

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 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, June 18, 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; 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 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 June 4, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for May 2014, totaling \$3,032,106.26, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by providing the Council with an update on the recent rain event and he informed the Council and the Public that the parish is constantly writing work orders to clean ditches and culverts, sending letters to our Senators and Representatives for assistance, meeting with the railroad companies to discuss cleaning culverts under railroad tracks, and trying to get assistance for those residents who had flooding issues. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: annual flood information newsletter; housing preservation; LIHEAP assistance and funding; Youth Build GED and community GED program; park lease discussions with the town of Lutcher; maintenance employees began working summer hours this week from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Fridays; Small Business Banquet on June 24 at the Boat Club; the annual NACO conference in New Orleans from July 11 to 14 and the conference wide event at the Superdome on July 14.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Brazan informed the Council that Jill Griffin was unable to attend this meeting and he will place her on the July 16 agenda to address the Council regarding the naming of a street at the new St. James High School location in honor of Sgt. Jay Ryan Gauthreaux.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – None.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** – None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

After an explanation by President Roussel, **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-06, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42, ELECTIONS, SECTION 42-2, PRECINCTS DESIGNATED, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. 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, July 2, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-98, A RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE LUTCHER SEWERAGE POND IMPROVEMENTS**, after President Roussel explained why bids were being rejected. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 14-99, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHELLE NAILOR OCTAVE AS THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR ST. JAMES PARISH**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Brazan. After a unanimous roll call vote with all voting in favor, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-100, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST BANK WETLANDS ASSIMILATION TREATMENT PLANT IN LUTCHER, LOUISIANA.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-101, A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROCUREMENT POLICY.** Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

After an explanation by President Roussel and Councilman St. Pierre on changes to the verbiage in the resolution with questions from councilmen being answered by President Roussel, Mr. Deroche and School Superintendent Dr. Luce, Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-102, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, IN ALLIANCE WITH THE GRAMERCY RECREATION DISTRICT 1 BOARD, TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and unanimously adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-07, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATES FOR THE YEAR 2014 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary, after President Roussel provided an explanation. 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, August 6, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-08, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND ADOPTING THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2014 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. 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, August 6, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

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

**COUNCILMAN BRAZAN** – Councilman Brazan thanked Mr. Chenier for riding through District 7 this morning and he received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Orange Street ditch. Upon questioning, Mr. Deroche provided Councilman Brazan with an update on the pavilion and walking track at the District 7 Park and the status of the time clocks.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass recognized District 6 School Board Member and School Board President Charles Nailor and congratulated Mrs. Octave on her appointment. He announced that the rentals of the St. James Reception Hall, the District 6 and District 7 parks are being handled in the Parish Council office at the Annex. Councilman Brass thanked President Roussel and Mrs. Octave for attending a meeting earlier this evening regarding housing issues with Mrs. Groover of the Housing Authority and Mrs. Cunningham, housing consultant. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on drainage issues on Magnolia Heights, Old Vacherie Road, Church Street and along LA 20.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin extended his congratulations to Mrs. Octave.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary thanked President Roussel and the Road and Bridge crew for debris removal after the recent rain event. Regarding the time clocks, Councilman McCreary told Councilman Brazan these are hi-tech. Councilman McCreary thanked Dr. Luce, and school board members Mr. Nailor, Ms. Lambert and Mr. Nassar for attending tonight's meeting, for the conference call regarding the precincts, and commended them for their efforts in the education of the children of St. James Parish. He congratulated Mrs. Octave on her appointment. In closing, Councilman McCreary thanked Sheriff Martin, his deputies and staff for responding to calls from residents during the recent rain event.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato updated his fellow councilman on the progress of the salary increase request from Justices of the Peace and Constables. Regarding the recent flooding in homes in District 2, Councilman Amato will contact former St. John Parish President Nickie Monica to discuss pumping water to the river, which was done in St. John during Mr. Monica's tenure. Councilman Amato commended and thanked Dispatcher Darrylynn Cotham for her actions and advice in responding to a call from an elderly couple with an electrical fire situation. Councilman Amato offered his congratulations to Mrs. Octave.

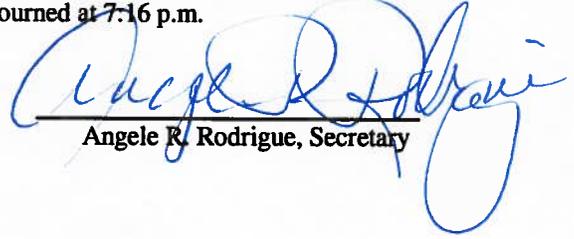
**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre extended his congratulations to Mrs. Octave. He announced that Anna Lee Oubre has retired from the Gramercy Recreation Board after 43 years of dedicated service. Councilman St. Pierre provided an update on the Gramercy Drainage Project and on obtaining permission from the landowner to clean the cross canal to the Hot Water Ditch. He commented on the recent flooding in the Gramercy area, as well as around the parish, as a result of the heavy rains and on obtaining permits from the Corps to clean Beaver Canal and he thanked Dennis Hymel for his efforts with this project. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre thanked the School Board members for attending and said the Gramercy Recreation Board is looking forward to working with the swim team.

**PRESIDENT ROUSSEL** – President Roussel informed the Council that the Farm Bureau group had said this was a 200 year flood event. President Roussel recognized the members of Mrs. Octave's family who were in attendance.

**CHAIRMAN KETCHENS** – Chairman Ketchens asked for Directors comment and Mrs. Octave thanked the Council for their confidence and support in appointing her the Chief Administrative Officer and she looks forward to a continued working relationship with the Council. Chairman Ketchens congratulated Mrs. Octave on her appointment. He received information from Mr. Deroche on the cameras at the Courthouse Annex. Regarding the cleaning of culverts and digging of ditches, Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier if the parish had enough man power to handle digging all these ditches and Mr. Chenier explained that they are one equipment operator short and are currently trying to fill that position.

**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 7:16 p.m.



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Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary