OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, March 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, and James Brazan. Chairman Charles Ketchens was absent.

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; Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations and Bruce Mohon, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman McCreary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Vice 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 Brazan and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the March 4, 2015 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for February 2015, totaling $2,572,493.02, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Amato.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by announcing that all St. James Parish Government employees will be receiving a salary adjustment of thirty-five cents per hour for permanent employees and twenty cents per hour for part time employees. He informed the Council that the mosquito control two year contract is due in June and he asked councilmen to share their views on the contract with he or Francis Hymel. Vice Chairman St. Pierre asked that Mosquito Control Service be invited to an upcoming council meeting to provide an update on the current contract and service provided thus far and answer any questions council members may have. Councilman Brass asked for a report on the funds generated from residents and the fees paid for mosquito control for comparison. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: inventory tax issue; new appraisal of Youth Detention Center; LIHEAP; market place fairness act of 2015; Senior Olympics on April 9 at Paulina Park; new venture with the Teche Action Clinic; Entergy sponsored clean up at the Boat Club on March 28; DHR VITA program; end to Motiva strike; President Obama's Executive Order 13690, Federal Flood Risk Management Standard; DHR annual meeting; Head Start DRS process review on May 5 – 7 and decision in July; monthly finance report particularly sales taxes; new roof at Lutcher Neighborhood Center; 2015 College Summer Employment Program; Permitting and Planning Clerk position accepted by Agnes Brown; in-house adverting for transit position; luncheon honoring parish attendance achievement award winners; interviews scheduled for Recreation Coordinator, Transit Drivers and LPN; and employee health screenings.

Vice Chairman St. Pierre asked that a discussion of the Youth Detention Center be placed on the next agenda. Councilman Amato asked where Teche Action Clinic receives funding and President Roussel and Mrs. Warren said insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. Upon questioning, Councilman Amato received information from Mrs. Warren on the Head Start decision.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Bedar W. Warren, Director of Human Resources, presented the Department of Human Resources annual report. Mrs. Warren explained funding streams for Special Programs, Housing, Head Start, YouthBuild, Elderly, Transit, Capital Area United Way and donations from business and industry. She went on to explain funding percentages from federal, state, local and private resources as well as in kind funding. Mrs. Warren provided information on these programs; Head Start, Special Programs, YouthBuild, Career Ready Program, Elderly, Transit, Housing and Youth Commission. Mrs. Warren thanked the 2014 partners and donors and special thanks to the COA/CSBG, AAA, Head Start Policy Council, EF&S and Youth Commission board members. In closing, Mrs. Warren recognized the DHR staff members, who were in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 15-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 98, SPECIAL DISTRICTS, ARTICLE III, SECTION 98 OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO DISSOLVE SECTION 98-79 – FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT FOR LUTCHER FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO DISSOLVE SECTION 98-80 – FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT FOR PAULINA-GRAND POINT-BELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT AND TO

CREATE SECTION 98-73 – FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT FOR THE ST. JAMES FIRE DEPARTMENT, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote with Ketchens absent, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-39, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FORD, INC. FOR A F-550 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was adopted with Councilman McCreary opposing and Ketchens absent.

RESOLUTION 15-40, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR CO, INC. FOR A F-250 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. The resolution was adopted with Councilman McCreary opposing and Ketchens absent.

NEW BUSINESS

The installation of a Youth Commission member took place. Legal Advisor Mohon administered the Oath of Office to Youth Commissioner Tevin Gros, the District 7 representative to the St. James Parish Youth Commission.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-41, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF AMY LAURENT.** After Secretary Rodrigue read the resolution aloud, Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. A plaque was then presented to the family of Mrs. Laurent.

RESOLUTION 15-42, A RESOLUTION COMMENDING ALBERTINE MILLER FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE ST. JAMES EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was unanimously adopted. Since Mrs. Miller was unable to attend, Ingrid LeBlanc accepted a plaque on her behalf.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-43, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE NOMINATION OF ELTON OUBRE FOR INCLUSION ON THE ST. JAMES PARISH WALL OF HONOR.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote with Ketchens absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-44, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 18, 2015 AS NATIONAL AG DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. After the resolution was read aloud by Secretary Rodrigue, Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-45, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RAW WATER INTAKE STATION AT THE EAST BANK WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN CONVENT, LA.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-46, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman Brazan offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After comments from Councilman Brazan, President Roussel and Vice Chairman St. Pierre, Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-47, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA FEDERAL DELEGATION TO REQUEST PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 13690 AND PASS LEGISLATION DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL NACO AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE CONSULTED ON THE IMPACTS OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan asked and receive an update from Mr. Gravois on the Lemon Street culvert. He asked Mr. Gravois to make sure the bins at the transfer facility are emptied for the weekend since many residents will be sprucing up their yards with the warm weather. Councilman Brazan informed his fellow councilmen that he is working on amending the tall grass and abandoned house ordinance. Regarding the Youth Detention Center, Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Deroche for a map of the grounds to see if the property can be sold in parcels.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass extended his condolences to Chairman Ketchens, Ingrid LeBlanc, Claudia Joseph, Iris Clayton and Betty Coleman on the death of their loved one. Upon questioning, Councilman Brass received an update from Mrs. Warren on the housing assessment. Councilman Brass informed the Council that a meeting was held on the District 6 evacuation route project with land owners and he asked Mr. Gravois to explain the project, which he did.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary expressed his condolences to Chairman and Gretchen Ketchens. He recognized Ken Guidry, 4-H agent, and Sheriff Martin, who were in attendance. Upon questioning,

Councilman McCreary received an update from Sheriff Martin and Mrs. Warren on an IRS scam this is currently circulating targeting senior citizens. Councilman McCreary commended Mrs. Warren and staff on a great presentation.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato commended Mrs. Warren and staff on the annual report and a great year in 2014. He told the Council that the Lutcher Fire Department is currently preforming their PIAL audit and thanked parish staff for assisting in providing the required documents. Councilman Amato announced that the next meeting of the East Bank Drainage & Flood Protection Task Force will be March 30. In closing, Councilman Amato shared his comments on the sales tax decline, the inventory tax repeal and the upcoming School Board millage election.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens was absent

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel has been attending meetings of the Lake Pontchartrain Maurepas Surge Consortium and he will provide the Council with information he obtains at these meetings.

VICE CHAIRMAN ST. PIERRE – Vice Chairman St. Pierre extended his condolences to Chairman and Mrs. Ketchens and to Gramercy Alderwoman Betty Coleman. He commended Mrs. Warren for a very informative annual report. Vice Chairman St. Pierre reported that the Beaver Canal project in now in Phase 3 and the small culvert needs to be addressed. He shared his comments on the inventory tax issue and urged everyone to stay informed and stay engaged. Vice Chairman St. Pierre commented on the IRS scam targeting the elderly and thanked and commended Sheriff Martin and Mrs. Batiste for providing information to the seniors at the Senior Centers. Vice Chairman St. Pierre extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors and received none.

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 7:54 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary