

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 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 Covert, Louisiana, on Wednesday, October 2, 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, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Council Members Vondra Etienne-Steib and Eddie Kraemer were absent.

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; and Ingrid Leblanc, Director of Human Resources, and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Cooper 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 Amato, the minutes of the September 18, 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 August 2019 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report:

- 1) Because of the numerous calls we received stemming from the water outage this past weekend we will be doing a blitz regarding our community alerts. We are asking people to sign up, and anyone that does not have internet access can do so with public computers at both libraries or both utility/permitting offices (East Bank/West Bank). If someone is elderly and unable to travel themselves, they can call DHR at 562-2442 and get signed up by DHR staff. We will also have Ms. Michelle Guidry make a flyer that we can disseminate and/or post on FB and website.
- 2) Just a reminder, the FG LA, The Sunshine Project, will be having their District 5 Community Health Fair this Friday, October 4, 2019 at Rose's Catering. Again, I applaud FG LA for taking this important step to facilitate health concerns in District 5.
- 3) Don't forget about Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, October 15th throughout our Parish. The Sheriff Office will be informing us of all of the available locations.
- 4) We are mid-week into early voting and will run through Saturday, October 5th. The Voting Machine Warehouse located 1611 Lutchter Ave. will be open this Saturday also. The new polling place in Lutchter saw 347 voters walk through the doors, compared to 299 in Vacherie and 115 in Convent for the 1st day of early voting. Through the first 3 days 1,405 voters exercised their right to vote in St. James Parish.
- 5) Friday, October 11th will be a special night for all of St. James Parish when the St. James Wildcats will host the Lutchter Bulldogs. This will be a huge event while the Wildcats will honor their 1st Championship team along with having the Southern University Band on the field at halftime. This will be one to see!!!
- 6) St. James Parish Government will be off on Monday, October 14th while recognizing Columbus Day.

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

- Jeff Duhe and Karinique Stewart provided information regarding the 2020 Census Count.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The letter received from RISE St. James, requesting *A Moratorium on consideration of new land use application, as well as variances, for all new and existing petrochemical facilities and infrastructure, including pipeline, by the Planning Commission and Paris Council* be added as an agenda item was read aloud by the Council Secretary.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 19-197, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MELISSA LAURENT TO THE GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – hoping to obtain some funding from the Opportunity Zones Program.
- Highway 20 Widening Project Update – Environmental Impact Study has been completed.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 19-198, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE OCTOBER 4, 2019 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by

Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib, and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-199, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, with Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-200, A RESOLUTION SETTING THE HOURS FOR "TRICK-OR-TREAT" ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M., was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-201, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE THE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT PLAN WITH ABILA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-202, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A GRANT UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FTA PROGRAMS MANAGED THROUGH LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-203, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND EMPOWERING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A CHRISTMAS BONFIRE PROGRAM AGREEMENT AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH THE PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT AND THE LAFOURCHE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT RELATING TO CHRISTMAS BONFIRES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-204, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THIRKETTLE CORPORATION DBA AQUA METRIC SALES COMPANY FOR A FLEXNET PILOT PROGRAM AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-205, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF FISCAL YEAR 2019 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SHSP) AND ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL 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 Patin. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-206, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL BY ACADIAN GAS PIPELINE SYSTEM UNDER THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE ORDINANCE, WITH CONDITIONS (PLANNING COMMISSION ITEM #19-23), was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, and Louque in favor, Cooper against, and Etienne-Steib and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19-207, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND RECEIVING OF BIDS FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH INTERIOR DRAINAGE PROJECT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre stated that soccer began last week and there were a lot of people. He added that football will also be there this week and the Recreation Board is working to get the parking straight. He thanked the Parish for starting the tennis courts. He reminded everyone that early voting will continue until Saturday and reminded everyone to vote on October 12th. He said he is hoping for a safe Lutch/St. James football game. Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Duhé for the census information, and he expressed how important it is to get accurate numbers. He asked everyone to keep Ms. Betty Coleman in their prayers.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato asked for an update on the environmental study request. Mr. Gravois indicated he received a package on the scope of work and the fees and will present it at the next council meeting. Councilman Amato thanked everyone for their help with the Hwy 641 lighting project. He expressed thanks again for the early voting site in Lutch and for the improvements to Lutch Park.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin said he was not going to predict the outcome of the Lutch/St. James game.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper thanked RISE for submitting their letter to the council. He said it was to put a moratorium in place to take a closer look at the environmental impacts on the residents where industries are located. He said we need to set criteria to include how it will benefit to grow communities and help to sustain or increase property value. He said he voted no on the booster resolution earlier because it was not benefitting the residents. Councilman Cooper reminded everyone to vote on October 12th.

COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib was absent.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer was absent.

CHAIRMAN LOUQUE – Chairman Louque thanked the operations department for catching up on some of the canals and ditches. He said he sent an email regarding the status of Brignac St. in Grand Point. Mr. Gravois indicated that they still do not have the right of way on the rear property.

At this time Councilman St. Pierre indicated that Bayou Steel shut down, and some residents of St. James Parish have been affected. He asked if we could get Workforce Investment Agency involved to assist these residents. President Roussel indicated that Senator Price and Representative Brass have a meeting scheduled with YCI next week to discuss local hiring. Councilman Cooper indicated that Wood construction has about 1000 people on the project with 50 being from St. James Parish, he added that they are not contacting/communicating with Susan Bailey.

DIRECTOR REPORT

BLAISE GRAVOIS – complemented Ryan Larousse and Beau Rodrigue, from the utilities department, for their work. He also complemented their crew for working hard, into the night to fix the water leak over the weekend. He gave a quick update on the road program saying they will finish patching by the middle of next week and then they will begin with the overlay. He indicated that he is waiting on a price to repair the restroom, kitchen, and storage at the District 5 Park and said picnic tables have been ordered.

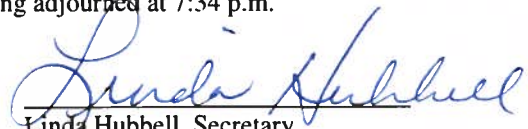
JULIE GILBERT – indicated that the budget binders should be available in the next few weeks.

INGRID LEBLANC – informed everyone that Career and Construction Month is October. She said River Parish Contractors, in Reserve, has invited our Youth Build participants to participate in “Build Your Future” Day at Lamar Dixon and Cajun Industries and Core Construction will also speak with our participants. She indicated that they are still taking applications and working with emergency preparedness and the volunteer fire department to install smoke alarms. She said they are working on the community needs assessment and encouraged residents to take the survey.

RYAN DONADIEU – indicated that the everyone that is listed in the white pages should be receiving emergency alerts. He said residents who are not listed or do not have a home phone can sign up for the alerts by going to the parish website, there is a link on the homepage. Mr. Donadieu asked everyone to keep Mr. Matt Randall’s family in your prayers, he passed away on Sunday. Councilman St. Pierre requested to work with the municipalities with the emergency alert system.

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 Cooper and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary