OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 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, August 6, 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, Kendricks Brass, James Brazan and Chairman Charles Ketchens.

Those also in attendance were: Timothy P. Roussel, Parish President; Toby Sandifer, Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, Director of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, sitting in for Secretary Rodrigue; and Legal Advisor 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the July 16, 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 July 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Brazan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, is sitting in for Secretary Angele Rodrigue, who is attending the Organization of Parish Administrative Officials conference and serving as Vice-President of the organization. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: Lunch & Learn Job-Driven series on August 12 at Rose's; Petroplex construction has begun; waterline under the Mississippi River; District 3 Splash Park; Head Start registration and first day of class: construction of EOC Warehouse; replacing two buses within the Transit System; Restore Act revenue; correspondence from PIAL regarding South Vacherie Fire District classification improving to Class 4; Youth Build Grant; announced Ingrid Bergeron-LeBlanc as the new Assistant Director of Human Resources; announced Alisa Dunklin as Grant Writer for Department of Human Resources; recognized the Youth Commission members and Coordinator Nikeia Washington.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman St. Pierre recognized, commended and thanked Anna Lee Oubre for serving as Secretary of the Gramercy Recreation District for the past 43 years and presented Mrs. Oubre with a plaque, which he read aloud. Councilmen Brazan and Amato shared their comments on working with Mrs. Oubre.

President Roussel recognized Jarvis Landry, graduate of Lutcher High School, and presented a proclamation, which was read aloud by President Roussel, to his mother, Dietra Landry, who accepted in his absence.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 14-114, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING WAYNE BECNEL AS THE DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 14-07, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND DESIGNATING THE ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATES FOR THE YEAR 2014 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 Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a roll call vote showing all voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

ORDINANCE 14-08, AN ORDINANCE SETTING AND ADOPTING THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2014 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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote showing all voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-115, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JULY 25, 2014 AS OLIVER COOPER SENIOR DAY IN ST. JAMES PARISH,** with Councilman Brass offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted. Chairman Ketchens shared his reflections on the contributions of Mr. Cooper.

RESOLUTION 14-116, A RESOLUTION COMMENDING YVONNE THOMAS FOR HER YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING THE 2014 YVONNE'S DIRECTION IN DANCE COMPANY TEAM ON A SUCCESSFUL COMPETITION SEASON, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was unanimously adopted after it was read aloud by Mr. Gravois. Certificates were then presented to each dancer and teacher, as well as a plaque to Mrs. Thomas.

Councilman Amato led a discussion on the creation of a Parishwide Flood Control Committee. Councilman Amato explained he was initially interested in creating an East Bank Drainage Committee to address East Bank drainage issues, but with the May flooding and the number of homes and businesses throughout the parish that experienced flooding, as well as his discussions with President Roussel, Councilman Amato feels a Parishwide Flood Control Committee would be beneficial to all in St. James Parish. Councilman Amato has developed a draft creating this committee that has been sent to President Roussel and his staff for review and will then be sent to council members for their perusal and to provide any comments and/or suggestions. President Roussel addressed backwater issues and Councilman McCreary addressed drainage issues. After some discussion, Councilman Amato asked that the discussion of a Parishwide Flood Control Committee continue at the next council meeting and be placed on the next agenda.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-117, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUTCHER SEWERAGE POND,** with Councilman St. Pierre offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-118, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY HCI CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION FOR THE GRAMERCY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Brass. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-119, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ST. JAMES AREA AGENCY ON AGING BUDGET TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2014 TO JUNE 2014.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

After an explanation from President Roussel, **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-11, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM FOR ALL ST. JAMES PARISH UTILITY CUSTOMERS AS MANDATED BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS AND THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RULES AND REGULATIONS,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote showing all voting in favor, 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, August 20, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre thanked President Roussel, Mr. Chenier and staff for their assistance with the Gramercy drainage project; the town has been assisting with this project as well, and it's time for the contractor to complete the project. He said the railroad and DOTD are currently conducting drainage inspections and Councilman St. Pierre was wondering if the Parish could receive reports from both agencies once these inspections are complete. Councilman St. Pierre offered his apologies to the Cooper Family, since he was unable to attend the celebration due to a previous commitment. Regarding the Youth Commission, Councilman St. Pierre congratulated the members and offered his assistance. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre provided an update on the permit for Beaver Canal.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato offered his appreciation to the Parish for the assistance provided to the town of Lutcher regarding drainage issues. He provided an update on the consolidation of the Lutcher and Paulina-Grand Point-Belmont Volunteer Fire Departments. Councilman Amato will schedule a committee meeting before the next council meeting regarding the pay increase for Justices of the Peace and Constables.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary thanked Mr. Chenier and Mr. Dicharry for attending the District 3 Recreation Board meeting and reviewing and prioritizing current work orders and he thanked the Recreation Board members for doing such a great job. Councilman McCreary provided an update on the Splash Park, and upon questioning, President Roussel told Councilman McCreary a ribbon cutting would take place once the pavilion is completed. He thanked the members of the Youth Commission for attending and offered his assistance. Councilman McCreary attended the Economic Development Board meeting and commended the board members on a fine job, and he recommends we raise our level of awareness of our infrastructure and suggest we seek assistance from current industry and proposed industrial facilities regarding these infrastructure needs. In closing, Councilman McCreary reminded everyone that school starts on Friday and to be aware of school busses on streets and highways, as well as school zones.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin shared his comments on Jarvis Landry; his accomplishments at Lutcher, LSU and looks forward to his accomplishments in the NFL.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass thanked and commended the South Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department on their PIAL rating, as well as parish staff for their assistance to the Fire Department. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier will provide Councilman Brass with the list of materials needed and the timeframe for the project on Magnolia Heights. Councilman Brass addressed the issue of tall grass along fence lines and asked Mr. Chenier and Mr. Donadieu to meet to discuss this issue.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN –Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the culvert replacement on Acorn and Orange streets. He commended the South Vacherie Volunteer Fire Department on their PIAL rating and for their hard work in providing fire protection to the residents of South Vacherie.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for Directors comment. Mr. Chenier informed the Council that the Planning Commission voted tonight to move their meetings to the last Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. to avoid conflict with Parish Council meetings on the first Wednesday due to Planning Commission agenda items regarding the Land Use Plan. Regarding drainage, Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier if the parish had enough employees to handle drainage projects and Mr. Chenier said the parish is a couple of equipment operators short. Chairman Ketchens congratulated Mrs. LeBlanc as Assistant Director of Human Resources, the Youth Commission members and Coordinator Washington.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre seconded by Councilman Amato and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary