OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

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, April 1, 2015, 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; 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman McCreary, the minutes of the March 18, 2015 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes were dispensed with.

HEAD START FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORTS

The Head Start Financial and Attendance Reports for March 2015 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that the 2015 mosquito control program will begin on April 6 and the Splash Parks in Districts 3 and 7 opened today. President Roussel provided the Council with updates and/or information on the following: inventory tax repeal issue; safety manual for parish workforce being developed by RIPS Safety Training & Consulting; meeting with fire departments and Postlethwaite and Netterville regarding Act 706; incentive for parish employees to become active members of local fire departments; Senior Olympics on April 9; Recreation Coordinator position accepted by Tevis Smith; in-house opening for Warehouse Clerk; interviews for Transit Bus Drivers; Melissa Wilkins leaving employment with parish; condolences to the families of parish employee Cheryl Cortez and her husband Shawn, who were both killed in a boating accident; and 2015 Summer College Student Program. President Roussel then answered questions regarding the Summer College Student Program from Councilman McCreary and Chairman Ketchens.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

In the absence of Rev. Nolan Albert, Rev. Charlie Jones, Sr. of Greater King Triumph Baptist Church and Rev. Ulysses Jarrow of Greater Golden Grove Baptist Church addressed the Council regarding the organization, Pastors Supporting Unity. Rev. Jones announced the officials of this non-profit organization and explained its mission, its goal and said local government is the catalyst for helping to improve the quality of life for all the people of St. James Parish. Rev. Jones and Pastors Supporting Unity look forward to working side by side with President Roussel and the Council for a brighter future for the people of St. James Parish. President Roussel shared information with Rev. Jones and Rev. Jarrow regarding email alerts from parish government regarding programs, employment and emergency information.

David Miles, MAI, SRA, a state certified real estate appraiser, provided the Council with an update on the appraisal analysis and report he completed for the St. James Parish Youth Detention Center property. Mr. Miles explained in great depth and much detail the appraisal method used and depreciation applied in his appraisal of the Youth Detention Center property. He went on to explain in his reappraisal the buildings were 100% depreciated and, in his opinion, are structurally sound. Mr. Miles suggested this property would be considered as a light industrial parcel after demolition of the buildings and offered several other suggested uses. Mr. Miles then answered questions from Councilman McCreary regarding marketing of this prime commercial property and he can provide contacts for commercial real estate brokers if the parish is interested.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman St. Pierre led a discussion on the Youth Detention Center. After the presentation from Mr. Miles, Councilman St. Pierre asked how do we move forward and what is next. President Roussel informed Councilman St. Pierre that the administration would meet and send recommendations to the Council and encouraged councilmen to submit suggestions as well. Councilman McCreary recommends marketing the property in the commercial real estate market. Legal Advisor Mohon suggested the parish require RFP's be submitted from commercial realtors for an hourly rate. Upon questioning, Mr. Deroche explained that the current expense for the Youth Center is the

electricity at approximately $3,000 per month and the cutting of the grass. Councilman Amato suggested setting a target date of September 1 for a decision on this property. Discussion continued on keeping the electricity on as opposed to cutting the electricity to the buildings. Councilman Brass asked if the property was brokered to housing developers since there is a lack of housing in the parish. Councilman McCreary suggested that since the property is designated by the master plan as industrial the Council explore the industrial park option. At the end of the discussion, the Council agreed to a September 1 deadline and awaits recommendations from President Roussel.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-48, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF E. J. LAPAROUSE METAL WORKS, INC., FOR WIND RETROFITTING OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER IN LUTCHER, LA.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-49, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2015 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was adopted. Krissy Rice and Kristin Williams with Child Advocacy Services spoke briefly on the CASA program in St. James Parish. Chairman Ketchens and President Roussel then presented Ms. Rice and Ms. Williams with the proclamation.

RESOLUTION 15-50, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2015 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-51, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 7, 2015 AS NATIONAL SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-52, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN ANY AND ALL CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL PHARMACIES TO IMPLEMENT AN INMATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 15-53, A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY CHANGES TO THE INVENTORY TAX.** A second was provided by Councilman McCreary, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-54, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO SELL PROPERTY AT A PUBLIC AUCTION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED 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 introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote with St. Pierre, Amato, Patin, Brass, Brazan, Ketchens voting in favor and McCreary voting against, 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 6:15 p.m., on Wednesday, APRIL 15, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre commented on the East Bank Drainage & Flood Protection Task Force meeting held on Monday. He extended his appreciation to Mr. Chenier for the report on the parish canals. Councilman St. Pierre commended Ms. Wilkins on the great job she did for St. James Parish and wished her well in her new job. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre shared his comments on the inventory tax repeal and urged parish residents to contact their state senators and representatives and stay involved.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato informed his fellow councilman that the minutes of the East Bank Drainage & Flood Protection Task Force meeting will be sent to all as soon as they are finalized. He commented on the upcoming School Board millage election. Councilman Amato informed the Council that a contract was signed for a new pumper truck for the newly created fire department. In closing, Councilman Amato wished everyone a Happy Easter.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary and his family extend their condolences and prayers to the Cortez, Boughton and Copponex families on the death of their loved ones. Councilman McCreary spoke to Rep. Ed Price regarding the state budget deficit and shared his thoughts on the state budget deficit.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman Patin that after the April 17 deadline, a listing of applicants for the Summer College Student Program would be sent to each councilman for their selections.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass thanked the parish demolition crew for work along LA 18 from the St. John Parish line to LA 20 that is part of the District 6 Beautification Project. He announced that the Talaija Dorsey Scholarship applications are available at both Lutcher and St. James High Schools for seniors and the Martin Luther King Scholarship applications are available at St. James High School and the Courthouse Annex for West Bank seniors. Upon questioning, Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Deroche on the District 6 Splash

Park. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier if the roads for the 2015 Road Improvement project have been approved and Mr. Chenier said they were and he would send the list to each councilman. Councilman Brass closed by wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Regarding the Summer College Student Program, Councilman Brazan would like to receive a daily email list of applicants from District 7. He wished Ms. Wilkins good luck on her new job. In closing, Councilman Brazan wished everyone a Happy Easter and to remember those serving in the military.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel circulated pictures among the Council of the recently completed EOC warehouse. President Roussel wished everyone a Happy Easter.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for comments from CAO/Directors. CAO Octave wished everyone a Happy Easter and she will provide the Council with updates on the inventory tax issue. Chairman Ketchens wished Ms. Wilkins well in her new job and thanked her for everything she did for St. James Parish. He extended his condolences to the Cortez family. On behalf of the Ketchens and Harrison families, Chairman Ketchens thanked the Council, Secretary, Parish President, staff and employees for the cards, calls, flowers and prayers on the death of his mother-in-law and he asked everyone to continue to keep the families of all who passed away in the last week in their prayers. In closing, Chairman Ketchens wished everyone a safe and happy Easter.

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 7:45 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary