

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

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, September 18, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Clyde Cooper, Vondra Etienne-Steib, and Vice-Chairman Eddie Kraemer. Councilman St. Pierre was not in attendance during roll call, and Chairman Ryan Louque was absent.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Ryan Donadieu, Interim Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources, and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

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

Councilman St. Pierre arrived and assumed his seat on the council.

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

On a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Cooper, the minutes of the September 4, 2019 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib, the minutes of the September 4, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) We all received a flyer from FG LA, The Sunshine Project, announcing a District 5 Community Health Fair. The event is planned for October 4, 2019 at Rose's. This will be such a huge 1st in all of St. James Parish. I applaud FG LA for taking this important step to facilitate health concerns in District 5. Let's help Formosa get the word out to all of the residents of the 5th District.
- 2) Congratulations to Maitland "Spuddy" Fauchaux for being named Ambassador of the Year by the River Parish Tourist Commission at their Tourism Summit held in LaPlace yesterday evening. Great Job Spuddy! You really are a true ambassador for St. James Parish & the River Parishes.
- 3) I am again excited to announce that the Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD) approved the IGA by a unanimous vote Monday evening for the \$8.5 million in Capital Outlay funds (\$2.33 mm in Priority 1 & \$6.17 mm in Priority 5) for St. James Parish. A PLD Finance Committee met earlier and committed these funds to St. James Parish for the Hwy 61 Project to offer us help towards a storm surge and backwater project. We are the only Parish within the Levee District without a plan of that nature or something in place to protect their residents. The Capital Outlay designation for these funds require that some money must be drawn from the account by March 2020 or will be redistributed to other interested parties. Council St. Pierre, just to make sure you are aware, Ms. Salins reported your phone conversation to the commissioners expressing your concerns prior to the vote taken. Again, I would like to thank Governor John Bel Edwards, Senator Ed Price, Rep. Ken Brass, PLD Ex. Director Monica Salins, all the Levee District Commissioners, especially Senecca Boudreaux for her lead role, and staff, Joe Sevario and attorney Dwight Poirrier. Mr. Cody Martin, I ask that you please work with Mr. Dwight Poirrier to have a suitable IGA written up and ready for our next Council meeting for us to continue to move forward.

To show how important the Hwy 61 Project is to our community, I asked Mr. Ryan Donadieu and GIS to simulate 4.8 & 5.8 depictions of backwater into our communities to visibly understand and quantify how many homes, businesses and structures are affected. You will find the documents with your paperwork.

- 4) Early voting dates and times for the October 12, 2019 Primary Election are as follows:

Saturday, September 28th - Saturday, October 5th (Excluding Sundays)

St James Parish Courthouse

St James Parish Courthouse Annex

8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Machine Warehouse located 1611 Lutcher Ave, Lutcher Saturday, September 28th and

Saturday, October 5th only 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mary Ellen Pratt presented the Hospital Board's Annual Report to the Council.
- Brandon Keller introduced himself as a Candidate for Parish President.
- Ryan Donadieu presented information regarding the use of iPads during emergencies.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – no new update.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-186, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-187, 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 Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-188, ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 22ND TO 28TH, 2019 AS NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY WEEK, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-189, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CAPITAL REGION PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING AND ACTING IN SUPPORT OF WATERSHED REGION NO. 7 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-190, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING AND ACTING IN SUPPORT OF WATERSHED REGION NO. 6 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-191, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE RIVER PARISHES CONVENTION, TOURIST AND VISITORS COMMISSION, TOWN OF LUTCHER, TOWN OF GRAMERCY, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH AND THE FESTIVAL OF THE BONFIRES, INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-192, A RESOLUTION RESCHEDULING THE NOVEMBER 27, 2019 MEETING OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL TO NOVEMBER 26, 2019, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-193, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH M. RODRIGUE AND SON, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-194, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO SELL PROPERTY AT A PUBLIC AUCTION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-195, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND RECEIVING OF BIDS FOR THE PARISH WIDE RECREATION MASTER PLAN FROM CSRS FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE LUTCHER PARK, was offered and moved for adopted by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-196, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT WITH BURL'S LIVERY SERVICE OF BODY TRANSPORTATION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib thanked Mr. Gravois for getting the work done on Franklin Street. She inquired where the road construction crew was and when were they expected to get the work done. Mr. Gravois indicated that he doesn't know exactly where they were, that they are working in different areas of the parish. He said he will find out tomorrow and provide an update to all the council members.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked if there was anything on Baytree St. where the resident was complaining about the ditch/culvert. Mr. Gravois indicated that the resident called, and he did address it with her. Mr. Gravois said the problem is not the ditch, it is the sewerage of the homes going into the ditch. Mr. Gravois said it is up to the residents to get mechanical plants installed. DHH is aware. Councilman Cooper asked if Dennis St. has been addressed. Mr. Gravois indicated it is being cut. Councilman Cooper requested a status of the District

5 building. Mr. Gravois said November 18th has been set to try to mitigate the issue between the contractor and the architect. Councilman Cooper asked if surplus property could be donated to non-profits organizations. Mr. Martin said the law states that it could only be donated to other political subdivisions of the state. Councilman Cooper requested to have the restrooms at the park updated.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin recognized Donald Hains, with Waste Management. He also recognized those in the audience who are running for office and said he appreciates them for stepping up.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested to have the electronic sign placed in Lutchter on Hwy 3193 prior to early voting. He requested a status of the Request for the Environmental Study. Mr. Gravois said it is being worked on. Councilman Amato expressed thanks to Senator Price, Senator Lambert, Representative Brass, Representative Schexnayder, and our PLD team for their support of our Blind River Project.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre request that the proclamation be prepared to recognize Spuddy. President Roussel said they are planning to do it. Councilman St. Pierre said Central Canal on 3125 needs to be cleaned out around the culverts.

VICE-CHAIRMAN KRAEMER – Vice-Chairman Kraemer also requested the status of work on the roads (asphalt). He expressed appreciation for the beach volley court at the District 7 park, adding that it gets used just about every night. Vice-Chairman Kraemer thanked Mr. Donald Haines for the updates when issues arise. Vice-Chairman Kraemer indicated that his friends from Nebraska participated in Spuddy's Cajun Experience and really enjoyed it.

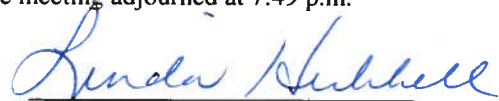
CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque was absent.

DIRECTOR REPORT -

RYAN DONADIEU – thanked Sara and Michelle for attending the meeting. He added that Sara set up the ipads for the meeting, and if the council is in agreement after the next couple of meetings, ipads can be purchased for the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary