

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 31, 2022**

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 31, 2022, at 7:07 p.m., immediately following the public hearing.

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

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. Mr. Vic Franckiewicz, Special Counsel, 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 St. Pierre led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

On a motion offered by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Bland the minutes of the August 17, 2022 public hearing were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Louque the minutes of the August 17, 2022 regular meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Dufresne provided the following report to the Council.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone.

- This week, Monday specifically, marks one year since Hurricane Ida devastated our parish. While we are well on the road to recovery, we are certainly not fully recovered. In fact, we still have 150 families displaced to mobile housing provided by HUD, FEMA, and GOSHEP. It's amazing to look back at how far we have come since Hurricane Ida hit. One year ago today, the roads were largely still unpassable. Today, I can proudly say that this administration has worked tirelessly year-around to not only help repair what was lost or damaged, but to create new infrastructure to provide greater levels of safety and protection to all our residents.
- I'd like to remind everyone that for Hurricane Ida, we only had 48 hours to prepare for the biggest storm to ever impact St James Parish. Please ask yourself, if a storm were to hit two days from now, would you be ready? I'd like to encourage all residents to have essentials ready at all times including medicine, supplies, copies of legal documents, clothes, and any other supplies you may need for 72 hours following a storm. Please include a transistor radio in those supplies. WWL has built a new radio station in collaboration with FEMA and you will be able to access information during a storm via radio. On our website, you can find an emergency supply list, sign up for our community alert system, learn how to financially prepare for a storm, and much more.
- The Operations Department is conducting Hurricane Preparedness drills this week in order to ensure our team is ready in the event a hurricane impacts us again.
- The St James ARC opening is delayed due to the state inspector being unable to inspect the building until September 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, this will push back our launch date, which was originally for September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- I'd like to invite each of you to our Parish Pumpkin Patch on October 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting student fieldtrips throughout the week, and our Market Day will combine with the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to mark your calendar now and plan to attend.
- The expansion of the Recreation Building in Gramercy is nearing completion. In 37 working days, we expect to have this project completed and the building will be back available for public use, including Bidy Basketball.
- The David Plantation subdivision drainage project was due to be completed, unfortunately weather conditions have delayed the project.
- Construction of the natural Gas pay point enhancement in Grandpoint starts on the September 23 and will be finished by the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.
- The Parish does have multiple current job openings. For more information, please visit our website to apply.

This concludes my report. God bless everyone here tonight, and God bless St James Parish.

At this time Chairwoman Etienne-Steib asked for a motion to move the presentations to this place on the agenda due to Mr. Mathews needing to leave. Councilman Louque offered a motion and was seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Paul Matthews, Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana presented the Port's Annual Report.

Dr. Brooks with the Louisiana Department of Health was not in attendance to provide an update on COVID and Monkeypox.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following provided public comment:

Justin Kray, 2433 Onzaga Street, New Orleans, LA 70119.

Corrine Van Dalen, 900 Camp Street, Unit 303, New Orleans, LA 70130

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Acquisition of Land for Multipurpose Building – The appraisal is due to come back on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Update of drainage study for Forrestal Street to Pool Lane – No new update.

**ORDINANCE 22-09, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 98 “PUBLIC ROADS” OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL ARTICLE 2, SECTION 98-21 AND 98-22 AND REPLACE WITH SECTIONS 98-21 AND 98-22 “INSTALLATION OF CULVERTS”**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved adoption by Councilman Amato, and was seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman Nash stated that he is sure that everyone in their family has been affected in some form or fashion by industry. He said we constantly talk about green deal and bringing some type of green energy into our community. He said the facility that is being proposed can possibly be used for that purpose, which is not specifically a chemical plant, adding that he is sure it would benefit each and every one of us. He said they do realize that a large percentage, roughly 70-75%, of the funds that St. James Parish receives comes from industry. He said if we constantly look to relocate industrial plants out of St. James Parish where will we get funds from. We lost roughly \$150,000+ from the last plant that was shut down. If we constantly shut plants down and remove them from St. James Parish what will we live off of and how will we benefit our families, the ones that work at the plants or have family members that do. If we decide that we don't want to live in St. James Parish, that we are calling a cancer alley, whatever area you will move into, I'm sure they have some kind of plant in that area. He said it's smart to smartly move plants here, that is what the Council does, to make sure that they are following regulations and we will not allow anything to come into our Parish without making sure it goes through the rules that they have to go through. He said having this on the agenda is not to shove anything down any community's throat, this is an open book council that will allow the process to take place and that is pretty much what we are doing here. He said you can look around in our community and can see the benefit that we have from industry. He said with the old industry, there is a process there that no one on this Council would approve, but things have changed, and we are not talking about bringing the old chemical industry into our community, we are talking about a clean facility that we all will benefit from.

Councilman Bland asked for clarification that this designated area in the area in District 4 is the only residential/future industrial zone area. Mr. Franckiewicz said that was correct. Councilman Bland said he voted to introduce this ordinance to gain a field of understanding because he wasn't part of that process in 2014 and 2018. He said a part of his decision-making is to make sure he hears both sides of the story and to be able to gain the knowledge of how both sides are coming from. He said he understands the risks and benefits of decisions. He said Ms. Felton referenced that we don't bring the public to make decisions. He said tonight's public hearing is to do that, hearing both sides of the story. He said this is the public forum to be able to hear the voices from the people. He said this isn't a vote tonight for a specific industry, this is a vote on land use, we are not saying this petrochemical plant is coming, this is just a land use designation so I don't want it to get twisted as to what we are voting for here tonight.

Councilman Cooper thanked everyone for coming out and voicing their concerns. He said this is in the 5<sup>th</sup> District and has been a long haul. He said we have been here multiple times with industry in the area and I want to make this clear, its not the like people in the 5<sup>th</sup> District are totally opposed or against industry. The main thing they oppose of is the location of industry, that they are being put in between communities, bringing down the property value. He added that we have loss about 15-20% of our residents that have move to surrounding parishes because of industry constantly locating in the 5<sup>th</sup> District. He said we need to take those things into consideration. He said when South Louisiana Methanol purchased the land in 2014 that's when the land use was first brought into existence, to get things set up and going, but in 2018 we amended it allowing South Louisiana Methanol to operate their facility in the footprint that was originally proposed by them, but what ever other property they purchased had to remain agriculture, or in that state, it could not be industrial. He said the Council put forth a lot of effort to leave that in place, but we were amending it because originally, we were planning on removing them altogether and we had discussions as a council, and we came to that decision that it had to remain under that umbrella. The Council honored, and it was not the fault of the Council that South Louisiana Methanol is in the position that they are in. He said we are not guaranteed that a green energy is going to be located there because if we're giving them a rubber stamp to change it back to industrial property then they can allow whatever to come in that meets the industry's standard. He said that has been a concern and at that time he was not an elected official, he was one that brought about 500 signatures, personally, to the EPA and said he had them signed saying that that many residents did not want South Louisiana Methanol to locate right next to a public park, which is one of the most utilized parks in the District. He said at the at time we allowed them to stay under that footprint and there were changes proposed to be made and he had to meet again at the West Bank Reception Center with EPA because South Louisiana Methanol wanted to make some changes by putting tanks on their property and by putting a terminal behind the levee. He said that would have brought pipe racks and everything across the highway and would be an eyesore, and mind you they agreed not to do that, in fact in 2018 there was an ordinance signed and agreed on by them and now changes were trying to be made to go away from that ordinance they agreed to. He said he is not seeing a strong effort on the part of South Louisiana Methanol to work with the community to do things that would make the community safe. He said there were several things we were denied as a Council that we tried to get them to cooperate with this Council, with some of the Council like Councilman Bland and Councilman Nash, who were not on the Council at the time, and those things did not come to fruition. He said his push is always for what is best for the community. He said he understands the interest of South Louisiana Methanol and the different persons who spoke to support their economic concerns and impact, but I've always said I believe the loudest voice at the table is the residents who live there and we should always have their voice at the table and they should be one of the loudest voices that we listen to and make our decision on. He said he knows that the Council has made difficult decisions in the past and we made challenging decisions a couple of weeks ago that not always appease

to everyone but with this situation having run its natural course I think we need to allow it to run its natural course. He thanked everyone for being at the meeting and said it is up to them to make the decision.

Councilman Louque said that some comments were made when we first introduced the ordinance at the previous meeting. He said his reason for supporting to introduce was simply to get comments. We hear feedback that residents want to be involved in the process so the opportunity to be involved is the opportunity to speak at these public hearings and the only way to get to the public hearing was to introduce the ordinance. He said both sides made good points. This particular tract was originally future industrial in 2014 and changed in 2018 to residential growth, as Councilman Cooper's lead. He said he requested information from the permit department, and just to understand we have the word growth on particular areas but permit data doesn't support that. He said from 2015 to current we had 8 residential permits in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, 4 were on the northern end, 4 were in this area. There were 3 in that area, the north end since that area was changed to residential growth in 2018. He said since 2014 when our land use plan came into existence, there is only 1 facility, Koch Methanol, that has been constructed in that area under our approval. He said we are getting bashed on industrial development on the north end of the Parish but the majority of that was there before the land use plan was in existence and he wanted to make sure that was understood. He said he is hearing comments criticizing our land use plan, where I think, generally speaking, it protects a substantial amount of our population, minority population included, and added that according to demographics, our minority population is substantially protected by our land use plan. He said Ms. Van Dalen said it best at the previous meeting, South Louisiana Methanol is in a pickle but it's not our pickle and added that after weighing both sides, I tend to agree with that. They had plenty of opportunity to consider their investments and plenty of opportunity to change what they were doing, plenty enough due time. He said we are sitting here today, last minute, and said he thinks better decisions could have been made by investors. He said he thinks the problem is there is nothing specific to weigh. He said as far as South Louisiana Methanol, no one else is proposing it, if there was some specific change from a methanol plant, we may be better able to weigh something. In closing, he said, it is not our pickle.

Councilman St. Pierre said he was part of the land use plan getting adopted. He said we went through a lot of public comments for months. He said everything was on board and everyone understood what we were doing and at the end of the game it was a 7-0 vote to adopt it. It is not zoning; it is more a land use plan and we always have gotten kind of riddled for that because it is not specific lines. He said this was done a long time ago to put certain industries and/or agriculture and/or commercial to move the Parish forward. He said he agreed with Councilman Louque, that it is not his battle, and we went through a lot to get to where we are right now and I would like to see clean energy come in, everyone one does, it is the big thing of the future. We need plastic, aluminum, or certain items, or you won't survive, even your bread cover is done by petrochemical industry. He said he was taken back is if we change this ordinance that we control what is in it, that if another light industry were to come in it still has to go through the process, through the whole 9 yards, and through the Council. Mr. Franckiewicz said if it got changed to residential/future industrial the Planning Commission would have the authority to approve an industry and it would only come to the Council if someone were to appeal it. He said individual Council Members can appeal it and actually have in the past. If the Council wants to consider it, they can at the drop of a hat. Councilman St. Pierre said that the Council still has input even if the Planning Commission approves it. He said he wanted to specify that even if it did go back to industry, that there would be some controls in place, and we would favor clean energy. He said Madam Chair mentioned Petroplex, we were in Washington DC earlier in the year and a couple of things were thrown out, what they want to do with it, none of it was industry. He mentioned a few agencies they would like to get in there, bulk terminals and such because we have all of transportation that is needed. He said if you went with that then you need to change Petroplex, they have around 1800 acres. He said it's a balancing act and he understands perfectly the 5<sup>th</sup> District, and the 4<sup>th</sup> also. He said District 1 has 7,237 people that live within 2 miles of the facilities, Kaiser and LSR. ADM in the 4<sup>th</sup> District has 5,900, and Rain CII is 4,700, Atlantic Aluminum now has 3,400 and American Styrenics has 1,712. He said he lives in the Town of Gramercy and has just as much coming at him and they were there before he was. He said we went through a process, we can adjust the process, but wants people to understand that the process doesn't go through their way, that there are avenues to take to make sure we get a good process in place.

Councilman Louque said he spoke about growth designation, probably not being a valid term, and the number of permits, he said where he was going with that was that he valued Mr. Kray's comment that maybe we should have some other criteria or other classification within our land use plan. He said we are seeing it with solar and we have different investment potential that has been talked about, clean energy, manufacturing, Amazon distribution, etc. He said that is where he was going with the notes on the number of permits and residential growth.

Councilman St. Pierre said whatever the decision tonight it will impact us because people or looking at St. James to invest, and even with clean energy won't come here. He said if you shut down to the point where you will shutdown everything within the Parish where you are going to live and what you have. Shell closed and we've gotten fortunate with them because it looks like they will start back up. He said down the line, somewhere, things will have to get cut, whether recreation, elderly, food distribution, etc. He said he agrees with Councilman Louque and that maybe designate as light industry so we can get clean energy so we can bring tax dollars back into the Parish.

President Dufresne asked Mr. Franckiewicz to condense everything that was heard and what the ordinance will or will not do just so everyone is clear on exactly what is being voted on, that we are not giving approval to any site or industry.

Mr. Franckiewicz said the land use plan started out around the 2008 timeframe and up to 2011 with the help of South Central Planning and Development Commission and a citizen committee. The draft plan was developed in 2011. It's important to realize that that plan had no official status at the time. It was a proposed plan and it did not address some of the issues that the Planning Commission had identified later. In 2013 through 2014 it sort of got a revival and that is when the Planning Commission created a subcommittee to work on it and the Planning Commission had many meetings and the subcommittee had many meetings and there were many public hearings throughout the process leading up to the Council's adoption of the plan and ordinance and that is the important part, the ordinance in April of 2014. In 2018, based on about 4 years' worth of experience, we did some major amendments to the text and went

with a digital map and cleaned up a few things. Later on in 2018, which was Councilman Cooper's ordinance, that's when this particular area in the 5<sup>th</sup> District was changed from residential/future industrial that it was in the original 2014 plan to the residential growth, that was a major change in 2018. In 2013 it became real, it was being done by the Planning Commission and the Parish Council, who had actual authority and power and responsibility to actually implement something, before it was only on paper, it was only advisory. It was becoming impactful in 2013 and 2014, so it was a much more serious process. With respect to the 5<sup>th</sup> District, a lot of other things happened in this interval. When the original 2011 plan was done by South Central the school was still going to be there, the post office was still there. What happened after that though, the elementary school was slated for closing, the post had left, the population in the Welcome/St. James area was declining, long before the plan started, and there was very little residential construction going on at the time. Finally, the Planning Commission was very concerned about encouraging residential growth in areas that are sandwiched between industry and where the industry was expanding. That was the logic of treating two areas in the Parish and residential/future industrial rather than just residential growth. That came up in 2013 through the Planning Commission and subcommittee process to say these areas are different than other residential areas in the Parish because they are being squeezed by industrial areas, and because as the study, that was sited here several times, it says it is not good to encourage residential development too close to industry. That's why there was a differentiation made and the chart shown to the Council showed the residential permits that were issued across the Parish between 2008 -2014. There were only 6 permits issued in the Welcome/St. James area, whereas down river, which is much more protected, had all the residential growth. He said that was the public process and deliberation that produced the plan that came out in 2014. At the last council meeting I heard for the very first time about this boat trip that was done by South Louisiana Methanol and some Parish officials and how that related to this being designated for existing residential/future industrial. Just to correct the record as the person that wrote every single word that is in the current ordinance, I never heard of any boat trip or any deal that was made. What I just went through is how this process went. He said its fine for people to disagree or a judgement call how best to handle the growth of the Parish. He said he wanted the Council to understand it wasn't just a whim, an accident, or somebody behind the scenes trying to do the plan like this, it's very deliberate. He said the change in 2018 was also very deliberative, by that time the elementary school had reopened. He said when the land use plan was put in place at the time, they had already voted to close the school, so that changed by 2018. Councilman Cooper's ordinance had changed that area but not the East Bank to residential growth. What that meant is that in the prior ordinance residential development was allowed only on existing lots of record, new subdivisions would not have been allowed, except for family subdivisions. Under the new residential growth, residential growth would be unrestricted. Family subdivisions only would have been allowed before, now any subdivision can be allowed in that area. Industrial uses were allowed, but this is very important because this was the protection for the residents that the Planning Commission and Council ultimately put in. Industrial uses within those areas were subject to the buffer zones and the idea was while people still lived in that area then we realized that for another generation there would still be population in that area. They would be protected by ensuring industries stay far enough away, that it would not impact from pollution or a danger safety standpoint. He said the bottom line is that for as it was before, and as it would be if you were passing this ordinance, there is still a set of decision-making considerations that any industry would have to go through before the Planning Commission and if it went up to the Parish Council on an appeal, the Parish Council would do the same thing. In contrast, as residential growth, as it is currently under Councilman Cooper's ordinance, as Ms. Van Dalen accurately pointed out it's a much more stringent set of criteria. He said its harder but its not like that is no protections if you don't have this. He said we didn't get to the residential/future industrial lightly, it was carefully debated, carefully considered by the Planning Commission and the Parish Council through many public meetings that were held throughout the Parish.

**ORDINANCE 22-10, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 82-25 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND TO AMEND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GENERALIZED FUTURE LAND USE PLAN**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash. With there being no second, the motion failed.

Councilman St. Pierre asked that they look at the land use plan for light industry and coordinate that with residential and/or commercial. He said they need to start looking at some other avenues then just industry. Mr. Franckiewicz said we are coming up, in a couple of years, to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original land use plan and it may be an appropriate thing to look at it, a lot has changed since then. Councilman St. Pierre said he didn't think we should wait until the 10-year. Mr. Franckiewicz said he will bring it to the Planning Commission.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 22-172, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2022 PAYROLL**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 22-173, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Louque. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 22-174, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CHANGE ORDER FROM SUN COAST BUILDERS FOR THE KING VIEW FIRE STATION ADDITION**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Cooper, St. Pierre, and Etienne-Steib in favor, and Louque, Bland, and Nash against, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 22-175, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT QUOTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRIER CONSTRUCTION CO., LLC FOR THE PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND UTILITY PATCHING PROJECT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Louque. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 22-176, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE FOR AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR THE FY2022 ROADWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 22-177, A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S ACTION IN PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AS FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK IN ST. JAMES PARISH**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

At this time Councilman Bland offered a motion to move the executive session after the Director's and Council Member's reports. Councilman Louque offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote the motion carried.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**FELIX BOUGHTON** – Will provide an update on the budget at the next meeting. Will defer information on the \$78,000 disaster loan to Mr. Deroche.

**RIC WEBRE** – He emailed the Council a link to a map regarding the road rehabilitation program. You can track it along the entire project. He and his staff will be working on the budget and will contact each of you for input.

**INGRID BERGERON** – We are in Phase 3 of recovery effort with Hurricane Ida. The DHR report was distributed so let her know if you have questions.

**ERIC DEROCHE** – They are looking to applying to FEMA for reimbursement cost of the bond issuance, interest on payments for bonds, and everything else for any permanent work projects. If we are successful in getting one awarded and approved, we will be the first in the country to do this under the new FEMA rules and guidance that came out 2 years ago.

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

**COUNCILMAN NASH** – Councilman Nash had no comment.

**COUNCILMAN COOPER** – Councilman Cooper thanked the public for coming out and expressing their concerns and support of the Council.

**COUNCILMAN BLAND** – Councilman Bland thanked the public for coming out. This is what values in our public meetings to hear everyone out to make decisions based on facts and what is in the best interest of the Parish and residents, that's why I like to hear everyone's opinions from both sides. I got with Operations to get an update on the blighted and tall grass complaint in District 4. We have 2 pages of blights and tall grass in District 4. This will have a positive trajectory for our District getting these cleaned up. But this shouldn't be solely on this process of the Parish. I look to the community to help make our District look better. These things could entail, picking up trash or cutting grass in a ditch that is adjacent to your property or putting in a work order by calling 225-562-2500.

**COUNCILMAN LOUQUE** – Councilman Louque had no comment.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato said our land use plan continues to guide us. He wished Best of Success to LHS Bulldogs and St. James Wildcats on their upcoming football season. He thanked the administration and hardworking employees for the tireless efforts this past year in our recovery efforts from Hurricane Ida. St. Peter Chanel elementary school in Paulina will be moving out the temporary classrooms into their permanent classrooms, just another sign of some things starting to return to normal. He said he recognizes that they still need to work with some residents, but we are making progress.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre had no comment.

**CHAIRWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB** – Chairwoman Etienne-Steib also thanked everyone for coming out, listening to us, and giving us your voice. She said she is very respectful to each of you when you come before her and said she would appreciate if you all would render her the same courtesy as the Chairperson of the Council. She said we all have the same vested interest in making St. James Parish a safe place. She said thank you for your effort and time for help keeping us doing what we are supposed to be doing.

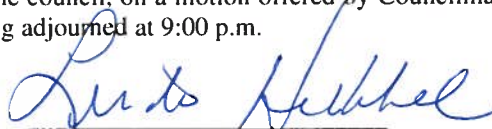
An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** convened at 8:42 p.m., on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried. Members of the Council, President Dufresne, Mr. Adam Koenig, and Mr. Vic Franckiewicz withdrew to an adjoining chamber to discuss pending litigation styled *Yolande Schexnayder & Son, Inc. v. St. James Parish, Docket No. 40,298(E), 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court*. In addition to the named parties in that litigation, St. James Construction Materials, LLC is an intervening party. The litigation pertains to the borrow pit and property commonly known as "Big Shake". All returned at 8:55 p.m., and the regular session reconvened. Chairwoman Etienne-Steib informed everyone that no action was taken.

At this time Chairwoman Etienne-Steib said we seem to be having problems with long waits with the ambulance. Mr. Deroche said representative came to the council meeting explaining the situation and they have a EMT Class slated to start the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of September. He said they are actively recruiting and are having challenges finding EMTs and Paramedics. Councilman Bland questioned the solid waste contract. President Dufresne said they received 2 bids, they will but the committee together next week to review both proposals. Councilman Bland suggested EMTs coordinate with the high school/allied health. Mr. Deroche said they have reach out to the high school requesting through allied health to do EMT classes. They partnered with Terrebonne last year, and the first class last year came

out with 4 EMTs, who were all seniors and 18 years old and were able to work part time for Acadian on weekends and holidays while they were still in school as an EMT. They have a lot more interest this year. They reached out to St. James and St. John school systems and requested to be part of that program to get EMTs trained at the high schools.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Linda Hubbell, Secretary