OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent, Louisiana, on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Terry McCreary, Ralph Patin, Kendricks Brass, James Brazan and Chairman Charles Ketchens.

Those also in attendance were: Angele Rodrigue, Council Secretary; Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, Director of Human Resources; Ashley Poche, Assistant Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; and Bruce Mohon, Legal Advisor.

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

The Honorable Charles Ketchens, 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 Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre, the minutes of the January 7, 2015 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for December 2014, totaling $3,915,955.72, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by reminding the Council of the Young at Heart Carnival Social on February 6, at 5 p.m., at Rose's. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: Senior Olympics on April 9 at Paulina Park; mosquito abatement informational meetings in March and April at parish senior centers; employment offers made and accepted; various employment vacancies in upcoming months due to retirements; LDEQ Public Hearing for Yuhuang Chemical on March 12; and Wall of Honor recognition. Upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman McCreary there would be one public hearing for the methanol plant.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Brass then offered a motion to deviate from the agenda to swear in a Youth Commission member. Councilman McCreary offered a second to this motion and there was no public comment. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting in favor, Legal Advisor Mohon administered the Oath of Office to Youth Commissioner Colby Kraemer, a Parish President's representative to the St. James Parish Youth Commission.

President Roussel recognized parish employees with 10 or more years of service to St. James Parish. Employees with 10 years of service are Ashley Poche, LaShon Lewis, Ryan Larousse, Benjamin Butler, Jr., Patrick Laiche, Carl Chauvin, and Ingrid Bergeron-Leblanc. Those employees with 15 years of service are Travis Kliebert, James Jacque, Kim Ross, Cedric Sims, and Wanda Pierre. Presentations were made at this meeting to the following employees: 20 year employees Patricia Dupuy, Wanda Detillier, Rosalind Ambrose, Sheila Scott; 25 year employees Michael Parker, Brenda Williamson; 30 year employees Layne Poirrier, Romona Jones-Roy, Pamela Ordoyne, Valerie Roussell, Phillidee Louis, Sophie Borden; Barbara Jacque with 38 years of service and Horatio Rapp with 42 years of service.

Brent Dicharry, Recreation Department Supervisor, presented the Recreation Department Annual Report. Mr. Dicharry provided information on the following programs; the Fitness Center; boys' baseball, girls' softball, men's slow pitch softball, men's flag football, soccer, Biddy Basketball, bantam football, park rentals and shared photos from some youth programs and park projects. Mr. Dicharry then answered questions posed by council members and a discussion took place on parish wide recreation, parish wide facilities and a parish wide recreation board.

Kevin Belanger, Executive Director of South Central Planning & Development Commission, presented the Council with information on a Regional Environmental Division. Mr. Belanger explained in great depth and much detail the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone, which was signed on November 25, 2014, highlighting the EPA rulemaking timeline, costs of non-attainment, limits on economic prospects, activities that produce ozone, reduce emissions, advance programs, focus, funding and staffing of the Environmental Division and the formula for the regional ozone advance program. He then answered questions from councilmen, President Roussel and Mr. Chenier. In closing, Mr. Belanger asked the Council to consider adopting a resolution to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with South Central Planning to address this new EPA requirement.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-14, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR VARIOUS SIZE DRAINAGE PIPE.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-15, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2015 HEAVY DUTY DUMP TRUCK, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-16, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2015 ¾ TON PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-17, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2015 ONE TON PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was adopted with Councilman McCreary casting a nay vote.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-18, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND RECEIVING OF BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR THE EXISTING ADULT CORRECTION FACILITY.** Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-19, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO JOIN THE LOUISIANA INTRASTATE RAIL COMPACT WITH THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AND APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF THAT COMPACT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-20, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY CROWN ARCHITECTURAL METAL CO. LLC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION FOR THE RENOVATIONS TO THE LUTCHER TOWN HALL.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-21, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO RE-ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR FIRE HYDRANT MODIFICATIONS FOR THE LUTCHER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 15-01, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH ADJACENT TO THE PARISH COURTHOUSE IN CONVENT, LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote, the introduction of 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., Wednesday, February 4, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to have the culvert project on Orange Street completed and to complete the dressing of the shoulders on North Peach Street. He asked Mr. Deroche to schedule a meeting for the time clock demonstration. Councilman Brazan congratulated all parish employees for their many years of service. Upon questioning, Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Deroche on the exercise pads for the walking track at the District 7 Park.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass thanked everyone who attended and/or supported the Martin Luther King Day program on Monday, especially Motiva, the program sponsor. He shared a call he received from a parish resident concerning the Sheriff's Annex Office that is not handicap accessible and he asked Mr. Chenier to address this issue. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Magnolia Heights waterline and fire hydrant projects. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on the 2015 road improvement project. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier to schedule a meeting with Dennis Hymel of T Baker Smith regarding the Vacherie drainage study and Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update from his conversation with Mr. Hymel on the study to date.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Deroche to schedule a meeting on the time clocks, the work order system and the preventative maintenance program for the parish vehicle fleet. Councilman McCreary offered his congratulations to parish employees for their years of service.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato met with the architect for the new fire station and Mr. Deroche and Francis Hymel on the bid process for a new fire truck for the consolidated fire department. He told President Roussel that the town of Lutcher is interested in the old parish vehicles. Councilman Amato commended the work on the renovations to the Lutcher Town Hall. Councilman Amato extended his appreciation to Permitting Supervisor Ryan Donadieu on the update of the drainage plan and the first meeting of the East Bank Drainage & Flood Protection Task Force will be in February.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre extended his appreciation and congratulations to all employees who were recognized for their years of service. He thanked Mrs. Waguespack and Mrs. Poche in the Finance Department for their assistance with the Gramercy Recreation Board finances. Councilman St. Pierre wished everyone traveling to Washington DC a safe, productive and enjoyable trip.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel invited the Council to the Business Industry Group meeting on January 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the P R Building in Lutcher where the topic will be the parish drainage efforts throughout St. James Parish. President Roussel thanked Ryan Donadieu, Michelle Octave and Melissa Wilkins for their efforts in preparing this presentation.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors. Mr. Chenier informed and explained to the Council that the parish has a THM violation this quarter and all West Bank water customers will receive a public notice regarding this violation and the public notice will be published in the local newspaper as well. Chairman Ketchens congratulated parish employees for their many years of service. Chairman Ketchens expressed his frustration with the construction of the District 5 multi-purpose building and the conflict between the contractor and the architect over the last six months that has construction at a standstill and a building incomplete. He thanked the Council, President Roussel, Mr. Chenier and Mr. Gravois for their assistance with the project thus far. Chairman Ketchens said the people, Recreation Board members and most of all the children of District 5 have waited long enough for the completion of this building. Chairman Ketchens asked President Roussel and the Council to declare the contractor and architect in default so the construction of this building can move forward and be completed for the residents and children of District 5 to enjoy. President Roussel understands Chairman Ketchens frustration and he will meet with parish legal advisors and provide Chairman Ketchens with an update.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary