OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 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, April 16, 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for March 2014, totaling $1,460,500.62, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Brazan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by providing the Council with information on the April 5, 2014 election, which had a disappointing seven percent voter turnout, and he thanked all who did go out and vote. The renewals for consolidated road lighting district 3A and for operation of the Human Resource Department were approved and the millage for the Nutrition Kitchen was defeated by one vote. At this time, President Roussel has no intention of bringing the Nutrition Kitchen millage before voters. President Roussel then provided the Council with updates and/or information on the following: consider rolling back the Youth Center millage; Head Start applications for 2014-2015 year; West Bank solar lights have all been repaired; ethics training on May 28 at 2 pm at the St. James Reception Center; recap of Relay for Life event on April 5; VITA program provided 287 tax returns for parish residents; update of Monday's LIHEAP intake; annual Trash Bash on May 3: presentation of signed copy of NFIP congressional act by Rep. Cedric Richmond; health screenings for parish employees; parish holidays on Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21; and deadlines for college summer employment program.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Trina Moll, District 5 Justice of the Peace, addressed the Council on behalf of the Justices of the Peace and Constables in St. James Parish requesting a salary increase. Mrs. Moll recognized those Justices of the Peace and Constables who were in attendance: Mary Walker District 1 JP, Shirley Albert District 4 JP, Sylvia Sue Williams District 6 JP, Marie Lewis District 7 JP, Ronald Boudreaux District 1 Constable, Johnnie Shorty District 4 Constable, Sylvester Winchester District 5 Constable, and Brad Steib District 7 Constable. Mrs. Moll then provided the Council with some history, reporting requirements and information on the duties and services offered by the Justices of the Peace and the Constables, as well as some of the hazards encountered in preforming these duties. Mrs. Moll then answered questions from councilmen. Sheriff Willy Martin addressed the Council in support of a salary increase for the Justices of the Peace and Constables.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 14-05, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET DEDICATION OF CHAMPION STREET IN SOUTH VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote with St. Pierre, Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brass and Ketchens voting in favor and Brazan abstaining, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-60, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LEGACY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EOC WAREHOUSE BUILDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-61, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2014 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-62, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY 2014 AS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH, OLDER AMERICANS MONTH AND TRY PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK IN ST. JAMES PARISH COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY ACITON, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-63, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR VARIOUS SIZE DRAINAGE PIPE.** A second was provided by Councilman Brass and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After an explanation by President Roussel and questions from councilmen were answered by President Roussel, Mr. Deroche and Mr. Chenier, **RESOLUTION 14-64, A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE FORMER ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH DETENTION CENTER SITE SURPLUS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR THE PROPERTY,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. A second was provided by Councilman Amato and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-65, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUTCHER SEWERAGE POND.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-66, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTIONS HELD IN (i) THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND (ii) CONSOLIDATED ROAD LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 3A OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014, TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF SPECIAL TAXES THEREIN, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary and upon a unanimous roll call vote with everyone voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-67, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD TO ACCEPT THE HEAD START EXTENSION APPLICATION TO CONTINUE OPERATION OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM FROM JULY 31, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan told Mr. Chenier he has some concerns with the sidewalk project and would like to meet at the site to discuss these concerns. Regarding the walking track at the District 7 Park, Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to inform him when construction is taking place so he can go to the park and observe the process. Councilman Brazan commented on the Oak Alley spring and fall craft shows and the number of people who come into the parish to attend these craft shows. Since Oak Alley has announced that they will discontinue these semi-annual events, Councilman Brazan would like the Economic Development Board to work with the three West Bank Plantations, Oak Alley, St. Joe and Laura, to attract these large numbers of visitors back to St. James Parish. In closing, Councilman Brazan wished everyone a Happy Easter.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass commended Keri Walker and the Library Staff for the Easter egg hunt the library sponsored that was well organized and a huge success. Councilman Brass would like Mr. Chenier to schedule a meeting with landowners regarding the evacuation routes. Councilman Brass thanked the Parish President and his administration for attending the meeting regarding the West Bank Hall and District 6 Park rentals.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Upon questioning, Mr. Mohon told Councilman McCreary that there is a Revised Statute that creates the position of Constable and Justice of the Peace for each district. Councilman McCreary said that with council redistricting the District 3 Constable now resides in District 4 and Mr. Chenier explained that council redistricting does not affect Justice of the Peace and Constable districts. He commented on the movie being shot in Gramercy. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier explained to Councilman McCreary that the judges of the 23rd Judicial District establish the boundaries for the Justice of the Peace and Constable districts and that a map of these districts is being prepared. Mr. Mohon explained that Justice of the Peace and Constable boundaries should be reapportioned every time the council reapportions or the school board reapportions. Councilman McCreary closed by wishing everyone a happy and safe Easter.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato asked if an update of the East Bank Drainage Study would be on the next agenda and President Roussel said it would be. Councilman Amato commented on the grass at the Lutcher Library and asked that it be cut. He asked Mr. Deroche to provide a price quote on hesco baskets. Councilman Amato commented on the legislative session particularly bills pertaining to the Port of South Louisiana assuming control of the Pontchartrain and Lafourche Levee Board police and the 20% voter turnout for tax elections. Councilman Amato closed by wishing everyone a happy Easter.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre asked about the raise given to the Justices of the Peace and Constables in 2006 and President Roussel said that information will be provided to the Council. Regarding the Gramercy Park drainage project, Councilman St. Pierre said the project is on schedule, there will be some inconvenience to the public as baseball season starts, and he asked for patience until the project can be completed. Councilman St. Pierre told Mr. Chenier he spoke to town attorney Bobby Faucheux at the Gramercy town meeting and Mr. Faucheux will provide information regarding the cross ditch. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre wished everyone a Happy Easter.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel recognized Shandria Smith, District 5 Library Board member, who explained to the Council that for the past five years she has been working on a project on preserving the settlement of the Freetown area in St. James. Ms. Smith has applied to have the area recognized as a historic landmark and this application is currently in the office of the Lt. Governor awaiting his signature.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens asked for Directors comment and Mr. Deroche explained in great detail SB 537 that proposes the notification of a release of hazardous materials be made by electronic means only not telephone and the bill was amended to place telephone notification back into the bill, and SB 407 that adds facility emergency response plans, risk management plans, and radio communications or reporting to those items preempted from enaction, adoption or enforcement. Mr. Deroche testified before the senate committee yesterday regarding both bills. Chairman Ketchens acknowledged and commended the District 5 Justice of the Peace and Constable, Mrs. Moll and Mr. Winchester, for the work they do for the residents of the Fifth District. In closing, Chairman Ketchens wished everyone a Happy Easter.

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 7:47 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary