OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, March 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; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Michelle Octave, Director of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; and 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 Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary, the minutes of the February 19, 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 February 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel was not in attendance. Mr. Chenier informed the Council that DOTD is preforming maintenance on the Sunshine Bridge and this will require lane closures over the next couple of weeks.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Kurt Roussel, Fire Chief of the Paulina Grand Point Belmont Volunteer Fire Department, recognized Ryder Thomas Cantillo. Chief Roussel explained in detail the actions taken by Ryder on October 29, 2013 when his younger brother, Tyler, became distressed and unconscious due to an asthma attack. Chief Roussel, along with Deputy Chief Ryan Louque, Chairman Ketchens, Councilman McCreary, and Sheriff Martin, presented Ryder with a plaque for his meritorious actions that were credited with saving Tyler's life.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-42, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AMIRA BALONEY AS THE DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-43, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VICTORIA M. ROCQUIN AS THE DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. Councilman St. Pierre recognized and congratulated Ms. Rocquin, who was in attendance.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-44, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TEVIN GROS AS THE DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION.** A second was provided by Councilman Brass and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-45, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FORD, INC. FOR A 2014 FORD SUPER DUTY EXTENDED VAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-46, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FORD, INC. FOR A HEAVY DUTY DUMP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-47, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR**

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUTCHER TOWN HALL. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

PROPOSED 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, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote, 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, March 19, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

Councilman Brazan offered a substitute motion to introduce the February 18, 2014 draft of this proposed ordinance with Councilman Brass providing a second. Upon a roll call vote showing Brass and Brazan voting for and St. Pierre, Amato, McCreary, Patin and Ketchens voting against, the substitute motion failed. **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-03, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A LAND USE PLAN AND TO REGULATE DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT PLAN,** was then introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, McCreary, Patin and Ketchens voting for and Brass and Brazan voting against, the introduction of the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearings, which were scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, and for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre received an update from Mr. Chenier on the David Road project. Councilman St. Pierre extended his thanks to Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, for scheduling a meeting regarding the Gramercy Park Drainage Project on Friday at 10 am at the Gramercy Town Hall.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked his fellow councilmen for adopting the resolution for the improvements to the Lutcher Town Hall and Mr. Chenier for his efforts regarding this project. He commented on the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act passed yesterday by the U.S. House of Representatives. In closing, Councilman Amato asked Mr. Chenier to contact DOTD requesting to shave down Hwy 3125 and LA 61.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary thanked Mr. Cantillo for his quick action in calling 911, the Paulina Grand Point Belmont Volunteer Fire Department for their rescue unit, Sheriff Martin for providing the 911 service and extended his appreciation to everyone who provides services to the residents of St. James Parish.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked his fellow councilmen for their support and Mrs. Octave for filling in on Monday.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass thanked Mrs. Octave for representing St. James Parish at Nucor on Monday. He asked his fellow councilmen to review the February 18, 2014 draft of the proposed ordinance to adopt the land use plan, and he has issues regarding nonconformities and vested property rights. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier asked Councilman Brass to contact the railroad regarding the Magnolia Heights Drainage Project since he has been unable to receive a response to his calls. Councilman Brass congratulated the St. James High School Basketball Team for advancing to the quarter finals in the playoffs.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN –Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Deroche on scheduling a meeting with ATT regarding the phone system. He commented on HB 3370, Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act, passed yesterday by the House of Representatives. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided an update to Councilman Brazan on the lights on Bayou Chevreil.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for Directors comment and received none. Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier if the grass cutting has begun for the year and Mr. Chenier said they will get started. Chairman Ketchens read aloud an email of thanks he received from Mary Elizabeth Dumas on Bank Street regarding an issue she has had for several years with tall grass and an abandoned trailer. Chairman Ketchens thanked Mr. Donadieu and the parish crew for resolving this issue for Ms. Dumas.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre seconded by Councilman Amato and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary