

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 13, 2022**

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, April 13, 2022, at 6:20 p.m., following the public hearing.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Mason Bland, Clyde Cooper, Donald Nash, and Chairwoman Vondra Etienne-Steib. Councilman Ryan Louque was absent.

Those also in attendance were Linda Hubbell, Council Secretary; Peter Dufresne, Parish President; Ingrid Bergeron, Human Resources Director; Eric Deroche, Emergency Preparedness Director; Felix Boughton, Finance Director; Rick Webre, Operations Director, and Adam Koenig, Legal Advisor. Special Counsel Adam Parker was also in attendance.

The Honorable Vondra Etienne-Steib, Chairwoman, 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.

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

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Nash the minutes of the March 30, 2022 regular meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for February 2022 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Bland.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dufresne presented this report to the Council:

- Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone.
- I'd like to start my report tonight by honoring and thanking our 911 dispatchers in honor of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. From the moment the line is picked up, nothing but care and calmness comes from our wonderful dispatchers. They extend the calm and collective words that are needed during such a hard time. In the year 2021, our 911 department received 14,584 emergency calls aside from all other calls that are handled. Please help us extend the greatest Thank You to our loyal dispatchers of St. James Parish!
- This past week, we also celebrated St. James Parish Ag Day at the Fast Food Farm located in Gramercy off of Hwy 3125. The Fast Food Farm is a nonprofit organization that teaches the importance of agriculture for the benefit of everyone. Children ages pre-k to first grade were able to experience first hand how agriculture benefits so much in their day-to-day life.
- Our Senior Wellness Program will begin its Fitness Exercise classes April 21st. The East Bank classes will be held at the St. James Fitness Center on Monday and Wednesdays from 9am to 10am. The West Bank classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday at the West Bank Reception Hall from 9am to 10am.
- The Blood Center will be hosting a Blood Drive at the Convent Community Center on Thursday, April 21st from 9am to 4pm. Please visit our Facebook page to schedule an appointment.
- Our Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board will be hosting a parish-wide cleanup day on Saturday, April 23rd from 8am-11:30am. East Bank will meet at the Tourist Welcome Center and West Bank will meet at the Vacherie Health Unit. Food and refreshments will be available post clean up.
- We are still accepting applications for our 2022 College Student Summer Internship Program. This will be a 10-week program, starting June 6th. Friday, April 29th is the application deadline. Please visit our Facebook page to apply.
- Be sure to stop by our parish libraries to participate in the Easter Egg Challenge! Receive an easter egg for every book you checkout and reveal a prize! Also, both the Lucher and Vacherie branches have Grab-n-Geaux Easter craft bags.
- The Department of Human Resources is accepting applications for Hurricane Ida Disaster recovery and relief for residents of St. James Parish. The current services available for eligible residents are roll off dumpsters, debris and tree removal, and furniture and appliance replacement. Building materials and minor repairs will be available also depending on qualifying factors. Additionally, hotel and temporary lodging may also be available. DHR is also assisting eligible residents with rent, mortgage, utility services, and emergency services. Due to Hurricane Ida and COVID relief programs, residents who may typically not qualify for services may be eligible. Residents are encouraged to contact the department to discuss eligibility requirements. For Hurricane relief, contact 225-562-2353 and for COVID and other emergency assistance contact 225-562-2442.
- The parish baseball teams first games will be the last weekend of April.
- Our Adult Cornhole is happening every Tuesday night at the new East Bank Recreation Center. Kids Cornhole is happening every other Monday.
- We are continuing to work on repairs at all of our parish parks since Hurricane Ida. The park lights will all be replaced by the first week of May. Also, the net at Paulina Park will be up by mid-May. Please have patience with us as we try to find funds within our budget to complete all repairs in a timely manner.
- We'd like to congratulate our 10 year-old All-Star Bitty Basketball team on winning the National Championship 2 weekends ago.
- The St. James Parish utilities department has changed over to a new payment system for all utility bills. This new payment system will replace the old payment system when paying your utilities bill online. To pay your bill online, go to the parish website, click on the "Pay Utilities Bill" button and it will direct you to the new payment

system website through UtilityPlus. If anyone has any questions regarding this new system, please contact our Citizen Service Center at 225-562-2500.

- A Task order was issued to Crescent Engineering for the Magnolia Heights Interior Drainage. This was submitted to the Office of Community Development for CBG Grant. As soon as we get approval from OCD, a bid will be advertised, and a contractor will be selected. Right-a-ways and servitudes still need to be obtained as well.
- Vacherie Canal Debris Cleaning: Power barges have been received at the shop. Two others will be sent straight to the levee. This project will be done with in-house resources. Our crews will deploy Monday to begin testing and training. All debris monitoring will be done in house and will be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement through the Public Assistance Program. Estimates for this project are approximately \$400k.
- The road rehabilitation program is already out for bid. RFQ's have been received and will be evaluated early next week. An engineer will be selected to design our road rehab program and a bid packet will follow.
- St James Parish Government is applying for the RISE Grant in an attempt to gain funding for the Hwy 20 Bypass Project. This project will extend Hwy 20 from Molasion north to Hwy 3127 and will dovetail into the 3127 4-lane widening project.
- St. James Parish offices will be closed this Friday, April 15th in observance of Good Friday. I hope everyone has a great and safe Easter weekend!

God Bless everyone here and God Bless St. James Parish.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Acquisition of Land for Multipurpose Building – still waiting on the appraisal. A meeting is scheduled on April 20th with the hospital. A preliminary drawing is available but may need to be changed due to other buildings (Vacherie Sr. Center and the ARC) that were damaged by Hurricane Ida.
2. Update of drainage study for Forrestal Street to Pool Lane – looking at in-house things to improve drainage.
3. Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board Attendance and Parish Litter Clean-up Day – reminder that clean-up day is April 23rd and ask the council to let their board members know that they need to attend the next meeting because decisions need to be made prior to clean up day.
4. **ORDINANCE 22-03, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-12 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMODITY PRICE INDICES FOR THE PARISH'S RATE OF SCHEDULE FOR SALES TO LARGE VOLUME INDUSTRIAL USERS OF NATURAL GAS LOCATED IN THE PARISH'S SERVICE AREA; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and was seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Amato informed everyone that he received a request from Mary Walker, Justice of the Peace in District 1, requesting that they be allowed to attend one of our redistricting meetings to listen in and to provide input on the possible new district lines.

RESOLUTION 22-72, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COLLEAGUES OF MR. J. HUGH MARTIN, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted

RESOLUTION 22-73, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE APRIL 15, 2022 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-74, 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 Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-75, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF NATURAL GAS FROM THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION AUTHORITY, D/B/A LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY (“LMGA”) AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GAS SALES CONTRACT WITH THE LMGA (THE “GAS SALES CONTRACT”); AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY STANDARDS BOARD GAS SALES CONTRACT (THE “NAESB CONTRACT”) WITH KOCH METHANOL ST. JAMES LLC (“KMSJ”) FOR THE SALE OF SAID GAS; CONSENTING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GAS SALES CONTRACT AND THE NAESB CONTRACT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF GAS PROJECT REVENUE BONDS BY THE BLACK BELT ENERGY GAS DISTRICT (“BLACK BELT”); APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING FULL REQUIREMENTS SUPPLY AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN LMGA AND THE PARISH; APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE LMGA PERTAINING TO THE PREPAID SUPPLY; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-76, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH STARSTONE, INDEPENDENT, QBE, TRAVELERS, ATLANTIC,

PALOMAR AND LOCA FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE AND TPA FEES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-77, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA) IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING ST. JAMES WATER'S WATER SECTION PROGRAM PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SAID AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-78, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT OR DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH REV FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTER NETWORK CONNECTIONS AND TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS THEREWITH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-79, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE VARIANCE FOR THE HENRY STARLONE TRACT OWNER ANNE ROUSSEL FOR A 20' PUBLIC UTILITY AND ACCESS SERVITUDE, PLANNING COMMISSION ITEM 22-12, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-80, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF LUTCHER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-81, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-82, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH LOUISIANA CONTROLS, INC. FOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ON CONTROLS OF ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-83, A RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL THE BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE CONVENT COURTHOUSE GENERATOR ADDITION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-84, A RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL THE BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE SEWER PLANT GENERATOR ADDITION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash. Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-85, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO READVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR AT THE CONVENT COURTHOUSE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-86, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO READVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR AT THE MOLAISSON SEWER PLANT, was offered and move for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-87, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF BUNKER GEAR SPECIALISTS FOR THERMAL IMAGERS, was offered and move for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-88, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF BUNKER GEAR SPECIALISTS FOR BUNKER GEAR, was offered and move for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-89, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SJB GROUP, LLC, was offered and move for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque absent, the resolution was adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 22-04, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADOPTED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2022 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman

Amato and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque 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 Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ERIC DEROCHE – We are moving along with PPDR (Private Property Debris Removal). More information will be coming out soon.

INGRID BERGERON – No bids were received for the kitchen equipment for the 3rd time, so we will go out for the state contract. The hurricane recovery site will be set up at the DHR satellite office.

RICK WEBRE – Applying for 4277 grant for the Buddy Whitney canal. Final walk-through and substantial completion for the Carrolsdale subdivision is scheduled for next week. Replaced 18" culverts with 24" at N. Angelle to St. James Street, poured driveways and catch basin last week. Fire Marshall inspection and substantial completion for the Parish President's office renovations is scheduled for April 19th. The roll off trucks and containers project is going well. The litter abatement crews will participate in the Parish clean-up day. David Plantation project is on time and on budget. Vegetation crews will start to roll out soon. The Mississippi River is still high so it will delay some projects. Online permitting should also begin soon. The federal mandate for CDL training will be held in-house

FELIX BOUGHTON – The February allotment of sales tax was received, and we came in at about 88% of last year.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre reminded the council that the Tier 3 reports are due by May 15th. He requested updates on the following: Gramercy Recreation Master Plan, Personnel move to East Bank Recreation Center, and the Welcome Center. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato requested an update from our legislative lobbyists at an upcoming meeting. He said Rowdy Scott will set up a meeting with the Parish President regarding a summer camp.

COUNCILMAN LOUQUE – Councilman Louque was absent.

COUNCILMAN BLAND – Councilman Bland said, regarding Big Shake, that they are fighting for our Parish and residents, and he thanked the residents for attending the meeting. President Dufresne said his main issue is what is the end game once they are finished. Councilman Bland said they are waiting on a decision from the Land Use legal team on how the Parish will move forward. He asked for some upgrades to the sound system in the Council Chambers. Mr. Deroche said proposals were received and it is moving forward. He indicated that he reached out to DOTD for an update of the re-pavement of Hwy 44 from Airline Ave. to Hwy 642. He indicated that he is having difficulty putting in work orders on his phone. He said the payment link on the website brings you to the old payment system. Mr. Deroche said they will look into it. He wished everyone Happy Easter.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper inquired about what was included with the \$75K in the LA Controls contract. Mr. Webre said it is for full preventative maintenance for the four buildings. Councilman Cooper wished everyone a Blessed Easter.

COUNCILMAN NASH – Councilman Nash inquired about the culvert replacement on Hwy 643. Mr. Webre said they are waiting on the bid packet to proceed. Councilman Nash also inquired about drainage at Ricky Road. Mr. Webre indicated that it is not an additional out fall but they are looking to see what they need to do to make it happen.

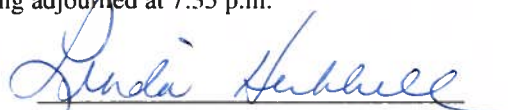
CHAIRWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Chairwoman Etienne-Steib thanked Councilman Amato for stepping up for the Public Hearing. She inquired about the road resurfacing project. Mr. Webre indicated the RFQ's for were received and will be assessed early next week, and the bid for preservation will go out soon. She invited the Council Members and Mr. Deroche to join her to meet with Paster Johnny McGee and parishioners about ongoing projects regarding crime in the Parish. She said she also invited the Mr. Webre, the Parish President and the Sheriff to the meeting that will be held on Monday at First Baptist Church at 5:30pm. She requested 50 copies of the on-going DHR projects flyer. She wished everyone Happy Easter.

At this time Parish President said that they are in the infant stages of developing a farmer's market to be located at the Welcome Center.

Chairwoman Etienne-Steib said she is looking forward to the clean up day, and she said the litter abatement crews are doing a good job.

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 Bland and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary