OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

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, April 15, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Jason Amato, Terry McCreary, Ralph Patin, Kendricks Brass, James Brazan and Chairman Charles Ketchens. Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. 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; 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 Amato and seconded by Councilman Brass, the minutes of the April 1, 2015 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for March 2015, totaling $1,206,500.48, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by providing the Council with an update on the inventory tax issue, a meeting he attended with Sen. Adley regarding this issue, and he said all parishes are against the repeal of this tax. He informed the Council that a resolution will be on the next agenda addressing the advertisement of the Youth Detention Center and the Parish has received some interest in this facility. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: Utility Office accepting debit/credit card payments for utility bills; Postlethwaite and Netterville annual audit of parish finances; Trash Bash on April 25; Keep St. James Beautiful Board administrative task will be handled by Audrey Temple with the resignation of Pam Poche; Relay for Life on May 16 at Lutcher Park; mandatory Ethics Training on April 23; on site wellness screening for all parish employees; parish employment offers made and accepted; monthly finance report; security of employees; 2015 Super Regional Caucus meeting in Arizona; 2015 College Student Employment Program; payment from St. Landry Parish; and delinquent occupational licenses. President Roussel and Mr. Deroche then answered questions from Councilman McCreary and Councilman Brass regarding the Youth Detention Center.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT None.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered a motion to table this ordinance for three months with Councilman McCreary offering a second. No public comment was received. After a roll call vote showing Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brass, Brazan, Ketchens voting in favor and St. Pierre absent, ORDINANCE 15-05, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 86, PLANNING, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE II PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION, SECTION 86-32 – MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION; TERMS OF OFFICE, was then tabled for three months.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-55, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT THE BID OF VOLUTE, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST BANK WETLANDS ASSIMILATION TREATMENT PLANT IN LUTCHER, LOUISIANA.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-56, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CRESCENT FORD TRUCK SALES, INC. FOR A HEAVY DUTY DUMP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-57, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2015 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-58, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY 2015 AS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-59, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE DISTRICT 4 COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER.** Councilman McCreary requested that Senior Center be included in the title of the resolution and he offered a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-60, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RAW WATER INTAKE PUMP STATION IN CONVENT, LOUISIANA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-61, 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, 2014.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-62, 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, 2014, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Gravois and Mr. Donadieu to discuss amending the abandoned building ordinance. He thanked President Roussel and Mrs. Warren for attending the ARC meeting to discuss transportation issues. In closing, Councilman Brazan asked that a letter of condolence be sent to Mona Gravois on the death of her mother.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass thanked Mr. Chenier and crew and Mrs. Warren and staff for assisting the homeowner who had a tree fall on their home during the rainy weather last night. Upon questioning, Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Deroche on the splash pad at the District 6 Park. He would like to meet with Mr. Deroche and Mr. Chenier at the park next Friday to finalize the layout of the project. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Magnolia Heights waterline project and shoulder work will be completed weather permitting.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked Mr. Deroche for his assistance with the Easter egg hunt. In closing, Councilman Patin thanked his fellow councilmen for their support of the District 4 Community/Senior Center.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary attended the Senior Olympics held at Paulina Park, which was well attended, and he thanked Mrs. Warren, staff and volunteers for a great job. Upon questioning, Councilman McCreary received updates from Mr. Deroche on the work order system, preventative maintenance program for parish vehicles and equipment, and the installation of cameras in the Council Chambers in Convent and Vacherie. Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Deroche for a tour of the Youth Detention Center and Mr. Deroche will have Leon Walker, who worked at the Youth Center, contact him and conduct the tour. Chairman Ketchens and Councilman Brazan would like to be included on the tour. Councilman McCreary told Councilman Brazan he would like to attend the blighted property meeting. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman McCreary with an update on the water line under the Mississippi River. In closing, Councilman McCreary extended his condolences to Mrs. Gravois.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato commented on the agenda items that are being made possible by grants, and he commended President Roussel and staff on obtaining this grant funding. Upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman Amato that the mosquito control contract expires June 30. Councilman Amato would like to place a discussion of the mosquito control contract on the May 20 agenda and invite the contractor to attend the meeting and take part in the discussion. He extended his condolences to the family of Jack Swisher. Councilman Amato asked President Roussel if there were any flooding issues with the heavy rain this week and President Roussel told him there was one home on King View Street that flooded. President Roussel credited the drainage department for the work done thus far and said there is still much drainage work to be done. Upon questioning, Councilman Amato received information from Mr. Deroche on the parish hurricane preparedness meeting scheduled for May 18 at 6 pm at the Lutcher Senior Center. In closing, Councilman Amato asked Mr. Chenier for an update on the light by the bridge.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre was absent.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel recognized the Youth Commission members who were in attendance.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors and received none. Chairman Ketchens extended his condolences to Mrs. Gravois. Upon questioning, Chairman Ketchens received an update from Mr. Deroche on the culvert under the railroad tracks in the Moonshine area. Chairman Ketchens asked Secretary Rodrigue to send letters to our senators and representatives seeking their assistance with this issue. In closing, Chairman Ketchens invited the Council, Parish President, staff and the public

to the first annual Wildlife Cookout sponsored by the Baytree Hunting Club, Triple B Kennel and the Westside Moonshine Hunting Club on April 25 at Welcome Park where all food is free; just bring your own drinks.

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 7:15 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary