

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 23, 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, January 23, 2019, at 6:50 p.m., following the public hearing.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Clyde Cooper, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Vondra Etienne-Steib and Eddie Kraemer were 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; 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 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 January 9, 2019 public meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the January 9, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) There will be a Civic Source Informational meeting regarding adjudicated property scheduled for Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at the Vacherie Annex.
- 2) The St. James Parish LSU Ag 4-H Livestock Show will take place this weekend (January 25<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>) at the Cow Palace on the LHS grounds.
- 3) I, along with Councilman Louque, Councilman Kraemer, Councilwoman Steib and Councilman St. Pierre are headed to Washington DC next Tuesday thru Saturday. We will be involved in various meetings and events, including a River Region Economic Development Initiative (RREDI) breakfast and a Chamber Luncheon consisting of Chamber's from across the State. While there we also will be meeting with NACo officials to discuss the upcoming Legislative Conference, GNO, Inc. on the NFIP issue at hand, along with meeting with our Senators.
- 4) The Mississippi River levels are extremely high and at this time either Levee Districts will make NO EXCEPTIONS for any excavation within the 1500 feet area from the crest of the center of the levee.
- 5) LDOTD pulled back on shutting down the Sunshine Bridge last weekend due to in-climate weather. We haven't gotten word just yet if it will take place this weekend or not.

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

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judge Jude Gravois presented the Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board's Annual Report.

At this time Chairman Louque called for public comments on any agenda item, except for Old Business #2. He added that public comments for that item will be heard when we get to that item.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**RESOLUTION 19-06, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WILBUR REYNAUD TO THE HOSPITAL BOARD**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – meeting was held last week, waiting on response from industries as to who will participate and how much will they contribute.
- Cave-ins on Central Canal –weather delays.

APPEAL TO PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S DECISION TO GRANT APPROVAL TO FG LA LLC'S LAND USE APPLICATION (ITEM #18-30). Chairman Louque explained that at the December 19<sup>th</sup> special meeting there was a motion to deny the appeal of FG LA's application with a favorable vote that was subject to finalization of specific conditions. Mr. Vic Franckiewicz said that at the December 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, various council members asked for some additional conditions to be placed on the land use application permit that would include hiring priorities, local business, environmental monitoring, participation in the alternate access route, and health screenings. He said they tried to blend those into a formal resolution to make those requests a reality. He said what you voted on on December 19<sup>th</sup> was technically to deny the appeal, but only if these conditions were put in, and made that denial ineffective until you operate today. He then summarized the resolution.

Chairman Louque then called for public comment on this item. The following people spoke against the project: Ann Rolfes, 2803 St. Phillip St., New Orleans; Stephanie Cooper, 8143 Kingview St., St. James; Rita Cooper, 8190

Kingview St., St. James. John King, 301 Main St., Baton Rouge and Troy Borne, 732 N. Millet Ave., Gramercy spoke in favor of the project.

Councilman Cooper said he appreciated everyone's passion and concern, and for expressing it. He also said they had a lot of concerns about the things FG would be producing, and that the council agreed to delay the vote, based on FG meeting those requirements. He said they put those requirements as stringent as they could, within reason, and within law. He asked how long would a resident need to attend the Academy to qualify for a job? Ms. Parks said the program is about 6 months, and would allow any individual, who finishes the academy, a guaranteed interview. Councilman Cooper asked about job guarantee. Ms. Parks said, that they could not, legally, guarantee jobs. Mr. King then answered Councilman Cooper's questions about real time air monitoring, saying the monitoring system will work on a 14-day passive receptor.

Councilman St. Pierre requested that some type of interview training be added to the Academy's proposal. Ms. Parks said it is a part of the proposal. She said the different modules include, financial literacy, interview skills, test taking skills, and future leader assessments.

Councilman Amato asked if waste water control is part of the SPPC plans. Mr. King indicated the SPPC plan will include structural controls, best management practices, to not only prevent spills and releases, but also to contain and retain them, should they occur.

Councilman Cooper inquired about the health screenings. Ms. Parks indicated that she has already been in contact with St. James Parish Hospital and requested a comprehensive health screening. She said she wanted to give education in addition to the various screenings. She said that she shared with the hospital the marketing strategy. Councilman Cooper asked what screening will be provided. Ms. Parks said they will look at cancer, diabetes, BMI, she said its several different things. Councilman Cooper told Ms. Parks that he appreciated that they came to the table and made some of the decisions that were challenging to make and asked them to always keep in mind the residents and the challenges they face.

Councilman St. Pierre said that the resolution is comprehensive and what we are letting industry know, when you are coming to St. James Parish, that this is what they will need to conform to.

At this time Chairman Louque indicated that action would be taken on **RESOLUTION 19-07, A RESOLUTION DENYING THE APPEAL OF RISE ST. JAMES AND APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF FG LA LLC UNDER THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, WITH CONDITIONS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Cooper, and Louque voting in favor, and Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 19-08, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JANUARY 25, 2019 PAYROLL**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-09, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-10, ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL PROCLAIMS JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 2, 2019 AS CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK IN ST. JAMES PARISH**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-11, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL, TO ENTER INTO AND/OR EXECUTE ANY AND ALL CONTRACT/AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS CORPORATION FOR THE 2019 ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-12, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE THE AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER/CONTRACT WITH POSTLETHWAITE & NETTERVILLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING AUDIT SERVICES ON VARIOUS FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-13, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE THE ENGAGEMENT LETTER/CONTRACT WITH POSTLETHWAITE & NETTERVILLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING THE STATEWIDE AGREED UPON PROCEDURES (SAUPS) REQUIRED BY THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR (LLA) ON VARIOUS FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-14, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR ONE (1) NEW FIRE APPARATUS ON BEHALF OF THE VACHERIE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-15, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE THE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT FOR 2019 WITH MICROIX WORKFLOW MODULES SOFTWARE**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-16, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF A REVISE AND/OR NEW WELLNESS CONTRACT BETWEEN MOVEMENT ACADEMY, INC, AND ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> TO JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF PROGRAM YEAR 2019**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-17, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY) TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POLICY (CEMP) IN ACCORDANCE WITH USDOT AND FTA REGULATIONS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

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

**COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB** – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib was absent.

**COUNCILMAN COOPER** – Councilman Cooper gave a shout out to everyone who came out tonight and expressed their concerns. Councilman Cooper inquired about bus turnarounds. Mr. Gravois indicated that all bus turnarounds address by the school board have been completed. Councilman Cooper also inquired about the lights on Hwy 18. Mr. Gravois indicated that a work order has been issued to Entergy.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin said he is in the process of checking railroad crossing in his District. He will get with CN Rail to have Legion St. and Sam Jones repaired.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato inquired about the Hwy 641 light project. Mr. Gravois said a purchase order was sent to Entergy. Councilman Amato extended safe travels to those traveling to Washington D.C. next week.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Gravois for getting Waste Management to grate the transfer site in Gramercy and requested PJ Hanh provide an update of available grant money.

**CHAIRMAN LOUQUE** – Chairman Louque had no comment.

At this time Mr. Gravois provided a status of the following items:

**CHERRY STREET DRAINAGE** – has been complete. Working on drainage canal right of ways to clean the canal.  
**NORTH OAK DRAINAGE** – has been complete and will begin work on North Rosary and High Ridge, weather permitting.

**CULVERTS** are due any day now for the Wendy, Maura, Amy, Lena, and Riley project.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**


**MICHELLE OCTAVE** – reminded everyone about the adjudicated property meeting at 5 pm at the Annex.

**BLAISE GRAVOIS** – attended the Governor's press conference today, in reference to GOMESA and CPRA funds. He said the governor had the breakdown of all of the parishes and what they are looking to do. He said the Governor talked about the dollars that are available for St. James and St. John. Mr. Gravois said that Corp. will resume monthly meetings next Wednesday at the Pontchartrain Levee Office for West Shore Updates.

**CHANTAL WAGUESPACK** – the preliminary R&E report for December was distributed.

#### **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 8:30 p.m.

  
Linda Hubbell  
Secretary