OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 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, July 17, 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; Julie Gilbert, Department of Finance Senior Accountant; 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 Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin, the minutes of the July 3, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for July 2013, totaling $1,878,007.10, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Brass.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by commenting on the Small Business Banquet and commended Audrey Temple, her staff, and the Economic Development Board Members for a very successful event that was well attended. He provided the Council with information and updates on the following: mosquito control program that began July 8; congratulated the St. James Parish 9, 10 and 11 year old All Star Teams on each winning the Cal Ripken State Championship in their respective age group; thanked Recreation Department for painting the field at Lutcher Park; District 7 Splash Park; NuStar will be moving cypress log and train from Historical Society to Welcome Center in two weeks. Regarding recycling, President Roussel told the Council and the Public that the parish has signed a two year contract with a new vendor, Progressive, for recycling that will begin on August 1, and the current vendor has been notified. President Roussel went on to explain the size and location of the seven bins, which will be emptied every Wednesday. He urged the Council and the Public to contact our US Senators and Representative, the Corps of Engineers and our State Senator and Representatives to ask that they support the adoption of Alignment D for the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection system since a decision by the Corps will be made in early August. President Roussel then provided updates on Head Start enrollment; SharePoint; and DHR is accepting applications for various programs funded by CDBG funds. President Roussel told the Council that he and Councilman Ketchens will be attending the NACO annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas from July 19 – 22, 2013 and while there they will be sharing information on the National Flood Insurance Program with their counterparts from across the United States.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael LeBlanc and Mary Bailey of Postlethwaite and Netterville presented the 2012 Audit Report. After a very lengthy and detailed explanation of the audit, Mr. LeBlanc commended the Council and said that St. James Parish is in good financial shape, very healthy and takes its fiscal responsibility very seriously.

Steven Pavlovich with Mosquito Control Services provided the Council with information on the mosquito control program which began on July 8. Mr. Pavlovich explained in great depth and much detail the process of trapping mosquitoes, night spraying and surveillance. Night spraying will take place Monday through Saturday in designated zones or areas of the parish with each zone being sprayed once per week and no spraying on rainy days. Surveillance will determine zones that need additional treatment and he explained the traps used to collect mosquitoes and these traps will be collected three times per week. He explained the spraying for larva at septic-water mosquito breeding sites and floodwater mosquito breeding sites, the bacterial product used and how the biologists determine the chemical used on certain mosquitoes. Mr. Pavlovich has sent a press release to local newspapers informing the public of the mosquito control program and asking for the public's assistance in fighting mosquitoes. He provided a local phone number for parish residents to contact Mosquito Control Services in St. John as well as the main office in Metairie. Mr. Pavlovich then answered questions from councilmen regarding participation in the program by the towns, spraying for local high school football games, educating the public through the local churches and the school system, hiring of employees, schedule of spraying, and the notification to councilmen of days they will be spraying in their districts as well as the cancellation of spraying due to rain.

Public comment was received from Mark Anderson of Convent who commented on the updated RV Park and campground ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-07, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A "NO WAKE ZONE" WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE GRAVOIS CANAL IN SOUTH VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Ketchens. After a unanimous roll call vote, 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 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

RESOLUTION 13-116, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT FOR THE ST. JAMES PARISH HEALTH UNIT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens. Councilman Brass provided a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-08, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74, MANUFACTURED HOMES AND TRAILERS, ARTICLE II, MOBILE HOME PARKS AND SITES: CAMPGROUNDS, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, 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 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 7, 2013 in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent and for 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-117, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO FILE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS IN ST. JAMES PARISH**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-118, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. A second was provided by Councilman Patin and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-119, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TANGIPAHOA PARISH FOR POINT TO POINT SHELTER AGREEMENT**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Ketchens and unanimously adopted.

After President Roussel and Mr. Deroche provided information and answered questions from councilmen, **RESOLUTION 13-120, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD FOR POINT TO POINT SHELTER AGREEMENT,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-121, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ST. JAMES PARISH DISASTER RECOVERY LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND THE LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (LCDBG) PROGRAM SECTION 3 PLAN**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-122, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR CULVERTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. A second was provided by Councilman St. Pierre and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on the road program, Old Vacherie Road and Forrestal Street. He asked that Mrs. Waguespack at the Health Unit be kept abreast of the Health Unit parking lot construction. Councilman Brass commented on a meeting with Entergy that he, Councilman Brazan and President Roussel attended to discuss low hanging cables on LA 20, lack of lighting along LA 18 and the power station on Airline Highway. He commented on a meeting with President Roussel, Councilman Brazan, Mr. Chenier and Mr. Gravois held prior to the council meeting to discuss sewerage and a path forward. Councilman Brass asked Secretary Rodrigue to schedule a meeting at 5 p.m. prior to the August 7 council meeting with Hugh Martin of Foley & Judell to discuss creating sewer districts. In closing Councilman Brass commended Mrs. Temple and staff on a successful Small Business Banquet and congratulated the baseball teams.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS –Councilman Ketchens shared his comments on the Small Business Banquet and thanked Mrs. Temple and her staff on a successful event. Councilman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier to have the spot lights at the District 5 Park replaced.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin commended Mrs. Temple on the success of the Small Business Banquet.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary extended his thanks to Mrs. Temple for a great job with the Small Business Banquet. He commented on the drainage study by BKI and suggested each councilman be given a map of their district so they can indicate the location of pooling water after heavy rains. Councilman McCreary requested district maps from the GIS office and provided each councilman with a map of their respective district. Councilman McCreary feels this data will identify problem areas in the short term and aid in the long range drainage plan.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato updated his fellow councilmen on the Home Rule Charter review by Mr. Garret and will provide council members with a copy of the report. He asked Clay Breaud, who was in the audience, to meet with him after the meeting to discuss the Lutcher Fire Station. In closing, Councilman Amato wished President Roussel and Councilman Ketchens a safe trip to the NACO conference in Fort Worth.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre recognized Gramercy Mayor Terry Borne. He thanked Councilman McCreary for scheduling the East Bank drainage meeting with BKI where the parish received valuable information and there is still work to be done. Councilman St. Pierre commented on the Small Business Banquet. Councilman St. Pierre received updates from Mr. Chenier on the Beaver Canal and the Ferraro Canal. Councilman St. Pierre received notes from the Entergy meeting, thanked Councilman Brass for those notes, and he commented on securing the Entergy substation on Airline Highway during an approaching hurricane.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel informed the Council that a Master Plan subcommittee meeting will be held in the next two weeks. He told the Council that he emailed information to them regarding a Job Fair on July 22 – 23, 2013 in Hahnville and this information in on the parish Facebook page.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN – Chairman Brazan received an update on the Mimosa Street canal from Mr. Chenier. Upon questioning, Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on placing culverts along the sidewalks and Mr. Chenier informed Chairman Brazan that all the gates under the berm on the St. James Canal were replaced with stainless steel gates. Chairman Brazan commended Finance Director Waguespack and President Roussel on a good audit. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier explained to Chairman Brazan that the Planning Commission does look at ditches and drainage issues before they approve any development. In closing, Chairman Brazan commended Mrs. Temple on the success of the Small Business Banquet.

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 7:56 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary