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH PELICAN COAST CONSULTING, LLC FOR CONSULTING SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre asked if the two engineering firms, that are involved in the two East Bank back water surge protection plan, submitted contracts for what was requested. Mr. Gravois indicated that he received one from T. Baker Smith.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested two resolutions be prepared, one to thank Mr. Roland Dartez for his many years of service with the PJAL, and one of support to Mr. Guy Cormier. Councilman Amato requested a summary report from Acadian Ambulance.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin verified with Mr. Gravois that Schexnayder St., Convent Station Lane, and Jones Streets will be repaired, during the Road Rehab Project. Mr. Gravois said yes, and to let him know if anything changes.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper said 5th Ward St. has holes and asked to have it considered to be repaired. He said there is water leaking from the fire hydrant on Jones St. Councilman Cooper said he has been getting calls about the turnaround on Pecan St. Mr. Gravois indicated that they are waiting on the Mosaic Rep. to sign the paper work. Councilman Cooper requested a condolence letter be sent to the family of Ms. Vivian Folse, and requested a resolution be prepared to recognize her.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib gave kudos to Ms. Ingrid and Mr. Williams and their staff for the fun filled Mardi Gras Carnival. She also thanked Mr. Larousse and Mr. C. J Arnold for their explanation of the Natural Gas Ordinance, adding she understand the need for upgrades and to keep up with rising costs of natural gas, but she opposes any potential rate increases at this time.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer stated he requested the secretary send out the latest information on the WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.). He stated it's very important that we all read this new WOTUS rule, as it will affect St. James Parish. He stated we have until April 15th to give comments to the Corps of Engineers and the EPA. He added, what we need to understand in the new rule, if you have an outfall ditch that holds water for 365 days a year or is located next to a wetlands, then it becomes part of this permitting. He stated what it means is, if you want to have the parish dig a ditch that falls under that rule, we will need to apply for a federal permit. He stated we need to get our citizens to go on the website and provide comments. Councilman Kraemer said this past weekend he attended the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C and that he sits on the Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Board. He stated when he first got on the board, three years ago, Louisiana had eight people on the board, this weekend there were two. He said every resolution that we proposed effects St. James Parish and said the council should get more involved with NACo and get on these boards, because they do fight for us. Councilman Kraemer stated he would love to get on the Veterans Committee but would need someone to be on the EELU Committee.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque said that he had several discussions with the parish administration and said he thinks we have a clear path and thinks we are doing the right thing to move forward with the tax millage, giving our residents the opportunity to make their decision on how we move with our flood protection and drainage.

DIRECTOR REPORT

MICHELLE OCTAVE – said they are looking forward to addressing and having more small business owners attend the upcoming workshops and asked the council to encourage small business to take advantage of the opportunities and resources from LED.

BLAISE GRAVOIS – said the utilities is aware of the hydrant issue on Jones St. but can't make repairs until the river goes down. He said he will reach out to the School Board to see if they had complaints on Pecan St.

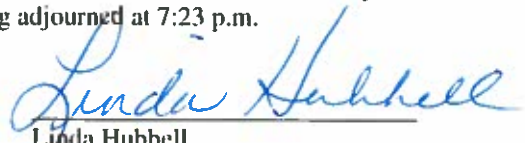
CHANTAL WAGUESPACK – thanked the council for understanding that the report had not been distributed and said she will send it out as soon as possible.

INGRID LEBLANC – said Ms. Vivian Folse served many years on the COA Advisory Board.

FRANCIS HYMEL – said they continue to stay in contact with Mosiac and have weekly conference calls with the State and the facility.

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 Patin and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary