

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 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, September 28, 2022, at 6:17p.m. following the Public Hearing.

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

Those also in attendance were Linda Hubbell, Council Secretary; Peter Dufresne, Parish President; Darnell Jones, Logistics Manager, Human Resources; Eric Deroche, Emergency Preparedness Director; Felix Boughton, Finance Director; Rick Webre, Operations Director, and Adam Koenig, Legal Advisor.

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 Louque led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Louque the minutes of the September 14, 2022 regular meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dufresne presented this report to the Council:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone.

- Hurricane Ian has hit Florida this afternoon as a category 4, just 2 miles per hour shy of a category 5. There have already been catastrophic damages from Ian, including up to 18 feet of storm surge across the western part of Florida. Governor John Bel Edwards has deployed the Louisiana National Guard to support recovery efforts throughout the state of Florida. Let's keep everyone affected in our thoughts and prayers.
- As Hurricane Ian moves toward and across Florida, the interaction between Ian and a cold front here is causing breezy and dry conditions in Louisiana. This has caused a Wind Advisory, a Red Flag Warning, as well as Small Craft Advisories and Gale Warnings. The entire Southeast region of Louisiana is currently under a Red Flag Warning for dangerous burning conditions. While there is not yet a fire ban in place, I would like to ask all residents to avoid burning at this time until the weather conditions subside.
- The ARC building had its last inspection yesterday, and DHR will be moving forward with expectations to open on Monday October 3rd. All of St James Parish Government is excited to see this project completed and to welcome back the residents of the ARC to this building.
- The St James Parish Sheriff's Office is hosting their Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, October 4th. There is still time to register an event online on the St James Sheriff's Office website.
- Last week, I spoke at the 40th Anniversary of Zen-Noh Grain. This local company has been a valuable community partner over the last 4 decades and I am looking forward to a continual relationship with them for the next 40+ years.
- Shell has filed an ITEP Exemption Request. Mayor Steve Nosaka will speak with us tonight about the exemption request.
- We received a bid for the west bank natural gas purchase point in South Vacherie. The lowest responsive bid was from Feliciano Welders for \$240,000. This project will greatly enhance the natural gas service in Vacherie, Louisiana.
- Board Walk Pipeline Company has begun replacing the natural gas metering station in Paulina as well. This project will allow the utilities department to increase gas pressure on the East Bank. After these two projects are complete, both the East and West Banks should be adequately supplied with natural gas.
- The contract for road patching in the parish will begin in a couple of weeks and the road rehab bid will open on the 10th of October.
- Road preservation is continuing through Material Resources Incorporated; texture seal will be applied to Judge Becnel Street and North Rosery this week.
- This week our team set up for the St James Parish Pumpkin Patch, which will open next week. I'd like to thank the members of my staff, as well as the St James Parish Sheriff's Office and their trustees for setting up for the event yesterday. The Pumpkin Patch will be on October 3rd through 9th. We will be hosting student fieldtrips throughout the week, and our Market Day will combine with the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, October 8th and Sunday, October 9th. Make sure to mark your calendar now and plan to attend.
- In honor of Childhood Pediatric Cancer Awareness month, I have designated tomorrow as a day to wear Gold in honor of children who have battled or are battling cancer. I would like to invite each of you join St James Parish Government in wearing gold tomorrow, September 29th.

God bless everyone here tonight. This concludes my report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PRESENTATIONS

- Mr. Allen V. Davis introduced himself as a candidate for 23rd Judicial Court, Division E.
- Mr. Steve Nosacka informed everyone that Shell has applied for and has received the Economic Development and the State Board of Commerce and Industry approval for the 10-year ad valorem exemption benefit, adding, they now have to submit to the Council, School Board, and Sheriff for approval or denial of the ITEP benefit.

Jordan Tremblay and Kirk Kallenberger with Shell Convent informed the Council of their \$1.5 billion renewal project at the Convent facility.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 22-188, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CRAIG CALCAGNO TO THE GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Acquisition of Land for Multipurpose Building – the appraisal has been received and a meeting has been scheduled for October 3 with the Hospital to talk about next steps.

Update of drainage study for Forrestal Street to Pool Lane – no additional update.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 22-189, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, with St. Pierre and Nash absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-190, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, with St. Pierre and Nash absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 22-191, RESOLUTION IN PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2022 AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FELIX BOUGHTON – He said the special budget meeting will need to be held the week of November 15th with the official introduction being the second week of November. He said there will be 2 issues with the budget, park and recreation and solid waste funds. He said they will allot each district a fixed amount for parks and recreation. Solid waste revenues are also down, and it will not be enough to subsidize garbage collection.

RICK WEBRE – They are starting to develop the scope of work for the Waste Management contract.

ERIC DEROCHE – Submitted to FEMA 15 private property debris removal applications for their review and consideration.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN NASH – Councilman Nash was absent.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper requested a condolence letter the family of Louis Jones, III.

COUNCILMAN BLAND – Councilman Bland requested an update of the restroom drawings for District 4.

COUNCILMAN LOUQUE – Councilman Louque thanked the operation department and the PIO for the Facebook post regarding the metering station. He questioned the legal fees for the District 5 building and asked if was still in litigation. President Dufresne confirmed that it is still in litigation.

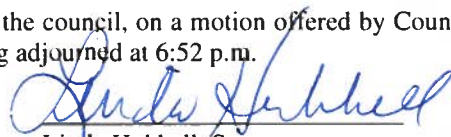
COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato said, with the hurricane bearing down on Florida right now, he is thankful for where we are in our hurricane recovery process and the efforts of the Parish President, administration, and employees for where we are 1 year after the hurricane.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre was absent.

CHAIRWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Chairwoman Etienne-Steib had no comment.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilman Bland and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary