OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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 4, 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 Patin, the minutes of the January 21, 2015 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 January 2015 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 councilmen that the ties in front of them were from the recent River Region Economic Development Initiative breakfast in Washington DC. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: 18th Annual Carnival Social on February 6 at 5 pm at Rose's; street inventory for the 2015 road program; Youth Build installing fire alarms in homes of the elderly; Magnolia Heights waterline project; Beaver Canal dredging; recruitment for 2015-2016 Head Start program year; commodity distribution; LIHEAP funding; VITA tax assistance; inmate prescription drug program; 2015 State of the Parish Report; and School Board bond election on May 2.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 15-01, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH ADJACENT TO THE PARISH COURTHOUSE IN CONVENT, LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

No discussion of the District 5 Multi-purpose Building was held.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-22, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2015 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR FY 13 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY/GOHSEP GRANT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Amato. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-24, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE EPA FROM MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR OZONE UNTIL AFTER THE 2008 OZONE STANDARDS ARE IMPLEMENTED NATIONALLY AND SUFFICIENT DATA IS COLLECTED TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF THE 2008 STANDARDS.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre thanked all the fire departments and volunteer firemen who responded and assisted with the fire on Belinda Street in Gramercy. Councilman St. Pierre commented on the Annual Report, which is educational, contains much communication from the Council and Administration, and is very informative.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato extended his condolences to the family of Judge John Peytavin. He highlighted the letter from the Lutcher Volunteer Fire Department regarding the consolidation efforts with the Paulina/Grand Point/Belmont Volunteer Fire Department explaining the reasons for consolidation, the fire hydrant modifications, replacement of hoses and fittings on Lutcher Fire Department pumpers, CEA with town of Lutcher and St. James Parish for fire protection from the new consolidated department, ordering of a new fire truck for the new consolidated department, construction of a new fire station, remodeling the existing fire station and funding for these projects is being provided by the Lutcher Volunteer Fire Department. Councilman Amato extended his appreciation to Mr. Deroche and Mr. Hymel for their assistance with the consolidation efforts, as well as members of the Paulina/Grand Point/Belmont Volunteer Fire Department. Upon questioning, President Roussel and CAO Octave provided Councilman St. Pierre with an update on the moving of buildings from the Historical Society, which is located next to the proposed new Lutcher fire station.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary expressed his sentiments of condolence to the family of Judge Peytavin.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked the Council and Administration for their support and adoption of Ordinance 15-01. Councilman Patin asked everyone to pray for former Parish President Paul Keller and his wife, who are both ill, and he are wished them well.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass asked Secretary Rodrigue to place Dana Groover, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, on the next agenda to provide an update on the housing funding application, and he will be placing a resolution of support for this application on the next agenda as well. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier told Councilman Brass that a meeting with Dennis Hymel of T Baker Smith will be scheduled before the next council meeting to discuss the Vacherie drainage study. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Deroche on the West Bank Recreation Coordinator position. Councilman Brass has been receiving numerous complaints about speeding on Old Vacherie Road, and he asked Mr. Chenier to meet to discuss installing stop signs and speed bumps.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan extended his condolences to the family of Judge Peytavin.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors. CAO Octave told councilmen that she emailed her monthly report along with other important information and to call if any questions. He recognized Sheriff Martin, who was in attendance. Chairman Ketchens proudly announced that Secretary Rodrigue was elected President of the Organization of Parish Administrative Officials during the Police Jury Conference last week and congratulated her on this honor. Chairman Ketchens extended his condolences to the family of Judge Peytavin and to Father Chris Decker, his pastor at St. James Catholic Church, and the pastor at St. Philip Catholic Church as well, on the death of his father.

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 6:52 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary