

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 12, 2019**

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, June 12, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Cooper 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 29, 2019 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the May 29, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michelle Octave provided this report in the absence of President Roussel:

President Roussel would like to thank everyone who attended the Business Appreciation Dinner last night, adding that they hope more businesses would take advantage of the resources that are presented. She said they are hoping to increase the numbers even more and welcome comments from the businesses to support their endeavors to continue to outreach on their behalf.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment was received from the Public.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The letter received from Assessor Glenn Waguespack requesting to schedule the Board of Review for September 18, 2019 was read aloud by Secretary Hubbell.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – Sen. Price will send another letter to the industries. There is possible grant funding with a July 19th deadline.
- Hwy 3125 Left Turn Lane Concept – Councilman Amato requested Mr. Gravois set up a meeting with DOTD.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-122, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JUNE 14, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-123, 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 Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-124, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2019 AS HOMEOWNERSHIP 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 19-125, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE NEWS EXAMINER-ENTERPRISE AS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-126, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF COASTAL BRIDGE COMPANY, LLC FOR THE 2019 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-127, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO NEGOTIATE, SIGN, AND SUBMIT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT(S) TO IMPLEMENT A HOUSING RESTORATION INITIATIVE IN ST. JAMES PARISH IN THE YEAR OF 2019, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-128, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-129, A RESOLUTION THAT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL, PARISH PRESIDENT FOR ST. JAMES PARISH BE AND HE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED, EMPOWERED AND INSTRUCTED TO TRANSFER AND CONVEY ON BEHALF OF ST. JAMES PARISH, TO THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY SITUATION IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA TO WIT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-130, A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING THE BOARD OF REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 6:48 p.m., with a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried. Members of the Council, Legal Advisor Cody Martin, along with Mr. Franckiewicz withdrew to an adjoining chamber to discuss the status report from counsel and to discuss the parish's litigation position regarding the 5th District Multipurpose building styled *Lemar Contractors, LLC v. SRF Group Consulting, LLC, et al.*, pending in the 23rd Judicial District Court, St. James Parish, Louisiana, Docket No. 36,600. All returned at 7:26 p.m., and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no action was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Thanked Mr. Francis Hymel for the help with Emergency Response in the past years and wished him Good Luck in the private sector. He indicated that the Business Dinner was excellent, and he thanked Mrs. Octave, Ms. Audrey, and the Economic Development Board for putting it together. Councilman St. Pierre wished everyone Happy Father's Day.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Said they are hoping to have a Memorandum of Understanding approved for early voting in Luther on the next agenda. He stated that the Town of Lutchter is requesting help to replace culverts on Third Street and asked when would it be on the schedule. He inquired if the transfer site is accepting tires. Mr. Mickey indicated that they have resumed accepting tires. Councilman Amato wished the best of success to Mr. Hymel, adding it has been a pleasure working with him, not only with the Parish but also with the Volunteer Fire Department. Councilman Amato wished Happy Father's Day to everyone.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman had no comment.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Thanked Mrs. Octave for the wonderful Small Business Dinner. He requested to have the grass cut by the Sunshine Bridge service road and to have the ditches cut on Kingview, Tribbet, and Dennis Streets. He indicated that a counselor hired for the 5th District summer camp was let go because her mother works in the Personnel Department for the parish. He asked the council secretary to send a letter to the Ethics Board for clarification on the issue.

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

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer was absent.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Asked Mr. Mickey if they had a chance to look at the work orders he submitted for ditches: Mr. Mickey said they did the culvert down Admiral's Landing but wasn't sure about the ditches, and the grass was cut down Nicole Street. Chairman Louque indicated that a meeting has been set up with CN Rail on the Belmont crossing. He inquired about the status of the right of way for the canal at front of Longview Park. Mr. Mickey said it should be finalized soon.

DIRECTOR REPORT

MICHELLE OCTAVE – Upcoming business workshops are scheduled for June 20, July 25, and August 22. The library has begun their summer events, today was the mobile planetarium at the SMA, and encourage everyone to participate in those events. She wished everyone Happy Father's Day.

MICKEY ROUSSEL – Wished Happy Father's Day to all Fathers and wished good luck to Francis Hymel.

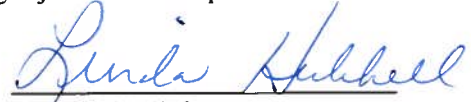
CHANTAL WAGUESPACK – Wished best of luck to Francis Hymel and Happy Father's Day to everyone.

INGRID LEBLANC – Wished Happy Father's Day to everyone and best of luck to Francis Hymel.

FRANCIS HYMEL – Said the past 13 years went fast. He said he enjoyed working with everyone. He thanked the Council for the support of his appointment 3 years ago to head the Emergency Preparedness Department.

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 7:40 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Linda Hubbell, Secretary