

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 1, 2020**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met via video/teleconference on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Jason Amato, Ryan Louque, Mason Bland, Clyde Cooper, Vondra Etienne-Steib, Donald Nash, and Chairman Alvin St. Pierre.

Those also in attendance were; Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Peter Dufresne, Parish President; Felix Boughton, Finance Director; Richard Webre, Operations Director; Ingrid Leblanc, Human Resources Director; Eric Deroche, Emergency Preparedness Director; Amber Shepard, Public Information Office; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

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

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre, 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 Bland and seconded by Councilman Nash, the minutes of the March 18, 2020 regular meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dufresne presented this report to the council:

- My staff and I have been meeting multiple times a day, every day, with the ongoing changes of the virus and how the Parish government has had to adapt.
- I plan to extend the Employee Work From Home Order beyond its original two week period. It will be extended until further notice as per the Governor's Executive Order to extend his declaration to the end of April. The Directors and Supervisors will be in contact with their employees on Friday, to extend the order and to keep them up to date.
- As you all know, I did another Facebook live video yesterday. From the looks of it, it was very well received. We had over 20,000 views, with over 1,000 views as it was being presented. I intend to do another one next week, so if any of you would like to address anything in particular, get with me or Amber to come up with talking points. The Sheriff participated by phone. We can look into setting up a conference line, if available, for you to join in to answer any questions of things going on in each of your districts. We didn't have a lot of questions received during the video; most were received the day before.
- I received a few calls regarding building rentals and deposits. We will be refunding anyone who paid a deposit to rent a building.
- Today the Sheriff and I implemented a curfew. The Sheriff's staff and road deputies have been monitoring the movement in the community during the nighttime hours and feel like this is much needed to stop the unessential movement and gatherings that has been taking place in the community.
- Due to an abundance of requests for tree limb pickups, I've gotten with Rick and we ran the truck one or two days on each side of the river last week. We will continue with tree limb pickup.
- We entered into a CEA with the Hospital to allow them to use the Lutchter Senior Center to assist the hospital employees with their daycare needs.
- There will be no changes to the garbage pick up for residential collection. Residents are asked to be patient with the pick-up times because there is only one worker on the back of the trucks at this time as Waste Management is doing their part to practice social distancing. Residents are asked to put their garbage out the night before and not expect to have it picked up at its normal time. I ask the residents, if you can, to haul any big and bulky items to the transfer site yourself, and to be sensitive to the workers that are collecting the garbage and waste.
- Entergy has asked the public to stay away from utility employees and contractors, to abide by the social distancing order and to protect their safety.
- In addition to the COVID-19 situation, I was able to get a conference call with Congressman Garrett Graves, we discussed the possibility of additional funding for the alternative West Shore Alignment that the Corp was considering.

Chairman St. Pierre thanked President Dufresne for the Facebook live. He asked the Council Members to encourage their citizens to abide by the curfew. He asked for a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Webre's family.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comments were received on agenda items that required a vote.

PRESENTATIONS – None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 20-77, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE APRIL 1, 2020 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-78, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-79, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CHANGE ORDER #2 FROM FRICKEY BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR THE PARISH WIDE RECREATION MASTER PLAN RENOVATIONS TO THE LUTCHER BALL PARK, AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT, AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

President Dufresne asked how everyone felt about this meeting, adding that it went well. Chairman St. Pierre said it went well, and that maybe we could add more items on the next agenda.

Councilman Bland said that the Governor stated that our Region is number one on the fastest growth rate in the State. He asked that we remind everyone in our region that it is not slowing down. He added that St. James Parish is number two, per capita and remind everyone to take precautions. President Dufresne said that if we get down to only one infected person, and that person goes all around, we'll begin all over again.

Councilman Cooper asked President Dufresne, concerning the construction going on in the Parish-YCI and AMSTY, what is the protocol for them. President Dufresne said as of last Friday, YCI has been taking temperatures. He said he had conversations with the hire-ups at YCI every day last week, and finally on Friday he got them to pretty much shut their whole operation down for a solid two weeks, with just a skeleton crew. President Dufresne indicated that he is not aware of what AMSTY has done, but is thinking, unofficially, that they have done the same. Councilman Cooper said he received calls from some of his constituents asking why we don't have drive through testing. He said some of them are having anxiety with everything thing that is going on.

Amber Shepard indicated that she received complaints about construction being done in the new subdivision. Mr. Martin indicated that under the Governor's Executive Order construction is classified as an essential business. She said she received a request for a proclamation for a 100 year old birthday. Mrs. Leblanc said to send the information to her, DHR will handle.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Bland and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Linda Hubbell, Secretary