

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 21, 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, August 21, 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; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Ryan Donadieu, Interim Director of Emergency Preparedness; Lennorah Williams, Assistant 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 August 7, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) This is just a reminder, Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> is a recognized parish Holiday and all Parish Government Buildings will be closed.
- 2) With the Mississippi River level dropping below the alert level, we have begun to catch up on a lot of jobs that were on hold. Besides some of the water line and hydrant repairs and such, two of the larger jobs to mention is our Raw Water Intake Structure on the East Bank and the Chlorine Building on the West Bank.
- 3) We will be moving forward shortly with the Hwy 3127 / 3213 traffic light project. We received hard numbers from Ms. Rhonda Myles-Colar in the last couple of days.

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

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

At this time Chairman Louque called for PUBLIC COMMENT on any specific agenda items.

Ms. Nita Champagne, 13357 Sugar Estates St., spoke about drainage issues in the ditch near her property.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- Mr. Paul Aucoin provided the South Louisiana Port Commission's annual report.
- Ms. Dana Groover was unable to attend the meeting.
- Rev. Johnny McGee addressed the council regarding drainage issues in North Vacherie.
- Gilda Spellman addressed the council regarding drainage issues and community violence (bar room) in her neighborhood in District 6.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-165, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVEN BOURGEOIS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-166, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAM POCHE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-167, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARY KLIEBERT TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – no new update.
- Lutcher 3rd Street Drainage Improvement Assistance Request – work should begin in the next couple of weeks.
- Traffic Light at Hwy 3127/3213 Update – will be moving forward shortly with the Hwy 3127 / 3213 traffic light project. We received hard numbers from Ms. Rhonda Myles-Colar in the last couple of days.
- Servitude access at Sugar Hill Subdivision and Oak Alley for drainage ditches – waiting on Mosaic's representative to sign the right-of-way behind Sugar Hill Subdivision. Blaise will look in the issue near Oak Alley.
- Drainage ditch cleaning on Communi and Barras Streets – Councilman Cooper requested to have the ditches on these streets addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 19-168, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE AUGUST 23, 2019 PAYROLL,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-169, 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, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-170, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF FISCAL YEAR 2019 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER SAID AGREEMENT AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-171, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ST. JAMES PARISH AND UNION-CONVENT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 2002 FORD SERVICE TRUCK AS SURPLUS, AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF THE SURPLUS TRUCK TO ASCENSION PARISH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 AND THE ST. AMANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-172, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STANLEY, REUTER, ROSS, THORNTON & ALFORD, LLC TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO THE PARISH ADMINISTRATION AND THE PARISH COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO LEGAL MATTERS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-173, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-174, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE AN AMENDED CONTRACT WITH GILSBAR, LLC TO PROVIDE BENEFIT SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 19-175, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH PROVIDENCE ENGINEERING AND DESIGN, LLC TO COMPLETE A LIGHTING PHOTOMETRIC ANALYSIS ALONG HWY 641**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-09, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA TO PROCEED WITH A NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000 FINANCING THROUGH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE PARISH'S REQUEST OF THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ISSUE ITS REVENUE BONDS; AUTHORIZING BORROWING BY THE PARISH OF THE PROCEEDS FROM A SALE OF THE BONDS TO FINANCE QUALIFIED GOMESA PROJECTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPAYMENT OF AND SECURITY THEREFOR; APPROVING AND RATIFYING WITHIN CERTAIN PARAMETERS THE TERMS OF THE SALE OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE FORM AND EXECUTION OF THE LOAN AND ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE FORM OF AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BONDS AND ANCILLARY FINANCING DOCUMENTS; AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO**, 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, September 4, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent

Legal counsel Martin informed the council that this ordinance would need to be revised. He added that in 2009 or 2011 the council basically did an amendment to Chapter 18 and the setbacks were left off the ordinance. **INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-10, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, AS IT PERTAINS TO BUILDING CODES, BUILDING INSPECTIONS, AND INSPECTION FEES**, 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, September 4, 2019, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

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

**COUNCILMAN KRAEMER** – Councilman Kraemer requested the status of the waste water oxidation pond in the Molaison area. Mr. Gravois indicated they are waiting on final answer from DHH to go out for bid. Councilman Kraemer expressed appreciation for the work that was done to the sidewalks.

**COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB** – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib thanked Pastor McGee and Ms. Spellman for sharing their concerns. She addressed the items that were brought to her attention. She said in 2008 voters voted against parish wide sewerage. She added that if there is raw sewage in the ditches, it can be addressed, but at a cost

to the property owner. She asked Mr. Gravois to explain what can be done to address the issue of filling in yards with dirt, overflowing ditches, widening streets, etc. Mr. Gravois explained that residents would need to give up more right-of-way to widen Old Vacherie Road. He addressed drainage, saying a study was done and a culvert was installed under the Laura ditch canal. He said the main problem with drainage in that area is the culverts under the railroad tracks are undersized. He said it doesn't help to dig the ditches deeper because it wouldn't help until the culvert under the railroad track gets changed. President Roussel said they did contact Senator Kennedy's office to help address these issues. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib stated that she has been in contact with the property owner at the corner of Luther King to talk about possibly giving a right-of-way. She said that she will get with the Sheriff to speak about the bar room issue.

**COUNCILMAN COOPER** – Councilman Cooper requested an update of the Splash Park schedule. He asked when the asphalt will get done on Villavaso St. Mr. Gravois stated completion will be in November.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin had no comment.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato reminded everyone that the Jr. ROTC clean-up is this Saturday. He thanked Entergy and Providence Engineering, adding that they are getting close on the Hwy 641 lighting project. Councilman Amato wished Best of Success to our two Parish football teams, Lutcher and St. James. He congratulated Mrs. Vondra and Mr. Louque on their re-elections. He said he is sad to see President Roussel and Mr. Patin retiring and will be showing appreciation in the coming months. Councilman Amato said he will be sending his budget information by the end of the week.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St Pierre wished Best of Luck to the Southwest Baseball team. He said he is finalizing some of his budget items. He asked if the bids went out for the BKI project. Mr. Gravois said the documents are being prepared for council approval and will get the list out in the next few days. Councilman St. Pierre asked that a list of the GOMESA projects be sent to him.

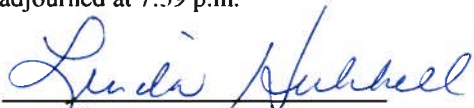
**CHAIRMAN LOUQUE** – Chairman Louque inquired about the East Bank Parish canal dredging permit. Mr. Gravois indicated that a Corp permit is needed, which they won't get until the dispute between the Corp and DNR is settled about where to put the soil when dredging.

#### **DIRECTOR REPORT**

**RYAN DONADIEU** – gave a brief summary of the Ransomware issues. He said they will be coming to the council within the next few meetings to add to the network protection.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Amato and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

  
Linda Hubbell, Secretary