

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 2, 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, on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. The meeting began at 7:34p.m., following the public hearing.

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; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; 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. Mr. Vic Franckiewicz 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 Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the April 18, 2018 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the April 18, 2018 regular meeting minutes were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) I want to remind the Councilmen that the spreadsheet for the Summer College Student Worker Program is in your folders. Please make your choices and send them in to our Personnel Manager as soon as you can.
- 2) From reading the most recent reports from the Lafourche Basin and the Pontchartrain Levee Districts, it seems as though we will continue to experience extra high water levels into June, thus hampering our permit process. Of course, you all know that some of our residents are getting antsy wanting to complete their projects.
- 3) We had a Capital Area United Way site visit recently. The agency informed us that they received \$1 million less than last years program. St. James Parish organizations will be facing approximately a 30% reduction in funds received.
- 4) With Formosa's announcement in St. James Parish last Monday, it offers us, all of us as elected officials, some specific challenges. One of those challenges are to get our young people, high school students and young adults alike, to become work ready. In working with our school system, through Next 25, a Jump Start Program was introduced four years ago. On top of that, ACT: Work Ready Community (or St. James Works) was introduced. With all that mentioned, we are actually helping these youngsters in stacking credentials on their resumes. Last night there was an awards banquet recognizing at least 65 successful students participating in the ProStart, Cosmopolitan Classes, Welding, Pipe Fitting, Instrument & Electrical, Process Technical, etc., etc.
- 5) I would like to thank Councilwoman Vondra Steib and Councilman Jason Amato for joining us in Baton Rouge today for the Police Jury Association Legislative Day. I am here to report that our former Councilman Ken Brass is staying pretty busy in his new role these days sitting in committee hearings.
- 6) I have a few reminders for you:
 - Fire Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8th at the Union / Convent Fire Station at 6:30 pm
 - LEPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9th at the EOC for 10 am
 - Senior Citizens Health Fair is scheduled for May 16th at the St. James Parish Reception Center from 9 am to 1 pm
 - 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 Fj !!!

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Bedar Warren, along with Eva Coleman and Milton Cayette, recognized the Community Action Partners and presented each with a plaque.

Charles Dennis with South Louisiana Human Services was on hand to receive the Mental Health Proclamation and he said he hopes to continue the partnership and looks forward to doing business in the future.

President Roussel said Rep. Brass was able to get two resolutions passed through the House of Representatives, National Travel and Tourism Week and National Economic Development Week. Representative Brass was not able to attend the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- North Vacherie evacuation route project – a meeting is scheduled tomorrow with the abstractor
- North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade – began the drainage work associated with the project
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – waiting for culverts to be delivered
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – email will be sent to Schexnayder and Price
- Update of Electrical Utility Franchise Request – had meeting yesterday with 3 Co-ops, DEMCO, Pointe Coupee, and SELCA
- Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 643 – should start in about 2 weeks
- Update on Lutcher Library Landscaping Project – should begin planting within the next two weeks.
- Emergency notification to residents without cell phones or computers – OEP had a webinar with a possible vendor. A contract was sent to Mr. Martin for review to possibly get it on the next agenda.
- East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – update was included in packet prior to the meeting. The hydrology study has been completed and in discussions to move forward.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Amato moved to amend proposed Ordinance No. 18-02 by adding the following sentence at the end of Section 2: "This ordinance shall not apply to any approval granted prior to the effective date pursuant to Section 86-37(e) or (f), or to any permit issued pursuant to Chapter 18 prior to the effective date." Councilman Patin offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

ORDINANCE 18-02, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 86-37 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, AND TO AMEND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GENERALIZED FUTURE LAND USE PLAN, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Patin offered a second and after a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-93, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MAY 4, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-94, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-95, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2018 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-96, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-97, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, SYSTEMS AND RELATED SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-98, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH GREATER GRACE CHARTER ACADEMY, INC. FOR THE USE OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED IN THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX IN VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 8:20p.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 Franckiewicz, President Roussel, Legal Advisor Cody Martin, and Blaise Gravois withdrew to an adjoining chamber to discuss "*Lamar Contractors, LLC v. SRF Group Consulting, LLC, et al.*," No. 36,600 "D", 23rd Judicial District Court, St. James Parish, Louisiana. All returned at 8:35p.m., and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman Louche informed the public that no action was taken at this time.

At this time, Councilman St. Pierre moved to authorize the administration to pursue a claim against the 5th District Multipurpose Building's bonding company in the litigation styled "*Lamar Contractors, LLC v. SRF Group Consulting, LLC, et al.*," No. 36,600 "D", 23rd Judicial District Court, St. James Parish, Louisiana. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre thanked the Mayor of Gramercy for attending meeting. He expressed well wishes to Mickey Roussel. Councilman St. Pierre thanked the parish administration for having the ditches dug in District, and asked for the grass to be cut at the canals between airline highway and the track. He also

expressed his appreciation to the recreation department and everyone involved for assisting with the tournament this past weekend.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato congratulated the ARC for a successful Fun Day on Sunday. He said it's great how our community supports this organization. Councilman Amato wished a speedy recovery to Mickey Roussel. Councilman Amato asked for the status of grass to be cut on the median between the railroad and the traffic light. Mr. Gravois said the contractor will look into it. Councilman Amato congratulated and welcomed Vondra to the Council.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper thanked the 5th District community for coming out to support and express their concerns. He also thanked the Council for their support and he thanked Mr. Franckiewicz for his assistance and for the information. Councilman Cooper sent well wished to Mr. Mickey.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib wished a speedy recover to Mr. Mickey Roussel.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer expressed thanks for the outstanding job on the Harry Town drainage project. Councilman Kraemer requested the status of the cameras. Mr. Gravois said they are working with IT to put a package together.

At this time Councilman St. Pierre wished Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and the mothers-to-be.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque asked for a timeframe to repair the railroad. Mr. Gravois said it is scheduled for May 4th and should take 4-5 hours. Chairman Louque asked if the right of ways for the old Bourbon Canal have been received. Mr. Gravois indicated that they have some but not all. Chairman Louque expressed his appreciation for the work on the outfall canals in Gramercy and asked if there are plans to do work on canals coming from Lucher into Paulina/Grand Point. Mr. Gravois said that the equipment needs to be moved to different areas of the district. He said we still have a lot of work to go.

DIRECTOR REPORT -

MR. GRAVOIS – Mr. Gravois said he was amazed at the support for the ARC Fun Day, adding it was a great event.

MRS. WAGUESPACK – Extended an invitation to Mrs. Vondra for a meeting.

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 8:50 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A PUBLIC HEARING HELD BY
THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met for a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent, LA, at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

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.

Chairman Louque then called the Public Hearing on the following items to order:

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-02, - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 86-37 OF THE
ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, AND TO AMEND THE ST. JAMES PARISH
GENERALIZED FUTURE LAND USE PLAN**

After Secretary Hubbell read the ordinance aloud, Councilman Cooper said there is a lot of misinformation going on out there about the change being implemented in the 5th District, which is not true. He said mainly what they are putting in place, is protection for that area, like other areas in the parish. He added that it causes industry to go through a more stringent process before they can locate.

The following made comments:

1. Sebastian West, 6258 LA 44
2. Pastor Marshall Cooper, 8120 Kingview St.
3. Gail Jones LeBeouf, 7581 N. Ezidore
4. Barbara Washington, 8191 Pleasant Hill St.
5. Diane Spencer, 8260 Kingview St.
6. Doris Thomas Sutherland, 7252 Freetown St.
7. Nathaniel Braud, 8201 Wood St.
8. Lawrence Ambrose, 6174 Burton St.
9. Gaynell Nelson, 7210 Freetown St.
10. Randy Anny, 9336 Hwy 44
11. Pastor Harry Joseph, 10627 Hwy 18
12. Keith Matirne, 8421 Hwy 18
13. Marceline Washington, 8256 Pleasantville St.

Mr. Vic Franckiewicz said the way commercial operations would come in, either with the current plan or the proposed residential growth, it would have to go through a process. He indicated that there is an area in the 5th district that is already designated for commercial use and that would not require a process unless it was over 10,000 sq. ft.

Councilman Cooper said people are dealing with health issues, and they are not against industry, but they are against the location of them. He said again that there is a lot of misinformation out there that just isn't true. He said they want the same protection that all the other areas are getting.

Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Franckiewicz to elaborate on how South Louisiana Methanol would be impacted with the implementation of the change. Mr. Franckiewicz said they received a two part approval in 2014. One is for the plant as original permitted by DEQ and the second is for an expansion, for uses similar to the plant. He added that as long as they stay within the two parameters they have already received their land approval and this ordinance would not affect that land use. He said if they came in for a different process or different type of plant the old approval would not hold and it would fall under the new restrictions. He said there is one thing about the Methanol plant that is still affected, at the permit level, their emergency response and fire protections plans must be approved.

Councilman Kraemer verified with Mr. Franckiewicz that whether we change the land use plan or don't change the land use plan it won't affect Louisiana Methanol. Mr. Franckiewicz said that is correct, as long as they stick with the same plan.

After determining no additional comments were forthcoming, and that no written comments were filed with the Secretary on the above items, Chairman Louque then declared the hearing adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary