

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 18, 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, on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. The meeting began at 7:20p.m. immediately following the public hearing.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Ralph Patin, Clyde Cooper, Vondra Etienne-Steib, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilman Jason Amato 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 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 Patin, the minutes of the April 4, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Councilman Jason Amato cannot make our meeting tonight due to his daughter, Rayni, as a senior, will be participating in the ACE Banquet. Of course, family comes 1st in these types of events. He offers his apologies to Ms. Vondra Steib for not being able to make your swearing in.
- 2) Again, I want to congratulate our brand new District 6 Councilwoman, Ms. Vondra Steib. I, along with my administration, look forward to working with you Ms. Vondra. I know some meetings with the Directors did take place towards a good orientation, and I understand that more are to come.
- 3) About the tornado event: I'd like to thank and applaud the following for their rapid response and efforts towards informing, safe-guarding and cleanup of our community. Francis Hymel & Ryan Donadieu and their Emergency Preparedness group, Blaise Gravois, Mickey Roussel and their Operations Department and Bedar Warren, Ingrid Bergeron and their DHR Group, and Amber Shepard, our PIO for their work regarding this event. Thanks also to Willy Martin and his Department. We will be having an after-action review of what took place and ponder what maybe we can improve upon. Again, thanks for your efforts.
- 4) It is during these types of events, we all should realize that nerves are shattered, frustrations are humongous and residents tend to vent. We, as an administration, are here to listen intently to the affected public and help and assist where we can. We will not, and cannot, take any of these statements personal. Although, we would love to do more, we are bound by law with limitations; however, help and assist where we can.
- 5) Our audit will begin on Monday, April 23rd where their personnel will be onsite and begin the process.
- 6) Relay for Life event was held this past Sunday. The Sunday event brought in \$18,000 on that single day. I am proud to report that another record was established. Fundraising totals went from \$230,000 in 2017 to \$312,000 for 2018. WOW! Congratulations to Ms. Brandi Louque and all of the volunteers.
- 7) I want to make you aware of the Mississippi River level and the impact it is having on our permitting system. Of course, you all know that once the level reach 11 feet on the Carrollton gage all work within 1500 feet from the crest of the levee has to cease. The current level is at 14.4 feet and expected to only be at 13.5 in the middle of May. We are receiving a lot of complaints with residents wanting to move forward with their construction projects. I am sorry to say that this is out of our hands as the USACE and Levee Districts needs everyone to follow their strict rules for our own protection.
- 8) I have a few reminders for you:
 - River Region Chamber of Commerce Annual Crawfish Boil on Thursday, April 19th from 5:30 to 8 pm to be held at the Lucher Park Pavilion
 - Yuhuang Chemical (YCI) crawfish boil on Friday, April 20th from 3 to 6 pm at the District 5 Welcome Park
 - St. James ARC's 3rd Annual Fun Day on Sunday, April 29th at the South Vacherie & Rescue Training Center
 - 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

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

River Parish Tourist Commission Representative Buddy Boe was not in attendance.

Mr. Tommy Scott presented the Workforce Investment Agency annual report.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS -

RESOLUTION 18-78, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DR. ROLAND WAGUESPACK TO THE HOSPITAL BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- North Vacherie evacuation route project – waiting on right of ways.
- North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade – waiting on final plan from UP Rail.
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – culverts have been ordered.
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – email has been sent, no response received. Councilman St. Pierre will make inquiries.
- Update of Electrical Utility Franchise request – a meeting is set up with DEMCO next week.
- Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 643 – delayed due to inclement weather.
- Update on the Lutcher Library Landscaping Project – delayed due to weather.
- Status Update on Emergency Notification to residents without cell phones or computers – still in contract with current vendor. Mr. Hymel located another vendor who can possibly fix what we are trying to do. He added that they are looking into buying out the current contract.

NEW BUSINESS

President Roussel said effective August 1, 2014, a new requirement of the annual millage process was changed and stipulated that the adoption of renewal of ad valorem tax must be announced at a public meeting and published in the official journal no more than 60 days nor less than 30 days for such a public meeting. He said this announcement is to inform the public of these renewal for which the public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at the Courthouse Annex in Vacherie. He added that the notice will be published in the April 26th edition of the News Examiner-Enterprise. President Roussel then read aloud the public notice that will be published in the paper.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the St. James Parish Council will meet on WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex, located at 2631 LA Highway 20 in Vacherie, LA at which time the Parish Council will adopt the renewal of the following ad valorem taxes: PUBLIC BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE and PARISHWIDE ROAD & BRIDGE MAINTENANCE.

RESOLUTION 18-79, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE APRIL 20, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-80, 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 Patin. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-81, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE TITLE VI PLAN FOR ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-82, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF DÉCOR SHOPPE, INC. FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH RADIO ROOM FLOORING, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-83, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF XYBIX SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH RADIO ROOM CONSOLE FURNITURE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-84, A RESOLUTION IN PROCLAIMING APRIL 2018 AS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING LAW MONTH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-85, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT ROUSSEL TO SIGN THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SMALL & EMERGING BUSINESS PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-86, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BID RECEIVED BY CAZENAVE MOTOR COMPANY FOR (1) FORD EXPLORER AS A "PIGGY BACK" PURCHASE OF (1) FORD EXPLORER FOR LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-87, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND/OR EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GET HIGH ON LIFE, INC., was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

After President Roussel pointed out that the date in the resolution needed to be changed from April 18, 2017 to April 18, 2018, **RESOLUTION 18-88, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF ADAMS AND REESE, L.L.P. TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO THE PARISH ADMINISTRATION AND THE COUNCIL REGARDING PROPOSED FRANCHISES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and

was seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-89, A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-90, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR CO., INC. FOR A 2018 THREE QUARTER TON PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-91, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR CO., INC. FOR (2) 2018 HALF TON PICK TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-92, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF EMPIRE TRUCK SALES, LLC FOR THE HEAVY DUTY GRAPPLE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer thanked Ms. Rhonda Colar Myers for the advance notification about the electrical outage schedule for this Saturday in some areas in the 6th and 7th districts from 7am to 10am, to allow Entergy to move the power lines over to the new school. Councilman Kraemer reminded everyone of the ARC fundraiser on April 29th. He informed everyone of the Hwy 20 taskforce meeting this Friday at 9am at the Vacherie Annex. Councilman Kraemer congratulated Mrs. Vondra and said he looks forward to working with her.

COUNCILWOMAN STEIB – Councilwoman Steib thanked the voters of District 6 for entrusting her with their voice. She thanked her family for their support. Mr. Gravois answered her questions regarding the 6th District projects on the agenda. Councilwoman Steib asked for someone to look at the ditch at 1238 Collins Street. She also requested a riding tour of her district to look at the current projects. Councilwoman asked for the guidelines for the West Bank rental.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper congratulated Mrs. Vondra and said he looks forward to working with her. He also thanked the residents who attended the meeting, both for and against the Land Use Plan. Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Gravois to follow up on a complaint about Waste Management knocking down a mailbox. He also inquired about the progress on the drainage on 3127. Mr. Gravois indicated it is on the schedule.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin welcomed Mrs. Vondra to the St. James family.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato as absent.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre also welcomed Mrs. Vondra and offered assistance to her. He added that she had a historic win. Councilman St. Pierre thanked those who helped with the work on the canals. He also thanked Ms. Rhonda and Ms. Flo for the help with the lights at the park and thanked the Town of Gramercy for the waterline. He said park B is being improved. Councilman St. Pierre also reminded everyone about the ARC fundraiser to help the disadvantaged citizen of our community.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque congratulated Mrs. Vondra and welcomed her to the Council. Chairman Louque asked for the progress of Belmont Lane crossing. Mr. Gravois indicated that the Railroad Inspector gave 30 days to fix the crossing. He also inquired about the progress of the right of way for the major outfall canals. Mr. Gravois said they are still working it. Chairman Louque verified with Mr. Gravois that permits are moving forward in the process, just not being issued due to the water elevation. Chairman Louque thanked everyone involved for the response for the tornado event. Chairman Louque said he received a complaint that the boil water advisory was not issued prior to the water being cut off. Mr. Gravois indicated the valve broke while they were working.

President Roussel said years ago we didn't have boil water advisories. He applauded Mr. Gravois and his crew for stepping up and doing what is right to protect our citizens from any unhealthy situation with the water. He said we have a responsibility to our residents.

Councilman Cooper thanked Ms. Rhonda at Entergy for the support to Greater Grace Charter Academy.

Chairman Louque said CPRA plan looks like it is moving well and he will continue to monitor it and asked if some of the council members could be involved with the flood risk and resilience assessment.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Blaise Gravois thanked those who showed up to help with the tornado. He added his crew cleared up everything in a two day period.

Chantal Waguespack informed the council that the March 2018 R&E report was sent and approval will be on the next agenda. She congratulated Mrs. Vondra.

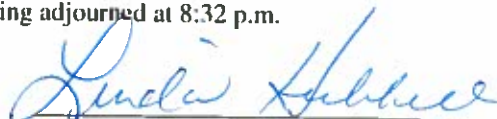
Bedar Warren congratulated Mrs. Vondra. She thanked Tommy Scott for being very supportive of DHR initiatives and Entergy for supporting the Spring Mixer. She added that the Youth Commission is hosting their 3rd Annual Spring Mixer on June 22nd for the ARC and disabled residents, saying support from Entergy and YCI has made it possible.

Francis Hymel said there was no watches or warning prior to the tornado. He said The National Weather Center went frame by frame to see if there was something that they could pick up and said there was only one blip that they wouldn't have caught watching the radar. He congratulated Mrs. Steib and offered assistance.

Michelle Octave congratulated Mrs. Vondra. She applauded Miss Pam for the St. James magazine. She informed every one of the Star Gazing Event at the Vacherie library at 5pm tomorrow. She also reminded all business that it is time to renew their occupational licenses and only those with up to date licenses will be invited to the small business appreciation event.

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 8:32 p.m.



Linda Hubbell
Secretary