

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 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, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilman Eddie Kraemer 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; and Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Cooper 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 October 30, 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 September 2018 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) I would like to thank Michelle Octave and Audrey Temple and everyone that had anything to do with making our Veterans Day event successful. We probably witnessed it to be the largest attendance ever. If you made it, you know what I am talking about, if you missed, you should probably be regretting it. I also want to recognize Councilman Amato as one of our long time cooks for the event. Of course, all of the cooks and our Recreation employees did a great job prior to, during and afterwards. Great Job Everyone!!! Our Veterans deserve this honor.
  - 2) We have a freeze warning in effect for our area from late evening through early Thursday morning. Temperatures are expected to drop to 28 – 32 degrees. Please take precautions.
  - 3) I did place a Festival of the Bonfires financial statement for FY 2017 in your folders.
  - 4) Department of Natural Resources will be holding a public hearing for Ergon on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6 pm at the West Bank Reception Hall.
  - 5) We are now entering the holiday season with various functions held throughout our parish. With the increased amount of traffic due the Sunshine Bridge situation, please use extra precaution on the busy highways.
  - 6) Our East Bank Elderly Thanksgiving Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 18 for 9 am to 1 pm at the St. James Boat Club.
  - 7) The Drew Estate Barnsmoker is scheduled for Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 5 pm at L. A. Poche Perique Barn in Convent.
  - 8) Our next West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Partnering meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 10 am at the Pontchartrain Levee District Office in Lucher.
  - 9) I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy it with family and friends safely.
- Thank You ... May God Bless you; may God bless all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi !!!**

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Recognition was given to the St. James Parish Pageant Queens, Miss Savannah Louque and Miss Hannah Roussel. They were each presented with a Proclamation and a Parish Pin.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS**

The following updates were provided:

- East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – No new updates. Still cleaning, a lot has been done on the West Bank in the last three weeks. GOHSEP funding was briefly discussed.
- District 5 Evacuation Route – Waiting on the traffic study.
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – Since the bottom was cleaned out, solid material is needed to build it back up.

**ORDINANCE 18-09, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the ordinance was adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

At this time a discussion took place regarding the Council Meeting Schedule for 2019.

**RESOLUTION 18-234, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE NOVEMBER 16, 2018 PAYROLL**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-235, 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 Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-236, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the resolution adopted.

At this time President Roussel stated that each year we do upgrades to our Parish Employee Handbook. Councilman St. Pierre requested an overview of the changes that were made. Personnel Manager, Jenn Davis will email the changes to the council.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre congratulated the Queens and Ms. Petty. He wished them a good year. Councilman St. Pierre wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato said the Veteran's Day program was a nice event and the guest speaker did a great job. He thanked everyone for their part in recognizing our Veterans. Councilman Amato also congratulated the Queens and wished them luck. Councilman Amato requested we invite the Festival of the Bonfires Queens to the next council meeting on the East Bank. He said the Bonfire Permit meetings are going well and PLD has requested postponement of construction until next weekend. Councilman Amato wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin congratulated the Queens and wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

**COUNCILMAN COOPER** – Councilman Cooper requested Mr. Gravois contact the 5th District resident who is having issues setting up his mobile home. Councilman Cooper requested Mrs. Vic provide the council with an update of the 5th District building. Councilman Cooper congratulated the Queens and wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

**COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB** – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib congratulated the Queens and wished them a good year. She sent a shout-out to Mrs. Ingrid and her team for the Senior lunch today, adding it was very nice and the food was good. She also gave a shout-out to Mrs. Michelle and her crew for the Veteran's Program. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving and wished safe travels going home.

**COUNCILMAN KRAEMER** – Councilman Kraemer was absent.

**CHAIRMAN LOUQUE** – Chairman Louque also congratulated the Queens and he wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

#### **DIRECTOR REPORT**

**CHANTAL WAGUESPACK** – Congratulated the Queens and wished everyone a Blessed and Thankful Thanksgiving.

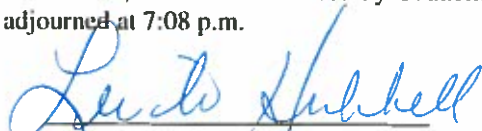
**BLAISE GRAVOIS** – He indicated that they have already begun staking out the bonfire permits and will finish tomorrow. He informed everyone that the Coastal Zone and Planning Commission meetings have been moved to the last Monday of the month, except for months of May and December, due to holidays. He will provide the schedules to the council members. Mr. Gravois also wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

**MICHELLE OCTAVE** – Congratulated the Queens. She said the council members should have received a ticket for Saturday's event and hoped everyone could attend. She wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving.

**TIMMY ROUSSEL** – Thanked Ms. Petty for her work with Queens. He then invited her and the two Queens to say a few words.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

  
Linda Hubbell  
Secretary