

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 4, 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, at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

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

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.

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 Amato, the minutes of the March 22, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for February 2018 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) We had an Election Day on Saturday, March 24th which brought us a brand new District 6 Council person. Yes, Council-Person or rather Councilwoman, Ms. Vondra Steib; she was the successful candidate, becoming the 1st woman to serve as Parish Council person. Another new page in St. James Parish History. The two sales tax issues for the Towns of Litcher and Gramercy both passed.
- 2) At this time I would like to wish Mr. Jarred Favorite my very best in his future endeavors. I want to commend Jarred for coming on this board as probably the youngest person to ever serve as a Councilman. I know Jarred did his best trying to represent District 6. If you think that I can assist you in any way, please let me know.
- 3) I received correspondence pertaining to certain discussions that COX Communications is having with various broadcast stations. If negotiations aren't successful by their expiration dates televising will cease abruptly. COX will be meeting their customer notification obligation through an ad in the local newspaper.
- 4) St. James Parish Economic Development will be holding a St. James Parish Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 19th from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Welcome & Tourist Information Center in Gramercy. 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.
- 5) You may recall that I announced a Job Fair to be held by Wood, seeking employment applications for the Yuhang Chemical Inc. (YCI) project scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2018. This Job Fair has been cancelled until further notice.
- 6) There will be a River Region Chamber of Commerce Annual Crawfish Boil on Thursday, April 19th from 5:30 to 8 pm to be held at the Litcher Park Pavilion. Tickets are available for \$40 per person.
- 7) Mr. Jim Tidwell with YCI asked that I invite the Parish Council, Directors and Asst. Directors to the Yuhang Chemical (YCI) crawfish boil on Friday, April 20th from 3 to 6 pm at the District 5 Welcome Park.
- 8) St. James ARC will be holding their 3rd Annual Fun Day on Sunday, April 29th at the South Vacherie & Rescue Training Center. St. James ARC relies on funding through the State of LA, United Way, membership dues, donations from businesses and industries and the support of the community. The goal of this event is to bring members of the community together to help raise awareness and funds for the St. James ARC. All proceeds benefit the St. James ARC.
- 9) I have a few reminders for you:
 - Senior Olympics will take place in Paulina Park on April 10th from 9 am to 1 pm
 - Port of South Louisiana meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th at 5 pm in LaPlace
 - St. James Parish Ag Day at the Fast Food Farm is scheduled for Friday, April 13th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President Roussel recognized parish employees with 25 or more years of service. Plaques were given to those in attendance.

Krisy Rice, Child Advocacy Services, was on hand to speak about CAS, and she received the Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- North Vacherie evacuation route project – No new update.

- North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade – Met with UP rail to finalize project specifications.
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – Culverts have been ordered.
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – email was sent this morning, waiting for reply.
- East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – update was placed in the councilmen's folder prior to the meeting. Should receive the results of the hydrologic study in another month.
- Update of Electrical Utility Franchise request – received email from one of the proposed special counsel regarding rate structure.
- Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 643 – should begin work in two weeks.
- Update on Latcher Library Landscaping Project – received the cost breakdown from nursery with a TBA of about 3 weeks for completion for both Latcher and Vacherie libraries.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-69, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE APRIL 6, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-70, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-71, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2018 AND CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-72, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH RAMBOLL US CORPORATION TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SUPPORT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-73, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2018 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-74, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TH PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES AND JOHN YOUNG; SMITH STAG, LLC; SMITH & FAWER, LLC; ALVENDIA, KELLY AND DEMAREST, LLC; ANTHONY IRPINO OF IRPINO, AVIN AND HAWKINS, LLC; CHEHARDY, SHERMAN, WILLIAMS, MURRAY, RECILE, STAKELUM & HAYES LLP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES RELATED TO DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY THE ABUSE OF OPIOIDS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for, Cooper abstaining, and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-75, A RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR LAND USE CONFORMITY FR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN 18,064 SQUARE FOOT SANCTUARY AND MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY FOR MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and was seconded by Councilman Cooper. A After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-76, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FOR INCORPORATED OF KENNER FOR THE TWO (2) 2018 F15 PASSENGER VANS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-77, A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA'S ATTEMPT TO BYPASS THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY WITHIN A CLASSIFIED RESIDENTIAL AREA OF S. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-02, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 86-37 OF THE S. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, AND TO AMEND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GENERALIZED FUTURE LAND USE PLAN, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, Kraemer, and Louque voting for and St. Pierre absent, the introduction of the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearing, which was scheduled for 6:15p.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie **AND** at 6:15 P.M. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent, Louisiana.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre was absent.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked Mr. Gravois for having the flags fixed at the Latcher fire station. Councilman Amato congratulated Mrs. Vondra on her historic election. He also expressed his appreciation

to Coach Favorite for stepping up, adding he served District 6 well and himself better. Councilman Amato congratulated Mr. Leon and Mrs. Dierdra for their years of service.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked the residents who attended the meeting.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper congratulated Mrs. Vondra on the election and expressed appreciation to Mr. Favorite for his service. Councilman Cooper inquired about the work on 3127 near Mr. Cavalier's residence. Mr. Gravois said it is on the schedule. Councilman Cooper recognized today as the 50th year of Dr. King's sacrifice.

COUNCILMAN FAVORITE – Councilman Favorite said he wrote a formal Thank You that will be published in the paper. He thanked the council for their support and added that it was a blessing to serve his community. He congratulated Mrs. Vondra and he thanked President Roussel for everything he did to help him.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested the status of S. Spruce drainage. Mr. Gravois said they should be able to start in the next two weeks. Councilman Kraemer said it was a pleasure to serve with Mr. Favorite and thanked him for everything he did.. Councilman Kraemer congratulated Mrs. Vondra on the election.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque also congratulated Mrs. Vondra and said he looks forward to serving with her. He thanked Mr. Favorite for his service and wished him best of luck in the future. Chairman Louque asked if any progress was made with Belmont St. crossing. President Roussel said he got in touch with both Senator Kennedy and Senator Cassidy's offices, adding they will help to set up a meeting with a federal railroad inspector.

DIRECTOR REPORT -

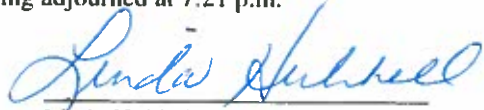
MR. HYMEL – Mr. Hymel informed the council that the nuisance mosquito program will begin in the next day or two.

MRS. WARREN – Congratulated Mrs. Vondra.

MRS. OCTAVE – Congratulated Mrs. Vondra, and wished Mr. Jarred best of luck. She informed the council that she sent them emails regarding upcoming legislative events.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Linda Hubbell
Secretary