

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 3, 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, on Wednesday, October 3, 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, Vondra Etienne-Steib, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Leblanc, 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 Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the September 19, 2018 public hearing on FG LA LLC's application were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the September 19, 2018 public hearing on Ordinance 18-08 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 September 19, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for August 2018 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) In review of the agenda for tonight's meeting I'm sure all of you noticed the resolution calling for the cancellation of the special election of a 7 mills tax on December 8, 2018. I want to inform you that I am a proponent of Flood Protection for our residents and always will be. I honestly believe however, that the Feds and the State will not fund our Flood Protection needs in totality. Our residents at some point in time will have to commit to some of the funding as our nearest neighbors, Ascension and St. John Parishes did. There are at least seven (7) different studies available depicting that in 30 years, if St. James Parish does nothing in the area of levees and pumps, salt water will be just north of Hwy 3125. So, our work is not over and we are not just going to abandon the idea of a much need flood protection system in our Parish. We will continue to strive forward seeking the right solution for all of us.
- 2) We have a planned meeting with Congressman Garret Graves (this Friday) to discuss the potential of receiving funds from the \$1.2 billion in HUD money that will soon be coming to the State of Louisiana. We will request funds for our future Flood Protection system needed. Our plan is to meet with the Governor's Office next.
- 3) Six Louisiana public schools have been named 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. One of the top six (6) is our very own Vacherie Elementary School in St. James Parish. This school is known for guiding previously low-achieving students to perform at or above grade level. Its strategies include emphasizing reading, varying classroom strategies, screening students to determine individual needs, creating small intervention groups and parental involvement. Give them a "shout-out" when you have time to recognize their great accomplishment.
- 4) We will be having a training for our upper management group on "Conducting Investigation of Workplace Sexual Harassment" on Monday, October 15 in our Convent Council Chambers.
- 5) October 8, 2018 is a scheduled Parish Holiday recognizing Columbus Day. All Parish Government Offices will be closed.
- 6) St. Michael's Church Fair is scheduled for this weekend, October 6th & 7th on their church grounds.
- 7) The Toy & Coat Drive started accepting donation and will continue to do so until December 7, 2018.
- 8) St. James ARC Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, October 12, 2018 at Riverlands Country Club.
- 9) St. James Parish Sheriff's Office "Night Out Against Crime" is scheduled for October 16, 2018. You can find a list of the sponsoring residences on the Sheriff's Website. Of course, remember now, our council meeting has been moved to that date.
- 10) Poche Plantation Arts & Crafts Charity Festival is scheduled for October 20 & 21 on their grounds in Convent.
- 11) The Harvest Fest for the seniors of St. James Parish is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 at the St. James Reception Center in Vacherie.
- 12) Electronic Recycling will take place on October 27, 2018 from 8:30 am to 11 am at the Golden Grove Truck Stop.
- 13) The Lucher / Gramercy Lions Club kicked off their annual Pumpkin Patch. It will take place during the month of October, from the 8th to the 31st at our Welcome & Tourist Information Center.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carmen Gonzales spoke briefly about Dysautonomia then President Roussel presented a Proclamation plaque.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- **North Vacherie evacuation route project** – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib met with President Roussel and Mr. Gravois regarding this project. She said that due to the difficulty in obtaining the right of ways their hands are tied. She asked that Parish Government continue to pursue grant money to resume this project at some other time. She asked that money already allocated be put toward areas of greatest need.
- **North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update** – She said she went to look at this project. Mr. Gravois indicated that he separated the streets. Work has begun on North Oak Street, next is North Rosary, then High Ridge St.
- **East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection** – An update on storm water drainage was placed in the packets. Councilman St. Pierre spoke about his disappointment with the funding process.
- **District 5 Evacuation Route** – Councilman Cooper said a meeting with Mr. Glen Shaheen is scheduled for next week to see what area to bring the new highway to. Mr. Gravois said Mr. Shaheen requested to make a presentation at the next meeting.
- **Sportsman Pond Lily Spraying Update** – Councilman St. Pierre said there is possibly a \$200,000 grant to obtain funding. He said the pond needs to be cleaned and not sprayed. Mr. Gravois indicated that the Mayor also spoke to him about the sewer pond and said the sportsman pond is on private property.

RESOLUTION 18-207, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO COORDINATE WITH THE PARISHES OF ASCENSION AND ASSUMPTION, AND LAFORCHE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT FOR PAYMENTS AND EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS TO FINALIZE TRANSACTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION STAKING BAYOU VERRET AND BAYOU NAPOLEON, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-208, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE OCTOBER 5, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-209, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, 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 18-210, A RESOLUTION IN PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2018 AS DYSAUTONOMIA MONTH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-211, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT ROUSSEL TO SIGN CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR THE REVIEWING OF PARISH PRECINCTS AND BOUNDARY LINE IN PREPARATION OF THE 2020 CENSUS was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-212, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH CAPITAL AREA UNITED WAY AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH RESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-213, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A GRANT UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FTA PROGRAMS MANAGED THROUGH LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, 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.

RESOLUTION 18-214, A RESOLUTION SETTING THE HOURS FOR “TRICK-OR-TREAT” ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT FROM 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM CENTER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-215, A RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN LAN DUSE APPROVAL FOR A VARIANCE FOR COMMERCIAL USE OF THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 1973 HWY 18, VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-216, A RESOLUTION APPROVED MOVING THE MEETING DAYS OF THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO THE LAST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-217, A RESOLUTION CANCELING AN ELECTION CALLED BY A RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON AUGUST 8, 2018, TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF A SPECIAL TAX IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA AND PROVIDING OR OTHER MATTER IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre congratulated Vacherie Elementary School. He requested a meeting with Mr. Mickey Roussel concerning the Gramercy Recreation concession stand. He wished a Happy 83rd Birthday to his father.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato also congratulated Vacherie Elementary. He thanked Ms. Flo, with Entergy, for her assistance with the Hwy 641 lighting project. Councilman Amato shared his thoughts on the East Bank Drainage Project.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin reminded everyone about the Poche Plantation Arts and Crafts festival on October 20th through the 21st, and the St. Michael's Church Festival this weekend.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper congratulated Vacherie Elementary. He indicated that Romeville Elementary was the first official 5-Star Blue Ribbon school in St. James Parish, adding that the school no longer exists and expressed frustration within Districts 4 and 5. Councilman Cooper asked about the NEXT 25 Program. Mrs. Leblanc said it helps at-risk youths/individuals to get into the work-ready community. President Roussel said it is an advisory group that came together to provide possible funding to assist people to get TWIC cards, OSHA cards, etc.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib requested a condolence letter be sent to the family of Marie Joseph. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib congratulated Vacherie Elementary on their success and also congratulated St. James Parish Schools for being named Outstanding School System Overall in: #1 in Top Growth for economically disabled students; tied #2 for students with disabilities; and #3 for English learners. She thanked everyone who had a hand in their success. She said without everyone, none of this would have happened.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer congratulated Vacherie Elementary School, adding they do a good job, have a good faculty, and students really apply themselves. Councilman Kraemer wished Happy Birthday to Mrs. Vondra on October 5th.

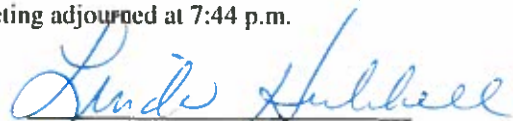
CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque said he had a request to do maintenance on the road at the splash park. Mr. Gravois said a work order has been put in.

DIRECTOR REPORT

BLAISE GRAVOIS – he informed everyone that he gave them each a binder for the Land Use Application from Nucor Steel and said it will be on the next agenda for the Planning Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary