

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 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, February 20, 2019, 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 not in attendance for roll call.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Julie Gilbert, Assistant 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.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Cooper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Kraemer arrived and assumed his seat on the council.

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 Kraemer, the minutes of the February 6, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) The Mississippi River level is still high at 14.45 feet and rising at present at the Carrollton gauge. It is expected to continue to rise and reach a 16 feet level. In speaking to Mr. Mark Wingate only yesterday, he expressed much concern about the soggy and water-logged levees. The Levee Districts will make NO EXCEPTIONS for any excavation within the 1500 feet area from the crest of the center of the levee, and for sure on the River side.
- 2) You may have read our monthly newsletter to learn that we will be introducing the 1st St. James Parish Government Challenge Coin. First introduced by the military, this coin will be used to enhance moral, promote hard work, and encourage positivity. Tonight, I have given you five (5) coins for your future challenge offers to prominent prospects.
- 3) Following Judge Jude Gravois' presentation at our second to last Council meeting (January 23rd), we have decided to institute a litter abatement program. We will begin using our grappler trucks on the East and West Bank of the River every Friday to pick up the larger items such as sofas, chairs, mattresses, large cardboard boxes, etc., etc. We are also considering hiring part time employees to pick up litter in high littered areas of our Parish. Of course, Council and Keep St. James Beautification Board members can inform the Administration of these littered areas needing attention.
- 4) We are receiving reports from Mosaic, Uncle Sam on their situational analysis. It is still being reported that movement continues to take place but not to be alarmed; there is no need to panic or cause panic. Mosaic did send the News-Examiner a question and answer write up to help inform our residents of the present-day situation. Francis did email it to all of you yesterday. We have a scheduled conference call tomorrow for another update.
- 5) We are all invited to join with Governor John Bel Edwards, CPRA and PLD to attend a Project Partnering Agreement (PPA) signing ceremony with the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Risk Reduction Project. It will take place this Friday, February 22, 2019 at 2 pm. Now, I want to repeat that this is a "ceremonial signing" only and that a formal agreement will be presented later to be reviewed by our legal advisor and placed before the Council for consideration.

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Aaron Elisar with DOTD, and Dennis Hymel with T. Baker Smith provided an update on the Hwy 20 Project. Mr. Elisar provided the status of the bridge replacement on Hwy 20/Bayou Chevreuil: expect to have Coastal Use and Corp. permits by April; the right of way clearance date is currently May 2019; current letting date is December 2019; estimated project cost is \$6.3M; estimated construction duration is approximately one year; the new bridge will be 40' wide with two 12' lanes and two 8' shoulders; new bridge length is 915' long. He added that the temporary bridge will be built to the east of the existing bridge, near the boat launch.

Mr. Hymel provide this update on the roadway widening project: the project begins just north of Nocko's fuel station in Chackbay and ends at Guidry St. in Molaison; will have two 12' lanes and two 8' shoulders; currently in the environmental stage and may take several more months; project is 100% federally funded for construction; roadway widening will begin once the bridge replacement is complete; total cost of the project is \$6.8M.

Councilman Kraemer said about \$13M, the total cost of the project, will be coming into the parish. He thanked the Council for putting up the preconstruction cost for the project. He applauded the council for stepping up to get the project done.

Mr. Hymel introduced Mr. Tyler Amedee, a Vacherie resident, who is a lead roadway engineer working on the project.

Mr. Gravois asked Mr. Hymel to clear up some misunderstanding regarding the boat launch. Mr. Hymel indicated that the temporary bridge will be between the existing bridge and the boat slip closest to Hwy 20. He said the boat slip closest to Hwy 20 may be shut down temporarily while the detour bridge is being installed, it will then be re-

opened and available for use. Once the new bridge is complete and traffic has been diverted, the boat slip may be shut down again while the detour bridge is being dismantled.

Councilman Kraemer recognized Mr. Ed Becnel, who is the chairman of the project and attended the meeting. He thanked him, and the rest of the task force for volunteering their time.

Mr. Doug Ellis, with Movement Academy, gave a brief overview of the exercise class offered at the senior centers. He said it is a science-based program that is designed to improve neuroplasticity, adding different types of exercise can stimulate different parts of the brain. 64% of participants improved from last year, 26% performed the same, and 10% declined. Beginning next week, participants in some classes will wear a wrist monitor so they can get a base heart rate.

Mr. Brent Dicharry introduced the staff and then gave the Recreation Department's annual report. Mr. Mickey Roussel presented the Recreation Department's visions and goals for 2019.

Ms. Pat Calliout and Mr. Steve Nosacka explained how the Work Ready Program works. Ms. Calliout proudly stated that Parish is ACT Work Ready Communities Certified, the first in South Louisiana. Superintendent Cancienne and Susan Baily each made brief comments.

Mr. Blaise Gravois presentation on Parish-wide Storm Surge Protection, 2019 Millage Proposition included: proposing 7 mills for 30 years, estimated \$3.7M collected annually; \$30M of work identified on the East Bank and \$14M on the West Bank, and money needed for the West Shore Project; the purpose -- constructing and improving levee, drainage, and storm protection projects within the Parish, including acquisition of equipment, other costs, and maintenance budget; breakdown of property tax -- by sector; regional average millage comparisons; and the next action steps. Councilman St. Pierre said it is not a shovel ready project yet and asked what will be presented on March 19th. He said he would like to see the presentation prior to the meeting. Councilman St. Pierre, President Roussel, and Mr. Gravois spoke about the Inter-Levee Alignment and West Shore Projects.

Councilman Kraemer ask for the status of the backwater protection in District 7. Mr. D.J. Hymel stated that the project is in the permitting phase and there have been some shifts in the alignment over the years and several state agencies are reviewing the permit applications. He said they are navigating through that process and hoping to satisfy those requests within the next four to six months.

Chairman Louque asked if March 11th is the deadline for the Secretary of State filing, if we choose not to proceed with the election. President Rousse said he will verify. Chairman Louque said we still don't know what all the figures are and said he doesn't feel that we are any clearer now than before. He said, moving forward, he would love to see us working out a path forward on the Inter-Levee alignment alternative, to evaluate and engineer it, to see if its feasible.

At this time Chairman Louque called for public comment on any specific agenda item. No comments were received.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – Senator Price and Rep Brass will send a combined letter to the industries to follow-up on their commitment.
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – on hold due to weather.

Mr. Martin pointed out some clerical errors needed to be made to the ordinance. In paragraph three, change Exhibit "A" to Exhibit "B"; in paragraph four, change Attachment A to Exhibit A; and in Section 1, change Exhibit A to Exhibit B. He added that the property description is included in the packet on page 68. **ORDINANCE 19-01, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR FUTURE STATE AND PARISH PROJECTS**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted, as amended.

ORDINANCE 19-02, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-27, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE FEBRUARY 22, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-28, 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 Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Mr. St. Pierre stating that he was abstaining from his payment only, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-29, RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After President Roussel stated that the word Consolidated should to be removed from the last paragraph, **RESOLUTION 19-30, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2019 AS PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, the resolution was unanimously adopted, as amended.

RESOLUTION 19-31, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH RAMBOLL US CORPORATION TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SUPPORT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-32, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR TITLE III B SERVICES, TITLE III D SERVICES, TITLE E SERVICES AND NUTRITION SERVICES FOR ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT AREA AGENCY ON AGING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-33, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF NEW TITLE III SCHEDULE OF FUNDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020 PROGRAM YEAR, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-34, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO CONTRACT WITH REPORTING SYSTEMS, INC. FOR EMERGENCY REPORTING AS A FIRE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-35, A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DELTA LAND SERVICES LLC FOR WETLANDS MITIGATION AGREEMENT FOR COMPENSATORY MITIGATION AS REQUIRED BY THE COASTAL USE PERMIT P20150129, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 19-03, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF ST. JAMES PARISH, STATE OF LOUISIANA, CHAPTER 118 UTILITIES, ARTICLE II NATURAL GAS, SEC. 118-43 NATURAL GAS RATES ESTABLISHED, PARAGRAPH (A) AND (B), AND ADDING THERETO NEW SECTIONS, SEC. 118-43 REVENUE STABILIZATION FACTOR (RSF) AND SEC. 118-46 CALCULATION OF THE RSF, AS AMENDED, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, 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, March 6, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer thanked D.J. Hymel and Aaron Elisar for the updates. He congratulated Lennorah Williams on his appointment. Councilman Kraemer requested President Roussel's office send a letter to Chris Ewing, requesting a study be performed at the intersection of Hwy 643 and Hwy 644 to see if it warrants a flashing red light.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib welcomed Mr. Williams. She gave kudos to the seniors for the excellent Black History Program. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib requested the holes in road going to the Magnolia project be repairs when the weather is better. She asked for clarity on sewerage for the West Bank. Mr. Gravois said a tax was proposed a few years ago and the people voted against parish wide sewerage. He said he is in the process of looking at small developments and said he has one planned in South Vacherie right now. He said there are options and is looking for grant funds to do small portions in the parish.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper thanked those who showed up for the public hearing. He said there is a gravel road, around public housing, with bad holes. Mr. Gravois said the gravel portion is private property. Councilman Cooper asked Mr. Gravois to verify if the pot holes in Moonshine and LeBoeuf Streets were addressed.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin congratulated Councilman Amato on his new assignment at Shell.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato asked for an update of the Hwy 641 lighting project. Mr. Gravois will get with Entergy to see when the poles will be installed. Councilman Amato welcomed Mr. Williams.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre also welcomed Mr. Williams. Councilman St. Pierre apologized for his tone of voice earlier in the meeting and said he is still passionate about the project.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque inquired about grating of streets in the Streets Project. Mr. Gravois indicated they are currently taking care of that while the weather permits, adding that they have pretty much identified the streets that need resurfacing and is waiting on the final list.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BLAISE GRAVOIS thanked the council for approving the approved budget.

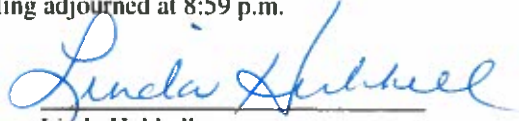
INGRID LEBLANC welcomed Mr. Williams to the team. She thanked SueWon for the great job filling in.

FRANCIS HYMEL said they are aware of the email spam being received.

MICHELLE OCTAVE congratulated Councilman Amato and said they look forward to having him as the Councilman of the Month at the Economic Development Board meeting next Wednesday. She thanked Entergy for installing new light poles at the Welcome Center. The Woman to Woman Business Workshop will be held tomorrow at the Vacherie Library from 5-7 p.m. She said Civic Source has listed 21 properties on its website. She said she is working with DHR and PHA on community initiatives for a better quality of place for certain areas that they will be targeting grant funding for, as it relates to housing and community development.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.



Linda Hubbell
Secretary