

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 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, May 21, 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; Ingrid Leblanc, Department of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; and Jody Chenier, Director of Operations.

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 Amato, the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for April 2014, totaling \$3,193,670.08, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Brass.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by welcoming Stephen Hemelt, new reporter for the L'Observateur, and Ingrid Leblanc, Head Start Supervisor, substituting for the Director of Human Resources. He then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: Housing Preservation Grant; TWIC card applications; ethics training on May 28 at 2 p.m. at the St. James Reception Hall; new employees Emery Kliebert Temporary Mechanic Helper in Transit shop, Wendell Broden Jr. and Dennis Emboulas Recreation Laborer I, and Cory Bourgeois Fitness Attendant; Summer College employment program begins May 27; received 60 applications for Operations Administrative Assistant position; LDEQ Public Hearing on Zen-Noh Grain permit on June 12 at 6 p.m. at Convent Courthouse; information from Secretary of State regarding district lines for Justice of the Peace and Constable districts; high school graduations on May 23 at 6 p.m. at St. James High and 8 p.m. at Lutchter High; parish offices will be closed on May 26 in observance of Memorial Day; Business and Industry scholarship winners from St. James High School are Sydney Folse, Tyana Rapp, Erwin Simmons, Javan Roussel and from Lutchter High School are Rache'l Oatis, Montana Oubre, Briley Bourgeois, Tamara Marchetta; Parish President's Forum on June 4 at Ormond Plantation at 8 a.m.; River Region Caucus meeting, sponsored by St. James Parish, on June 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Spuddy's; hurricane preparedness meeting for staff on June 5 at 7:30 a.m. and the annual parish wide hurricane meeting on June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. James Reception Hall.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Veda Bailey, Chairperson of the Library Board, and Keri Walker, Library Supervisor, presented the Library Board's Annual Report. Mrs. Bailey provided statistics on library services used by parish residents. Ms. Walker highlighted the programs provided at the libraries, as well as the upcoming summer programs. Ms. Walker and Mrs. Bailey then answered questions posed by councilmen.

Mike Chopin and Henry Picard, of Burk Kleinpeter Inc., provided the Council with an update on the East Bank Master Drainage Plan. Mr. Chopin updated the Council on funding for phase two of the East Bank Master Drainage plan. Mr. Picard provided an update on the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection project. He then explained in great depth and much detail the inland flood protection study and projected cost associated with Alternative 1, Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 for 2020 protection, 2045 protection and 2070 protection. The recommendation from BKI is Alternative 3. Mr. Chopin and Mr. Picard then answered questions from Councilman St. Pierre, Amato and McCreary regarding the study.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Letter was received from Assessor Glenn Waguespack requesting the Council schedule a Board of Review to hear protest from taxpayers on their 2014 assessments.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-85, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SHARON POCHE AS THE DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

## NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-86, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY BARRIERE CONSTRUCTION CO., LLC, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION FOR THE FY 2013 CDBG ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 14-87, A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A BOARD OF REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2014,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

A discussion of salary increases for all Justices of the Peace and Constables then took place. President Roussel read an email from Legal Advisor Mohon regarding a salary increase, which is a council decision, and an Attorney General's opinion is recommended if other benefits are being requested. Councilman Amato suggested possibly seeking supplemental pay from Sheriff Martin. After much discussion, Councilman Brazan suggested the Council form a committee to meet with Sheriff Martin and Mr. Mohon to discuss the different options and report their recommendation to the full council. The committee, consisting of Councilmen Amato, Brazan and Ketchens, will schedule a meeting with Sheriff Martin and Mr. Mohon to begin discussions.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-88, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE RIVER PARISHES TRANSIT AUTHORITY REGARDING TEMPORARY STORAGE OF RPTA VEHICLES IN THE ST. JAMES PARISH TRANSIT YARD.** A second was provided by Councilman Amato and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After an explanation by President Roussel and discussion among councilmen, President Roussel and Mr. Chenier, **RESOLUTION 14-89, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH CENTER AT SEVENTY-FIVE (75%) PERCENT OF APPRAISED VALUE,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

## COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

**COUNCILMAN BRAZAN** – Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to notify him whenever there is a water issue in his district. He encouraged parish high school graduates to take advantage and apply for the Nucor Academy scholarships, which Nucor will provide to two parish high school graduates. President Roussel explained the Nucor Academy program. Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier about culvert projects on Orange and Acorn streets.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Regarding housing, Councilman Brass informed his fellow councilmen that there will be a housing meeting on June 19 at 5:30 p.m. He received an update on the evacuation route project. Councilman Brass spoke to Mr. Donadieu regarding the Magnolia Heights drainage project and he asked Mr. Chenier to schedule a meeting with the railroad to move this project forward.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin had no comment.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary expressed his disappointment with the quality of work performed by the contractor for the roadway project on North Nobile Street. He asked Chairman Ketchens to allow an open discussion on a computerized work order system be placed on the next agenda. Councilman McCreary received updates from Mr. Deroche on a computerized preventative maintenance program for parish vehicles and the time clock. In closing, Councilman McCreary congratulated graduates from Lutchter and St. James High Schools, as well as all graduates in St. James Parish.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato recognized Nickie Monica, former State Representative and St. John Parish President. He asked if a meeting was scheduled with the legal representative regarding the Lutchter Fire Department. Upon questioning, Councilman Amato received an update on the bike path from Mr. Chenier. In observance of Memorial Day, Councilman Amato thanked Councilmen McCreary, Patin, Ketchens and President Roussel for their service to our country, as well as all veterans in St. James Parish.

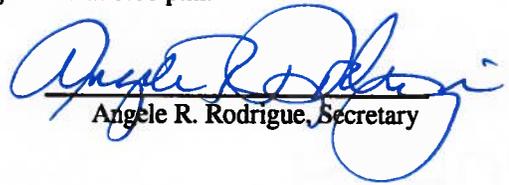
**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre commented on the Gramercy Park drainage project and asked for patience from the public. He asked Mr. Chenier if the parish had received the necessary permission to excavate the canal and he will contact the proper parties. Councilman St. Pierre asked President Roussel and Mr. Chenier to meet on Friday morning to discuss several issues. Regarding mosquito control, Councilman St. Pierre shared a conversation he had with an individual.

**PRESIDENT ROUSSEL** – Regarding the Business & Industry scholarships, President Roussel was privileged to take part in the interviewing process and said there are some very talented and exceptional students who will, hopefully, become the future leaders of St. James Parish.

**CHAIRMAN KETCHENS** – Chairman Ketchens asked for Directors comment and received none. He received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Barras Street evacuation route project. Chairman Ketchens has received complaints from residents regarding the condition of the walking track in District 5 Park and he asked Mr. Chenier to make the needed repairs. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier told Chairman Ketchens that Burton Street and Baytree Street could not be stripped after overlaying because they do not meet the width requirement.

**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 8:00 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary