

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014**

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 5, 2014, 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; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, Assistant Director of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; and Attorney Oneil Parenton, substituting for Legal Advisor Bruce Mohon.

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 January 15, 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 January 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by providing the Council with an update on the National Flood Insurance Program, the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance and the passage of the National Flood Insurance Affordability Act by the U. S. Senate that is now being sent to the House of Representatives for consideration. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: South Central Planning & Development Commission meeting tomorrow at Hymel's; Fire Association meeting on February 11 at Grand Point Fire Station; computer training being offered at the Library; meet the author events at the Library; DHR and Council on Aging trip to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon from October 10-20: time clock; Elderly Carnival Social on February 28 from 4-7 p.m. at Rose's; GED testing; additional request from the Toy & Coat Drive; DHR income tax preparation service; unemployment numbers for St. James Parish; solar light at LA 3127/3219. President Roussel informed the Council that he, the Directors and Assistant Directors will be attending a retreat next week in Baton Rouge and he explained the goals of the retreat. In closing, President Roussel announced that Jimmy Roussel, father of employee Troy Roussel, passed away this afternoon.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President Roussel introduced Bliss M. Higgins, with ENVIRON International Corp, who will provide environmental consulting to St. James Parish. Ms. Higgins provided the Council with her background and the scope of work she and ENVIRON can provide to the parish. Ms. Higgins and Steve Nosacka, Economic Development Consultant, then answered questions posed by councilmen.

Marti Lucore and Travis Creel with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers addressed the Council regarding the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Study. Mr. Creel, with the aid of a power point presentation, explained in great depth and much detail the history and schedule of the study, with the final Chief's Report in September 2014. Mr. Creel and Ms. Lucore then answered questions from the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Council received a letter from Debra Laiche, 3168 Metge Road, Paulina, LA regarding the Wolverine Terminals Project and the letter will become a part of the public record.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-21, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KATHERINE ROBICHAUX AS A DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-22, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING HOLLY HAASE AS THE DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-23, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LORRAINE OUBRE AS A DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** A second was provided by Councilman Brazan and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman McCreary offered a motion to amend the ordinance to include volunteer in the second "WHEREAS" with Councilman Brass offering a second. A unanimous roll call vote showed all were in favor of amending the ordinance. **ORDINANCE 14-01, AN ORDINANCE CREATING A ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION, AS AMENDED,** having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion of the future of the Youth Center facility was led by Councilman McCreary. He is concerned that since the Youth Center was closed six months ago it is costing the Parish money to maintain and he wants to know if there is a long range plan by the parish for the facility, how long will we hold it, and will we sell it. Councilman McCreary knows this is a prime location, prime real estate. President Roussel told the Council that the Youth Center was appraised for \$2.3 million, the appraisal for the land, only, is \$990,000 and there have been several inquiries and tours of the facility since its closing. A discussion then took place among the Council, President Roussel, Mr. Chenier, Mr. Deroche and Mr. Parenton as to the title of the property, maintenance of the facility, request for information on facility, approval from the Council for sale, length of time to sell it, boundaries of sale, consider demolishing buildings if unable to sell as is and sell the property.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-24, A RESOLUTION FILLING THE UNEXPIRED TERM IN THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN DISTRICT 4, ST. JAMES PARISH LOUISIANA.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted. Councilman Patin then introduced Shirley Brooks Albert the interim Justice of the Peace for District 4 and thanked her for accepting this appointment.

RESOLUTION 14-25, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH TO RENEW THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR IMPLEMENTING AND ADMINISTERING COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATEWIDE UNIFORM BUILDING CODES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-26, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT WITH ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH FOR POTABLE WATER.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Upon questioning, Councilman St. Pierre received an update from Mr. Chenier on the David Road project.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato congratulated Mrs. Albert on her appointment as District 4 Justice of the Peace and offered his assistance if needed. Councilman Amato asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter of condolence to the family of Yvonne Cunningham, former Justice of the Peace in District 2.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary recognized Entergy Operations Incorporated from Jackson, Mississippi for their \$20,000 donation to the Paulina-Grand Point-Belmont Fire Department to upgrade the generator at the Grand Point Station. He also recognized Fire Chief Kurt Roussel, President Grady Poche, and Ryan Louque and thanked them for working with Entergy to obtain this donation. Councilman McCreary asked Sectary Rodrigue to send a letter of appreciation to Entergy Operations Incorporated. Councilman McCreary shared some concerns from residents regarding paying utility bills online and he asked that the parish include "Accepts Online Payments" on utility bills.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked President Roussel for his assistance with the District 4 Justice of the Peace appointment and the Council for their support of the appointment.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass recognized School Board President Charles Nailor, who was in attendance. He commended the young organizers of the Youth Commission and thanked their parents for supporting them. Councilman Brass reminded everyone that the parish is hosting a public meeting regarding recreation on the West Bank, tomorrow at 7 p.m. at the Annex. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Deroche on the South Vacherie Fire Department preparation for their PIAL review. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on the Magnolia Heights Old Vacherie Road drainage project.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan shared with Mr. Deroche complaints he received regarding phone problems from individuals calling for LIHEAP assistance and he asked Mr. Deroche to schedule a meeting with ATT to discuss this issue. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier told Councilman Brazan that the Highway 643 meeting scheduled for last week was cancelled due to the weather and Mr. Chenier will notify him when it is rescheduled.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel commended the students for their enthusiasm regarding the Youth Commission and applauded them for their effort.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for Directors comment and received none. Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier if the solar light on LA 3217/3219 could be changed to a street light and Mr. Chenier explained the process and the cost. He asked Mr. Chenier to address an issue with the asphalt on Dennis Street and Mr. Chenier told Chairman Ketchens bids for this project were opened today and the bid will be award at the next council meeting. In closing, Chairman Ketchens congratulated Mrs. Albert on her appointment.

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 7:50 p.m.



Angèle R. Rodrigue, Secretary