

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 16, 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 Vacherie, Louisiana, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

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; Jywanna Octave, 911 Supervisor; Ingrid LeBlanc, Assistant 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 Patin and seconded by Councilman Kraemer, the minutes of the May 2, 2018 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the May 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Our Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board could not have their meeting this past Monday evening due to the lack of a quorum. We presently have four (4) vacant seats on this board. I am asking you guys to please consider filling the positions to help the board even if it has to be with residents residing outside of your districts. I will ask Ms. Shepard to post a notice on FB inquiring if anyone may be interested. Hopefully the people who are truly interested in a clean Parish will step up and volunteer.
- 2) Last meeting I announced to you that we would be receiving a 30% reduction in funds received from Capital Area United Way. After further conversations with the agency, it will actually be a 15% reduction.
- 3) Sonic Drive-In reopened recently in the Gramercy area. In speaking to the General Manager, this business will employ right at 30 employees, mostly young people, giving them something to do and a way to raise much needed money. On top of all of that, there food is good also.
- 4) As a reminder the Farmer's Market is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Welcome & Tourist Information Center in Gramercy. We have nine (9) vendors signed up to participate.
- 5) We have our 1st tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico. We are being reassured that there is no local impact expected.
- 6) There will be a franchise discussion taking place tomorrow morning, Thursday, May 17th in Convent.
- 7) After three (3) years of meetings with the East Bank Drainage and Flood Protection Task Force and following the groups final presentation not long ago, we are considering asking the Parish Council for help and support in calling for a referendum election. I made contact with Hugh Martin's office to solicit a timeline for the December 8, 2018 election. Verbally, I was told our 1st initial announcement in a public meeting need to be accomplished by June 27, 2018 with a resolution being brought before the council by August 8, 2018. We will be having additional discussions with the Pontchartrain Levee District seeking their help, whether the help will be able to come by way of maintenance or reducing our cost projections. I just want to make you aware of conversations being held. Of course, Council Chairman Ryan Louque, along with Council Jason Amato & Alvin St. Pierre and Mr. Blaise Gravois can add more details if needed.
- 8) By now, all of you should have received an invitation to the Governor's Mansion for an event on Thursday, May 24, 2018. The Governor has invited all of the elected Parish & Municipal officials from the River Parishes. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Frazier, 1289 Hwy 18, addressed the council regarding her utilities name change deposits. Mr. Gravois provided a copy of the ordinance to the council and then he explained the process. Mr. Martin offered a suggestion and said he would research the issue.

Todd Louque, 3411 S. Angelle, addressed the council on a drainage issue in the South Angelle/North Angelle area. Mr. Gravois provided a satellite image map of the area and a diagram with elevations for drainage, and he provided an explanation of the drainage issues in the area.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-99, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING AMANDA DELATTE AS THE DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.** Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-100, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CAMILLA LANDRY AS THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-101, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JANET JOHNSON AS THE DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-102, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHARLES FARLOUGH AS THE DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-103, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BRENDA MELANCON AS THE DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-104, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TERENCE JONES AS THE DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-105, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRUCE DELATTE AS THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE RIVER PARISHES TOURIST COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- North Vacherie evacuation route project – no additional update.
- North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade – still waiting for UP rail engineer to give final decision. Began digging drainage ditch from 3127 north towards the railroad track.
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – culverts will be ordered.
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – Senators Lambert's office made contact with KCS. Should receive a call or email from KCS any day.
- Update of Electrical Utility Franchise Request – meeting tomorrow with special counsel to continue the patch forward.
- Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 643 – no additional update.
- Update on Lucher/Vacherie Library Landscaping Project – should start by the end of this week.
- Emergency notification to residents without cell phones or computers – following up with another company and should have a contract for the next meeting.
- Status update on North Spruce Drainage project – on the work load.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-106, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MAY 18, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-107, 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 Patin. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-108, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2018 AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-109, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SYSTEM SURVEY AND COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-110, A RESOLUTION FOR ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and after a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor, and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-111, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BID RECEIVED BY CAZENAVE MOTOR CO., INC. FOR TWO (2) 2018 HALF TON PICKUP TRUCKS AS A "PIGGY BACK" PURCHASE OF (2) 2018 HALF TON PICKUP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF

OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-112, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A CHLORINE BUILDING AT THE WEST BANK WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN VACHERIE, LA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-113, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FORD, INC., FOR ONE (1) 2018 FORD EXPEDITION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-114, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-115, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL, SR. TO SIGN A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH AJ SMITH CAJUN COMEDIAN AS ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE 2018 SMALL BUSINESS APPRECIATION DINNER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote showing, St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-116, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BID RECEIVED BY EMPIRE TRUCK SALES, LLC AS A "PIGGY BACK" PURCHASE OF A FREIGHTLINER 114SD WITH ROLL OFF HOIST 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.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-03, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADOPTED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2018 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offer by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato 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, May 30, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-04, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADOPTED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2018 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offer by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque voting in favor and Amato 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, May 30, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested condolence letters be sent to the families of Mr. George Reulet and Ms. Belta Inness, who recently passed away.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she has been receiving calls of inquiry. She thanked Mr. Gravois for answering her questions and assisting her. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she received a concern from a resident saying he had an angle valve replaced in his yard and said he didn't feel like it was properly done, kind of messy. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she went to see the work and took pictures, which she shared with Mr. Gravois. She said we need to do better communicating with our constituents when utilities are being turned off when work is required. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she received a complaint from a resident, near the housing authority, about a foul smell and noise. This resident also requested speed bumps. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib provided her with the necessary steps to obtain the speed bumps. Councilwoman Etienne Steib apologized to Mr. Gravois for canceling the riding tour and she thanked Mrs. Waguespack for reaching out to her.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper requested the timeline for the work near Mr. Cavalier's residence. Mr. Gravois said the work order is in place and could not give an exact date. Councilman Cooper also requested the status of work on the newly asphalted road in Lemannville, pot holes on Geason St., and Dennis St. Mr. Gravois indicated that a work order for Dennis St. has been submitted.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato was absent.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre requested a letter be sent to Senator Lambert for his quick response for the KCS issue. Councilman St. Pierre said he is trying to get some people to serve on the Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board. Councilman St. Pierre said he is happy to hear that Mr. Mickey Roussel has returned to work.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque asked, as part of the road program, if they are filling in some of the asphalted street with gravel. Mr. Gravois indicated that some streets call for it and some not. Chairman Louque requested asked for the status of the ditch behind Lake Perique Dr. Mr. Gravois said the right of way was marked out today. Chairman Louque asked for the time frame for the culverts that were ordered for Angelle St. Mr. Gravois said the culverts are in and should be replacing on S. Angelle on Monday or Tuesday. Chairman Louque asked about streets in Longview subdivision. Mr. Gravois said after S. Angelle St. they will move to Humble St. then into Longview.

At this time, Councilwoman Etienne-Steib asked Mr. Gravois if the policy for utility deposits should be revisited. Mr. Gravois indicated that the Council can address the fees at any time.


DIRECTOR REPORT -

INGRID LEBLANC – Mrs. LeBlanc reminded everyone that it is Community Action Month. She informed the council that they are honoring their entire staff this month for their hard work with the residents. President Roussel said there was a health fair today at the West Bank Hall. He added the event was well attended and commended the employees.

MICHELLE OCTAVE – Mrs. Octave reminded everyone of the Farmer's Market this Saturday. She said the Travel and Tourist Week was a success. Mrs. Octave informed the council that they are in the process of reviewing the Code of Ordinance and that council will receive a draft by the next meeting. She also reminded the Council that the invitation to the Business Appreciation dinner will be sent to those with updated occupational licenses.

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 Kraemer and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary