

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 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 Tuesday, October 16, 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; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Finance Director; Blaise Gravois, Operations Director; Francis Hymel, Emergency Preparedness Director; Ingrid Leblanc, Human Resources Director; 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 Kraemer, the minutes of the October 3, 2018 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Regarding the Sunshine Bridge incident: The Sunshine Bridge/LA 70 remains closed indefinitely due to the damage caused by a barge collision Friday morning. DOTD will continue to monitor traffic patterns and make adjustments accordingly.
DOTD worked all weekend towards their assessment; Because of the extensive damage, permanent repairs to the bridge are necessary prior to reopening it to vehicular traffic. The Department continues to find damage to the structure. DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson said, "The damage is to key members of the bridge and has rendered it unsafe to traffic. While we have identified a contractor and are moving forward with expediting this work, it is important to know there is not an easy fix for this kind of damage. There is no temporary fix that will allow us to safely open the bridge."
No timeline yet.
Think months rather than days or weeks.
Damage is worse than 1st thought.
DOTD engineering doing 3D modeling on conceptual design.
An important factor- material availability; where can it be sourced from?
Another important factor- ability to do work w/cranes.
DOTD monitoring for additional movement.
Will work with USACE on a 'No Wake Zone' while work is going on.
Farmers are asked NOT to overload their trailers; better to place more trucks on the road.
Willy Martin addressed the traffic problems & congestion on both sides of the River. Expect delays.
Along with increased Plaquemine ferry operations, motorists are also encouraged to use the Veterans Memorial Bridge as an alternate river crossing.
From the Sunshine Bridge (West Side) the distance to the:
Veterans Memorial Bridge - 20 miles
Plaquemines Ferry - 28 miles
Baton Rouge Bridge - 33 miles
Call 511 or visit www.511la.org for additional travel information.
Motorists may also monitor the LA DOTD website at www.dotd.la.gov, by selecting MYDOTD, or by visiting the DOTD Facebook and Twitter pages.
- 2) The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) decided to extend their Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP) outside the Metro New Orleans and Jefferson Parishes through St. Charles, St. John and St. James Parishes. I would like to thank Secretary, Dr. Shawn Wilson w/LDOTD along with Mr. Jeffery Roesel with the RPC for their efforts in bringing the added security, resources, and highway assistance that the MAP program will provide to our residents, visitors and other people as they travel along I-10 in St. James Parish. We proudly welcome this program to our Parish and surrounding region.
- 3) We did meet with Congressman Garret Graves to discuss the potential of receiving funds from the \$1.2 billion in HUD money that will soon be going to the State of Louisiana. Congressman Graves stated that until the Feds and the State define the requirements towards receiving any money, we should hold off on meeting with the Governor's Office. However, he did suggest that we meet with Congressman Richmond as soon as we can to be in the ready position. We are working with State Representative Ken Brass in setting this meeting up. I'll keep all of you informed as we progress.
- 4) We recently received an invite to participate in the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. This initiative is aimed at reducing future flood risk and improving the resilience of our Louisiana communities. To accomplish this, various meetings are being held to coordinate with a multitude of key stakeholders to implement a decision-making framework aimed at reducing future flood risk and improving resilience statewide. We plan to attend the session on October 23, 2018 to be held at South Central Planning Commission building in Gray, LA.
- 5) Mayor Nosacka with the Town of Gramercy will be hosting a public briefing on the West Shore Implementation for St. James Parish on October 29, 2018 from 6 – 7 pm at Sandwich World.
- 6) There will be a Parish President's of Louisiana meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at the Emergency Operations Center in Tangipahoa Parish.
- 7) Please be advised that Early Voting for the November 6, 2018 Primary Election will be held in the office of the Registrar of Voters in the Convent Courthouse and the Vacherie Annex on the following dates and times: Tuesday, October, 23, 2018 - Tuesday October 30, 2018 (Closed Sunday, October 28, 2018)
8:30 am - 6:00 pm

- 8) Filming will be taking place this Wednesday (tomorrow) through Friday at Sandwich World on Hwy 3125. (This may even hamper / exasperate our traffic situation further.)
 - 9) St. James Parish Sheriff's Office "Night Out Against Crime" is scheduled for tonight, October 16, 2018.
 - 10) Poche Plantation Arts & Crafts Charity Festival is scheduled for this weekend, 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 go on until October 31st at our Welcome & Tourist Information Center.
 - 14) Wednesday, October 17th – Dinner & Book: "The Geology of St. James Parish", 5pm at Lucher Library
 - 15) Friday, October 19th – Halloween Magic Show, 5pm at Vacherie Library
 - 16) Tuesday, October 23rd – 26th – Library Escape Room, 6 – 9 pm at Lucher Library
 - 17) Wednesday, October 24th – Lawyers in the Library: 10am – 12 noon at Vacherie and 2 - 4 pm at Lucher
- Thank You ... May God Bless you; may God bless all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi !!!**

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Aucoin was not in attendance to give the Economic Development Board's annual report.

Mr. Whitney Poirrier was not in attendance to give the Hospital Board's annual report.

Mr. Bobby Chenier from South Vacherie addressed the council regarding Highway 20.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 18-218, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DOLORES FLORENT TO THE RIVER PARISHES TOURIST COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- **District 5 Evacuation Route** – Mr. Glenn Shaheen with GSA Consulting Engineers provided the details of the LA 18 to LA 3127 Route Corridor Study.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-219, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE OCTOBER 19, 2018 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-220, 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, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-221, A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE ST. JAMES PARISH STAKEHOLDERS GROUP INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM (ITEP) GUIDELINES AND DESIGNATE AN OFFICIAL MEMBER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

After Ms. Janile Parks provided the details of the Memorandum of Understanding, **RESOLUTION 18-222, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT ROUSSEL TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FG LA LLC**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-223, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH RESIDENT AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN A CONTRACT AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE GRANT FOR REGION THREE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-224, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PARISH PRESIDENT OR DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, CAA TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH XP SYNERGY TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND JOB READINESS COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-225, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FEDERAL OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 18-226, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF SURPLUS IMMOVABLE PROPERTY OWNED BY ST. JAMES PARISH TO IGM SERVICES, LLC., was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

COUNCILMAN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer had no comments.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib had no comments.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked if the back filling on Domino St. was done. Mr. Gravois indicated that he spoke with Mr. Jasmin and it will get done as discussed. Councilman Cooper said lights need to be repaired on Gauthreaux St., Freetown Lane, Communi St., and Kingview St. Councilman Cooper said he had received calls regarding additional cost that is accruing since the Sunshine Bridge shutdown. President Roussel suggested that they should keep records.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comments.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested a teleconference with the Operations department and Entergy to find out what is the next step on the Hwy 641 project.

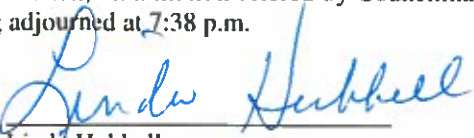
COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre wished safe travels to the Council Members and Parish President, who will be traveling in the next couple of days.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque had no comments.

DIRECTOR REPORT – No comments were received

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 7:38 p.m.



Linda Hubbell
Secretary