

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

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, February 19, 2020, at 7:07p.m., immediately following the public hearing on Proposed Ordinances 20-02 and 20-03.

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

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. Mr. Vic Franckiewicz was also in attendance.

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

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre, 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 Louque and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the February 5, 2020 public hearing were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

One a motion offered by Councilman Nash and seconded by Councilman Bland, the minutes of the February 5, 2020 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:

- Met with DOTD to discuss priority projects.
- Received lists from Representatives Brass and Schexnayder of our lists of priorities.
- Met with the Hospital on the Capital Outlay for the Medical Facility, and to continue efforts to purchase land to continue to move forward with the Basketball project and Community Center.
- Met with the School Board and CTC representatives regarding the Work Ready Program.
- The Business and Industry meeting will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the PR Building in Lutcher from 5:30-7:00pm.
- Attended the Police Jury Association Conference in Shreveport and participated in several educational sessions.
- The River is still high, no digging within 1500 feet.
- The VFW is selling lunches on Ash Wednesday. Please support their fundraiser.
- Parishes Office will be closed on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Mardi Gras.
- The Krewe of M.A.C. parade will roll on Mardi Gras day beginning at noon from Sacred Heart Church in Gramercy to the Montessori school in Lutcher.
- The Black History Program is tomorrow at the Welcome Senior Center at 10 am.
- Youth baseball registration has been extended to March 9<sup>th</sup>.

President Dufresne indicated that St. James Parish has programs that touch pretty much every section of individuals in the Parish except one, the clients of the ARC. He said it's been his goal and mission to seek permanent funding for the Arc, adding it is the least they could do, as a council, for this group of individuals. He indicated that he met with Ingrid Leblanc and Felix Boughton and have come up with ways to permanently fund the ARC to assist in paying their employees, without raising taxes. He said at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting he will ask to amend the budget, and to adopt the amendment at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Jimmy Brazan thanked President Dufresne for his efforts in helping the ARC and appreciates everyone to support it.

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Buddy Boe, Executive Director presented the River Parishes Tourist Commission's Annual Report.
- Brent Dicharry, Recreation Administrator, provided the Parish Recreation Department's Annual Report.
- Ann Rolfes, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, presented the council with an update on the Appeal of Formosa Plastics' air permit.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** - None

**OLD BUSINESS**

The following updates were provided:

- District 5 Alternate Access Route – Waiting to meet with Rep. Brass.
- North Vacherie Railroad Culvert Upgrade Project Status – Ryan Larousse indicated that the project has been budgeted, he spoke with the engineer and will move forward with the permit, which can take up to 6 months, minimum. Chairman St. Pierre requested to meet with the railroad representatives to begin the permit process for the other projects.
- Acquisition of Land for Multipurpose Building Update – waiting on appraisal to present the ordinance to the council to purchase 8 acres from St. James Parish Hospital.

**ORDINANCE 20-02, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF NATURAL GAS FROM THE BLACK BELT ENERGY GAS DISTRICT (“BLACK BELT”); PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF**

**NATURAL GAS BY THE PARISH; APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GAS SUPPLY AGREEMENT, GAS PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE AND/OR SALE OF NATURAL GAS; CONSENTING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GAS SUPPLY AGREEMENT AND THE GAS PURCHASE AND SALE CONTRACT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY BLACK BELT; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTER IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,** having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman Nash. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

**ORDINANCE 20-03, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AMENDATORY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONVERSION OF THE INTEREST RATE ON (i) \$56,200,000 ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA REVENUE BONDS (NUSTAR LOGISTICS, L.P. PROJECT) SERIES 2008, (ii) \$100,000,000 ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA REVENUE BONDS (NUSTAR LOGISTICS, L.P. PROJECT) SERIES 2010, (iii) \$50,000,000 ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA REVENUE BONDS (NUSTAR LOGISTICS, L.P. PROJECT) SERIES 2010A, (iv) \$85,000,000 ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA REVENUE BONDS (NUSTAR LOGISTICS, L.P. PROJECT) SERIES 2010B AND (v) \$75,000,000 ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA REVENUE BONDS (NUSTAR LOGISTICS, L.P. PROJECT) SERIES 2011, APPROVING THE REMARKETING AGENTS, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE PARISH TO EXECUTE THE AFOREMENTIONED INSTRUMENTS AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES DEEMED NECESSARY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING,** having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper and was seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 20-45, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE FEBRUARY 21, 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 20-46, 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, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-47, RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE REVISION TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY GOVERNING ST. JAMES PARISH EMPLOYEES,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-48, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVED BIDS FOR FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Nash. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-49, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH PG CONSULTING, LLC FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Bland. Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 20-50, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH BECNEL GROUNDS MANAGEMENT FOR LAWN CARE AND VEHICLE CLEANING,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN NASH** – Councilman Nash requested to have a study done to install permanent power at the Coteau canal backwash. Councilman Nash asked if funding was ever received from Lafourche.

**COUNCILWOMAN ETIENNE-STEIB** – Councilwoman Etienne-Steib indicated that she received a call from Veda Bailey informing her about burglaries happening on her street and asked about possibly installing security lights. Councilwoman Etienne-Steib said she has been very vocal about the need to purchase land to build a building and hoping to get support. She also indicated that residents have come to meetings to ask for some type of recreational facility for the children on the West Bank.

**COUNCILMAN COOPER** – Councilman Cooper said he will have more conversations with Mrs. Etienne-Steib when it come up. He said he spoke with President Dufresne about his concerns and said Councilman Nash also had concerns. Mr. Franckiewicz summarized a previous question asked, if Formosa changed the plot plan. Mr. Franckiewicz said there was a change in the original submission to LDEQ in October 2017. In February 2018 the plan was changed and that one was submitted to the Parish in June 2018, that one continues to be used and is the current plot plan. Mr. Franckiewicz verified that they are within the Land Use Plan. Councilman Cooper asked if the grave site is an enslaved grave site or a regular grave site for the families who lived there. Mr. Franckiewicz said there has been no identification of who are in the graves. Councilman Cooper requested the Parish to get with the Lt. Governor's office to find out if a study has been done, similar to what was done at Shell. Councilman Cooper asked if graves were identified on the other two plots. Mr. Vic indicated that two historical grave sites were identified based on the 1879 map, the Acadia grave site and the Buena Vista grave site, adding that both were

investigated. Councilman Cooper indicated that he received a call from a resident saying that her floor is buckling, probably from driving pilings in the area. He requested assistance on cleaning the main drain ditch on Oubre St. #1.

**COUNCILMAN BLAND** – Councilman Bland thanked the Finance team for their work with multiple reports. He verified that the meeting with DOTD concerning the railroads was still scheduled. Mr. Webre provided a brief summary of the side road scrapper to Councilman Bland's questions. Councilman Bland thanked Mr. Dicharry for working with him on District 4 Recreation plan. He reminded everyone that the baseball registration deadline is March 9<sup>th</sup>. He said he met with Oxy Chem and stated that he is eager to meet with the industry leaders in District 4. He said he heard from Oxy on their concerns about the infrastructure. He indicated that Winn Dixie had their ribbon cutting on their newly renovated store. Councilman Bland said Poche Plantation has opened The Crevasse Restaurant. He said he was glad to see Clay Schexnayder reached out to DOTD, because all are part of his District. He thanked IT for the reports, and he thanked Marrill in the Planning Department for assisting him with a resident this morning.

**COUNCILMAN LOUQUE** – Councilman Louque indicated that the lateral project on 3125 seems to be moving along good. He inquired about a timeline that the bid packages would go out for the interior drainage projects. Mr. Webre indicated he didn't have it yet. Councilman Louque expressed appreciation for cleaning the old Bourbon Ditch.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato thanked everyone for their support of the St. James Parish ARC.

**CHAIRMAN ST. PIERRE** – Chairman St. Pierre also commend the Parish President and his administration for supporting the ARC. He wished everyone Happy Mardi Gras

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

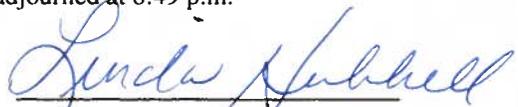
**RICK WEBRE** – Provided a detailed report of the ongoing projects in the Parish. Chairman St. Pierre expressed his disappointment with the Molaison project.

**FELIX BOUGHTON** – Requested feed back on the new format of the reports.

**INGRID LEBLANC** – Acknowledged the members from the ARC who attended the meeting tonight. A Housing Workshop is schedule for Saturday at 10 at the Lucher Library.

#### **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 8:49 p.m.

  
Linda Hubbell, Secretary