

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 13, 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, at 6:30pm on Wednesday, June 13, 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.

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; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Leblanc, Assistant Director of Human Resources; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor. Mr. John Young 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 May 30, 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 Amato, the minutes of the May 30, 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 April 2018 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) I would like to introduce a friend to St. James Parish. His name is Donald Hains, with Waste Management. He is replacing Mr. Warren Guedry who has chosen to retire. If he did not do it yet, he will be glad to share his contact info to you following our meeting.
- 2) As a matter of relaying information, the Hwy 20 Bayou Chevruel Bridge in Vacherie is set for letting in December of 2019.
- 3) LiHeap Funding has been used up for this fiscal year, which means that for the next 4 months we won't be doing any distributions. However, we do have other funding available in our other programs.
- 4) Last night was our St. James Parish Small Business Appreciation Banquet. It was pretty well attended. Ms. Michelle Octave had prepared a survey to be filled out by the attending businesses. We did not receive too many surveys back. This survey is conducted to provide us with needed information to assist in better serving our local businesses. I am asking Ms. Octave to reach out to all of the businesses or, at least, as many as possible through whatever media available to increase the response. Your help, as council persons, would be much appreciated.
- 5) Through the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority, we are on the verge of a \$20 billion prepaid natural gas deal. What does that mean? Very soon, we, St. James Parish will be able to offer industries in our Parish a cut rate for their natural gas needs. Better than that, because of this deal, we will be able to purchase natural gas at a lower rate to benefit all of our residents utilizing natural gas. I will keep you posted as things unfold.
- 6) We will have our audit review by P&N at our June 27th meeting in Vacherie.
- 7) At our next Council meeting on Wednesday, June 27th, I plan to announce the calling for a referendum election regarding our flood protection projects on the East and West Banks of our Parish. This is the beginning of the schedule of events for a December 8th election. I am asking the Parish Council for help and support.
- 8) I have a few reminders for you:
 - The Sunshine Project (FG or Formosa) invites you to a community open house. FG is proposing to build The Sunshine Project, a \$9.4 billion chemical manufacturing complex on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. FG is holding an open house to introduce the project team and give neighbors an opportunity to learn more about the project and provide input. Please join company representatives and project team members on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at the St. James Reception Hall at 2455 Hwy 18 in Vacherie from 5 – 7 pm. For more information, please visit sunshineprojectla.com
 - St. James Parish Council on Aging, DHR and the Youth Commission has an Inclusion Ball titled "Under the Stars" with the St. James ARC group on Friday, June 22nd @ 6 – 9 pm at the St. James Parish Reception Hall

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Buddy Boe, River Parishes Tourist Commission Executive Director, shared the Tourist Commission's new branding and the path forward to attract visitors to the River Parishes.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and move for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-124, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUSAN BAILEY AS A DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and move for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-125, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANDREA NARCISSE AS A DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilwoman Etienne-Steib 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 – the engineer received final approval from UP rail. Hoping to begin next month.
 - North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – ordering culverts. Should begin soon.
 - Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – no additional update.
 - Update of Electrical Utility Franchise Request – special counsel is engaging with Co-ops.
 - Sidewalk repairs on Hwy 643 – no additional update
 - Update on Latcher Library Landscaping Project – work began today.
 - Update on North Spruce Drainage: will complete at the same time as the sidewalk repairs.
 - East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – continuing to install culverts. A brief discussion took place regarding funding for this project.
- Cell phone reimbursement policy – a policy needs to be approved for the Council. A sub-committee meeting will be held before the next meeting.

ORDINANCE 18-05, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 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 PROCEDURE AND FEES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Kraemer offered a second and after a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Three bids were received for the sale of property (Youth Detention Center):

Jamie Ponville	\$ 400,000
Four Falcons Investments LLC	\$ 750,000
I.G.M. Services, LLC	\$1,281,000

RESOLUTION 18-126, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JUNE 13, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

At this time Councilman Patin stepped out of the council chambers.

RESOLUTION 18-127, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor and Patin absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Patin arrived back and assumed his seat on the council.

RESOLUTION 18-128, A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A BOARD OF REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2018, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

At this time Councilman St. Pierre stepped out of the council chambers.

RESOLUTION 18-129, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH RESERVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS AND TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS THEREWITH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and after a roll call vote showing Amato, Patin, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer and Louque in favor and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre arrives back and assumes his seat on the council.

RESOLUTION 18-130, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH LAFORCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-131, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO CONTRACT WITH ESO SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR FIREHOUSE DOCUMENTATION SOFTWARE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-132, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018 AS HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-133, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ASCENSION PARISH GOVERNMENT, ASCENSION PARISH CLERK OF COURT, ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY, ASSUMPTION PARISH CLERK OF COURT, ST. JAMES PARISH CLERK OF COURT AND THE 23RD

JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO SHARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A COURIER TO PICK UP AND DELIVER DOCUMENTS AND FILES TO ALL ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 7:38 p.m., with a motion offered by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried. Members of the Council, along with Legal Advisor John Young, President Roussel, and Jenn Davis, Personnel Manager withdrew to an adjoining chamber to discuss "*Proposed litigation regarding 239 N. Airline Ave. in Gramercy*". All returned at 8:15 p.m., and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no action was taken at this time.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre said if no response is received from KCS in two weeks, letters should be sent to our Senators and Representatives requesting assistance.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested the status of the lights on Hwy 641. Mr. Gravois said the Engineer will meet with Entergy. Councilman Amato expressed appreciation for the Small Business Banquet, adding it was an outstanding event. Councilman Amato informed everyone that he contacted DOTD to address the dip on Hwy 61. He also added that a movie crew was on Texas Street and said it is good to see movies being filmed in St. James Parish.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper requested the status of the work on Hwy 3127 near Mr. Cavalier's residence. Mr. Gravois indicated work should begin in about 3 weeks.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib expressed condolence to Alfreda Young's family.

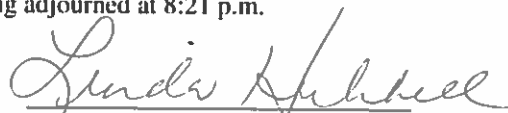
COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer expressed condolence to the family of Mr. Morrison Narcisse. Councilman Kraemer requested Mr. Gravois to look at the Cherry Street drainage issue.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque said there is a concern of highway lighting from Hwy 642 to the Belmont area. Mr. Gravois said it will look into it.

DIRECTOR REPORT - None

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 8:21 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary