

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 29, 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, May 29, 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, Eddie Kraemer, and Chairman Ryan Louque.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Timmy 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.

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 Amato, the minutes of the May 15, 2019 public hearing on Syngas' Land Use Permit Approval were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Kraemer, the minutes of the May 15, 2019 public hearing on Proposed Ordinances 19-05 and 19-06 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 May 15, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) I am glad to inform you that DHR was successful in achieving a \$2,500 grant for our Seniors with a Beat the Heat Program.
- 2) It concerns me greatly that for the amount of money that Capital Area United Way collects in all of St. James Parish, which amounts to approximately \$820,000, we only receive \$21,000 through Council on Aging; a decrease from \$56,000 last year, with the ARC receiving zero.
- 3) St. James Rise & Coalition Against Death Alley March will take place starting tomorrow, Thursday, May 30th in St. John Parish and will end Sunday, June 2nd in Baton Rouge. All authorities and government agencies are aware of the march and its time schedule. Please expect delays on some of these highways. St. James Parish Government can only permit events on Parish owned streets and grounds.
- 4) I have a few reminders for you:
 - St. James Parish Hurricane Season Kick-Off meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th at 6 pm to be held at the Convent Community Center.
 - Small Business Appreciation Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019. Doors open for 5:30 pm

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Keri Walker, Library Supervisor, and Veda Bailey, Chairman of the Library Board, presented the St. James Parish Library Board's Annual Report.

Josh Manning provided information on the Parish Prospective Precincts and Redistricting.

At this time, Chairman Louque called for public comment on any specific agenda item. The following made comment on the Syngas Land Use Permit Approval item:

1. Genevieve Butler, 7364 Freetown St., St. James, LA (submitted a letter from LA Env. Action Network)
2. Kendall Dix, 1814 Kerlerec St., New Orleans, LA
3. Ann Rolfes, 2803 Saint Phillip, New Orleans, LA
4. Cynthia Russo, 2016 Longwood Dr., LaPlace, LA
5. Lisa Jordan, 6329 Freret St., New Orleans, LA

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The letter received from ACLU Louisiana, regarding a march from Reserve to Baton Rouge beginning May 30, 2019 on behalf of Rise St. James, was read aloud by Secretary Hubbell.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 19-111, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAUL BEIER TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-112, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BEN RODRIGUE AS A DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD**. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-113, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MAC BORDELON TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-114, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LOUIS KLIEBERT TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – no new update. Council will send a letter to follow-up.
- Cave-ins on Central Canal – The work should be completed this week.

At this time Chairman Louque open the floor to take action on **CONSIDERATION OF APPEAL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S APPROVAL OF SYNGAS ENERGY HOLDING, LLC LAND USE APPLICATION.** Councilman Kraemer made a motion to deny the appeal and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote showing, St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Kraemer, and Louque in favor to deny the appeal, and Cooper and Etienne-Steib against, the motion carried.

ORDINANCE 19-05, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CHANGING OF THE NAME OF YOUTH CENTER STREET TO LIFE HOUSE STREET IN DISTRICT 5, ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and was seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

ORDINANCE 19-07, 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 Amato and was seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-115, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MAY 31, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-116, 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 the resolution was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-08, TO CREATE PROSPECTIVE PRECINCTS BY THE SPLIT AND/OR MERGER OF PRECINCT GEOGRAPHY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA REVISED STATUES 18:532 AND 18:532.1, 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, June 12, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent and at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

RESOLUTION 19-117, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES DESIGNEE TO SIGN AND/OR EXECUTE A CONTACT WITH BAYARD MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-118, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN NEW AND/OR AMENDED CONTRACTS FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT BETWEEN THE LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-119, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF FERRERA FIRE APPARATUS INC. / REV GROUP FOR SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FOR THE UNION-CONVENT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT, AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-120, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF FERRERA FIRE APPARATUS INC. / REV GROUP FOR A BREATHING AIR COMPRESSOR FOR THE UNION-CONVENT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT, AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-121, A RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN FINAL APPROVAL FOR A COMMERCIAL USE IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA FOR THE C.A.D. PRINTING UNLIMITED, LLC/SWEET SHOP, ITEM #19-11. was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested a condolence letter be sent to the family of Mrs. Shirley Folse.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she received 8 calls in regard to the Syngas project; 5 opposed, 3 supported. She said she looked at her voter registration list of all the people who actually voted and that is how she made her decision, adding 6 of the 8 people were active voters. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib thanked the council and administration for the plant regarding her sister's death.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper commended the residents of the 5th district for fighting for what they believe in and also the Tulane Group for helping them to speak their voice. Councilman Cooper said they are looking to put something in place to allow industries to come into certain areas, adding that the people are not getting the jobs. He gave a list of some of the business that have already left the area and said that residents are moving to Ascension Parish. Councilman Cooper requested Mr. Vic provide an update on the 5th District building. Councilman Cooper inquired as to how do we determine the needs of each fire station. Mr. Hymel explained that there is a 7 year cycle to get new apparatus and said the National Fire Protection Association says how much equipment you have to have. President Roussel reminded Councilman Cooper of the Fire Association meetings that the council is welcome to attend. Councilman Cooper requested a condolence letter be sent to the family of Ms. Shirley Cantrelle. Councilman Cooper gave a shout out to all graduates of St. James High, especially his daughter, Charity Cooper and to Mrs. Octave's daughter, and to all 2019 graduates at Lutchter High. He also gave a shout out to his daughter Shandenasia who graduated from Nicholls.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked Mr. Gravois for getting to touch with the Levee Board for him.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato said he will speak with R. J. tomorrow about the school side, street project. Councilman Amato requested to have a retirement letter sent to Keith Duperclay, and to Ruth Gaudin and Audrey Reulet for retiring from the Area Agency on Aging Board.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Gravois for sending a letter to Imperial for the Hot Water ditch extension going into the swamp. He said the work at the cave-ins has been taken care of and expressed his appreciation. He said the work at the Recreation Department, adding baseball has been successful and moving forward for soccer. Councilman St. Pierre requested a list of where the summer workers will be assigned. Councilman St. Pierre asked for a plan for the GOMESA funding.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque said he sent an email about the ditch behind Matherne's, behind the back of the houses on Nicole Street, having cave-ins. Mr. Gravois indicated that as soon as he gets the excavator out of the canal it will go to Nicole Street. Chairman Louque said the right of way ditch through the park needs maintenance, and requested official correspondence be sent about the rail crossing at Belmont.

DIRECTOR REPORT

MICHELLE OCTAVE – reminded the council of the upcoming Business Appreciation Luncheon at 6:00, with networking beginning at 5:30. She indicated that she has workshops scheduled for June, July, and August for business owners to be engaged. She said work has been done on the Muriel and there are plans for more work at the Welcome Center. She thanked Keri and Veda for the great presentation on the library.

BLAISE GRAVOIS – asked Secretary Hubbell to put executive session on the next agenda to discuss the status of the 5th District, since it is still in litigation.

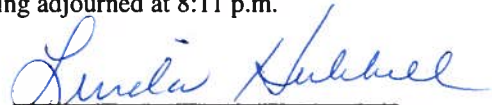
CHANTAL WAGUESPACK – congratulated all graduates, from Kindergarten through College, adding she had a graduate from LSU.

INGRID LEBLANC – recognize her hard-working staff for working diligently to serve the residents of St. James Parish and that they will be happy to hear that the Council is behind them.

FRANCIS HYMEL – reminded everyone that June 1st is the beginning of hurricane season and to be prepared, adding that we don't know what kind of season we will have.

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 Kraemer and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary