

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

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, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Those also in attendance were: Angele Rodrigue, Council Secretary; Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Michelle Octave, 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 Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for January 2014, totaling \$4,394,172.54, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by providing the Council with an update on NFIP. He congratulated DHR on obtaining a \$900,000 Youth Build Grant and proudly announced the members of the parish Relay for Life team. President Roussel then provided the Council with updates and/or information on the following: time clock; Senior Carnival Social on February 28 at Rose's; Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day on March 15: LIHEAP distribution; DHR Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program; commended Sophie Broden, Meal Driver, for her actions assisting an elderly client; cleaning of the South Vacherie water tank on Hwy 643; explained advance utility auditing service; drainage survey around ADM Grain Elevator; call of interest received on Youth Center property; fire extinguisher training for employees; DOTD meeting regarding flooding on Hwy 643 tomorrow in Vacherie. In closing, President Roussel informed the Council that he will be in Washington DC on Thursday and Friday.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Ketchens recognized and congratulated Alma Treardo Dennis on her 100 birthday. Austin Dennis, Jr., her son, received a plaque from the Council on her behalf.

Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, provided the Council with an update on the Comprehensive Master Plan and the informational meetings. Mr. Gravois and Attorney Vic Frankiewicz explained in great depth and much detail the proposed ordinance adopting the land use plan and the process moving forward, including the scheduling of two public hearings. Mr. Gravois and Mr. Frankiewicz then answered questions posed by council members.

Gerald Falgoust, Chairman of the Coastal Zone Management Commission, presented the annual report. Mr. Falgoust highlighted the administration of the CZM, the composition of the CZM, the duties of the commission, the permit process and fees, and the applications reviewed and issued by the CZM for 2013. Mr. Falgoust answered a question from Councilman Amato regarding the CZM and the Master Plan.

Tommy Scott, Director of the Workforce Investment Agency, presented the Annual Report to the Council. Mr. Scott highlighted some of the services provided in St. James Parish by the WIA such as youth services, recruiting events, unemployment rate, and he informed the Council that 31 veterans from St. James Parish were assisted in obtaining employment. Mr. Scott then answered questions from the Council regarding assistance to felons, phone lines, unemployment numbers, matching individuals with jobs, training individuals for available jobs and he explained a new task force that was recently formed.

At the request of Councilman Brass, Sam Stines, with Mosquito Control Services, provided the Council with an update on mosquito control. Mr. Stines provided detailed information on the services provided during the first five months of treatment. He informed the Council that a new manager, Nathan Clement, was assigned to St. James Parish. Mr. Stines explained that evaluations will begin weekly in March to determine when the spraying program will begin for 2014. He informed the Council that they will be hiring three night drivers for St. James Parish. Mr. Stines then answered questions posed by councilmen.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – None

## APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-27, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WILBUR REYNAUD TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brazan and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

**RESOLUTION 14-28, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KELSE ALEXANDER AS THE DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. Councilman Brazan offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-29, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING RACHE'L OATIS AND COLBY KRAEMER AS THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

**RESOLUTION 14-30, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MAYA M. TUREAUD AS THE DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-31, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KELSE ALEXANDER AS A DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brazan and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

**RESOLUTION 14-32, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING COLIN BERTHELOT AS THE DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

## OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-33, A RESOLUTION AWARDED AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE FY 2013 CDBG ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM, ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF THE NOTICE TO PROCEED, CONTINGENT UPON CONCURRENCE FROM THE LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

**RESOLUTION 14-34, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR CO., INC. FOR ONE (1) FORD F-250 TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-31, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR CO., INC. FOR ONE (1) FORD F-150 TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

## NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION 14-36, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2014 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-37, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2014 AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** A second was provided by Councilman Brazan and the resolution then was unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent. The proclamation was presented to Monique Edwards, Red Cross Board Member, along with members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Southern Louisiana Cluster. Ms. Edwards then presented St. James Parish with a Red Cross flag.

**RESOLUTION 14-38, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HOMEOWNER AFFORDABILITY ACT AND URGING THE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TO BRING THIS LEGISLATION TO A VOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary and the resolution was then unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

After an explanation by President Roussel and Mary Ellen Pratt, CEO of the hospital, Councilman Amato then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-39, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF NOT EXCEEDING EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS (\$8,000,000) OF HOSPITAL REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS OF HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

**RESOLUTION 14-40, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND RECEIVING OF BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE EOC WAREHOUSE BUILDING**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin with Councilman Amato offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

After questions from Councilman McCreary and Amato were answered, Councilman McCreary then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-41, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY R. J. DAIGLE AND SONS CONTRACTORS, INC., IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH 2013 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted with St. Pierre absent.

#### **COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN BRAZAN** – Councilman Brazan shared his comments on the Inspirational Authors event he attended at the Library, which highlighted the works of three local parish women. He asked Mr. Chenier for a status report on Maple and Harrytown streets. Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to schedule a ride along with him in the Molaison area so he could understand the work being done by DOTD. Upon questioning, Mr. Deroche told Councilman Brazan that he will be notified once the meeting with ATT is scheduled. Councilman Brazan received an update on the David Road project.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass thanked the North Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department for submitting the fire hydrant waterline project in Magnolia Heights to the Fire Association, who included the project in their budget. He thanked the residents of the West Bank for attending the recreation meeting with the Parish President, Mr. Deroche and Recreation Department staff and for providing their input on recreational activities and facilities on the West Bank. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Deroche to schedule a meeting with the Parish President and elected officials to begin discussions on developing programs for the West Bank. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier to include lights for the ball field on the priority list for the District 6 Park.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin thanked Mr. Chenier and Mr. Donadieu for assisting with blighted property in District 4.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Chenier to have the ruts at the intersection of LA 3125 and North Nobile Street repaired. Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Chenier to keep him and Councilman Patin informed of the ADM drainage survey.

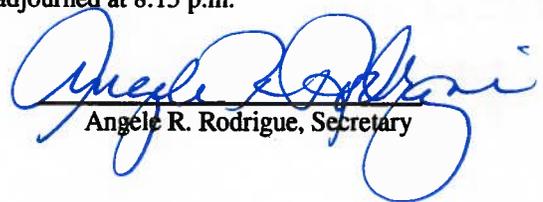
**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter of appreciation to the Pontchartrain Levee District for their partnership with the parish and Festival of the Bonfires in keeping the bonfire tradition alive. He commented on a recent fire call in Lutcher where the smoke detectors were outdated and not functioning properly and he also informed the public of the importance of replacing outdated smoke detectors. Ms. Edwards informed Councilman Amato and the Council that the Red Cross can assist in this effort.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre was absent.

**CHAIRMAN KETCHENS** – Chairman Ketchens asked for Directors comment and Mr. Chenier commended Ms. Pratt on the emergency room wait time of 15 minutes and the excellent care he received at St. James Parish Hospital. Chairman Ketchens received an update on the District 5 building and completion time from Mr. Chenier.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman McCreary, seconded by Councilman Patin and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary