

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 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, July 16, 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, and James Brazan. Councilman Kendricks Brass and Chairman Charles Ketchens were absent. In the absence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman St. Pierre presided over the meeting.

Those also in attendance were: Angele Rodrigue, Council Secretary; Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Nailor-Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Francis Hymel, Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar W. Warren, 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 McCreary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Vice-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 Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary, the minutes of the July 2, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for June 2014, totaling \$1,489,497.02, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that he would be signing a Presidential Proclamation declaring July 25, 2014 as Oliver Cooper Day in St. James Parish and a social will be held on July 25 at 5 p.m. at the District 5 Park Pavilion. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: historic marker for Freetown; Mayor Terry Borne of Gramercy will not seek re-election; cross connection canal project in Gramercy; Syngas Energy Holdings informational meeting on July 22 at St. James High School Auditorium at 7 p.m.; construction of the EOC warehouse; Head Start first day is August 18; Legacy Suites Hotel ribbon cutting on July 29 at 3 p.m.; College Student Employment program ends July 18; Library summer programs end at the end of the month; Hope Borne has accepted the position as the Operations Administrative Assistant; applications are currently being accepted for Assistant Director of DHR and GIS supervisor. President Roussel then answered questions from Councilmen Amato and McCreary regarding information in his report.

Vice-Chairman St. Pierre told the Cooper family that a resolution proclaiming Oliver Cooper Day will be on the next meeting agenda where the full Council will be in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Jill Griffin addressed the Council regarding the naming of a street at the new St. James High School location in honor of Sgt. Jay Ryan Gauthreaux. Lt. Linda Colar, ROTC instructor at St. James High School, spoke on behalf of Mrs. Griffin in asking the Council to consider this request as a way to honor Sgt. Gauthreaux for his sacrifice and service to his country. Mrs. Griffin then presented Vice-Chairman St. Pierre with a petition regarding this request.

Perry Segura, School Board Architect, provided the Council with an update on the construction of the new St. James football stadium and explained the three phases of construction. Mr. Segura said the stadium should be completed by August 20 and ready for the first game on September 8. John Thompson and Troy Boudreaux with CR Construction, contractors for the track and turf, told the Council the field should be completed in two and a half weeks, weather permitting. Councilman McCreary asked the cost of the stadium, which Mr. Segura said is around \$6 million dollars, and he requested drawings of the stadium be posted at the Vacherie Library and the Courthouse Annex.

Dana Groover, Executive Director of the St. James Parish Housing Authority, presented the Housing Authority's Annual Report. Mrs. Groover highlighted projects and activities accomplished over the past year. She then answered questions from Councilmen Amato and McCreary. Mrs. Groover then proudly presented several awards from the Louisiana Housing Council; Meritorious Accomplishment by a Public Agency was presented to the Department of Human Resources Director Warren and former Director Octave and Meritorious Ongoing Accomplishment by a Public Official was presented to Jody Chenier, Director of Operations.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-108, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BEDAR W. WARREN TO THE RIVER PARISHES TRANSIT AUTHORITY**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman McCreary offered a motion to amend this ordinance to name Paulina Elementary School as the polling place for Precinct 10 and to send notification to all voters as to the location of the polling places with Councilman Amato offering a second. After a roll call vote showing Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brazan, St. Pierre voting for, no one voting against, with Brass and Ketchens absent, the ordinance was amended to reflect this change. **ORDINANCE 14-09, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 42, SECTION 42-2, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH AND DEFINE THE ST. JAMES PARISH VISIBLE PRECINCT BOUNDARIES AND PRECINCT MERGERS, AS AMENDED**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Brazan. After a roll call vote showing Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brazan, St. Pierre voting in favor, no one voting against, with Brass and Ketchens absent, the ordinance was adopted.

ORDINANCE 14-10, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING BELLEVUE LAKES LLC TO SUBDIVIDE PROPERTY IN THE BELLEVUE ESTATES SUBDIVISION, LOCATED ALONG BELLEVUE LAKES STREET IN PAULINA, LOUISIANA, FOR PUBLIC SALE, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Brazan. After a roll call vote showing McCreary, Patin, Brazan, St. Pierre voting in favor, no one voting against, Amato abstaining, Brass and Ketchens absent, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 14-109, A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THEODORE "TC" BAZILE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was then adopted and read aloud by Secretary Rodrigue.

After a history of Freetown was provided by Shandria Smith, Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-110, A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF FREETOWN**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-111, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH CENTER AT SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT (65%) OF APPRAISED VALUE**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was then adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-112, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT TO SHARE IN THE COST FOR AN EAST BANK MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and adopted.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-113, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN A CONTRACT AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE GRANT FOR REGION THREE**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan apologized to Councilman McCreary for being unable to attend the meeting on Monday. Councilman Brazan shared his comments on Mr. Cooper and said his Dad served with Mr. Cooper on the Police Jury, and he, Councilman Brazan, served as a councilman with Mr. Cooper in his first term in office in 1996.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass was absent.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin served with Mr. Cooper and shared his comments.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary thanked the members of the School Board, Dr. Luce and the School Board Architects for the update on the stadium. He congratulated TC Bazile and recognized Sheriff Martin, who was in attendance. Upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman McCreary the celebration of Oliver Cooper will be July 25 at 5 p.m. at the District 5 Park Pavilion.

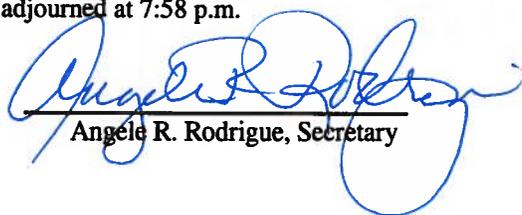
COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato asked Secretary Rodrigue to place the discussion of the creation of an East Bank Drainage Committee on the next agenda. He informed his fellow councilmen that he will have a teleconference tomorrow with the Corps of Engineers regarding pumping to the River. Councilman Amato, too, shared his memories of Mr. Cooper.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens was absent.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ST. PIERRE – Vice-Chairman St. Pierre will recognize Anna Lee Oubre, who recently retired after serving for 43 years as the Secretary of the Gramercy Recreation Board, at the next council meeting. He extended good luck wishes to Mayor Borne of Gramercy. Vice-Chairman St. Pierre shared his comments on the drainage projects in Gramercy and the David Road project. Mr. Chenier shared his memories of working with Mr. Cooper on the District 5 Park.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary