OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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, February 18, 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; and Jody Chenier, Director of Operations.

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 Patin, the minutes of the February 4, 2015 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for January 2015, totaling $4,184,118.61, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that Legal Advisor Bruce Mohon was detained at a client meeting in New Orleans and would not be able to attend the meeting tonight. He told the Council that Monday, February 23, is Wear Red Day and all parish employees are encouraged to wear red in honor of heart month. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: South Central Planning & Development informational sessions on establishing and financing a business on February 25, at the Welcome Center from 1 pm to 3 pm; replacement of the roof at the Neighborhood Center in Lutcher; federal notification of the DRS status of the Head Start program in March or April; DHR has been nominated for the Power of Nine Award for the VITA program; VITA statistics; LIHEAP applications; 2015 State of the Parish report; author Farrah Rochon will be at both parish libraries on February 28; volunteer fire departments, response to emergencies especially during the day and $0.50 per hour raise to parish employees who are active in local volunteer fire departments; School Board informational meetings on upcoming bond election.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

LeVar Joseph, Chairman of the Coastal Zone Management Commission, was not in attendance to present the annual report.

Dana Groover, Executive Director of the St. James Parish Housing Authority, provided the Council with information on applications to the Louisiana Housing Corporation. Mrs. Groover explained in great detail the need for low income housing, funding opportunities for public housing, and applications the Housing Authority will be making to the Louisiana Housing Corporation for the rehabilitation of the Convent Trace, a 30 unit public housing development, and Central Crossing, a 36 unit public housing development both located in Convent. This will assist in reducing the vacancies and providing housing for families at these developments. Mrs. Groover told the Council that if these applications and the rehabilitation of these developments are successful this will enable the Housing Authority to look into developing new housing options in St. James Parish. She asked the Council for their support and said the applications are due March 16. Mrs. Groover then answered questions posed by councilmen.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-25, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALISA DUNKLIN TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-26, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACH ORIGINATION FROM PARISH ACCOUNTS AT FIRST AMERICAN BANK & TRUST.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-27, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CHANGES TO RS 47:332.23 RELATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ENTERPRISE FUND, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-28, A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY'S APPLICATIONS TO THE LOUISIANA HOUSING CORPORATION.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-29, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR THE EAST BANK WETLANDS ASSIMILATION PLANT PHASE I, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-30, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 15-02, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-127 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC; UNIFORM PROCEDURE AND FEES, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Brass, Brazan voting for and McCreary and Ketchens voting against, 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., on Wednesday, MARCH 4, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 15-03, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30, CIVIL EMERGENCIES, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE III, EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND MITIGATION OF REGULATED AND UNREGULATED MATERIAL INCIDENTS, SECTION 30-68, OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Brazan. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting in favor, 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., on Wednesday, MARCH 4, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Deroche to schedule a meeting on the time clocks. He thanked Councilman McCreary for attending the AAA board meeting since he was unable to attend. Upon questioning, Councilman Brazan received information on the LIHEAP process from DHR Director Warren.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass recognized and congratulated newly elected District 6 School Board Member Tyler Jasmin. He provided an update on the Highway 18 Beautification Project and thanked Norman Marmillion of Laura Plantation, who was in attendance, for contributing to the project. Councilman Brass asked Secretary Rodrigue to place Norman Marmillion on the next council agenda to address environmental issues. He assured the residents of District 6 that the Vacherie Drainage Study is nearing completion and recommendations will be forthcoming once the study is complete. In closing, Councilman Brass commended Mrs. Warren and the DHR staff for a very successful and enjoyable Carnival Social and he thanked Pam Folse, member of the Press, on a great job emceeing the event.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked Mrs. Groover on her presentation and the Council for their support of the Housing Authority's applications.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary commented on his attendance at the Lutcher Senior Center where he served lunch to the seniors and listened to their concerns. He attended the AAA meeting at the Romeville Senior Center. Councilman McCreary commented on his meeting with Mr. Deroche regarding the time clocks, work order system and preventative maintenance program for parish vehicles and equipment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato informed his fellow councilman that the first meeting of the East Bank Drainage and Flood Protection Task Force will be Monday at the Convent Courthouse. He also informed the Council and the Public that testing of hoses and pumps of all East Bank Volunteer Fire Departments will take place next week. Councilman Amato commented on the School Board bond issue and urged the Council to stay involved. He reminded the Council of the upcoming millage renewal for fire departments later this year and possible funding requests from the Drainage Task Force.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre recognized Dianne Cantillo, District 1 School Board Member, and thanked her for attending. He congratulated the DHR department on the Power of Nine Award. Councilman St. Pierre thanked Dennis Hymel of T Baker Smith for assisting in obtaining the permit for the clearing of Beaver Canal, which should be completed in the next couple of months. He will be scheduling a meeting regarding the inter connectivity between the Parish and the towns of Lutcher and Gramercy. Councilman St. Pierre commented on the emissions of mercury from the Noranda refinery in Gramercy and urged the Public to get involved in the permitting process. Councilman St. Pierre commented on the tough decision facing the School Board concerning the upcoming bond issue and asked his fellow councilman to have discussions with their respective School Board Member.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel commended Mrs. Warren and the DHR staff on a great job with the Carnival Social. He informed the Council that he emailed Secretary Rodrigue earlier today to place John Cummings

on the March 4 agenda to address Noranda and Rain CII. President Roussel shared his comments on his attendance at the Lutcher Senior Center for lunch with the seniors and pictures can be found on the parish Facebook page.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors and received none. Chairman Ketchens told the Council that the name of the reception hall was changed several years ago to the St. James Parish Reception Hall, and even though it is located in District 5, any councilman who receives a complaint about the hall can contact the proper office to have the complaint addressed. He congratulated Mrs. Warren and Staff on the Power of Nine Award. Upon questioning, Chairman Ketchens received an update from Mr. Deroche on the time clocks. Chairman Ketchens acknowledged former St. John Parish President Nickie Monica and Sheriff Willy Martin. Sheriff Martin commented on a train accident last night and reminded everyone to be cautious at railroad crossings.

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 7:26 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary