

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 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, April 2, 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; Bedar Warren, Assistant Director of Human Resources; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; Legal Advisor Bruce Mohon and Attorney Victor Franckiewicz.

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 March 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 March 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by reminding everyone of the April 5 election and he explained in depth the three propositions on the ballot. He informed the Council that the parish may consider rolling back the Youth Center millage. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: Head Start applications for 2014-2015 year; solar lights on West Bank; Senior Olympics on April 8 at Paulina Park and thanked Mosaic for sponsoring lunch; Capital Area United Way Campaign featuring parish resident Melanie Pierre; Relay for Life on April 5 at Lutchter Park; 2014 Parish Annual Report; World Wrestling Entertainment spotlighting Theodore "TC" Bazile on April 3 at the Lutchter Senior Center; VITA income tax assistance; LIHEAP applications; Police Jury Association Legislative Day on April 8 in Baton Rouge; sale of Youth Center site; and Trash Bash on May 3.

Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier if the survey of the Bayou Chevreil Bridge was complete, and Mr. Chenier will contact DOTD and provide information in the morning.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President Roussel explained that at the recently held Police Jury Conference, the PJA recognized all parish presidents, councilmembers and police jurors with three or more terms of service. On behalf of the Police Jury Association, President Roussel proudly presented pins to Chairman Ketchens for three terms, Councilman Brazan for five terms, and Councilman Patin for six terms. President Roussel was recognized at the PJA conference for his four terms of service.

At the request of Councilman Amato, Eric Poche with SJB Group provided the Council with an update on the East Bank levee bike trail. Mr. Poche explained that in 2010 St. James Parish applied for Transportation Enhancement Funding for construction of a two mile bike trail on the levee from St. Michael Church to St. Joseph Church to the Gramercy Fire Station. He explained the status of the DOTD grant for Phase 1. The Parish applied for a Recreational Trails Grant for Phase 2, which was split into two sections, from Paulina Elementary to St. Joseph Church and from Gramercy Fire Station downriver 1500 linear feet. He explained in detail the current construction and status of Phase 2A from Paulina Elementary to St. Joseph Church. Mr. Poche explained the future phases of the trail, Phase 3 and Phase 4, as well as funding of these phases. Mr. Poche then answered questions from councilmen regarding inspection of the project, the main phase through Lutchter and Gramercy, drainage issues with the current project, disappointment in findings with the current project, relocation of poles and electric lines, and location of trail on top of levee in comparison to bottom of levee.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman St. Pierre offered a motion to amend this ordinance to include the technical clarifications recommended by Attorney Victor Franckiewicz. Mr. Franckiewicz then explained in detail the technical clarifications. Councilman Amato offered a second to the motion. No public comment was received. After questions from councilmen were answered by Mr. Franckiewicz, a unanimous roll call vote showed all seven councilmen in favor of this motion, and the ordinance was amended to include the changes explained by Mr. Franckiewicz.

ORDINANCE 14-03, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A LAND USE PLAN AND TO REGULATE DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT PLAN, AS AMENDED, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted as amended.

ORDINANCE 14-04, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A WETLANDS SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN SOUTH VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-58, A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S ACTION IN PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2014 AS FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH**. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-59, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2014 AS NATIONAL COUNTY/PARISH GOVERNMENT MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, READY AND RESILIENT COUNTIES: PREPARE. RESPOND. THRIVE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Brazan. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-05, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET DEDICATION OF CHAMPION STREET IN SOUTH VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a unanimous roll call vote showing all in favor, 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., Wednesday, April 16, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre welcomed the members of the Youth Commission and recognized Gramercy Mayor Terry Borne. He updated his fellow councilmen on the Gramercy Park drainage project and asked the public for patience during baseball season and until the project is completed. Upon questioning, Councilman St. Pierre received an update on mosquito control from Francis Hymel, Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness. Councilman St. Pierre informed the public that the St. James Parish Business Industry Group will be awarding eight \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors, four from Lutchter High School and four from St. James High School, who will be attending college, community college, trade school or vo-tech school.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato extended his appreciation to everyone who assisted in any capacity with the development and final version of the land use plan that was adopted. Councilman Amato asked that an update on the East Bank Drainage Study be provided at the first council meeting in May and President Roussel informed Councilman Amato that the parish does have money in the capital outlay fund for the study.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary encouraged everyone to go out and vote on Saturday, April 5. He thanked everyone involved with the land use plan, especially parish residents who attended meetings and the Planning Commission. Councilman McCreary recognized the members of the Youth Commission. Regarding mosquito spraying, Councilman McCreary received concerns from homeowners with homes located more than 300 feet from the roadway and Mosquito Control Services will back down the driveway to spray if requested by the homeowner. Mr. Hymel told Councilman McCreary this should be at no extra costs. Councilman McCreary asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter to DOTD requesting that the light at the intersection of LA 642 and LA 3125 be retimed to allow for a longer green light to enable a left turn from LA 3125 unto LA 642.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked the following for their assistance regarding the Comprehensive Master Plan: Gerald Falgoust, the St. James Parish Council, the Planning Commission, the Coastal Zone Management Board, President Roussel, Jody Chenier, Blaise Gravois, Ryan Donadieu, Vic Franckiewicz, and the residents of the Paulina Grand Point area for their persistence, determination and class.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass recognized Mayor Borne of Gramercy and he asked Mr. Poche to keep Mayor Borne updated on the progress of the levee bike trail. Councilman Brass recognized Alaina Cunningham, CHODO consultant, and thanked her for the discussion on creating affordable housing in St. James Parish. Regarding the Magnolia Heights drainage project, Mr. Chenier told Councilman Brass that the railroad representative did contact him and sent the permit package, which is quite extensive, and Mr. Donadieu will handle the permit requirements. Councilman Brass will send a work order to asphalt the shoulder at the intersection of Bank Street and Tucker Street where drainage work has been completed. Councilman Brass asked his fellow councilmen for their support with the rentals of the District 6 Park.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the sidewalk project along Highway 644 and he asked that those ditches be dug. Regarding LIHEAP, Councilman Brazan has a constituent that is having issues when calling in and he asked Mr. Deroche to monitor calls and make sure they are getting through properly. Councilman Brazan congratulated the members of the Youth Commission. Regarding mosquito control, Councilman Brazan said that there has been no education program as per the contract and he asked that the contractor educate the public on why, how and when they spray.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel recognized former Parish President Paul Keller, former Operations Director Kermit Kraemer, former District 2 Councilman L. J. St. Pierre and Sheriff Willy Martin. President Roussel asked those councilmen who received pins for years of service to remain after the meeting for a photograph.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for Directors comment and Mr. Deroche provided an update on WIA Director Tommy Scott's request for a phone line in the St. James Business and Career Solutions Center at the Courthouse Annex. Chairman Ketchens recognized the Youth Commission and invited councilmen to a meeting tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. at the Annex to share information regarding the development of the Youth Commission. Regarding the land use plan, Chairman Ketchens thanked everyone who was involved in any way with this plan, he shared his comments on the plan, and he asked Secretary Rodrigue to send letters of thanks to the Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee members.

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 7:54 p.m.


Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary