

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 30, 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, October 30, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, 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; Ryan Donadieu, Interim Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources, and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor. Attorney John Young was also in attendance.

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 Amato and seconded by Councilman Cooper, the minutes of the October 16, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Trick or Treat – As a reminder, if you are out and about in the neighborhoods, please be attentive and use caution while driving and keep our children safe.
- 2) Again, the following dates and times set for Early Voting for the November 16, 2019 Gubernatorial General Election will be as follows:
Saturday, November 2 - 9, 2019 (closed Sunday) all week 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Convent and Vacherie Courthouses
Saturday, November 2 and Saturday, November 9, 2019 only Machine Warehouse, 1611 Lutchter Ave., Lutchter 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- 3) Unlike eight years ago when I transitioned in as Parish President and the present-day rumors running rampant around the Parish, Mr. Dufresne and I started transitioning this past Friday. We already spent six hours together in two visits, and Mr. Cody Martin, our legal counsel wanted to sit in on the sessions when possible. We will cover as much material, projects and events as time allows to have Mr. Dufresne as comfortable as possible. It's what's best for St. James Parish.
- 4) Today I attended the closing of the bond issue with our GOMESA funds. We are getting \$7.4 mm for our flood related projects.
- 5) DHR's Harvest Fest for our Seniors will take place on Thursday, October 31st at the St. James Reception Center in Vacherie.
- 6) Governor John Bel Edwards will be visiting St. James Parish for a meet & greet at the St. James Boat Club this Friday from 8 – 10 am.

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

Paul Aucoin and Steve Nosacka presented the Economic Development Board's annual report to the council. Councilman St. Pierre thanked them for everything they do for the Parish.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – Councilman Cooper asked Mrs. Octave to reconvene a meeting with the interested parties.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-217, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE NOVEMBER 1, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-218, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-219, RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT WITH SAIA TECHNOLOGY DIVISION IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$40,655.00) FOR REPAIRS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH COURTROOM AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN,

EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-220, RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF SAID CONTRACT WITH D & L TRACTOR SERVICE FOR ACTION ON VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 58 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CUTTING OF TALL GRASS LOCATED AT 19413 IRIS STREET, VACHERIE, LA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-221, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AS THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR FEDERAL FY 2020 AND THE ONLY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO APPLY FOR AND ADMINISTER PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY ANY COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-222, A RESOLUTION AWARDED AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH FRICKEY BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR THE PARISH WIDE RECREATION MASTER PLAN RENOVATIONS TO THE LUTCHER BALL PARK, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-223, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A SERVITUDE AGREEMENT FOR UTILITY CORRIDOR WITH FG LA LLC, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-11, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearing, which was scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, November 13, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent and at 6:15 p.m., Tuesday, November 26, 2019 in the Council Chambers in the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

After President read through some of the accomplishments, **INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-12, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearing, which was scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, November 13, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent and at 6:15 p.m., Tuesday, November 26, 2019 in the Council Chambers in the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 7:05 p.m., with a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Kraemer absent, the motion carried. Members of the Council, President Roussel, Blaise Gravois, Ashely Poche, Attorney John Young, Rick Stanley, and Eva Dossier withdrew to an adjoining chamber to receive a status report from special counsel regarding the litigation involving St. James Parish Government and Berkley Insurance company and related matters. All returned at 7:52 p.m., and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no action was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer was absent.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib expressed condolence to the family of Mr. Stanley Folse. She requested a list of items that are acceptable and/or not acceptable at the dump. Mr. Gravois will send it to her. Mr. Gravois said concrete and hazardous materials are not allowed in the dumpsters.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked if the leaking hydrant on Jones St. was repaired. Mr. Gravois said he will check with the utilities. Councilman Cooper expressed condolence to the families of Mr. Lynn Nicholas Jr. and Major Gardner.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comments.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato expressed sympathies to the family of Mr. Stanley Folse, adding he was a strong advocate of St. James Parish for many years and his presence will be missed. He congratulated President Roussel and his team on the 2019 accomplishments. He thanked the Council for approving the contract for construction at Lucher Park. Councilman Amato indicated that bonfire permit meetings have been set for Monday, November 11th, Thursday, November 14th, and Saturday, November 16th. He said bonfire season doesn't officially begin until Saturday, November 23rd.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre expressed condolence to the families of Tara Murry and Mr. Stanley Folse.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque had no comments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MICHELLE OCTAVE – asked Councilman Cooper if there is any particular day to schedule the meeting. She also expressed condolence to Pat Dupuy and family.

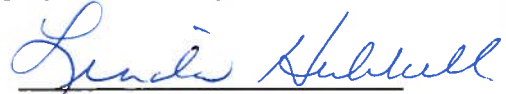
BLAISE GRAVOIS – indicated that the contractor is little behind on the Road Program due to the rain.

CHANTAL WAGUESPACK – said the closing of the GOMESA Revenue Bond sale was today and it will need to be reflected in the 2019 revised budget, as well as the 2020 original budget. She commended her department, Julie Gilbert, D'laun Oubre, Michael Roussel, Melanie Deroche, Lovenia Williams, and Paige Reulet, for their hard work.

INGRID LEBLANC – reminded everyone of the Senior Harvest Festival being held tomorrow. She said Mr. Nicholas Jr. was the father of one her the DHR staff members and expressed condolence to the family.

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 8:04 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary