OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2016

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 17, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen, Jason Amato, Ryan Louque, Ralph Patin Jr., Clyde Cooper, Kendricks Brass, Edward Kraemer and Chairman Alvin St. Pierre.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Council Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, Director of Human Resources; Ashley Poche, Assistant Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; and Bruce Mohon, Legal Advisor.

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

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre Jr., 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 Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Louque, the minutes of the February 3, 2016 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report to the Council. "My regrets on not being able to attend the last meeting on February 3rd; however, it was necessary due to the Federal Lawsuit filed by Petroplex. Of course, you will be hearing a little more about that subject matter in a few minutes as we will announce going into executive session to discuss the matter. I spoke with Mr. John Habisreitinger, plant manager of Noranda and received an update. Yes, there were 50 employees affected with this bad situation there. The parent company did file for bankruptcy and Mr. Habisreitinger seems to believe they can & will get through all of this. He spoke of doubling capacity on their chemical side to make up for the disruption on the alumina side through this period. I will continue to keep you updated as I receive the info. We met with CN Railroad to discuss plans for the culvert replacement in Belle Rue Subdivision in the Town of Lutcher. The culvert replacement is expected to be completed near summertime. The Council may want to consider placing someone on the Passenger Rail Authority to replace the vacant position left by Councilman McCreary. Our latest hiring update includes the following: Two previous vacant positions in DHR that we have been working to fill have been offered and accepted. Valerie Roussell, a former employee with the Head Start program, has accepted the full-time, permanent Homemaker position. D'ara Pillette, a resident of Vacherie, has accepted the Case Manager position. Both of these ladies will be participating in orientation and training in the next week. Yeabu Berner, a resident of Convent, has accepted a full time Custodian position with us. She had previously worked in the building as a Custodian and was excited to be asked to join our team permanently. This position comes in the absence of previously contracted services. We will be working on another vacant Transit driver position in the near future. With the transition of Ryan Donadieu into the position of Assistant Director of Operations, we are working on filling the Permitting and Planning Supervisor position as well. Eddie Kraemer & I are off to Washington DC for the NACo Legislative Conference. Mr. Kraemer presently sits on the Energy, Environment & Land Use Committee while I serve on the Community, Economic & Workforce Development Committee and the NACo Board of Directors. The St James Parish Recreation Department will hold registration for the 2016 St. James Youth Baseball Season until March 4. Online registration is available for your convenience. The website to register is www.stjamesparishrecreationdepartment.siplay.com. The registration fee is $35.00 for one player and $20.00 for each additional child. A copy of the child's birth certificate will be needed for new players. Anyone interested in coaching or assisting this season, please sign up at the time of registration, or call Brian or Tevis at 562-2337. **Due to health and sanitary reasons, players must provide their own batting helmet. The St James Parish Department of Human Resources and Youth Commission will host a Winter Formal for residents with special needs on Friday, Feb. 19 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lutcher Senior Center. The St James Parish Department of Human Resources will host a Super Tax Day on Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Welcome Senior Center. On recycling … Of course, Progressive discontinued the program we had, however, we are looking into a couple of other options with other companies. Quite a few residents have been calling curious as to what exactly took place and requesting us to find another company and program. If anything develops we will communicate the findings with you. District 4 Senior Center & Multi-Purpose Bldg is right at 40% complete. The Chlorine Bldg at the East Bank Water Plant is at 90% complete. The Cypress Park Fire Station in Lutcher is 90% complete. Once the Mississippi River goes below the 11 feet stage we will begin to address the Waterline under the River. It is estimated that once work begins we should see completion in approximately 3 weeks. In your packets, you have a jump drive. Contained in it is the final draft of the Parish's Emergency Operations Guide. The Emergency Preparedness Department is mandated by State Law to update this Guide every four (4) years. If there are any questions and/or clarifications, please contact Eric or Francis by March 9th. It is anticipated for Council approval, by Resolution, at the March 16th meeting. Of course, we all heard about the Zika Virus, an infectious disease transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. I just wanted all of you to know that we placed this info on our FB pages & website for public awareness. The Governor's call for a Special Session began on Sunday, February 14th. There are a lot of items regarding taxing and exemption issues, as I am sure you all have read about. Through this process, I will keep the emails going to make sure you are kept abreast. The inventory tax is being eyed, of course, with item #31 on the Governor's list and HB 53. Also, Senate bill #14 to create "fund in the sky" for the State to "make us whole", as well as to approve submitting to the voters to exempt business inventories from property taxes. We may want to start calling our officials for support to protect our inventory tax receipts. We, the St. James Parish Taxing Authorities, stand to lose 39.11% of our revenues with the loss of

inventory tax. I want to make the Council aware that we are in need of a River Region Caucus member and an alternate. I expect a call for a caucus meeting to happen soon. On March 18th @ 8:30 am we will be having a Leaders Against Litter Event at the Welcome & Tourist Information Center. We will be asking you to pledge your support to: Speak Up, Pick Up and Stand Up. Please RSVP by contacting Audrey Temple at 562-2520. The St James Parish Office of Economic Development will sponsor a seminar on starting a business. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. James Parish School Board Public Relations Building in Lutcher. **Thank You... May God Bless you and all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi!!!"**

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 16-30, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JENNA FAUCHEUX AS THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S AT-LARGE MEMBER TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-31, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LANE LUNDY AS THE DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION.** Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-32, APPOINTING MAYOR PATRICK ST. PIERRE TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AS THE MAYOR OF LUTCHER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-33, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MAYOR STEVE NOSACKA TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AS THE MAYOR OF GRAMERCY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-34, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-35, RESOLUTION APPOINTING RONALD GEAUTHREAUX TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY BOARD.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-36, RESOLUTION APPOINTING LARRY MELANCON TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-37, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-38, RESOLUTION APPOINTING KENNETH REULET TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-39, RESOLUTION APPOINTING AMANDA DELATTE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-40, RESOLUTION APPOINTING GENEVA LANDRY AS THE DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-41, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RHODA JOHNSON AS THE DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-42, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE LUTCHER RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-43, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISTRICT 3 RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Amato seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Louque offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-44, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL CHABAUD TO THE DISTRICT 3 RECREATION BOARD.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-45, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISTRICT 4 RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Amato seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-46, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISTRICT 5 RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Patin seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-47, RESOLUTION APPOINTING TROY BRIGHT TO THE DISTRICT 5 RECREATION BOARD.** Councilman Brass seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-48, RESOLUTION APPOINTING NATHANIEL BRAUD TO THE DISTRICT 5 RECREATION BOARD.** Councilman Amato seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-49, RESOLUTION APPOINTING KALEAH HARRIS TO THE DISTRICT 5 RECREATION BOARD.** Councilman Kraemer seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-50, RESOLUTION AFFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISTRICT 7 RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-51, RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOE OCKMOND TO THE DISTRICT 7 RECREATION BOARD.** Councilman Brass seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kraemer offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-52, RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRETT STEIB TO THE DISTRICT 7 RECREATION BOARD.** Councilman Cooper seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-53, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MS. RUTH GAUDIN TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH AREA AGENCY OF AGING ADVISORY BOARD.** Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Cooper offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-54, RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALBERT GEASON TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD.** Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Louque offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-55, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARY KLIEBERT TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-56, RESOLUTION APPOINTING DARLENE RILEY TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-57, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BARBARA WOODS AS DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-58, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RACHEL SCHEXNAYDER AS DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Louque offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-59, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KEN GUIDRY AS DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Louque offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-60, RESOLUTION APPOINTING TARA ROUSSEL AS DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-61, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE RIVER PARISHES TRANSIT AUTHORITY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 16-01, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14 SECTION 114.11 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES PROHIBITING UNMUFFLED COMPRESSION BRAKES ON CERTAIN STATE HIGHWAYS IN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, AS AMENDED, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Brass. After a roll call vote with all seven councilmen voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 16-62, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE/SERVICE AREA AT THE PARISH COURTHOUSE IN CONVENT, LOUISIANA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-63, RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PERIQUE TOBACCO CAPITAL OF THE WORLD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Amato offered a motion to convene an executive session to discuss Petroplex International LLC, et al v. Parish of St. James, Louisiana et al, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, Docket No. 15-cv-00140. Councilman Kraemer seconded the motion. On a roll call with all seven voting in favor, the motion carried unanimously. Members of the Council, along with President Roussel, Legal Advisor Mohon and Operations Director Gravois then withdrew to an adjoining chamber at 7:12 p.m. where an executive session was convened. At 8:36 p.m., all returned and the regular session was reconvened. Chairman St. Pierre informed the public that no decision was made.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato recognized Ms. Mary Ellen Pratt for being selected one of the top 50 Rural Hospital's CEOs. He thanked Mr. Stucky Reulet for being in attendance and being elected as St. James Parish Fire Association President.

COUNCILMAN LOUQUE – Councilman Louque acknowledged the Youth Commission members who were in attendance and thanked them for participating on the board. Councilman Louque requested information from Director Gravois on the drain areas in District 3. Director Gravois will have a full report at the Task Force meeting. Councilman Louque requested the status of the work order to clean the culverts on 3125. Director Gravois will have to get back regarding the status.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – None

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper congratulated the members who were appointed to the Boards and Commissions for the 5th District. He stated that he will send three letters of condolences to James and Julie Mitchell, Austin Dennis, and the Gordon Winchester families for their loss.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass wished congratulations to both the East and West Bank Biddy Basketball teams for placing in Madisonville and to Miss Christy Louque of Lutcher who recently won Little Miss Teen for the State of Louisiana. Councilman Brass commended the Small Business Task Force for working with the small businesses in St. James Parish. A seminar is scheduled for March 15, 2016 in St. James Parish on Starting and Expanding Your Small Business. Councilman Brass requested from Director Deroche a status of the West Bank Recreation Master Plan and the Land Water Conservation Fund application. Director Deroche informed the council that South Central Planning sent the guidelines for the scope of the master plan and should have by the end of the week a proposal ready to review with the cost estimate for a parish wide recreation master plan. Director stated that the Land and Water Conservation fund requires a master plan and that the property must be owned by the parish and must have recreation on the land. Because of this the Parish is limited on what can and cannot be done with Conservation funds. Councilman Brass thanked Mr. Randy Becnel and DJ Hymel for their efforts with the Bayou Chevreuil project and also thanked the fireman who responded to the fire in the community.

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested a status of the culvert for Pool Lane from Director Gravois. Director Gravois will provide an update tomorrow. Councilman Kraemer will request a meeting with Assistant Director Donadieu regarding flood response and the operations procedure. Councilman Kraemer requested the status of the meeting to be held with the School Board regarding the West Bank recreation. Assistant Director Donadieu is still waiting to hear from the School Board President. Councilman Kraemer received a conceptual layout of the Hwy 20 project and hoped to present it to the council in the upcoming months. Councilman Kraemer, along with President Roussel and Councilman Brass will meet regarding the financial support for the project. Councilman Kraemer attended a meeting regarding the speed bump project and stated it was very informative.

CHAIRMAN ST. PIERRE – Chairman St. Pierre informed the council that he requested a presentation on mosquito control at the next council meeting in Convent on March 2nd. He also informed the council that they should have received a letter from Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser regarding "clean-up" day on March 18, 2016. The letter had information on how to sign up to help in St. James Parish.

LEGAL ADVISOR – None

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Linda Hubbell
Secretary