

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013**

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, May 15, 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, Kendricks 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; Chantal T. Waguespack, 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the May 1, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for April 2013, totaling \$1,924,084.94, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by recognizing and honoring Raymond Paul of Vacherie on celebrating 100 years old and presented Mr. Paul with a certificate and basket. He told the Council that other 100 year old seniors will be honored and recognized at the Senior Picnic on May 30. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and updates on the following: animal control meeting with Ascension Parish Animal Control; DC trip regarding Biggert-Waters Act and flood insurance; Canadian National Railroad maintenance; Small Business Banquet; Head Start graduations; Public Auction; St. James ARC open house on May 21 ; parishwide hurricane readiness meeting on May 22 at 6:30 pm at the St. James Reception Hall; profile of the Youth Detention Center; radio system update; street light policy; Boat Club lease agreement; Welcome Center rental agreement. In closing President Roussel congratulated the Lutchter High School Baseball Team on winning the state championship.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Marie Growe, 13270 South Peach Street, Vacherie, addressed the Council regarding culverts. St. James Parish is replacing all culverts on South Peach Street as part of a drainage improvement project and Ms. Growe would like the old culverts that she purchased and were removed from her ditch returned to her. Chairman Brazan and Mr. Chenier explained the parish policy regarding old culverts that the parish removes.

Keri Walker, Library Supervisor, presented the Library Board's Annual Report. Ms. Walker highlighted the services provided at the libraries and encouraged everyone to visit the newly renovated Lutchter Library. Ms. Walker then answered questions posed by councilmen.

Ridgely Mitchell, President of the Youth Center Commission, updated the Council on the status of the Youth Center. Mr. Mitchell referenced a letter from Mr. Deroche regarding the closing of the Youth Center and told the Council that Assumption Parish Sheriff Waguespack has one employee still training at the Youth Center. President Roussel and Mr. Deroche then answered questions from council members.

Kevin Belanger with South Central Planning & Development Commission was not able to attend the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 13-05, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OF FEES FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-82, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY J. REED CONSTRUCTORS, INC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION FOR THE CONVENT COURTHOUSE**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Ketchens and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

After an explanation from President Roussel and Steve Susick with Mosaic, Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-83, A RESOLUTION STATING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR MOSAIC COMPANY OF A REBATE IN CONNECTION THEREWITH OF A PORTION OF THE LOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES PAID BY THE MOSAIC COMPANY PROJECT AND OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**. Councilman McCreary provided a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-84, A RESOLUTION STATING THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL'S ENDORSEMENT OF NORANDA ALUMINA, LLC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFITS OF THE LOUISIANA ENTERPRISE ZONE/QUALITY JOBS PROGRAM**, after an explanation by President Roussel. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

After an explanation from President Roussel and Terry Wilson with Wolverine Terminals, **RESOLUTION 13-85, A RESOLUTION STATING THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL'S ENDORSEMENT OF GRIZZLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFITS OF THE LOUISIANA ENTERPRISE ZONE/QUALITY JOBS PROGRAM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. A second was provided by Councilman Patin and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-86, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE RFP'S OR BIDS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER OPERATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Ketchens. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass congratulated Mr. Paul and all the 100 year old seniors. He informed the Council that School Superintendent Dr. Luce will be on the July 3 agenda updating the Council on the construction of the new St. James High School and stadium. Councilman Brass congratulated the Lutcher Baseball team on winning the state championship. Regarding animal control, Councilman Brass forwarded the parish and Gramercy animal control ordinances to the Council for their review and asked that they contact him with any questions or suggestions to the ordinance.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS – Councilman Ketchens expressed his concerns on the evacuation route for Barras Street with the removal of a field culvert by the farmer. Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Ketchens with an update on the evacuation route project. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Ketchens with information on a compactor at the Vacherie Landfill site that was requested of the new landfill contractor.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin questioned President Roussel on the Canadian National railroad maintenance and President Roussel explained the process Canadian National provided to him. Councilman Patin expressed his concern with the railroad crossing on Pleasant Hill Street, especially access to the cemetery. In closing, Councilman Patin congratulated Coach Clement and the Lutcher High Baseball Team on winning the state championship.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Upon questioning, Councilman McCreary received an update from Mr. Deroche on the parish intranet and connecting the Fire Districts to the parish servicer. Councilman McCreary closed by congratulating the Lutcher Baseball Team on winning the state championship and a great final game.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato recognized Lutcher Alderman Danny Manuel, who was in attendance. Regarding the Canadian National railroad repair, Councilman Amato questioned President Roussel on the placement of the old crossties after removal, with President Roussel explaining CN will not stock pile them but remove them as they are replaced. He asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a congratulatory letter to Coach Clement and the Lutcher Baseball Team and to place a resolution of congratulations on the next agenda. Councilman Amato received an update from Mr. Mohon on the RV park ordinance. Regarding the Comprehensive Master Plan, Councilman Amato referenced a newspaper article regarding the Livingston Parish Master Plan and suggested that we consider these designations for our plan as well.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre expressed his congratulations to the Lutcher Baseball Team. He asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter of congratulations to Paul Aucoin as the new Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana. Councilman St. Pierre would like to place a commendation resolution for Lillian Simon, recently retired Chairman of the Library Board, on the next agenda. He reported that the Gramercy recycling bin is full and asked Mr. Gravois to have it emptied. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre shared his comments and concerns regarding mosquito control and his commitment to obtain the correct information to make an informed decision with the best interest of the public in mind.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel recognized Lutcher Alderman Danny Manuel.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN – Chairman Brazan told Councilman St. Pierre that Mayor Borne of Gramercy met with Mr. Stokes to discuss mosquito control. Chairman Brazan shared his comments on mosquito control and the importance of the scientific approach to mosquito control. He urged his fellow councilmen to contact Mr. Stokes and Mr. Pavlovich with any questions regarding their proposals. Chairman Brazan told the Council that if they feel it is necessary he would call a special meeting to discuss this issue further before making a final decision on mosquito control. Regarding the recycling bin at the District 7 Park, Chairman Brazan told Mr. Chenier that there is standing water around the bin and asked that he address this.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens, seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary