

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 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, June 19, 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 June 5, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for May 2013, totaling \$2,710,916.87, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by providing information and updates on the following: meeting with a recycling contractor; flood insurance and Biggert-Waters Act update as well as efforts of GNO Inc; audit exit interview on June 27 and presentation of audit on August 7; update on Youth Center profile; Transit Department's efforts to increase ridership; summer schedule for Operation Department crews; opening of bids for District 5 Building on June 25; District 7 splash and spray park; completion of pavilion at District 6 Park; DHR Youth Build closing ceremony on June 20, at 5 pm, at St. James Reception Hall; Senate Resolution 97 by Sen. Troy Brown creating the SEL-GO Group and appointments to this group; meeting today with employees of Youth Center; final Youth Center Commission meeting on June 26, at 1 pm, at the Convent Courthouse; and WIA summer jobs for eight parish youth.

President Roussel then answered questions from Councilman McCreary regarding Resolution 97 and how all these state, regional and parish boards work together. Chairman Brazan shared his concerns on the flood insurance program and making sure the public is informed, and he asked President Roussel and Mr. Chenier that St. James Parish identify those homeowners that will be affected.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ridgely Mitchell, President of the Youth Center Commission, updated the Council on the status of the Youth Center with all youth being transferred and out of the facility by June 29. Mr. Mitchel updated the Council on the meeting this afternoon with Youth Center employees and the final meeting of the Youth Center Commission to discuss the closing procedures for this program is scheduled for June 26, at 1 pm, at the Convent Courthouse. Mr. Mitchell explained that after the July 1 closing of the Youth Center, three employees will remain at the facility for cleanup, equipment pick up and removal of any remaining supplies to Convent for use by parish government. Mr. Mitchell provided an update on the Assumption Parish juvenile facility. Mr. Deroche and President Roussel answered questions from Councilmen St. Pierre, McCreary and Brazan on securing the facility, maintaining the facility, protecting these assets and possible avenues for the sale of the facility. Councilman Brass had a question regarding employees and President Roussel said that 16 employees will be laid off, and President Roussel will provide the Council with a final status report of those employees.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** - None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 13-06, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 26, CIVIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND AFFAIRS, ADDING SECTION 26-3 WELCOME CENTER PAVILION AND GROUNDS - USER FEES ESTABLISHED; TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman Amato led a discussion on the Head Start program and federal budget cuts affecting the program. President Roussel told the Council that he and Dr. Luce are trying to schedule a meeting to discuss this program. Mrs. Octave and staff met with Mrs. Banks from the school system and she informed the Council that Head Start

will now have two dual enrollment classes, one at Fifth Ward and one at Sixth Ward elementary schools. She also explained that the School Board has applied for a grant and the possibility of additional dual enrollment classes if the grant application is not successful. President Roussel and Mrs. Octave explained the difficult budget decisions made due to the mandated federal budget cuts to ensure that St. James Parish can continue to provide quality services to the Head Start students, which affected the services of a local contractor. Mrs. Octave provided answers to questions posed by Chairman Brazan regarding the number of students and eligibility requirements.

### NEW BUSINESS

After an explanation from President Roussel and Hugh Martin of Foley & Judell, Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-106, A RESOLUTION GIVING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING THREE MILLION (\$3,000,000) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA; MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF SAID REFUNDING BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.** Councilman McCreary provided a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-107, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OPENING OF ACCOUNTS AT FIRST AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST FOR ST. JAMES PARISH, AND THE DESIGNATION OF SIGNATORIES ON CHECKS AND/OR WARRANTS DRAWN UPON SAID ACCOUNTS,** after an explanation by President Roussel. The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-108, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE FOR REGION THREE,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. A second was provided by Councilman Amato and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

### COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass commended Mr. Chenier and crew on the construction of the District 6 Pavilion, as well as the contractor, Bourgeois Construction. He also thanked Permitting Supervisor Donadieu for his assistance in addressing grass issues along LA 18 and LA 20. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier to address the fence line between Collins Street and Martin Luther King. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on Old Vacherie Road and Forrestal Streets.

**COUNCILMAN KETCHENS** – Councilman Ketchens asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter to Joey Tureau of DOTD to schedule a meeting to discuss the condition of LA 18. Councilman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier and Mr. Landry to meet next week to check on streets in District 5.

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

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary had no comment.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato commented on the recent industrial incidents in neighboring parishes and the tremendous mutual aid response, and he hopes St. James Parish can receive a copy of the post incident report. Mr. Deroche explained to Councilman Amato that he has been in discussions with Rick Webre of Ascension Parish and explained some of the items recently implemented in Ascension that Mr. Deroche is reviewing and evaluating for possible implementation in St. James Parish. Councilman Amato said we can always be better prepared.

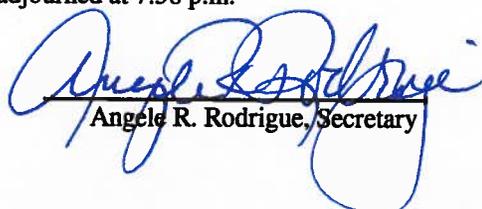
**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Upon questioning, Councilman St. Pierre received an update from Mr. Chenier on the East Bank Bike Trail. He shared his concerns and frustrations on the recycling bins, the need for a contract, and thanked Mr. Gravois and Mrs. Ordoyne for their assistance with these bins. Councilman St. Pierre suggested possibly beginning the RFP process again, with Mr. Chenier informing the Council that the parish is not mandated by law to obtain RFP's and asking the Council to provide direction regarding a recycling program. This generated a discussion on recycling. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre asked Mr. Chenier to have Recreation Supervisor Dicharry contact Gramercy Recreation regarding the purchasing of a mower for the park.

**LEGAL ADVISOR MOHON** – Legal Advisor Mohon provided, via email, a draft of the RV park ordinance for the Council to review and to call him with any questions or suggestions. Mr. Mohon informed Councilman Brass that the moratorium on RV parks ends August 7.

**CHAIRMAN BRAZAN** – Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Deroche on a time clock. He asked Mr. Chenier to have the Mimosa Street canal dug. Chairman Brazan informed the Council and the public that the Council will meet on July 3 as scheduled.

### 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.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary