

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2020**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met via video/teleconference on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Those also in attendance were; Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Peter Dufresne, Parish President; Felix Boughton, Finance Director; Richard Webre, Operations Director; Ingrid Leblanc, Human Resources Director; Eric Deroche, Emergency Preparedness Director; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Bland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Vondra Etienne-Steib, Vice-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.

**MINUTES**

On a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the October 14, 2020 regular meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - No public comments were received on agenda items that required a vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 20-221, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE OCTOBER 30, 2020 PAYROLL**, 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 20-222, 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 Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-223, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH EMR ELEVATOR SERVICE, LLC FOR ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-224, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN A CONTRACT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE GRANT FOR REGION THREE**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-225, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR PHASE ONE AND TWO OF THE PAULINA NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-226, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CHANGE ORDER #1 FROM NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE 2019 ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Louque. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-227, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION, FOR THE 2019 ROAD REHABILITATION PROGRAM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-228, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CHANGE ORDER #1 FROM NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS (NCMC) FOR THE MOLAISON SEWER PROJECT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-229, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH DUPLANTIS DESIGN GROUP TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR OFFICE RENOVATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Louque. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-230, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT PETER A. DUFRESNE TO SIGN A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1735 DEROCHE CIRCLE IN**

**GRAMERCY**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Louque. After a unanimous roll call vote, and the resolution was adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 20-09, AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BY THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Bland. 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., Tuesday, November 10, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 20-10, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Nash. 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., Tuesday, November 10, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 20-11, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Louque 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., Tuesday, November 10, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

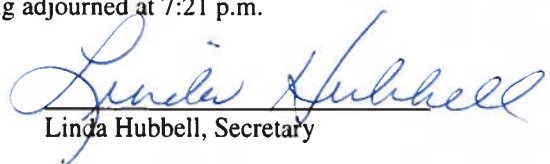
President Dufresne presented this report to the council:

- Good Evening-As you all know I closed government offices today at noon to allow our employees to get home before any tropical weather arrived. Zeta made landfall not long ago, and I hope everyone is safe and protected from any impacts that was caused by the Hurricane. As of yesterday, there was no intention to open any shelters in our parish. Because of the change in the overnight forecast, I decided this morning to open a shelter of last resort in case residents in older mobile homes, campers, etc. felt the need for a more secure place to ride out the storm.
- Operations department started the drainage project in Magnolia this week. Work crews have begun cleaning culverts in front and behind the railroad track at the end of Magnolia Heights. This is just the beginning of an extensive drainage project in the 6<sup>th</sup> district.
- Tonight, we passed a resolution authorizing my office to accept bids to begin phase 1 and 2 of the natural gas infrastructure improvement project on the East Bank. This project is crucial to updating the aging infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life for our residents. As of right now our gas supply is on the brink of being inadequate with the growth of homes being built.
- The basketball court pavilion is near completion at Lutchter Park and construction is underway at Magnolia Park, for the basketball pavilion.
- Should tonight's meeting be in-person, everyone would have received the 2021 budget binders. Council members have been contacted to make pick up or delivery arrangements.
- The toy and coat drive will begin accepting donations and applications on tomorrow and continue through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Interested applicants can apply in person at the Satellite Office in Lutchter or call 225-562-2329 for more information.
- The Parish's online auction ends on Monday, November 2. You can view the auction on municibid.com.
- Government offices will be closed next Tuesday, November 3, in observance of Election Day. Please remember to exercise you're right to vote.
- The following week, Government offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day. Due to this closure, the council meeting originally scheduled for that day, has been moved to Tuesday, November 10 at the Convent Courthouse.
- This concludes my report. I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Halloween. Remember that trick-or-treat hours are 6-8 p.m. on Halloween night. I hope everyone weathers this storm well....if any need arises, residents are asked to call our citizen service center, at 225-562-2500.

At this time Councilman Bland thanked President Dufresne and his team for coordinating everything for the storms. President Dufresne thanked Councilman Bland and asked everyone to thank the Parish workers for their hard work to meet the needs of our residents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Louque and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

  
Linda Hubbell, Secretary