

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

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

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, 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. Legal Counsel Vic Frankiewicz was also in attendance.

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 St. Pierre, the minutes of the March 7, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Just as a reminder, we will be having our annual event for Keep St. James & Louisiana Beautiful "Leaders Against Litter" this Friday, March 23rd from 8:30 am – 10 am, at our Welcome & Tourist Information Center in Gramercy. We are asking everyone to "Speak up, Pick Up and Stand Up."
- 2) St. James Parish Economic Development will be holding a St. James Parish Farmer's Market. They will be inviting local farmers and licensed businesses to set up and display quality retail items, prepared canned items and fresh produce. There will also be booths available for "vintage" goods. Expect to see flyers come your way soon and advertised on FB pages and the News-Examiner.
- 3) Wood, seeking employment applications for the Yuhuang Chemical Inc. (YCI) project will be holding a Job Fair on Friday, April 13, 2018 from 9 am to 3 pm at the St. James Parish Reception Hall. They will be seeking skilled and unskilled professionals in a wide array of construction job opportunities.
- 4) Another reminder about Election Day this Saturday, March 24th there is a District 6 Council race on the ballot along with two sales tax issues; one in the Town of Lucher and one in the Town of Gramercy. Please go out and vote.
- 5) We will have our annual Years of Service awards for 20 years and above at our next Council meeting on Wednesday, April 4th. Linda, please place this as an agenda item for that meeting. Thanks
- 6) St. James Parish Government, working with St. James Parish Hospital will be offering blood screening for all of our full and part time employees. Wednesday, April 25th will take place here at the Vacherie Annex Council Chambers, while Thursday, April 26th will take place in Convent inside of the Council Chambers.
- 7) Friday, March 30th, Good Friday and Monday, April 2nd, Easter are recognized holidays for St. James Parish.
- 8) I have a few reminders for you:
 - Vacherie Library Easter Egg Hunt will be March 27th
 - Lucher Library Easter Egg Hunt will be March 29th
 - 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

Bedar Warren, Human Resources Director presented the Human Resources Department Annual Report.

Jordan Tremblay with Shell Refinery said they will host a dedication ceremony on Shell's property that will memorialize two previous undiscovered slave cemeteries that were discovered during an expansion project land survey in 2013. He invited everyone to the ceremony on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. He added that they will host an annual event for those wanting to see the property. Mr. Amato thanked Mr. Tremblay for the partnership Shell is providing to the River Parishes.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS -

RESOLUTION 18-61, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FLORIAN OUBRE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- North Vacherie evacuation route project – no additional update.
- North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade – working out issues with UP Rail.
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – plan on getting prices on culverts, and should be starting in the next two weeks.
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – no additional update. Councilman St. Pierre requested to send the thread of emails to Clay Schexnayder to go through the State Senators.

- Update of Electrical Utility Franchise request – Mr. Martin had conversations with various law firms, waiting to receive the proposed fee schedule of what they would charge. Mr. Martin said received proposed agreements from SLECA and DEMCO.
- Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 644 and Hwy 643 – Hwy 644 is about 75-80% complete. Hwy 643, in front of Schexnayder's, will be repaired in the next day or two and the rest will be done next week.
- Status Update on Emergency Notification to residents without cell phones or computers – Mr. Hymel said he contacted the School Board and it is a specific program for school boards, not for government entities. He added that it is a sign up program, like NIXLE. He said we have one year left on our current contract and is contacting counterparts as to how they notify residents.
- Update on the Lucher Library Landscaping Project – Ms. Octave said the plan is to have the nursery do an analysis of both libraries and is planning to have both libraries pressure washed prior to landscaping. Councilman Amato requested a deadline of April 30th to have the plants in the ground.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-62, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MARCH 23, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-63, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque in favor, and St. Pierre abstaining, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-64, A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BURK-KLEINPETER, INC. FOR HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE DRAINAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL AIRLINE HIGHWAY SURGE PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-65, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH LOUISIANA TRAVEL PROMOTIONS ASSOCIATION FOR ST. JAMES PARISH PROMOTIONAL BROCHURES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-66, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR ONE (1) FORD EXPEDITION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-67, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF LARRY ROUSSEL (PLOT #16-01) FOR COMMERCIAL USE UNDER THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

At this time Chairman Louque requested to amend the agenda to introduce an additional resolution. Councilman Kraemer offered a motion and Councilman Favorite offered a second. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

After President Roussel explained the that there is an April 6th deadline with the Army Corps of Engineers to get the payments from the three parishes and delivered to the Port, and after a discussion, **RESOLUTION 18-68, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO COORDINATE WITH THE PARISHES OF ASCENSION AND ASSUMPTION AND TO COORDINATE PAYMENTS AND EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS TO FINALIZE TRANSACTIONS WITH THE BAYOU NAPOLEON AND BAYOU VERRERRE MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

An Executive Session convened at 7:13p.m., with a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried. Members of the Council, along with Legal Advisor Vic Frankiewicz, President Roussel, and Legal Advisor Cody Martin, withdrew to an adjoining chamber to discuss "Port of South Louisiana v. St. James Parish, 40th District Court, Parish of St. John, State of Louisiana" (threatened litigation) and discussion of related counsel opinions and communications that are privileged under La. Code Evid. 506(B) in accordance with La. R.S. 42:17 (A)(10). All returned at 8:01p.m., and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no action was taken at this time.

At this time Councilman Kraemer made a motion to authorize the administration to move forward with any necessary action, including legal action, or responding to any legal action, regarding issues related to the former Petroplex property currently owned by the Port of South Louisiana. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested a condolence letter be sent to the family of Mrs. Albertine Miller, he added that she served on the emergency food and shelter board with DHR for many years. Councilman Kraemer requested the status of North Spruce drainage. Mr. Gravois said they should get to in in about two weeks.

COUNCILMAN FAVORITE – Councilman Favorite requested to have the ditch on N. Bank St. dug. He also requested to have someone look at an area on Martin Luther King Street that is not draining. Councilman Favorite thanked everyone for working with him and allowing him to serve on the council.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper indicated that the residents on Pecan St. and Tribett St. are inquiring about speed bumps on the newly asphalted streets. He added that the street in Lemonville that was recently done has a lot of the access in the ditch. Mr. Gravois indicated that a final inspection will be done on Monday for all of the streets. Councilman Cooper inquired about the policy for culverts, asking if there is a different policy for new subdivisions vs. an existing subdivision. Mr. Gravois said that when it's a new subdivision, the developer installs the culverts, he added that any resident needs to get a permit, which is free, purchase the culvert and dirt, and the parish will install.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin asked President Roussel to pass on the invitation from Shell Refinery to the employees.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato expressed appreciation to Mrs. Warren and her staff for the presentation. He inquired about the status of the juvenile detention center. Mr. Martin indicated that details need to be worked through and research needs to be completed before it can go out for sale. Councilman Amato wished good luck to all the candidates for both District 6, and Latcher and Gramercy millages. Councilman Amato said there was an article in the News Examiner about the Pilot Program, adding that if we come across this again, definitely need to fight against it. Back in 2011, President Hymel and the Parish Council worked hard against the State and other entities to gain the tax advantages we received from these two PILOT programs. He said, even though we didn't get the \$145,000,000, we did get \$29,000,000 for this deal. He said the artificial turf at both Latcher and St. James High Schools are a direct result of Nucor. Finally, remember, unemployment in St. James Parish back in 2011 was greater than 12% where it is now less than 5%.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre requested a letter be sent to Clay Schexnayder thanking him for setting up a meeting with parish officials, and asked to include Eddie Lambert and Ed Price for their participation of the meeting. He thanked Mr. Mickey and Mr. Gravois for getting the District 1 canals dug.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque asked if there is anything that the parish could do concerning the grade issue at the crossing at Belmont Lane. Mr. Gravois said they do not have a right of way on 100' from the center of the track. Chairman Louque said he submitted a general work order for South Angelle and North Angelle to clean culverts and grade ditches as needed.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Blaise Gravois – said he is getting a lot of call regarding the permit process because of the river level, adding people are not understanding the 1500' boundary.

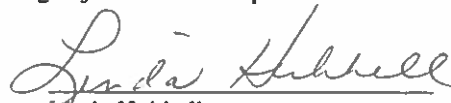
Chantal Waguespack – informed the council that the February 2017 R&E report was sent yesterday and approval will be on the next agenda. She also confirmed that the resolution that was voted on was to give approval to issue the check, outside of waiting for the next meeting.

Francis Hymel – said he met with Councilmen Amato, Kraemer, and Favorite for the cell phone policy. He said he received more information from Verizon that he needs to go through.

President Roussel – said he received a call today from Mr. Tommy Lasseigne, with Lafourche Parish, saying a special meeting will be held tomorrow night to enter into an intergovernmental agreement, to try to approve the \$81,000 of their portion.

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 Cooper and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary