

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013**

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, August 7, 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, Kendrick 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 Ketchens, the minutes of the July 17, 2013 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 and July 2013 were then approved on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Brass.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by inviting the Council to a lunch with Sen. Mary Landrieu on August 21, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Oak Alley Restaurant in Vacherie. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: District 7 Splash Park dedication on August 21 at 5:15 p.m.; River Region Chamber Washington DC Fly-In October 1 – 3, 2013; new recycling contract beginning on August 1 and location of bins that will be emptied every Wednesday; West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection system and support for Alignment D; LIHEAP statistical report; North Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department retains PIAL rating of Class 6; POD exercise on October 23, 2013 for all full time permanent employees; thanked Exxon Mobile Pipeline for donation to assist in technology upgrades for parish radio communications system; ARC Charity Golf Tournament on September 27 at Belle Terre Country Club; Small Business Summit and Expo sponsored by Rep. Cedric Richmond at Delgado City Park Campus on August 20-21; senior trip to Ottawa, Canada leaving August 13 with 28 senior citizens participating and accompanied by two parish employees. President Roussel informed the Council that tomorrow, August 8, he will be participating in a helicopter tour of the southeast Louisiana flood protection infrastructure with David Miller, Associate Administrator for federal insurance and mitigation at FEMA, and then to New Orleans for a round table discussion regarding the National Flood Insurance Program and the Biggert-Waters Act.

Councilman McCreary questioned President Roussel regarding the recycling contractor placing information in local newspapers, and President Roussel told Councilman McCreary that recycling information was placed on our parish website and Facebook page.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President Roussel proudly announced that St. James Parish Government received several awards at the NACO conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The Department of Human Resources received a NACO 2013 Achievement Award for their Raising Awareness in St. James Parish program. The National Association of County Information officers (NACIO) recognized St. James Parish and Public Information Officer Melissa Wilkins with Best of Class in photography, Superior Award for the parish Facebook page, and a Meritorious Award for the Year in Review Annual Newsletter. Congratulations to St. James Parish.

As requested by Chairman Brazan, Eric Deroche provided the Council with information on a time clock for parish employees. Mr. Deroche explained that the parish has located time clock software that can integrate with our payroll and accounting software and this software is currently in use in Acadia Parish. Mr. Deroche will schedule a site visit to Acadia Parish to see firsthand how this software integrates and how it would work in St. James Parish. He will notify the Council once a visit is scheduled if any councilmen would like to accompany him on the site visit. Mr. Deroche, Finance Director Waguespack and President Roussel then answered questions from Councilmen Brazan, McCreary and Ketchens.

Dr. Alonzo Luce, Superintendent of St. James Parish Schools, provided the Council with an update on the new St. James High School and stadium. Dr. Luce was accompanied by Perry Segura, School Board Architect, and his associates Ray Escuriex and Amy LeJeune. Dr. Luce explained how the School Board came to the decision to build a new stadium for St. James High School, to purchase property and to relocate St. James High School from its current location to this new location along LA 20. Dr. Luce and Mr. Segura then explained in great depth and much detail, with the help of a power point presentation, the location of the new stadium and school, the construction of the stadium, the football field, track, parking and future construction on the site. Dr. Luce and Mr. Segura then answered questions from Councilman Brass. Mr. Deroche then answered questions from Councilman Brass regarding the effect on the fire rating of the North Vacherie and South Vacherie fire departments with this new school location. Dr. Luce then briefly addressed the Head Start program and dual enrollment. Councilman Brass told Dr. Luce that he met with Mr. Kennedy, Principal of St. James High, Mr. Jenkins, Head Football Coach at St. James High, and representatives from Mosquito Control Services regarding spraying for mosquitoes prior to football games.

Hugh Martin, of Foley & Judell, was unable to attend the meeting.

Sheriff Willy Martin addressed the Council regarding the possible use of the Youth Center. Sheriff Martin met with officials of Louisiana Workforce, a company that operates privatized work-release programs for inmates, at the Youth Center. They are unsure if this facility could be used for a work-release program and are concerned with the cost and maintenance of this facility. Sheriff Martin will keep the Council updated on this issue.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-123, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE RIVER REGION CAUCUS**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

After a discussion among the Council with questions from councilmen being answered by Mr. Mohon, Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-124, A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND/OR DEVELOPMENT OF RV PARKS/CAMPGROUNDS WITHIN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted with Councilman McCreary casting the only negative vote.

RESOLUTION 13-125, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF TDM PROPERTIES, LLC FOR THE SALE OF A MODULAR BUILDING OWNED BY THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens. A second was provided by Councilman Brass and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-126, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAZENA VE MOTOR CO., INC. FOR A FORD EXPEDITION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-127, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING AUGUST 11, 2013 AS NATIONAL 811 DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH**. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-128, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING AUGUST 15, 2013 AS ACADIANS' DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-129, A RESOLUTION STATING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR THE MOSAIC COMPANY OF A REBATE IN CONNECTION THEREWITH OF A PORTION OF THE LOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES PAID BY THE MOSAIC COMPANY PROJECT, AND OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted after a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 13-130, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ST. JAMES PARISH RESIDENTIAL ANTIDISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-131, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR WATERLINES AND FIRE HYDRANTS**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Ketchens and unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-09, AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTING A SEWERAGE USER FEE FOR THE TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER FROM AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM WITHIN THE ST. JAMES RV PARK, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato 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.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-10, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND ADOPTING THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2013 LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Patin 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 21, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre shared his comments on the recycle bin and the new recycle contractor. He asked Mr. Chenier to have the new bin moved against the fence and to add gravel in the area of the bin to keep the grass down and for ease of access by the recycle trucks and the public.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Upon questioning, Councilman Amato received an update from Mr. Deroche on the radio system upgrade. He would like to meet with Mr. Chenier after the meeting regarding the fire hydrant report. Councilman Amato shared his comments on the recent tragedy involving a parish vehicle, the importance of safety and driving standards and suggested all parish vehicles drive with their headlights on at all times. President Roussel told Councilman Amato that he met with representative of CCMSI and discussed this issue as well as safe workplace practices. Councilman Amato closed by congratulating the St. James Parish team on winning the NACO and NACIo awards.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary told Mr. Chenier he has received calls regarding the fire stations being billed for mosquito control. Mr. Chenier explained to Councilman McCreary that an ordinance will be introduced at the next council meeting to specify who will be charged and who will be exempt from this charge. Councilman McCreary congratulated the Lucher Soccer Team on winning the Summer Indoor League Championship. In closing, Councilman McCreary reminded everyone that school has started, to be mindful of school busses on the highway and to drive safely in school zones.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked Mr. Chenier and Permitting Supervisor Donadieu for cleaning the property between Winnie Road and Schexnayder Street.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS – Councilman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier and President Roussel if they could meet next week at the District 5 Park to walk through before the ground breaking ceremony for the new building to determine the status of the equipment currently at the park.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass congratulated the DHR staff and Ms. Wilkins on the NACo and NACIo awards. He reminded everyone of the District 6 Justice of the Peace election on October 19, with qualifying August 14 – 16.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN – Chairman Brazan asked President Roussel and Mr. Chenier to schedule a meeting with Bernard Falgoust to discuss drainage issues on Hwy 643. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Chairman Brazan with an update on the sidewalk project explaining the issues the parish has encountered. Chairman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier about the cleaning of the Mimosa Canal.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brass seconded by Councilman Ketchens and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary