

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 8, 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, June 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Those also in attendance were Hollie Zeringue, Assistant Deputy Council Secretary; Peter Dufresne, Parish President; Ingrid Bergeron, Human Resources Director; Eric Deroche, Emergency Preparedness Director; Felix Boughton, Finance Director; Ryan Louque, Assistant Director of Operations, and Adam Koenig, Legal Advisor.

The Honorable Jason Amato, Vice-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.

Councilman Cooper offered the invocation and Councilman St. Pierre led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

One a motion offered by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre the minutes of the May 25, 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 April 2022 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Cooper.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dufresne presented this report to the Council:

- I'm proud to announce that St. James Parish will be hosting our first Farmer's Market this Saturday, June 11th at the Welcome Center from 9am – 2pm. Please stop by and help make this a successful event! We still have room for more vendors to participate.
- Hurricane season has officially begun as of June 1st. I would like to remind residents that the time to prepare is now. We have several resources available on our website on how residents can prepare their emergency kits at home and be ready for another storm season.
- T. Baker Smith has submitted a permit request to DOTD to begin construction for the LA Hwy 643 drainage project. The Operations Department will obtain construction quotes once permitting is approved by DOTD.
- Next week the Operations Department will be holding a joint meeting with Material Resources Incorporated and Crescent Mapping and Surveying to begin planning the 2022 Road Rehab and Preservation Project. The 2021-2022 road rehab program will be divided into three categories: preservation, mill-patch-overlay, and edge failure repair. Edge failure repair will be submitted to FEMA to develop a project work sheet under Category C.
- The David Plantation drainage improvements project is in the final stages. A walk through of the project with representatives from High Tide Consultants, Byron Talbot Contractors, and St. James Parish are scheduled for late next week.
- The Convent water treatment plant clarifier addition is in the final design phase. Bids are expected to begin advertising by the end of July. This project is funded by the first round of the American Rescue Act.
- Construction of the new DHR building has begun. A groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Tuesday June 14th at 8am. The public and local officials are invited to participate in this event and to recognize the improvements made to our Human Resources department.
- Structural metal beams for the East Bank recreation facility have finally arrived. Work has begun on the interior of the building, and a new foundation has been poured.
- Wind Retrofitting of the West Bank Reception center should be complete by the end of this week.
- The new Natural Gas Metering Station on the East Bank is in construction and should be ready for installation mid-July. This will allow the utilities department to raise the gas pressure to sufficient levels.
- The new Natural Gas Purchase point in Vacherie is nearing the final administrative planning stage, an interconnect agreement should be on the next council meeting for approval. Operations staff have been meeting with Acadian Pipeline and High Tide Consultants to finalize infrastructure specifications. This project will increase gas pressure to the South Vacherie area and add redundancy to our West Bank Natural Gas System. Construction should start 3rd quarter of this year.
- Over the past several months the Utility department has been receiving an influx of gas recheck request. I would like to let residents know that with the current state of the economy, natural gas prices, like those at the pump are consistently rising. Historically the price per cubic foot would fluctuate a couple of cents, however the April invoice rose over .50 per cubic ft, which caused some sticker shock. Unfortunately, we are not just feeling pain at the pump, we are also feeling it at the stove.
- We have many activities going on at our libraries. Today we had 321 kids and adults participate in the Slime Day. On Thursday we are having an art class at the Lucher Library, Friday Johnette Downing will be performing Fins, Grins, Silly Songs, and Stories from the Sea, the times are: Vacherie Library 10am and Lucher Library at 2 pm. Next week will be our first in-house Storytime in about two years, days and times are: Monday Vacherie Library at 10am and Lucher at 2pm. We will also be putting out grab-and-geaux activity bags. Currently we have 134 kids registered for the summer reading challenge. Three have already completed the program and are prize-eligible! Nucor is sponsoring \$1500 worth of summer reading prizes. If anyone is interested in donating for reading prizes, please contact St. James Parish Librarian Keri Walker at 225-869-3618.
- As a reminder, Parish offices and buildings will be closed on June 17th, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

This concludes my report. God Bless each one of you and God Bless St. James Parish.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Zula Singletary was not in attendance to be recognized for celebrating her 100th birthday.

Ms. Laura Dennis Lewis was recognized and presented a plaque for celebrating her 100th birthday.

The LHS Baseball team was honored and presented a plaque for winning the Class 3A State Championship.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 22-123, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MAC BORDELON AS A DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**. Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Acquisition of Land for Multipurpose Building – no further developments.
2. Update of drainage study for Forrestal Street to Pool Lane – Met with Rostan and FEMA last week, toured the cut across canal, (Coteau to Bayou Lasseigne), will meet again next week and get measurements of the trees. Looking to start with the barge in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 22-124, A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE LUTCHER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-125, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JUNE 10, 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 and Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-126, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque and Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-127, RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A BOARD OF REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-128, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF NEW AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN SCHEDULE OF FUNDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023 PROGRAM YEAR, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque and Etienne-Steib absent, the resolution was adopted.

After legal advisor explained there was an error on the roll call section of the resolution and that the substance of the resolution had not changed, **RESOLUTION 22-129, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CHANGE ORDER #3 FROM TBT CONTRACTING, INC. OF LA FOR THE EAST BANK RECREATION FACILITY**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Louque and Etienne-Steib, the resolution was adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – None

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre requested a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Rick Webre's family on the death of his father-in-law and he expressed condolence to Mr. Webre. He requested the status of a few items at the District 1 Park.

COUNCILMAN LOUQUE – Councilman Louque was absent.

COUNCILMAN BLAND – Councilman Bland acknowledged the attendance of some Paulina residents who attend each meeting to receive a status of the Big Shake Pit. He requested a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Martin, of Martin Fab Worx.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper requested the status of the drainage in the Baytree area. Mr. Larousse indicated they are working in the area. Councilman Cooper requested an updated on the pit that they are trying to reopen near Oak Alley. Parish President said he didn't have any information.

COUNCILMAN NASH – Councilman Nash inquired about the size of the gas tap in South Vacherie. Mr. Larousse indicated it would be 4". Councilman Nash requested the status of the culvert on Hwy 643. Mr. Larousse said they received the drawings from T Baker Smith, waiting on the permit to come in and will do the job inhouse.

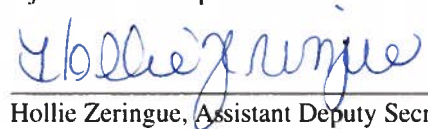
CHAIRWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Chairwoman Etienne-Steib was absent.

VICE-CHAIRMAN AMATO – Vice-Chairman Amato thanked Mrs. Hollie for sitting in the meeting tonight. He also expressed condolence to Mr. Rick's family on the passing of his father-in-law. He recognized Mr. Tommy Martinez, from Senator Kennedy's office, for attending the meeting. He indicated that they receive correspondence from South Central Panning on the Solar Farm and hoping to be moving forward with some type of action in the next couple of weeks.

Councilman St. Pierre acknowledged that Mr. Martinez has been working with Senator Kennedy's office on the levee.

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 6:35 p.m.



Hollie Zeringue, Assistant Deputy Secretary