

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013**

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, May 1, 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, Kendrick Brass and Chairman James Brazan. Councilman Charles Ketchens was absent.

Those also in attendance were: Angele Rodrigue, Council Secretary; Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Sue Won Narcisse, Human Resource Supervisor; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations, and Bruce Mohon, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman McCreary 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 Brass and seconded by Councilman McCreary the minutes of the April 17, 2013 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 2013 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by commenting on the meeting with Ramelli Waste regarding the portable recycle bins. Stickers containing information for parish residents to report full bins will be placed on each bin. President Roussel provided the Council with information or updates on the following: WIA Career Training Program tomorrow at 6:30 pm at the Courthouse Annex; Keep St. James Beautiful board meeting tomorrow; mosquito disease program begins May 6; Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act; new Courthouse generator being shipped May 8; Fast Food Farm Ag Day on May 8; River Region Chamber Parish President's Forum on May 9 at Ormond Plantation; River Region Caucus meeting hosted by St. James Parish on May 9 at Hymel's; St. James Fire Association on May 14 at the South Vacherie Fire Department; hurricane readiness meeting for parish employees on May 15; Head Start graduations; Public Auction on May 18; ARC open house on May 21; parishwide hurricane readiness meeting on May 22 at the St. James Reception Hall; work on the Central Canal; newly designed website; moving of Historical Society assets to Welcome Center; point to point shelter MOU with Tangipahoa Parish. In closing, President Roussel shared this fact that the St. James Parish Operations Department is still addressing project worksheets from hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, Ike and Issac.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Brass commented on the success of the 2013 Bidy Basketball programs on both the east and west banks. Coach John Brass explained to the Council how the Bidy Basketball program began. The East Bank 14 year old Bidy Basketball team was then recognized by the Council for winning the National 14 Year Old Bidy Basketball Championship. Certificates were then presented to each player and coach.

Ridgely Mitchel updated the Council on the Youth Center and the Youth Center Commission. Mr. Mitchell told the Council that Sheriff Waguespack of Assumption Parish has all the waivers needed and his facility is a go. Sheriff Waguespack has two of his employees training at the Youth Center. Mr. Mitchell, President Roussel and Mr. Deroche answered questions posed by council members.

Cullen Curole with South Central Planning & Development Commission presented the Council with information on the Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Curole explained in great depth and much detail the Revolving Loan Fund, and then answered questions from councilmen.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – None.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-69, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING RYAN LOUQUE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-70, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOELLYN HEBERT AS THE DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ST. JAMES PARISH LIBRARY BOARD,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-04, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94, SOLID WASTE, OF THE ST. JAMES CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR NUISANCE MOSQUITO SPRAYING AND TO PROVIDE FOR FEES CHARGED,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a roll call vote of six yeas and Ketchens absent, 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, May 15, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, and for 6:15 p.m., on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

Councilman Amato updated the Council on the East Bank Flood Protection Study. Councilman Amato, as well as Councilman McCreary and President Roussel, attended a meeting and received information from Burke Kleinpeter regarding a plan and alternative to consider in proceeding with this project. Councilman McCreary suggested that permits from the Corps be obtained to clear spoil banks and funds be placed in the 2014 budget to purchase a long arm excavator.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-71, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENA VE MOTOR CO. INC. FOR A F-150 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, UTILITIES DIVISION.** A second was provided by Councilman Amato and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 13-72, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THAT THE OPENING TOURNAMENT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH RECREATION BASEBALL PROGRAM BE NAMED THE RALPH DICHARRY MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-73, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman McCreary offered a second, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-74, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-75, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN OF LUTCHER.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-76, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-77, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER IN CONVENT, LOUISIANA.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-78, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY GRANT TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE EAST BANK WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN ASSURANCES AS REQUIRED BY THE GRANT,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. A second was provided by Councilman St. Pierre and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-79, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION UNDER THE FY2014-2015 LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (LCDBG) PROGRAM FOR SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENTS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-80, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE APPROPRIATE CONTRACT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SCPDC) FOR PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE PREPARATION OF A LCDBG APPLICATION AND TO SERVE AS GRANT ADMINISTRATOR IN THE EVENT FUNDING IS AWARDED,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. Councilman Patin provided a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-05 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OF FEES FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a roll call vote of six yeas and Ketchens absent, 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, May 15, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

At this time Councilman St. Pierre offered a motion to deviate from the agenda to consider the following resolution with Councilman Brass offering a second. There was no public comment on the deviation and a roll call vote of six yeas and Ketchens absent showed all were in favor of the deviation. Councilman St. Pierre then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-81, A RESOLUTION OF REQUEST BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL TO OUR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO AMEND OR REVISE THE BIGGERT-WATERS FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

#### **COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre received an update from Mr. Chenier on Central Canal and Ferrero Canal. He commented on a meeting with the Gramercy Mayor on the Gramercy drainage project. Councilman St. Pierre commented on the two recycle bins now in Gramercy. Regarding the mosquito program, Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Hymel for providing information to the Council and to the town of Gramercy, and he thanked his fellow councilmen for moving this forward.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Upon questioning, Mr. Hymel provided Councilman Amato with an update on the radio tower. Councilman Amato commented on the College Summer Employment Program and his concern for those who applied and will not be receiving parish summer jobs. Councilman Amato commented on the meeting with Dan Garrett regarding review of the Home Rule Charter and Mr. Garret will present a draft to the Council in several weeks.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary shared with the Council the dedication he witnessed by an employee of the parish grass cutting crew.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin recognized Philip Creel, Chairman of the District 4 Recreation Board. Councilman Patin thanked and commended Mr. Chenier and crew for the drainage work on Schexnayder Street.

**COUNCILMAN KETCHENS** – Councilman Ketchens was absent.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass reminded the Council of a tour of the Ascension Parish Animal Shelter on May 3 at 10 am. He said the current fees for the Ascension Animal Shelter will be a burden to the town of Gramercy. Councilman Brass asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter to Superintendent Luce and President Nailor of the School Board inviting them to an upcoming council meeting to update the Council on the construction of the new St. James High School. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on the Hazardous Mitigation funding for the District 6 projects. Councilman Brass told Mr. Dicharry that he has prices for benches in the District 6 Park.

**PRESIDENT ROUSSEL** – President Roussel asked the Council to remain after the meeting for a photograph with the Ralph Dicharry Memorial Tournament banner.

**CHAIRMAN BRAZAN** –Chairman Brazan recognized Sheriff Martin who commented on the Youth Center. Regarding cuts to Head Start, Chairman Brazan asked that he and the Council be kept informed of any cuts to the program. He received an update from Mr. Chenier on digging the canals in the Molaison area. Chairman Brazan asked President Roussel and Mr. Chenier to accompany him on a survey of a walking bridge in his district.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brass seconded by Councilman McCreary and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

*s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary*