

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

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

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Mickey Roussel, Assistant Director of Operations; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid LeBlanc, Assistant Director of Human Resources; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Cooper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Eddie Kraemer, Vice-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

There was no public hearing on May 16, 2018.

On a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the May 16, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Good news on the Mississippi River water level; it has subsided below the 11 foot mark on the Carrollton gage in New Orleans. We have the green light to move forward with our jobs that were on hold.
- 2) On June 5th & June 7th our Transit system will have limited bus service. There is a mandatory training for our drivers on those two days. Letting you know in the event you receive calls.
- 3) At the last Council meeting I mentioned to all of you that the East Bank Drainage and Flood Protection Task Force was interested in calling for a referendum for the December 8, 2018 election. The timeline for the schedule of events, including announcements, notices, and a resolution for the call of an election is included in your folders. Again, of course, Council Chairman Ryan Louque, along with Council Jason Amato & Alvin St. Pierre and Mr. Blaise Gravois can add more details if needed.
- 4) We are finalizing our annual "State of the Parish" report shortly. Expect to find it in your mailboxes within a month or so.
- 5) We did receive one quote for the Juvenile Detention Center, tomorrow, of course, is the deadline at the end of the business day. Expect to see them get opened at the June 13th meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Keri Walker presented the Library Board's Annual Report. President Roussel said the library has come to life within the last couple of years.

Carol Schexnyder, Forrestal Street, Vacherie, addressed the council regarding a violation of restrictions in the R&L Bourgeois subdivision on Forrestal Street. Mr. Martin said Parishes do not enforce building restrictions in subdivisions. He added that if a Parish Ordinance was violated, the Parish has the right to get involved. Councilman Kraemer requested the Parish consult with Mr. Vic Franckiewicz to ensure there is no violation of a Parish ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Letter was received from Assessor Glenn Waguespack requesting the Council schedule a Board of Review to hear protest from taxpayers on their 2018 assessments.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-117, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARY WALKER AS DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD**. Councilman Amato 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 – no additional update
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – no additional update.
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – Councilman St. Pierre will reach out to Senator Price and Representative Schexnyder for assistance.
- Update of Electrical Utility Franchise Request – meeting two weeks ago with Special Counsel, he will contact attorneys for the Co-ops to begin negotiations.
- Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 643 – no additional update.
- Update on Lucher/Vacherie Library Landscaping Project – trees and shrubs have been ordered.
- Emergency notification to residents without cell phones or computers – this item is being addressed later on the agenda tonight.

- Status update on North Spruce Drainage project – no additional update

ORDINANCE 18-03, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADOPTED TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2018 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor, and Louque absent, the ordinance was adopted.

ORDINANCE 18-04, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADOPTED TAX MILLAGE RATES FOR THE YEAR 2018 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor, and Louque absent, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-118, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JUNE 1, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-119, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-120, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE *NEWS EXAMINER-ENTERPRISE* AS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-121, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC. FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS SOFTWARE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-122, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH EVERBRIDGE, INCORPORATED FOR EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-123, A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PROVIDENCE ENGINEERING AND DESIGN, LLC TO COMPLETE A LIGHTING PHOTOMETRIC ANALYSIS ALONG HIGHWAY 641, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-05, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-127 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC; UNIFORM PROCEDURES AND FEES, was introduced on a motion offer by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer, voting in favor and Louque 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, June 13, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

At this time Council Vice-Chairman Kraemer requested to amend the agenda to discuss software issues. Councilman Amato offered a motion to amend and seconded by Councilman Patin. At this time Vice-Chairman Kraemer asked for comments from the public. There were no public comments. A roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the motion was accepted.

Mr. Hymel informed the council that for the past three to four months they have been fighting with email problems and storage area network problems in the EOC. He said they were getting ready to go through the RFP process to get an updated Office 365 and Cloud Storage. He said what he is requesting tonight is to have an Emergency Declaration to move towards Office 365 to get some of the burden off of their storage area network. Mr. Hymel then shared details of the recent email problems. He added with the height of hurricane season approaching, the earliest they could get the RFP received back would be the middle of July and by the time they would get everything switched over we would be in the heart of hurricane season. Mr. Martin said they have been working on this for a while and informed the council that this is a service but also a software. He added Mr. Hymel has already has quotes, under a different process. Mr. Martin said it's up to the council if they want to vote to proceed to a contract under an emergency declaration. After a brief discussion, and Mr. Hymel answering the council's questions, Vice-Chairman Kraemer then asked for public comment. After no public comment or additional comments from the council were received, Councilman Amato offered a motion for an emergency declaration for Office 365 and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote showing, St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer in favor and Louque absent, the motion passed.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she was contact by Percy Luke, because American Legion Post #565 was not able to use the firehouse. She added that Mr. Hymel will research the issue. She inquired information about whose is responsible for placing road signs. President Roussel explained DOTD and offered to send her the contact information. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib also inquired about the Recreation Board. Mr. Mickey Roussel provided the information.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked if the leveling of the river gives the all-clear to building permits, both residential and commercial. President Roussel confirmed, yes. Councilman Cooper expressed condolence to the family of Mr. Larry Saul and to Ms. Elaine Lewis, whose son passed away. Councilman Cooper said he heard on the news that the Governor signed into law an *In God We Trust* statement, to be posted in all public schools. He added that there is supposed to be a teaching to the students to understand of where this statement comes from. He said that was a good move for Louisiana and extended gratitude to the Governor, State Legislature and Senators on that accomplishment.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato asked Mr. Mickey to send him with an update of the security lighting at Lucher Park. Councilman Amato thanked Councilman Kraemer and Mr. Hymel for the work for the Everbridge notification system. He also requested the status of the cell phone policy. Mr. Hymel said some additional changes are needed. Councilman Amato congratulated all 2018 graduates.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre welcomed back Mr. Mickey Roussel. Councilman St. Pierre congratulated the summer workers, who will begin work on June 4th. He also thanked Councilman Kraemer for the excellent job as being Chairman at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque was absent.

VICE-CHAIRMAN KRAEMER – Vice-Chairman Kraemer also expressed condolence to the family of Mr. Larry Saul. He thanked Mr. Francis Hymel for a fine job on the emergency contract and expressed appreciation for completing it in a timely fashion. Councilman Kraemer said he received a request for curb site pick up of refrigerators and freezers. He added the resident's concern was that refrigerant is supposed to be removed from the system prior to disposal. President Roussel said he will research this issue.

DIRECTOR REPORT -

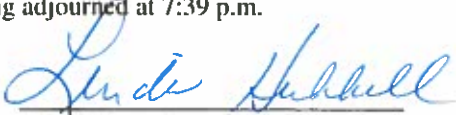
MICKEY ROUSSEL – Mr. Roussel thanked everyone for the prayers.

MICHELLE OCTAVE – Mrs. Octave expressed condolence to Tammie Bodin and her family for the loss of their mother. She said the US Treasury Department has granted certification to about 150 zones in Louisiana. She said Districts 4 and 5 have been approved and the US Treasury as not yet sent the guidelines.

FRANCIS HYMEL – Mr. Hymel said they already had a dry run, for a storm, before June 1st. He said emails and press releases were sent.

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 Amato and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary