OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 16, 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, March 16, 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; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; and Michael Calabro, 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 Amato, the minutes of the March 2, 2016 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for February 2016, totaling $2,503,160.98, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Parish President Roussel provided this report to the council.

1) We had our Relay for Life hot dog lunch Tuesday, March 15th – we raised $309.00. I would like to thank Wanda and the committee for leading the effort and everyone else who donated items and helped to make it successful.
2) Evidently unbeknownst to us, we have a codification problem with our Code of Ordinances. It appears that the decision to codify is made arbitrarily by Municode, the company that does this work for us. The administration and the council needs to come to terms what ordinances we actually want to be codified. In essence, we will need a policy supported by a resolution from the Council to be sent to Municode to direct them. It is of my opinion that we consider NOT codifying leases, budgets and audits.
3) On the tornado update…
    - We had 25 employees in Operations Department working 10 days 10 hours a day towards cleanup effort.
    - Worked over 800 overtime hours.
    - Cleaning efforts were in areas of Water Tower St., Joseph St., Schexnayder St., Central Project St., Ester St., and Hwy 44 between Water Tower and Ester Streets.
    - 54 Tarps were given to residents
    - As of 3/14/2016 the Department of Operations continues to monitor the affected area.
    - Our grappler truck goes every other day for debris pick up and tree limb pick up
    - Plans are being made to start demolition of structures damaged, as we get confirmation that the owner has settled with their insurance companies.
    - Over 3200 yards of construction debris was hauled to our collection site in Romeville; we are currently getting quotes to haul debris to a landfill.
    - Over 2500 yards of trees and limbs were hauled to our burn site in Romeville; we will schedule a burn after we are comfortable that we have cleaned and hauled as much of the limbs needed to clear from affected areas.
    - We have been fortunate enough to receive a number of volunteers, clothing, and toiletries from our neighbors. Currently, we are working with a local church who is serving as the donation site. Vendors are donating food to residents and first responders. Industry and church groups have been involved with debris removal and food delivery; and Red Cross has provided services as well. As the days pass, the needs are becoming more substantial.
    - We requested financial assistance for tornado victims, (priorities are permanent residents or those with injuries), for the following:
      1. Purchase transportation vouchers; Provide short term rental payments for 2 months not to exceed monthly payments of St. James Parish fair market rent along with security and utility deposits; Offer gift cards for medication, phone, fuel, etc., Provide hotel lodging not to exceed one month; Purchase standard appliances, furniture; and
      Assist with permitting fees.

Guidelines have been established.
a. Must be permanent residents of the parish or were severely injured.
b. Completion of intake and application for eligible residents with a case plan;
c. Service a household/family once per incident with these funds;
d. Proper documentation, as available, will have to accompany all requests;
e. Options a, b, and d will require proof of severe damage requiring relocation;
f. No direct payment to applicants;
g. Service only applicants that are homeowners or individuals listed on leases/rental agreements;
h. Waive income guidelines, though low income residents are a priority; and
i. Continue partnership with agencies to maximize resources, utilize their resources first, i.e. LHC, First Baptist.

- Louisiana Housing Corporation is awaiting direction on the state's tornado housing initiative which is separate from our request. They intend to offer a few housing options such as a short term rental payments, long term rental payments, security deposits. Income is a factor as the primary target population is low income though a small allocation may be available for moderate income households.

4) On the rain event, St. James Parish residents fared well. We had 1 house that took on water on Kingview Street on the west bank of the river. Water levels scared and still have residents scared with the rain probability for Thursday & Friday.
Sand and sandbags are available at the following locations:
• Grand Point Fire Station
• Across from the old Lutcher Health Unit
• Gramercy next to the Fire Station on River Road on the East Bank
• South Vacherie Fire Training Center (on Health Unit St.)
The water level readings being taken by Blind River is showing a fall in our readings. It seems as though historically it takes longer to go out than it came in. However, I'll take 6" of rainfall any day (or stretch of days) than 14 inches. My prayers are for our friend parishes going through the devastation they are faced with.

5) Our latest hiring update include the following:
• Interviews for the vacant Planner position in Emergency Preparedness took place today. We will inform the council once we can finalize a decision.
• Other vacancies we will be working to fill in the near future include Homemaker in DHR, Transit Driver, and Permitting and Planning Supervisor.

6) Sheriff-Elect Leland Falcon of Assumption Parish has considered closing their Juvenile Detention Center. Assumption Parish is stating, to become self-sustaining they need to have 32 beds under contracts for 12 months. They are asking for St. James Parish to commit to 3 beds at $197.25 per bed for an annual cost of $215,988.75. In 2105, it cost St. James Parish $119,245 towards incarceration of juveniles. With the .60 mill tax collected, we receive $328936. This amount is not counting the extras related to incarceration, such as medical supplies and physician visits, transportation, etc. It will be more costly if we have to bring our juveniles to Alexandria or Tallulah in North Louisiana.

7) The St James Parish Recreation Department - there were 311 boys that signed up for baseball and 52 girls signed up for softball. Our numbers are depicting a decline from past years.

8) The Mississippi River water level has gone over 11 feet at the Carrollton Gage in New Orleans, in fact, it is presently at 13.95 feet. The river is expected to reach the 15 feet level by Tuesday and place everyone in a Phase II flood fight.

9) I want to mention that we are making everyone aware of April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month in St. James Parish. I know you may be wondering why not have a resolution…It was June 3, 2015 Resolution 15-79 was passed when spokespeople came to the parish.

10) I want to make you aware of our "Leaders against Litter" event taking place this Friday beginning at 8:30 am at the Welcome & Tourist Information Center in Gramercy. All of you are invited. Under Presentations & Public Comment I will read the proclamation.

11) Senior Olympics will take place on April 12th at the Paulina, District 3 Park.

12) The St James Parish Office of Economic Development sponsored a seminar on starting a business. The seminar was held last night, Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. James Parish School Board Public Relations Building in Lutcher. We had approximately 40 participants. I want to thank Score, LED, Keri Walker & our Library folks, Audrey Temple and Michelle Octave for making this possible.

13) Mosquito Control Services started spraying our neighborhoods. All of the councilmen should be receiving email alerts as to when spraying will take place in your Districts.
Thank You … May God Bless you and all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi !!!

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT -

Mr. Joe Ticheli with SLECA and Ms. Jennifer Vosburg gave an overview of their companies and the service they can provide to industry in St. James Parish.

Parish President read the Proclamation for Leaders Against Litter Day.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 16-70, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SEANTRELL LEMAR AS DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 16-71, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SYSTEM SURVEY AND COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-72, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SYSTEM SURVEY AND COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF THE ST. JAMES COUNCIL ON AGING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-73, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PARISHWIDE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-74, A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 9-1-1 LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO INCREASING SURCHARGE FEES ON PREPAID AND POST PAID WIRELESS TELEPHONE SERVICES AND TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY TO ASSESS A SURCHARGE FEE FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT DURING THE 2016 LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE SESSION, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING FUNDING WITH RESPECT THERETO, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-75, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TO DISSOLVE THE LOUISIANA COASTAL COALITION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-76, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ALL HAZARD PLAN FOR ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-77, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 5, 2016 AS NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Cooper offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-78, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR BALL FIELD LIGHTING IN DISTRICT 3 PARK FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-79, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOUISIANA POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A LOUISIANA EMERGENCY DISASTER FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-02, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTING OF THE TRANSFER OF THE TITLE AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON LOCATED AT 4062 HWY 44 TO ST. JAMES PARISH FROM THE PAULINA GRAND POINT BELMONT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote showing all 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., Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-03, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTING OF THE TRANSFER OF THE TITLE AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON LOCATED AT 3054 HWY 44 TO ST. JAMES PARISH FROM THE PAULINA GRAND POINT BELMONT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a unanimous roll call vote showing all 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., Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-04, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRANSFER OF THE TITLE AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON LOCATED AT 239 EAST MAIN STREET TO ST. JAMES PARISH FROM

THE GRAMERCY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote showing all 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., Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-05, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRANSFER OF THE TITLE AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON LOCATED AT 1502 NORTH AIRLINE AVE. TO ST. JAMES PARISH FROM THE GRAMERCY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Louque. After a unanimous roll call vote showing all 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., Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-06, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTING OF THE TRANSFER OF THE TITLE AND/OR OWNERSHIP OF THE IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON LOCATED AT 32122 HWY 642 TO ST. JAMES PARISH FROM THE PAULINA GRAND POINT BELMONT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Kraemer. After a unanimous roll call vote showing all 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., Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer requested a status from Mr. Gravois of the culvert project on Pool Lane. Mr. Gravois stated that they are looking to replace the culvert next week. Councilman Kraemer also asked Mr. Gravois if the cable companies were contacted to raise the lines on Hwy 643. Mr. Gravois stated that they have not been contacted since the overlay project has been complete. Councilman Kraemer requested a meeting to discuss the steps to move forward with the Ash Street issue. Mr. Gravois stated that he has already contacted Riverlands about Ash Street and La Belle Rue. Councilman Kraemer thanked Mr. Gravois and his team for providing the procedures and guidelines for the operations of the weir pumps of the Vacherie canal in the 7th District and thanked them for attending the meeting last night. He also thanked the parish workers for their hard work and dedication for helping operate and maintain the weir pumps on the Vacherie canal this past week. Councilman Kraemer thanked Mr. Gravois and Mr. Deroche for attending a 7th District recreation meeting along with the members of the 7th District Recreation Board. Councilman Kraemer informed the council that he and the members of the Bayou Chevreuil task force will meet with DOTD tomorrow for a road safety assessment and hope to gain support for improvements to Hwy 20.

VICE-CHAIRMAN BRASS – Vice-Chairman Brass commended the Parish President, Michelle Octave, the small business task force and the Economic Development Board for sponsoring the small business webinar last night and informed the council that a member of the Louisiana Economic Development Board will be stationed that Courthouse Annex every Wednesday from 1pm to 4pm beginning April 13, 2016 to provide free counseling to current and potential small business owners. Vice-Chairman Brass thanked everyone who attended the HBCU College Career Fair this past Saturday with over 250 students from the tri-parish area in attendance. Vice-Chairman Brass invited everyone to St. James High School cafeteria at 6:30pm tomorrow for a meet and greet with Coach Valdez, the new St. James High School football coach, the program begins at 7pm. Vice-Chairman Brass requested a status update from Mr. Gravois on the evacuation street project for the 5th and 6th districts. Mr. Gravois stated that he has a meeting next with week with South Central Planning and Engineering and will provide an update after the meeting.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper asked Parish President and Eric Deroche if they were able to come up with any information regarding the use of the alarm system, whether they can be used for reasons other than chemical emergencies? Mr. Roussel stated that this issue will be addressed at the Internal After-Action Review in April of the tornado event. Councilman Cooper commended the 11-12 year old west bank basketball team for winning the regional tournament a few weeks ago. Councilman Cooper thanked the 5th District residents who attended the meeting tonight.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked the Parish President's administration and employees for their continuing efforts to assist the residents who were affected by the tornado and he also thanked those who are in attendance who offered assistance.

COUNCILMAN LOUQUE – Councilman Louque informed the council that he attended the Police Jury Association conference this month and stated it was a good learning experience and met neighboring Council members and leaders from across the State. Councilman Louque stated that the high water has had a lot of attention and that he is personally monitoring the levels on the East bank. Councilman Louque thanked Mr. Deroche for getting the notification out. He asked Mr. Deroche, if we expect anything significant could another notification go out? Mr. Deroche stated yes, and they are continuously monitoring the information received from the National Weather Service. Councilman Louque requested a status from Mr. Gravois on the cleaning of the culverts on 3125. Mr. Gravois stated that he did not receive anything from the State.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato informed the council that himself, Francis Hymel and Eric Deroche got together last Friday to go over the Flood Response Draft. He also said that he and Mr. Gravois conducted a walk through at Cypress Park fire station and it is close to completion. Councilman Amato would like to invite Mr. Chris Guidry with River Region Caucus to the next council meeting to provide an update of the special

and regular sessions. He thanked Michael Calabro for attending the meeting tonight and reminded the council that this Sunday is the Lutcher/Gramercy Lion's Club's Cochon de lait at Lutcher Park.

At this time Parish President Timothy Roussel reminded the councilman of the Police Jury Legislative Day on March 31st in Baton Rouge

LEGAL ADVISOR – Mr. Calabro said hello to everyone and stated his continued support to the council.

At this time Councilman Kraemer expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Kenneth "Stucky" Reulet who passed away last week. Mr. Reulet was the President of the Fire Association and 7th District Representative of the Planning Commission.

CHAIRMAN ST. PIERRE – Chairman St. Pierre thanked everyone involved with the water levels in the parish and those who made checks at the boat launch. Chairman St. Pierre attended the quarterly meeting with the Mayors of Gramercy and Lutcher, Councilmen Amato and Louque, Timmy Roussel, and Ryan Donadue. He informed the Council that the Acadian Ambulance contract is due at the end of the year, and will send an email requesting volunteers for this committee. He also stated that he would like to revisit the contract for garbage service.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato seconded by Councilman Louque and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Linda Hubbell

Linda Hubbell
Secretary