

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2019**

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, January 9, 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, 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. Mr. Vic Franckiewicz was also in attendance.

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 Kraemer and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the December 19, 2018 special meeting 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 December 27, 2018 public hearing were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib, the minutes of the December 27, 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 November 2018 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Commodity distribution has been announced in our local paper and set at the Lucher Senior Center for January 22nd, at the Convent Senior Center for January 23rd, for the Welcome Senior Center for January 24th and in Vacherie for January 28th.
- 2) I just want to let all of you know that we are still working on the FG LA resolution that is listed under "Old Business" as item #2. It is not ready for approval just yet. We are still working out the final details of your request from the last Council meeting.
- 3) Just a reminder – There is a meeting scheduled with all of the west bank industries to discuss the Alternate Access Route in the 5th District on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 2 pm to be held at the St. James Reception Center in Vacherie.
- 4) There will be a St. James Parish Business Resources Day scheduled for January 17, 2019 at the Public Relations Bldg from 1 to 4 pm. An invite has been sent to all small businesses in St. James Parish.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Rhonda Colar-Myles and Andrew Cola with Entergy, provided an update of the power disruptions on the East Bank, Mr. Cola said they found a pole down by a crawfish pond off of Hwy 3125 which caused the flickering. They answered the Councilman's questions regarding other power issues.

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 6:42 p.m., on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried. Members of the Council, President Roussel, Blaise Gravois, Cody Martin, along with Vic Franckiewicz, withdrew to an adjoining chamber to discuss "the opinions of counsel related to the land use ordinance and the appeal of FG LA LLC's land use application that are confidential under La. R. S. 44:4.1(C) and communications with counsel in the rendition of professional legal services that are privileged under La. Code Evid. Art. 506(B)". All returned at 7:29 p.m., and the regular session reconvened. Chairman Louque informed the public that no decision was made.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- East Bank Drainage/Flood Protection – St. Pierre requested PJ Hahn provide an update.
- District 5 Evacuation Route – a meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday.
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – as weather permits, and when dry, they will get to it.

After Chairman Louque stated that legal counsel is still working on the technicalities of APPEAL TO PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S DECISION TO GRANT APPROVAL TO FG LA LLC'S LAND USE APPLICATION (ITEM #18-30), (RECOMMENDATION TO TABLE ACTION PENDING REFINEMENT OF A RESOLUTION), Councilman Kraemer made a motion to table until the January 23, 2019 council meeting and was seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-01, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JANUARY 11, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-02, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-03, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR A TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE AGREEMENT AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, 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 19-04, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND LSUAG AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT, 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 19-05, A RESOLUTION ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF A SPECIAL TAX THEREIN; MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Etienne-Steib, Kraemer, and Louque in favor, and Cooper abstaining, the resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre said the bonfires went well on the levee and everyone had a good time. He requested a work order be done to have limestone put on the dump road and graded.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Pontchartrain Levee District and Lafourche Basin Levee District for their help to continue having bonfires in St. James Parish. Councilman Amato welcomed back Mrs. Leblanc, thanked Mr. Gravois for his work with Entergy on Hwy 641, and wished everyone Happy New Year.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked if we maintain the side street behind the utilities. Mr. Gravois said it is a private road. He requested to have the ditch dug on the side of Big Boy Street. Councilman Cooper indicated that the lights on Hwy 18 between the water tower and AmSpec are out. Councilman Cooper requested to have the bus turnaround on Mr. Calvery Street and Braud Street looked at. Mr. Gravois said he will see if it is on the list. Councilman Cooper indicated that a resident in Moonshine is having issues getting a permit from the levee board, that they need to pay \$300. Mr. Gravois said that fee is for the levee board to go to the Corp of Engineers to try to get an exemption when the levee is above 11'. Mr. Gravois indicated that it is at 13.5' right now so they will not issue a permit. Mr. Gravois also indicated that resident can go to www.rivergauge.com at any time to get the level.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib wished Happy New Year to everyone and welcomed back Ingrid Leblanc.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer said T. Baker Smith will be at the February 6th meeting to provide an update of the Hwy 20 widening project. Councilman Kraemer requested condolence letters be sent to the families of Jo Kirk Reulet and Walter "Toe Joe" Folse. Councilman Kraemer asked if Leon Street, in the 7th district, is public. Mr. Gravois indicated the back part, with gravel, is private.

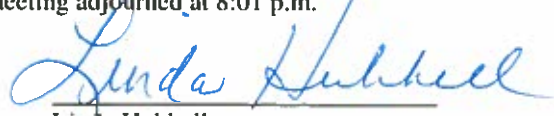
CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque asked for the status of the maintenance work at the boat club. Mr. Gravois indicated that they send someone as soon as they get notification that work is needed. Chairman Louque requested P.J. Hahn give a presentation on the multi-year funding. Mr. Gravois said he should be at the next council meeting.

DIRECTOR REPORT

INGRID LEBLANC – Thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers while she was out.

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 8:01 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary