

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 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, August 21, 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 Brass, the minutes of the August 7, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for July 2013, totaling \$2,055,011.36, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Ketchens.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by informing everyone of a road closure today on LA 44 at the Noranda Aluminum plant from 4:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. He also informed the Council that the budget process has begun. President Roussel provided information and/or updates on the following: two new 2013 busses for the transit system provided through ARRA funding; Head Start program has begun; West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection system Alignment D urging parish residents to contact the Corps of Engineers. President Roussel proudly announced that Rep. Bill Cassidy, whom he spoke with at a River Region Chamber breakfast this morning, and Sen. Mary Landrieu, who hosted a lunch at Oak Alley today, have both committed to supporting Alignment D, which they both endorse as the only choice. He answered questions from Councilman St. Pierre regarding the cost of Alignment C as compared to Alignment D. President Roussel provided the Council with updates on the District 5 ground breaking, the District 7 Splash Park dedication, Veterans Day celebration on November 10, senior citizen trip to Ottawa, Canada, and demolition assistance the parish provided to the town of Gramercy.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 Councilman Brass and Councilman Ketchens. Mrs. Groover then proudly presented several awards. Meritorious Accomplishment by a Local Parish Official from the Louisiana Housing Council was presented to Councilman Patin. Meritorious Accomplishment by a Local Parish Official from Southwest National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organization (NAHRO) was presented to Councilman Patin. Meritorious Accomplishment by a Local Parish Official from the Louisiana Housing Council was presented to Councilman Ken Brass. Certificate of Award in Head of Household Category to Crystal Smith, a resident of public housing, in recognition of her receipt of two scholarships; \$2,000 from Louisiana Housing Council and \$750 from Southwest NAHRO. Ms. Smith attends Nicholls State University and maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Paul Aucoin, Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana, presented the Port Commission's Annual Report. Mr. Aucoin was assisted by Linda Prudhomme, Director of Business Development, Roy Quezaire, Special Projects Officer, and Stanley Bazile, Port Commissioner from St. James Parish. Mr. Aucoin presented the Council with information on tonnage handled by the Port. Mrs. Prudhomme provided information on various economic development activities of the Port, Mr. Quezaire explained to the Council some of the special projects the Port is currently pursuing, and Mr. Bazile invited councilmen to visit the Port facilities and to contact the Port if they can be of any assistance to St. James Parish. Mr. Aucoin and staff then answered questions from Councilman McCreary regarding pumps on docks for fire suppression.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** -- None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-132, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KEN GUIDRY TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD AS A DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-133, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDWARD JOHNSON TO THE GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

After the amendments were read aloud by Mr. Chenier, a motion to amend the ordinance was offered by Councilman St. Pierre, seconded by Councilman McCreary and adopted after a unanimous roll call vote showed all were in favor of amending the ordinance to include these amendments. **ORDINANCE 13-07, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A "NO WAKE ZONE" WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE GRAVOIS CANAL IN SOUTH VACHERIE, LOUISIANA, AS AMENDED**, 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 as amended.

After the amendments were read aloud by Mr. Mohon, a motion to amend the ordinance was offered by Councilman Amato, seconded by Councilman McCreary and adopted after a unanimous roll call vote showed all were in favor of amending the ordinance to include these amendments. **ORDINANCE 13-08, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74, MANUFACTURED HOMES AND TRAILERS, ARTICLE II, MOBILE HOME PARKS AND SITES; CAMPGROUNDS, AS AMENDED**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted as amended.

**ORDINANCE 13-09, AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTING A SEWAGE USER FEE FOR THE TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER FROM AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWAGE SYSTEM WITHIN THE ST. JAMES RV PARK**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

**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**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Ketchens. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-134, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF BELMONT LUMBER & SUPPLY CO., INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ALUMINUM BOX CULVERT FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOURBON SUBDIVISION**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-135, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF HENSLEY R. LEE CONTRACTING, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL, PHASE 2A**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary. Councilman Amato provided a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 13-136, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2013 PARISHWIDE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Amato provided a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-137, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2014 THREE QUARTER TON PICKUP TRUCK**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-138, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN OF GRAMERCY**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. A second was provided by Councilman Amato, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-139, 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 Amato and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-140, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WATER & POWER COGEN DEVELOPMENT, LLC**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. A second was provided by Councilman Patin, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-11, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94, SOLID WASTE, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR NUISANCE MOSQUITO SPRAYING AND TO PROVIDE FOR FEES CHARGED**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Patin. 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 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, September 4, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

After questions from Councilmen St. Pierre and McCreary were answered by Mr. Chenier, **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-12, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SUGAR HILL CROSSING SUBDIVISION IN WELCOME, LOUISIANA**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Amato. 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 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, September 4, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

### **COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass congratulated Councilman Ketchens on the ground breaking for the District 5 building and Councilman Brazan on the dedication of the District 7 Splash Park. He thanked the members of the North Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication and commitment and for maintaining their PIAL Class 6 rating on their recently completed PIAL review. Councilman Brass informed the Council that a review meeting is scheduled for August 26 with the North Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department and the South Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department to assist South Vacherie in improving their fire rating on their next PIAL review. He asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter of thanks to Steve Pavlovich of Mosquito Control Services for meeting with the Principal and Athletic Director of St. James High School to discuss mosquito control for football games. In closing, Councilman Brass informed the Council and the Public that two candidates have qualified for the District 6 Justice of the Peace election to be held on October 19 and he wished both candidates good luck.

**COUNCILMAN KETCHENS** – Councilman Ketchens thanked all who attended the District 5 ground breaking earlier today. He asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter to DOTD requesting the grass along both sides of LA 3219 be cut. In closing, Councilmen Ketchens extended his condolences to the family of Antonio Harrison.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin told Councilman Ketchens he was unable to attend the ground breaking but he does support Councilman Ketchens and his efforts on the construction of the building.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Upon questioning, Councilman McCreary received an update from Mr. Chenier on a violation of an undersized waterline in a proposed family subdivision.

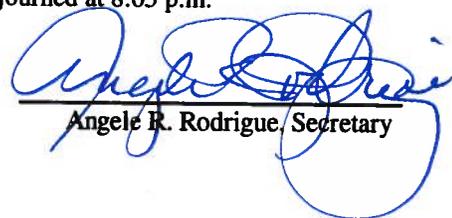
**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato asked Mr. Chenier to contact DOTD and have the bumpy areas in both directions of LA 61 and LA 3125 shaved. Councilman Amato extended his congratulations to Councilmen Ketchens, Brazan, Patin and Brass.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre had questions regarding the bike trail and the bonfires. Mr. Chenier answered his questions and provided Councilman St. Pierre with an update on the project. Regarding the recycle bins, Councilman St. Pierre asked Mr. Chenier to place the bins on gravel and to add gravel around the bins for access by the public and recycle truck.

**CHAIRMAN BRAZAN** – Chairman Brazan thanked everyone who attended the dedication of the Splash Park, which will be an asset to District 7. He congratulated Councilman Ketchens and told him the District 5 building will be an asset to the St. James community. Upon questioning, Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on 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 8:05 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary