

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2013**

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 6, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Terry McCreary, Ralph Patin, Charles Ketchens, Kendrick Brass and Chairman James Brazan.

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; Ashley Poche, Assistant Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; and Bruce Mohon, Legal Advisor.

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

The Honorable James Brazan, 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 Patin and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre the minutes of the February 18, 2013 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 2013 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by commenting on the Keep St. James Beautiful Board Trash Bash held on Saturday, March 2. President Roussel told the Council that since they had time to review the information he provided regarding mosquito control, he would place mosquito control on the next agenda for council consideration. This generated a lengthy discussion among the Council with President Roussel and Francis Hymel, Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness, providing answers to questions posed by council members. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and updates on the following: radio upgrade on March 18; Blue Roof program; LIHEAP program; tax preparation program; DOTD grading levee side of LA 44 and LA 18; River Region Chamber of Commerce Reverse Trade Show; Office of Emergency Preparedness-Department of Health and Hospitals mass antibiotic dispensing plan exercise; hurricane readiness meeting for parish employees on May 15 in the EOC; parishwide hurricane preparedness meeting on May 22; household hazardous waste collection day on March 16 at the Lutcher Senior Center. In closing, President Roussel proudly read a story he received from a parent of a student at the Science and Math Academy.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ridgely Mitchel updated the Council on the Youth Center and the Youth Center Commission. Mr. Mitchell told the Council that as per Sheriff Waguespack of Assumption DCFS is at his Assumption site conducting a four day review. As soon as Mr. Mitchell receives the DCFS report from Sheriff Waguespack, he will forward that report to the Council.

Ryan Louque, President of the Firemen's Association, provided the Council with information regarding the automatic mutual aid agreement. Mr. Louque told the Council that the Fire Association completed pump test for all departments, the Administrative Assistant position is still being discussed by the Association, Acadian Ambulance training and LSU training classes are being scheduled. Mr. Louque then explained the automatic mutual aid agreement with all six fire departments that will provide more manpower for structure fires.

Sen. Troy Brown addressed the Council regarding proposed legislation for the upcoming legislative session. Sen. Brown explained in great depth and much detail his proposed legislation on instituting tolls on the Sunshine Bridge to provide revenue to St. James, Ascension and Assumption parishes for local roads, the distribution of these revenues between the state and parishes, cost of tolls and toll tags, West Bank connector project and the four-lane completion of LA 3127. Sen. Brown then answered questions posed by council members regarding this legislation. Sen. Brown also explained in detail his proposed legislation creating the South East Louisiana Economic Growth and Opportunity Group and legislation on behalf of Sheriff Waguespack obtaining a waiver from DCFS of structural requirements for a two year period.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 13-02, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR FUTURE STATE AND PARISH PROJECTS, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-37, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENA VE MOTOR CO, INC. FOR A F-250 CREW CAB PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, ROAD & BRIDGE DIVISION**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Ketchens and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-38, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENA VE MOTOR CO, INC. FOR A F-250 CREW CAB PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, RECREATION DIVISION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. A second was provided by Councilman Ketchens and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-39, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE TO AFFORD DUE PROCESS STANDARDS AND PROVIDE FOR PROMPT AND EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS ALLEGING ACTIONS PROHIBITED BY SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED**. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-40, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2013 AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-41, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO SIGN ANY AND ALL OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES**. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-42, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AMERICAN RED CROSS FOR A SHELTER AGREEMENT.** Councilman Ketchens offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-43, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE EAST BANK WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN CONVENT, LA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-44, 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, 2012** Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-45, 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, 2012, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre provided his fellow councilmen with an update on the Beaver Canal permit. Upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman St. Pierre that since telephone conversations with Ramelli Waste the servicing of the recycling bins has been improving. Councilman St. Pierre would like a meeting with Ramelli and he wants to be included in any discussions with Ramelli. Councilman St. Pierre asked Mr. Chenier to repair the light at LA 642/3121 at Golden Grove. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre proudly congratulated Jordan Hymel, a Gramercy resident and student at Southeastern University, for pitching a no hitter for Southeastern against Texas Southern and Jordan has received state and national honors on this accomplishment.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier told Councilman Amato he would contact DOTD regarding the blue hospital directional signs at LA 3125/3193.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary told his fellow councilmen that he has been working with Councilman Amato and Mr. Mohon on lease agreements for Lutchter Park and Paulina Park. Councilman McCreary asked that the Paulina Park lease agreement be placed on the next agenda.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had not comment.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS – Upon questioning, Councilman Ketchens received an update from Sheriff Martin on the upcoming run at the Oak Alley Spring Craft Show.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass asked Mr. Deroche to assist the North Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department with the PIAL assessment in May. Mr. Deroche told Councilman Brass that Mr. Hymel has been and will continue assisting North Vacherie with the assessment. Councilman Brass commented on an article regarding the possible closing of the Ascension Animal Shelter and he asked President Roussel to seek options for St. James Parish should the shelter close.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN –Chairman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to provide copies of the map highlighting the property the parish has purchased with the state capital outlay funds. He commented on the leaning poles and low hanging wires along LA 20 and he asked Mr. Chenier to address this issue with the appropriate party or parties. Upon questioning, Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the problems at the West Bank Water Plant.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brass seconded by Councilman Ketchens and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue
Secretary