

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 22, 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, on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, 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, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilwoman Vondra Etienne-Steib 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; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Leblanc, Interim Director of Human Resources; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

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 August 8, 2018 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Amato seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the August 8, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) We will be holding the Youth Build Close out for the year on September 20th. Expect to receive an invite for this event.
- 2) The North and South Angelle culvert replacements are completed.
- 3) **LA 20 SB Lane Closure in St. James Parish**

LA 20 Southbound lane will be closed 5.0 miles South of JCT LA 20 & LA 3127 across Bayou Chevreuil in St. James Parish on Thursday, August 23, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM while DOTD crews perform a routine inspection of the bridge.

Detour Information

This closure will allow 11ft wide or smaller vehicles to pass through the construction zone. Oversized loads Southbound must detour to LA 3127 North to LA 70 SB to LA 308 South. Oversized loads Northbound LA 308 North to LA 70 North to LA 3127 South.

Safety Reminder

LA DOTD appreciates your patience and reminds you to please drive with caution near the work zone and be on the lookout for crews and equipment.

Additional Information

Call (318) 561-5100 or (800) 542-3509 or 511 or visit www.511LA.org for additional information. Motorists may also monitor the LA DOTD website @ www.dotd.la.gov, by selecting MYDOTD, the Way to Geaux Application for iPhone or Android devices, the DOTD Facebook page or the LA DOTD Twitter pages.

- 4) The US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, would like to invite you to the first partnering meeting for the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project.

This will be the first meeting to discuss the status and progress of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project.

The meeting will be held at the Pontchartrain Levee District Office; 2069 Railroad Ave, Lusher, LA; on August 28, 2018 at 10:00 am.

- 5) A Coastal Parishes Caucus meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, August 23 from 10am till Noon. We are honored to have Governor John Bel Edwards address our group. We will be meeting in the Governor's Press Room located on the 4th floor of the Capitol. We are looking to establish 3 to 5 priorities that we can bring to our National Association of Counties meeting in Point Clear, Alabama on October 17-19.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Aucoin presented the South Louisiana Port Commission's Annual Report. Councilman Amato expressed his opposition to the former Petroplex property and said he wants it to remain part of the Land Use Plan.

Councilman Kraemer presented a plaque to the Adam and Amelia Becnel family proclaiming Honor to the Becnel Family reunion.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- **North Vacherie evacuation route project** – abstractor recommended canceling the project because they can't get the right of ways.
- **North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade** – 75%–80% complete.
- **North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update** – will begin early next week
- **Update on Security Lighting Project at Lusher Park** – foundation has been poured, waiting on lights
- **District 5 Evacuation Route** – Conference call was held Tuesday. Item is on the agenda tonight.

- Sportsman Pond Lily Spraying Update – Councilman St. Pierre requested Operations contact the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-170, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE AUGUST 24, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-171, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-172, A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF THE BECNEL FAMILY REUNION**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-173, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL, TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-174, A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GSA CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE LA 18 EVACUATION ROUTE PROJECT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-175, A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-176, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC., FOR LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-177, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT AND YUHUANG METHANOL ONE, LLC FOR THE USE OF ITS LOCATION AS A POLLING PLACE IN THE 5TH DISTRICT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-178, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF NOT EXCEEDING EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS (\$8,000,000) OF HOSPITAL REVENUE BONDS OF HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND OTHER MATTER RELATING THERETO, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-179, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT AND CAPITAL AREA FINANCE AUTHORITY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Patin stepped out of the council chambers.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-180, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ST. JAMES PARISH ADMINISTRATION, COUNCIL, AND EAST BANK DRAINAGE & FLOOD PROTECTION TASK FORCE TO PROCEED FORWARD WITH ACQUIRING THE ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR THE INNER LEVEE ALIGNMENT FROM THE LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION AUTHORITY (CPRA)**. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and after a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Cooper, Kraemer, and Louque in favor, Amato against, and Patin and Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Patin returned and assumed his seat on the council.

RESOLUTION 18-181, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. JAMES PARISH ARC TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote with Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-182, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO U.S. CONGRESSMAN GARRET GRAVES REGARDING FUNDING OF THE**

WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-183, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO U.S. CONGRESSMAN CEDRIC RICHMOND REGARDING FUNDING OF THE WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT.** Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-184, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO U.S. SENATOR JOHN KENNEDY REGARDING FUNDING OF THE WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT.** Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 18-185, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO U.S. SENATOR BILL CASSIDY REGARDING FUNDING OF THE WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT.** Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer asked about the culvert on North Spruce Street. Mr. Gravois indicated they would be able to start in the next day or two.

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

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper said he was contacted by Kenneth Winchester to find out when could his business be added again as a vendor for the parish, since his spouse retired. President Roussel and Mr. Martin said they will look into it. Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Gravois if he had spoken with Mr. Jones regarding the trailer situation on LeBeouf-Gros Street. Mr. Gravois said that the property must first be subdivided. Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Gravois to evaluate the street lights on Communi and Freetown Streets.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato wished all students and football players a safe and successful school year. Councilman Amato asked if anything needed to be done at the Welcome Center prior to the Lions Club Pumpkin Patch. Mrs. Octave said work orders have been created for maintenance on the grounds.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre said he attend a Town meeting last week. He said he questioned the temporary levee around the substation in Lutcher. Ms. Colar informed him that she will set up a meeting to discuss. Councilman St. Pierre said it was brought to his attention that the sound quality at the meetings are poor. Councilman St. Pierre said that letters will be sent to the Congressmen and Senators thanking them for their efforts with the West Shore funding. Councilman St. Pierre said he met with Formosa today, he requested the 4 lane highway extend to Hwy 70. Councilman St. Pierre expressed his disappointment for not getting a full vote on the resolution to obtain the money from CPRA.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque asked for the time frame for getting the hydrants on Belmont Lane. Mr. Gravois said they will have two more to install. Chairman Louque also requested to have a hydrant installed on the north side of Hwy 3125 between Nobile and Admiral's Landing. Councilman Louque requested a meeting with Mr. Gravois to discuss stop signs on Belleview Lakes. Chairman Louque requested the protocol for remaining dirt left over after ditches are dug. Mr. Gravois said it usually a request from the property owner. Chairman Louque said he was informed that a little up-keep was needed at the Welcome Center.

DIRECTOR REPORT

MICHELLE OCTAVE – work orders were written for the Welcome Center; the planning meeting for the Veteran's Day event has been scheduled and the invite was sent; will continue to support the District 5 evacuation route.

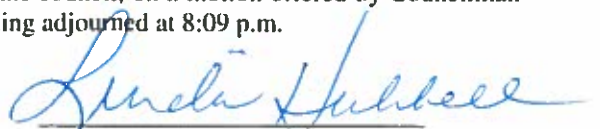
BLAISE GRAVOIS – offered his and Mrs. Waguespack's assistance to any council member needing assistance with the budget.

CHANTAL WAGUESPACK – said the July R&E report was distributed today for approval at the next meeting.

FRANCIS HYMEL – clarified that there are 240 languages with Language Line Services.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary