

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2014**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent, Louisiana, on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Jason Amato, Terry McCreary, Ralph Patin, Kendricks Brass, James Brazan and Chairman Charles Ketchens. Councilman Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. was absent.

Those also in attendance were: Angele Rodrigue, Council Secretary; Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Nailor-Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, Interim Director of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; and Legal Advisor Oneil Parenton, substituting for Bruce Mohon.

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 McCreary and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the June 18, 2014 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**HEAD START FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORTS**

The Head Start Financial and Attendance Reports for June 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel allowed Chief Administrative Officer Michelle Nailor-Octave to present his report due to the issue with his voice. CAO Octave provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following; Petroplex has been given an extension by the Department of Environmental Quality; Small Business Banquet; NACO conference July 11 – 14, 2014 in New Orleans; LIHEAP statistics: hurricane tabletop meeting on July 8 at 8 am in the EOC; prayer vigil tonight for missing St. James girl; Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance and member parishes received NACO Achievement Award in Risk Management category; and parish offices will be closed Friday in observance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael LeBlanc of Postlethwaite and Netterville presented the 2013 Audit Report. After a very lengthy and detailed explanation of the audit, Mr. LeBlanc commended the Council and said that St. James Parish has a very healthy fund balance and good financial report. Mr. LeBlanc then answered questions from Councilman Amato regarding long-term liabilities specifically post-employment liabilities.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**RESOLUTION 14-103, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE RIVER REGION CAUCUS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 14-06, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42, ELECTIONS, SECTION 42-2, PRECINCTS DESIGNATED, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote showing McCreary, Patin, Brass, Brazan, Ketchens voting in favor, Amato voting against and St. Pierre absent, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-104, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENAVE MOTOR COMPANY INCORPORATED OF VACHERIE FOR ONE (1) MEALS DELIVERY TRUCK**. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brazan, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 14-105, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FORD INCORPORATED OF KENNER FOR ONE (1) 2014 15 PASSENGER VAN**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-106, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BEDAR W. WARREN AS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR ST. JAMES PARISH**, with Councilman Brass offering a second. After a roll call vote showing Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brass, Brazan and Ketchens voting in favor and St. Pierre absent, the resolution was adopted.

President Roussel led a discussion of the Youth Center and asked Mr. Deroche to provide the Council with an update. Mr. Deroche informed the Council that as of June 21, 2014 no bids have been received for the sale of the Youth Center at 75% of appraised value. After this date, the parish did receive two inquires with one interested in leasing the facility and the other a possible purchase and Mr. Deroche explained the process the parish must follow for leasing the facility. He informed the Council that it is estimated to cost \$160,000 to demolish the buildings with the parish doing the work, renting the needed equipment and bins, and would take approximately four months, weather permitting. A discussion then took place among the Council regarding current cost of maintaining the facility, cost for contractor to demolish buildings, value in the land, pursue lease or sell, demolition as a last option, salvage value, affordable housing on property after demolition of buildings with Mr. Chenier explaining the non-conformity with the land use plan.

After an explanation by President Roussel and Mr. Chenier, **RESOLUTION 14-107, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT’S OFFICE TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EAST BANK POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then adopted.

**PROPOSED 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**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary, after Mr. Chenier provided an explanation. After a roll call vote showing Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brass, Brazan and Ketchens voting in favor and St. Pierre absent, 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 16, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

After an explanation from Mr. Chenier, **PROPOSED 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**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote showing Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brass, Brazan and Ketchens voting in favor and St. Pierre absent, 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 16, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

**COUNCILMEN’S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre was absent.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato commented on the recent flooding, the East Bank drainage study and an article in the Advocate regarding the Ascension Parish East Bank Drainage Committee and he asked if this is the time for St. James Parish to consider forming an East Bank Drainage Committee. Councilman Amato recognized former District 2 Councilman L. J. St. Pierre. In closing, Councilman Amato congratulated Mrs. Warren.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary thanked Mr. LeBlanc and Mrs. Bailey with Postlethwaite and Netterville and Finance Director Waguespack for the audit presentation. He thanked the School Board members, Dr. Luce and Mr. Hefner for attending and providing information on the precincts. Councilman McCreary closed by wishing everyone a happy Fourth of July and to stay safe.

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

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass offered his congratulations to Mrs. Warren and thanked the members of the School Board and Dr. Luce for attending. He asked the School Board to provide an update on the St. James football stadium at the next council meeting. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier will provide Councilman Brass with the status on the Magnolia Heights waterline and fire hydrant project. Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on a meeting held today with railroad representatives regarding the drainage project. Councilman Brass received information from Mr. Chenier on a drainage study in the North and South Vacherie areas. Councilman Brass informed his fellow councilmen that he will be out of town for the July 16 council meeting.

**COUNCILMAN BRAZAN** – Councilman Brazan echoed Councilman Amato’s suggestion of a West Bank Drainage Committee. He asked Mr. Chenier to join him in meeting with a resident on Ash Street to resolve a reoccurring issue. In closing, Councilman Brazan congratulated Mrs. Warren and wished everyone a happy Fourth of July.

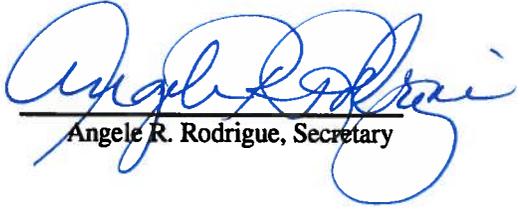
**PRESIDENT ROUSSEL** – President Roussel had no additional comment. CAO Octave updated the Council on her first weeks in office.

**CHAIRMAN KETCHENS** – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for Directors comment. Mrs. Waguespack thanked Mr. LeBlanc and Mrs. Bailey with Postlethwaite and Netterville for their professionalism in conducting the audit and the staff of the Finance Department and DHR Finance Office for their assistance with the

audit. Mr. Deroche invited the Council to a review of the work order system on Friday, July 11, at 10 a.m. in EOC and Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Deroche for a cost and timeline for the completion of the system and cost to maintain the system. Continuing his report, Chairman Ketchens extended his congratulations to Mrs. Warren and recognized and thanked Assumption Parish Police Juror Patrick Lawless and his wife for attending. He offered his prayers to the family of the missing 12 year old who was attending the District 5 Summer Camp. Chairman Ketchens shared with his fellow councilmen a visit today from Kenneth Polite, Jr., US Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, to the children at the District 5 Summer Camp and Mr. Polite presented a certificate to each child. In closing, Chairman Ketchens wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and to be safe.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato seconded by Councilman McCreary and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary