

**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 November 9, 2022, and laid over for publication of notice:

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 22-14  
ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 46-21 “CHRISTMAS LEVEE BONFIRES;  
PERMIT REQUIRED”, RELATIVE TO CHRISTMAS BONFIRES**

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance shall be to provide established requirements for lighting of bonfires on Christmas Eve in St. James Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. James Parish Council that Chapter 46-21 of the St. James Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A hereto and made a part thereof.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY, FURTHER, GIVEN** that the Parish Council of said Parish will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex, 2631 Hwy 20 in Vacherie, LA at which time there will be a public hearing on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance.

s/Vondra Etienne-Steib  
Chairwoman

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.*

**Exhibit A**

Sec. 46-21 – Christmas levee bonfires; permit required.

- (a) Any person or association or persons desiring to build Christmas bonfires on the Mississippi levee in the parish shall first obtain a permit for such bonfires. Issuance date of the permits will be set by the Festival of the Bonfires, Inc. Such permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis.
- (b) The following rules and regulations shall apply with respect to permits and the building and lighting of bonfires; failure to comply with these regulations will result in the permit holder being fined and the permit rescinded:
  - 1) Bonfire size limitations.
    - a. Maximum height is Fifteen (15) feet.
    - b. Maximum base is twelve (12) feet by twelve (12) feet or individual permit.
    - c. Maximum twelve (12) feet width by twenty-four (24) feet length is limited to one per local government.
    - d. Tied with number sixteen (16) wire or larger.
  - 2) No permit will be issued to any minor. The permit holder must be an adult and assumes full responsibility. No permits will be issued after December 15.
  - 3) If no visible means of construction has begun by December 20, the permit will be rescinded.
  - 4) No tires, creosoted timbers, plastics, oil, or hazardous materials shall be used in the construction of these bonfires. Use of diesel is preferred to assist lighting.
  - 5) No excavation in the levee will be tolerated, except one hole for the center pole, with a maximum depth of eighteen (18) inches and diameter of ten (10) inches; otherwise, the bonfire will be self-supporting.
  - 6) All bonfires are to be constructed on the spot designated by the permit
  - 7) No bonfire shall be set afire until permission has been granted by the Director of Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

- 8) Flares may be used to light the bonfires.
- 9) Only one (1) bonfire constructed as a tourist attraction may be permitted by each local governing authority.
- 10) Burning of bonfires during the Christmas-New Year's week will not be permitted. Should a postponement on Christmas Eve result from unsatisfactory winds, lighting will be rescheduled by Executive Order of the Parish President.
- 11) No huts, buildings, sofas, chairs, or structures other than the bonfire itself will be allowed at any bonfire site.
- 12) Transferal of a permit from the original permit holder is strictly prohibited.
- 13) No parking or riding on the levee. All vehicle use shall be halted if weather conditions become wet and damp. Levee Board police will notify the permit holder(s) of conditions.
- 14) No loud music or other noise is allowed
- 15) No working on bonfires is allowed after sunset, and everyone shall be off the levee by the time provided on the bonfire permit.
- 16) In the vent of high water and/or emergency conditions during permitted bonfire activities, the levee district board of commissioners will take appropriate action to delay, postpone or cancel all or parts of bonfire activities and may require removal of all bonfire materials within forty-eight (48) hours of official notice.
- 17) By virtue of paying the permit fee, the permit holder and all participants listed below, automatically become members of the Festival of the Bonfires, Inc. All members of the association will be insured for liability, subject to policy conditions.
- 18) Roadside property owners and owners of the batture who have not obtained a permit and a bonfire is constructed on or in front of their property, shall also be made members of the Festival of the Bonfires, Inc.