

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Covent, Louisiana, on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 6:52 p.m., following the public hearing.

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; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Ryan Donadieu, Interim Director of Emergency Preparedness; and Lennorah Williams, Assistant Director of Human Resources

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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the August 21, 2019 regular meeting were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for July 2019 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

Chairman Louque stated that he had a request to amend the agenda to move the presentations for Marshall Louque, Mia Roussel, and Elizabeth Coneglio to this time. Councilman Amato moved to amend the agenda and Councilman Patin seconded. After a unanimous roll call vote, the motion carried.

A plaque and recognition were presented to Marshall Louque, Member of the Southwest Little League Team. After Secretary Hubbell read aloud the proclamation, Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-176, ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL PROCLAIMS RECOGNITION TO THE SOUTHWEST LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM FROM RIVER RIDGE LOUISIANA FOR WINNING THE 2019 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES.** Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After President Roussel recognized and presented plaques to Mia Roussel, St. James Parish Miss Teen Queen; and Elizabeth Coneglio, St. James Parish Miss Queen, Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved **RESOLUTION 19-177, A RESOLUTION BY PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL IN RECOGNITION OF MISS MIA MARIE ROUSSEL ON THE RECENT CROWNING AS THE ST. JAMES PARISH MISS TEEN QUEEN.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-178, A RESOLUTION BY PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL IN RECOGNITION OF MISS ELIZABETH CLAIRE CONEGLIO ON THE RECENT CROWNING AS THE ST. JAMES PARISH MISS QUEEN, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) We do have a lot of part time opportunities becoming available through the Census Act in St. James Parish. We will be publishing the detailed information as we receive it.
- 2) In talking with our legal Counsel, Cody Martin, we believe we should work towards an all-encompassing Intergovernmental Agreement with the School Board and the Towns of Lutcher and Gramercy. Almost like a "once and done" agreement instead of addressing every little event that we participate in together. More details are to follow soon.
- 3) We are looking to move from Laserfiche to One-Drive for storing and archiving our important documents. This will come as an approximate \$10,000 savings per year.
- 4) Let's talk paper; yes, the waste of paper every 2 weeks. We received these packets every two weeks, only to go in the garbage can afterwards. We recently ran across a deal on iPads valued at \$120 per device. I see Councilman Amato & Kraemer utilizing an iPad instead of getting all this paperwork. I would like for the rest of you to consider doing the same thing, thus preventing Linda from copying all this paper. Please let me know how you feel in days to come.
- 5) We are looking at purchasing two river gauges for the Blind River area. Ryan Donadieu investigated the cost recently and found them to cost \$7,500 each. We will provide you with more information as we gain it.
- 6) On the lighting project on Hwy 641 towards I-10, the poles are installed; wiring and lights next.
- 7) Soccer starts at the end of this month. This sporting event is growing more & more each year.
- 8) The Lutcher/Gramercy Lions Club will host their 11th Annual Pumpkin Patch at the St. James Parish Welcome/Tourist Center from October 7th thru 31st from 9 – 4:30 pm.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mason Bland, introduced himself as a Candidate for District 4 Councilman.
- Rhonda Color and Patrick Hamby with Entergy presented information about the new advanced digital meters for homes.
- David Boyd, with BKI gave a short update on the Highway 3125 Drainage projects.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A summary of Wanhua's response to supplement information regarding appeal of Planning Commission's approval of item #18-46, Wanhua Chemical US Operations LLC, land use permit was read aloud by Secretary Hubbell.

At this time Chairman Louque informed everyone that formal notification was received from Wanhua of their intent to withdraw their current land use application.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-179, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SHARON POCHE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.** Councilman Patin 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 – complete. Councilman Amato thanked the Parish for a great job.
- Traffic Light at Hwy 3127/3213 Update – invoice should be approved tonight to begin moving forward.
- Servitude access at Sugar Hill Subdivision and Oak Alley for drainage ditches – Still waiting on Mosiac's representative.
- Drainage ditch cleaning on Communi and Barras Streets – completed.

It was recommended, after a brief discussion to reschedule the November 27, 2019 council meeting to Tuesday, November 26, 2019 to accommodate payroll processing.

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, 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.

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, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and was seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-180, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-181, 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 Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-182, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE QUOTE OF EMCO COMMUNICATIONS, A BEARCOM COMPANY, IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS, (\$17,695.00) FOR REPAIRS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-183, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ST. JAMES PARISH'S 8 FOOT ALAMO FLAIL MOWER AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF THE SURPLUS TO THE TOWN OF LUTCHER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-184, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO USE FUNDS UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (CDBG-DR) FOR THE GRAMERCY DRAINAGE PROJECT, was

offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-185, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH ST. MICHAEL CHURCH PARISH FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING WITH THE ST. MICHAEL FALL FESTIVAL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre said it was an honor to present a plaque to Marshall Louque and to give praise to the Little League team for their achievement. Councilman St. Pierre said the drainage project on the lateral canal is good and had an explanation about what we were going to do and waiting on grant money to do the subdivision. Councilman St. Pierre requested a letter be sent to Entergy for an update on the substation on Highway 61. He said the Town of Gramercy had a request for installation of drainage culverts, adding that they need to move the fire line over, on South Millet Street, and will request assistance from the St. James Fire Department to assist with the cost.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked the Parish and Judo for the relocation of the fire siren. Councilman Amato requested the portable electronic sign, if ready, be placed on Hwy 3193 for notice of the early voting site. Councilman Amato thanked everyone for the good work they are doing.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comments.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper expressed appreciation for the grass being cut near the Sunshine Bridge. Councilman Cooper requested an update of the splash park for District 5. Mr. Gravois stated they are preparing to put it in the 2020 budget. Councilman Cooper indicated that lights are not on the bridge. President Roussel said that when the tolls were removed from the Crescent City Connection those lights there were also removed, adding that the tolls collected were paying for the lights. Councilman Cooper asked if there is finalization on the water for Miss Elaine Grant. Mr. Gravois said the hydrant was flushed and hasn't received the results. Councilman Cooper asked if surplus equipment could be donated to non-profit organizations. President Roussel indicated that it can only be donated to government entities, but will check with legal counsel.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib asked where were they with the road projects and when will they get to the West Bank? Mr. Gravois indicated that crews are working throughout the parish doing patch work, and the project must be completed by November 5th. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib inquired if we were back on track with the ditches, since the rain. Mr. Gravois said all the crews are cutting grass and working on ditches.

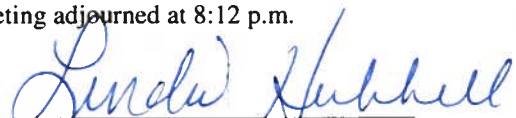
COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer expressed appreciation to the operation department and crew for the side walk repairs, and for the Palm Street culverts.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque said he had received calls regarding street patching and he thanked the administration for answering his questions. Chairman Louque asked if there any right of way issues on Bourbon Canal because he was notified that the grass hasn't been cut. Mr. Gravois indicated they were short two tractor drivers.

DIRECTOR REPORT - None

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 8:12 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary