

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 15, 2019**

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, May 15, 2019, at 6:38 p.m., following the Public Hearings.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Council Members Clyde Cooper and Vondra Etienne-Steib were absent.

On a request from Councilman St. Pierre, Secretary Hubbell stated that Councilwoman Etienne-Steib was absent due to a death in the family.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Timmy Roussel, Parish President; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; and Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources; 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the May 1, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) I would like to thank the task force for their 3 years of dedication of monthly meetings and coming up with what I agree was our best and only affordable option. However, the voice of the people was loud; they are not ready for more taxes. With St. John Parish's 16 feet levee being imminent & Ascension Parish working to protect their community of Sorrento, we are left with being a funnel for backwater. May God watch over & protect us as weather conditions continue to worsen.
- 2) Men's Softball begins Monday evening in Paulina Park.
- 3) Mississippi River level at the Carrollton gauge is at a 16.99-foot level. Bonnet Carre reopening is taking place. Tensions are still a little high and every precaution is being taken regarding the levee situation.
- 4) OxyChem Convent recently received their OSHA Star VPP recertification. This is a very distinguished honor to participate and receive OSHA Star status. OxyChem Convent has been in the OSHA VPP program for 28 YEARS. At Convent, OxyChem is the 2nd OSHA VPP site within all OxyChem sites across the nation to be an OSHA Star site 28 years ago. Congratulations Oxy!!!
- 5) The Department of Labor is presently conducting a monitoring thru tomorrow, May 16th in DHR.
- 6) I have a few reminders for you:
 - St. James Parish Hospital is offering blood screening (such as we did recently) on May 15th – 17th
 - Lucher and St. James High Schools are holding their commencement exercises on Friday, May 17th
 - Monday, May 27th is a scheduled St. James Parish Holiday.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlotte Martinez, the SJH Battalion Commander and Chairperson for the Youth Council, shared details about the St. James High and Lucher High Battalion's Anti-Litter Program.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 19-101, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BRAD POCHE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-102, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CAMILLA ST PIERRE-LANDRY AS THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT TO THE RIVER PARISHES TOURIST COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-103, A RESOLUTION TO APPOINTING KIMBERLY MARTIN TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – no new update
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – Councilman St. Pierre requested work to begin this week, after the materials are received.
- Hwy 3125 Left Turn Lane Concept – waiting for a response from Aaron Elisar to schedule a meeting.

At this time, Councilman Amato made a motion to deviate from the agenda to allow public comment on any specific agenda item and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the motion carried.

Mrs. Wanda Pierre, 13313 Walnut Street, Vacherie, made comment on the District 5 Alternate Access Route.
Rev. Harry Joseph, 10627 Hwy 18, St. James, made comment on the District 5 Alternate Access Route.

Councilman St. Pierre made a motion to remove RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO AND/OR EXECUTE A CONTRACT/AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH T. BAKER SMITH, LLC FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT OVER THE EAST BANK INNER LEVEE PROJECT from the agenda. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Kraemer made a motion to table CONSIDERATION OF APPEAL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S APPROVAL OF SYNGAS ENERGY HOLDING, LLC LAND USE APPLICATION until the May 29, 2019 meeting since two council members were absent. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the motion carried.

Councilman Amato made a motion to table ORDINANCE 19-05, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CHANGING OF THE NAME OF YOUTH CENTER STREET TO LIFE HOUSE STREET IN DISTRICT 5, ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA to the May 29, 2019 meeting to allow Councilman Cooper to be present. Councilman Patin offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the motion carried.

ORDINANCE 19-06, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADOPTED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2019 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-104, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MAY 17, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-105, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-106, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE V BUDGET BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019-2020, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted, contingent upon legal review of all pertinent documents.

RESOLUTION 19-107, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE IIIB, III-C-1, IIIC-2, III-D AND IIIE, AND OTHER CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019-2020, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted, contingent upon legal review of all pertinent documents.

RESOLUTION 19-108, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE V, AND OTHER CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019-2020, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted, contingent upon legal review of all pertinent documents.

RESOLUTION 19-109, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE III BUDGET BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019-2020, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted, contingent upon legal review of all pertinent documents.

After Ryan Larousse, Utilities Manager, answered the Councilman's questions, **RESOLUTION 19-110, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT THE EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TANNER INDUSTRIES, INC. AND ST. JAMES WATER UTILITIES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 19-07, AN AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Cooper and Etienne-Steib absent, the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearing, which was scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, May 29, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer commended the Youth Council for taking initiative to organize a parish wide cleanup. Councilman Kraemer expressed condolence to Councilwomen Etienne-Steib and requested a condolence letter be sent on behalf of the council.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib was absent.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper was absent.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato sent sympathy and prayers to Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and her family. Councilman Amato thank the task force for three busy years. He said they will continue to work, and they recognize some opportunity for drainage and will move forward. Councilman Amato thanked President Roussel and Rep. Clay Schexnayder for working to have an early voting location in Lucher. Councilman Amato congratulated all graduates and wished them the best of success in their futures. Councilman Amato recognized the two police officers at the meeting, stating this week is Police Appreciation Week, and the thanked them for all that they do.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre expressed condolence to Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and her family. Councilman St. Pierre requested to have the property owner contacted to allow grass cutting along Hot Water Ditch along Hwy 61 past the fence. Councilman St. Pierre requested to get the cost of the projects that were mentioned and the cost of the proposed District 5 engineering study that was proposed a couple of years back. Councilman St. Pierre stated that the voters spoke and that there are activities that can be done in the meantime to help out with drainage. Councilman St. Pierre said it is good to see young student getting involved in the parish and commended the cadets that attended the meeting today.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque offered condolence to Councilwoman Etienne-Steib.

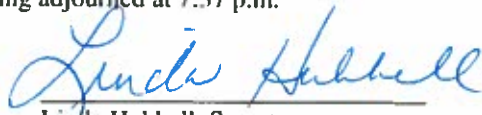
DIRECTOR REPORT

CHANTAL WAGUESPACK – said they presented the amended budget and there was talk tonight about the \$800,000 for the inner levee alignment. She indicated if there is a way to quantify the projects that were referred to, maybe it would be possible to include those amendments in the proposed ordinance introduced earlier.

Chairman Louque stated that Mrs. Octave and Mr. Hymel were absent.

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 7:37 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary