



# St. James Parish Council

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Jason Amato  
Vice-Chairman

Linda Hubbell  
Secretary

## PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following entitled ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Parish Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, on June 22, 2022, and laid over for publication of notice:

### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 22-06 ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 118 "WATERWAYS" OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL SECTION 1 – "NO-WAKE ZONES" AND REPLACE WITH SECTION 1 – "SPEED OF WATERCRAFT / IDLE ZONES"**

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance shall be to provide established safe operating speeds of watercraft upon the waterways of St. James Parish; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the provisions of LA R.S. 34:851.27 B, the establishment of a watercraft speed ordinance is necessary to address the interests of public safety; and,

WHEREAS, the council hereby shall repeal the current section 118-1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. James Parish Council that Chapter 118-1 of the St. James Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A hereto and made a part thereof.

### **EXHIBIT A**

#### Section 118-1 – Speed Limit of Watercraft / Idle Zones

- (a) No person shall operate a motorboat, motor vessel or recreational watercraft on waterways of the Parish in excess of the posted maximum speed limit at that location which, when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected, shall be effective at all times or at such specific times as may be determined by the Parish Council. At any location where a sign has been legally erected reading "Idle—No Wake," or "No Wake Zone," or language with the same or similar meaning, each vessel shall operate at bare steerage speed, the slowest speed the vessel can travel while allowing the operator to maintain directional control of the vessel, to produce the minimum water turbulence.
- (b) By authority of the Parish Council, an area must include one or more of the following, in order to be considered for establishment of an official "Idle/No Wake Zone" on waterways of the Parish. Once created, the nominal distance within these zones shall be no less than three hundred (300') feet in all directions, or further distances deemed appropriate for the prevailing circumstances.
  - (1) Bridge crossing a waterway;
  - (2) Public boat launching facility;
  - (3) Public boat docking facility;
  - (4) Public docking facility with boat refueling (gasoline, diesel) capabilities;
  - (5) Intersections of major waterways;
  - (6) Any area with a history of boating related accidents; or
  - (7) Any area that, by nature, necessitates establishment for the purpose of providing a safe passage for boaters or safe docking.
- (c) The following areas are hereby declared idle/no wake zones:
  - (1) Blind River at its intersection with Airline Borrow Canal (in and about the property leased by St. James Parish for a public boat launching facility), on Airline Borrow Canal at a point beginning 100' approaching the St. James Boat Club access bridge and continuing past the Airline Borrow Canal/Blind River intersection 100', and on Blind River from its intersection with Airline Borrow Canal continuing to a point 100' past the maintained bulkhead of the St. James Boat Club (public launch / docking facility).
  - (2) Blind River in the vicinity of Our Lady of Blind River Chapel, from a point 300' up river to a point 300' down river.
- (d) In addition to the specific speed limitations herein provided for, no person shall operate a motorboat, motor vessel or recreational watercraft on any waterway within the Parish at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and potential then existing or in any manner which would endanger life or property.
- (e) Signage. The Parish shall determine all criteria (size, shape, color, wording, etc.) as to the design of proper signs to be placed at all official idle/no wake zones within the Parish. The Parish shall be responsible for the construction, placement and maintenance of all such signs. The signs shall, at minimum, contain the wording "IDLE/NO WAKE ZONE" to be placed at the beginning (all directions of travel) of each idle/no wake zone, and "END IDLE/NO WAKE ZONE" to be placed at the end (all directions of travel) of the respective idle/no wake zone.
- (f) Violation; penalty. A violation hereof by any operator of watercraft, other than those exempted, shall be punishable as provided in Section 1-13.

**Alvin St. Pierre, Jr.**    **Jason Amato**    **Ryan Louque**    **Mason Bland**    **Clyde Cooper**    **Vondra Steib**    **Donald Nash**

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 5

District 6

District 7

**NOTICE IS HEREBY, FURTHER, GIVEN** that the Parish Council of said Parish will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse, 5800 Hwy 44 in Convent, LA at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance.

s/ Jason Amato .  
Vice-Chairman

s/Linda Hubbell  
Secretary

*Note: St. James Parish will provide, upon request, reasonable accommodation to any disabled individual wishing to attend the meeting. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation is requested to contact 1-800-846-5277 (TDD), 1-800-947-5277 (Voice) or 562-2400 (Handicapped) to discuss the particular accommodation needed.*

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<b>Alvin St. Pierre, Jr.</b>	<b>Jason Amato</b>	<b>Ryan Louque</b>	<b>Mason Bland</b>	<b>Clyde Cooper</b>	<b>Vondra Steib</b>	<b>Donald Nash</b>
District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7