OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 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 7, 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; Chantal T. Waguespack, 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the December 17, 2014 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

HEAD START FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORTS

The Head Start Financial and Attendance Reports for December 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that the annual Senior Carnival Social will be held on February 6 at Rose's and the annual Employee Recognition Breakfast will be held on January 20 at 8 am in the EOC Conference Room. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: welding training classes at the South Central Louisiana Technical College; cold weather advisory and preparations; parish employment offers accepted and positions currently being advertised. President Roussel closed by wishing everyone the happiest of years to come in 2015.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Boyd Bryan, attorney for Petroplex International, addressed the Council regarding the Parish Administration's issuance of a stop work order and seeking the issuance of a resolution by the Council authorizing Petroplex to proceed with construction and operation of the facility. Mr. Bryan then went on to explain in great depth and much detail with the aid of a power point presentation the commencement and continuation of construction, submittals to LDEQ, the stockpile location, the redesign of the pipe rack and the resolution requested by Petroplex to resolve this issue. In closing, Mr. Bryan asked President Roussel to lift the stop work order and asked the Council to amend the May 7 resolution or adopt a new resolution allowing Petroplex to move forward with the construction and operation of the facility.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-01, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FLOYD MARSHALL, SR. TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 14-16, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30, CIVIL EMERGENCIES, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND MITIGATION OF REGULATED AND UNREGULATED MATERIAL INCIDENTS WITHIN ST. JAMES PARISH, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-02, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND CONSTABLES OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and after a roll call vote with St. Pierre, McCreary, Patin, Brass, Brazan, Ketchens voting for and Amato voting against, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-03, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE A MULTI-PARISH EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISHES OF JEFFERSON, ORLEANS (CITY OF NEW ORLEANS), PLAQUEMINES, ST. BERNARD, ST. CHARLES, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ST. TAMMANY, CALCASIEU, CAMERON, VERMILLION, ST. MARTIN, IBERIA, ST. MARY, ST. JAMES, ASCENSION, LAFOURCHE, TERREBONNE, ASSUMPTION, LIVINGSTON AND TANGIPAHOA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Amato. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-04, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AS THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR FEDERAL FY 2015 AND THE ONLY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO APPLY FOR AND ADMINISTER PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY ANY COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-05, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR A HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-06, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY CONTRACT, CONTRACT AMENDMENTS, OR REVISIONS FOR 2015 FUNDS BETWEEN THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT AND THE LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, AND AUTHORIZING TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL, PARISH PRESIDENT, TO SIGN SUCH CONTRACTS AND ASSURANCES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Brazan offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-07, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTING PARENTS OF HEAD START ENROLLEES TO THE HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL FOR ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-08, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN REFUNDING SUPPLEMENTS OR ONE-TIME FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, HEAD START PROGRAM, WITH APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS AND AGREEMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. Councilman Brazan offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-09, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DIRECT DELIVERY OF SERVICES BUDGET OF ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES-AAA FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-10, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE III-B, IIIC-1, IIIC-2, III-D, AND III-E AND OTHER CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015-2016.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-11, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR A DESIGNEE TO SIGN FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND CHDO APPLICATIONS FOR ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ST. JAMES COUNCIL ON AGING, INCLUDING AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS IN ORDER TO OPERATE EXISTING OR NEW HOUSING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY ST. JAMES PARISH IN THE YEAR 2015, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-12, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO SIGN FUNDING APPLICATIONS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND ONE-TIME FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES, AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS IN ORDER TO OPERATE EXISTING OR NEW PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY ST. JAMES PARISH IN THE YEAR 2015, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-13, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT OR HIS/HER SUCCESSOR(S) TO NEGOTIATE, ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE DEEMED ADVISABLE, A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS WITH THE LOUISIANA HOUSING CORPORATION ON BEHALF OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre commented on the house fire in Gramercy on December 21 that displaced a family and he extended his thanks to all the members of the Volunteer Fire Departments that responded to the fire and to Mrs. Warren and Melissa Wilkins, Public Information Officer, for assisting the family with clothing and online monetary donations from parish residents. He asked Mr. Chenier when the excavation of the canal would begin and Mr. Chenier said soon. Councilman St. Pierre shared his comments on the Christmas Eve bonfires and bonfire tradition. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre looks forward to working with everyone in 2015.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato commended President Roussel and staff on a great job in preparing Ordinance 14-16. He informed his fellow councilmen that the East Bank Drainage & Flood Control Task Force committee has been formed and the committee is waiting on an update of the East Bank Drainage Study from BKI to schedule the first meeting. Councilman Amato shared his comments on another very successful bonfire season and thanked Mrs. Temple and staff at the Welcome Center for their assistance in issuing permits. Councilman Amato closed by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Chenier for a list of priorities for drainage maintenance projects, especially for the Third District.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass invited everyone to the Martin Luther King Day program at noon on January 19 at the St. James High School Auditorium where State Representative Ed Price will be the guest speaker. He commented on the success of the bonfires and said more bonfires are being built on the West Bank and suggested bonfire safety tips be provided for West Bank bonfire builders. A discussion then took place among Councilman Brass, President Roussel, Chairman Ketchens, and Mrs. Temple from the Welcome Center on West Bank bonfires being lit on New Year's Eve. Councilman Brass received updates from Mr. Chenier on the installation of speed bumps and the Magnolia Heights waterline project. Councilman Brass received an update from President Roussel on the hiring of a West Bank Recreation Coordinator.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Upon questioning, Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the completion of the sidewalk project. He asked Mr. Chenier to obtain an update from Dennis Hymel with T Baker Smith on the Vacherie Drainage Study. Regarding the time clock, Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Deroche to schedule a demonstration so he can see the time clock in action. Councilman Brazan congratulated Councilmen McCreary on his retirement and, since Councilman McCreary was interested in Council on Aging meetings, Councilman Brazan, who is a COA board member, asked Councilman McCreary to attend COA meetings to represent him since Councilman Brazan is often unable to attend these meetings due to the time they are held.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel informed Councilman Brass that he received an email today from Union Pacific regarding the culvert under the railroad and Mr. Chenier has delegated this project to Mr. Landry and Mr. Donadieu.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors. Mrs. Octave wished everyone a Happy New Year and looks forward to a successful 2015. Chairman Ketchens wished everyone a Happy New Year and looks forward to working with the Council, President Roussel and his administration in 2015. Chairman Ketchens received an update from Mr. Chenier on a sidewalk project in District 5.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre seconded by Councilman McCreary and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary