

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, March 19, 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; Michelle Octave, 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 Brazan and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for February 2014, totaling \$2,343,936.21, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that his absence at the last council meeting was due to a previously scheduled family vacation. He congratulated Secretary Rodrigue on being elected as the Vice-President of the Organization of Parish Administrative Officials. Regarding NFIP and the passage of the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act by both houses of Congress, President Roussel thanked the 14 Parish Presidents, GNO Inc, the 14 Parish Councils, and the news media for their efforts over the past year and for being instrumental in accomplishing the successful passage of this legislation. President Roussel informed the Public of the April 5 election for millage renewals for road lighting and continued operation of the Department of Human Resources, as well as a new millage for DHR to create the St. James Parish Nutrition Kitchen explaining its purpose. He encourages everyone to vote and provided the dates for early voting as well. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: effective April 1 West Bank rentals will be handled through the Recreation Office/Fitness Center in Lutcher; Library events on Facebook; new collaborative program between Head Start, School Board and two local daycare centers; time clock update; VITA (income tax) program; benefit lunch for parish Relay for Life Team; River Region Caucus Day at the Legislature on March 27; Police Jury Legislative Day on April 8; Youth Center property. President Roussel proudly explained that the Police Jury Association created the Veterans and Military Service Committee at its recent conference.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Octave, Director of Human Resources, presented the DHR Annual Report. Mrs. Octave recognized the DHR management and support staff who were in attendance. She explained the mission of DHR, programs provided to the residents of St. James Parish and staff development. Mrs. Octave explained the new cohort pilot project between Head Start, School Board and two local daycare centers.

Cullen Curole with South Central Planning & Development Commission provided the Council with information on the Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Curole commented and thanked President Roussel for the efforts of the River Parish Presidents regarding the Biggert Waters Act and passage of the reform legislation. Continuing with his report, Mr. Curole highlighted the 2013 RLF program and encouraged the Council to provide this information to any constituent who may be interested in establishing a small business. Mr. Curole then answered questions posed by Councilmen Amato and St. Pierre.

Lisa Schilling, Executive Director of the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority, updated the Council on the services provided by the SCLHSA. Ms. Schilling provided updates on the services provided, budget review, parish statistics for individuals/services, accomplishments for 2013 and challenges for the upcoming year regarding behavioral health, developmental disabilities systems transformation and information technology migration. Ms. Schilling provided answers to questions from Councilmen Amato and Brazan.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 14-48, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JUWAN LUMAR AS THE DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. Chairman Ketchens then recognized Mr. Lumar, who was in attendance.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-49, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RIDGELY MITCHELL TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 14-02, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO MOSAIC FERTILIZER, LLC, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, (i) A DIRECTION TO CANCEL LEASE AGREEMENTS AND INDENTURES OF TRUST AND PLEDGE, AND (ii) AN ACT OF SALE; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-50, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF SCOTT EQUIPMENT COMPANY, LLC FOR A 2014 HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR GRADALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-51, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF EARL JOSHUA.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted. Secretary Rodrigue then read the resolution aloud.

RESOLUTION 14-52, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 1, 2014 AS NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-53, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2014 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** A second was provided by Councilman Brazan and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-54, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SYSTEM SURVEY AND COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ON AGING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. A second was provided by Councilman Amato and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-55, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR TWO 2014 ONE TON PICKUP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-56, 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, 2013, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. A second was provided by Councilman Patin and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-57, A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM ACCORDING TO THE DESIGNATION RENEWAL SYSTEM (DRS).** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-04, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A WETLANDS SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN SOUTH VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, was then introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting 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 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan commented on his meeting with ATT regarding phone issues. He asked Mr. Chenier to have the grass along the ditch on the right side of North Peach Street cut. Councilman Brazan commented on the flood insurance act and he commended the Parish Presidents of St. Charles, St. John, St. James, and Ascension, the River Region Caucus, for being instrumental in bringing national attention to the Biggert Waters Act and reforming this legislation. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brazan with an explanation of the lane closures on LA 20 on April 1, 2, and possibly 3, 2014 to survey the bridge.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass recognized School Board President Charles Nailor. Upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman Brass that applications for the summer employment program are now available online and at the Courthouse. Councilman Brass thanked President Roussel for providing a contact for

Union Pacific Railroad, whom he spoke to, and the UP representative should be contacting Mr. Chenier to schedule a meeting regarding the Magnolia Heights drainage project. He asked Mr. Deroche and President Roussel to meet with him to discuss security measures at the Courthouse Annex. Councilman Brass announced to all West Bank residents that the Martin Luther King Scholarship applications are available at the Courthouse Annex and St. James High School and the deadline is May 1, 2014.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary had no comment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked Mr. Deroche for his assistance in informing senior citizens of the expired smoke detectors. Councilman Amato asked that updates on the East Bank Drainage Study and the East Bank Bike Path be placed on the agenda for the April or May Convent council meeting.

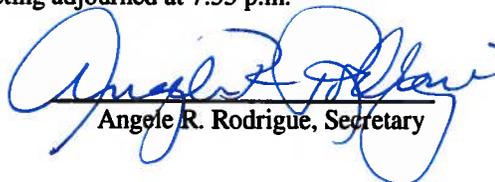
COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre congratulated Secretary Rodrigue. He commented on the drainage project in Gramercy Park and asked the public to be patient until the project is completed. Regarding job training, Councilman St. Pierre informed the Public that there are still available slots for the welding course and additional training will be offered in the future and if anyone is interested please contact the parish administration.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – Regarding NFIP, President Roussel told the Council that credit should be given to Mr. Chenier and Mr. Donadieu and he thanked them for their efforts, as well as this Council and the people of the River Region for providing their input. President Roussel announced that the St. James Business and Industry Development Group will be awarding eight \$1000 scholarships to parish high school seniors and he asked the Youth Commission to assist in informing their fellow students.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens asked for Directors comment and Mrs. Octave informed the Council that the Capital Area United Way will be highlighting DHR in their Capital Campaign for 2014 and will be in the parish tomorrow filming the video. Mr. Chenier informed the Council that the East Bank water plant has been notified of a water violation, which he explained, and all East Bank water customers will be hand delivered a notice that will also be published in the local newspaper. Chairman Ketchens offered his congratulations to Secretary Rodrigue. He asked Sheriff Martin for his assistance with complaints he has been receiving regarding cars parking on the levee side in the Oak Alley curve that is creating a safety issue even with the installation of 'No Parking' signs. Sheriff Martin is aware of this issue and discussed possible options. Chairman Ketchens would like to schedule a meeting with Sheriff Martin, Troop C and Mr. Mayhew of Oak Alley to find a solution to this issue. Sheriff Martin informed the Council that he purchased the Brothers building on Hwy 3127 and will be moving his maintenance operations to this location.

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 7:55 p.m.


Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary