

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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, September 4, 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; Ashley Poche, Assistant 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 Brass and seconded by Councilman Amato, the minutes of the August 21, 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 August 2013 were then approved on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Patin.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by sharing his comments on the passing of former councilman and friend, Mr. Oliver Cooper, Sr., whom he had the privilege of serving with on the Council for four years. He announced to the Council and the public the date and time of the services for Mr. Cooper. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: filming of the "Communities of Distinction" with Terry Bradshaw; DHR Annual Toy & Coat Drive; DHR community meeting on October 24, from 6 – 8 p. m. at the St. James Reception Hall with guest speaker Rep. Clay Schexnayder; and the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee and the meeting with the Corps of Engineers regarding the study. President Roussel informed the Council that St. James Parish received a letter signed by Sen. Landrieu, Sen. Vitter, Rep. Cassidy and Rep. Richmond stating their concerns of the tentatively selected plan and urging the Corps to carefully review the merits of Alignment D before submitting their final recommendation. He commented on the luncheon with Sen. Landrieu at Oak Alley and information received by GNO Inc. regarding the National Flood Insurance Program. In closing, President Roussel shared a letter received from two residents from Metairie, who accompanied the St. James Parish senior citizens on the trip to Ottawa, Canada, and they praised the staff of the Elderly Department, as well as staff members, Layne Poirrier and Cheryl Cortez, who accompanied the seniors on the trip.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ryan Donadieu, Supervisor Planning & Permitting, Bobby Lear, GIS Department, and the Emergency Preparedness Department presented the Council with information on back water flood protection. Mr. Deroche explained that this information was developed as a result of the backwater flooding from Hurricane Isaac and to aid the parish to better forecast, plan and react to backwater flooding in the future. Mr. Donadieu and Mr. Lear explained in great depth and much detail how the elevations were obtained, the digital elevation points, how the GIS shape file was created, how flood elevation maps can be printed given any projected water level, mapped water level overlaid in Pictometry, create reports showing residents in affected flood areas, estimating sandbag quantities needed for each home in affected flood areas, identifying those homes at the greatest risk, and the location and logistics of sandbagging operations on each side of the river. Mr. Donadieu, Mr. Lear, Mr. Deroche, Mr. Chenier and President Roussel then answered questions from Councilmen Brazan, St. Pierre, McCreary, and Amato.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** – None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 13-11, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94, SOLID WASTE, OF THE ST. JAMES CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR NUISANCE MOSQUITO SPRAYING AND TO PROVIDE FOR FEES CHARGED**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

**ORDINANCE 13-12, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SUGAR HILL CROSSING SUBDIVISION IN WELCOME, LOUISIANA**, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

President Roussel explained the 2013 millages. Secretary Rodrigue then publically announced that the St. James Parish Council will meet on October 16, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, Louisiana, to adopt the property tax millage for the year 2013 levied on all taxable property within the Parish of St. James.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Ketchens shared his thoughts on the passing of former Councilman Oliver Cooper, Sr. and gratefully acknowledged the service Mr. Cooper provided to the residents of District 5 for 24 years, serving 12 years on the Policy Jury and 12 years on the Parish Council. He recognized Mr. Cooper as a true leader and said Councilmen Patin and Brazan and President Roussel all had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Cooper on past parish councils. Councilman Ketchens proudly offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-141, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF MR. OLIVER COOPER, SR.**, after the resolution was read aloud by Secretary Rodrigue. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 13-142, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2013 AS SENIOR CENTERS MONTH 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 St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-143, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS RECONSIDER THEIR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN HURRICANE PROTECTION LEVEE AND CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE D.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted after a unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION 13-144, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH ASSUMPTION PARISH POLICE JURY FOR AIR MONITORING EQUIPMENT**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. Councilman Ketchens offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-13, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR FUTURE STATE AND PARISH PROJECTS**, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman McCreary 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 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

### **COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre recognized Chris Guidry, Legislative Liaison, who was in attendance and he thanked Mr. Guidry for bringing the hurricane protection levee resolution to the St. John Parish Council. Regarding the recycle bins, Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Chenier for the gravel around the bins. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre urged everyone to attend the Corps of Engineers public meeting on September 10 at the KC Home in Lutchet.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato thanked President Roussel and Directors for meeting with him regarding 2014 budget items. He thanked Mr. Lear and Clay Breaud for assisting the Lutchet Volunteer Fire Department with the plans for the second fire station. Councilman Amato requested that BKI be invited to the October 2 council meeting to provide an update on the East Bank Drainage Study.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Upon questioning, Councilman McCreary received an update on the East Bank Waster Distribution Study from Mr. Chenier.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin had no comment.

**COUNCILMAN KETCHENS** – Councilman Ketchens received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Barras Street evacuation route.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass extended his condolences to the Cooper family. He commented on a meeting with the North Vacherie and South Vacherie Volunteer Fire Departments regarding fire ratings and PIAL review and thanked all who attended. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Deroche to have the new fire coordinator contact the phone book company to ensure that the correct information is printed and available to the public. Councilman Brass asked President Roussel to request a meeting with the PIAL board to discuss issues identified at the fire department meeting. In closing, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on the Magnolia Heights Old Vacherie Road drainage project.

Director of Operations Chenier informed the Council that, as per the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, letters are being mailed, individually, to all homeowners who live in a flood zone in the unincorporated areas of St. James Parish. President Roussel asked Mr. Chenier to send this list to each councilman. Mr. Chenier answered questions from Chairman Brazan regarding these letters.

**CHAIRMAN BRAZAN** – Chairman Brazan expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Cooper saying he was a fine man who was true to his word. Regarding the time clock, Mr. Deroche informed Chairman Brazan that a visit to Acadia Parish is scheduled for September 11 to view their system and Chairman Brazan will attend. Regarding levees, Chairman Brazan said that there are levees on the West Bank but these levees are not Corps certified so this may affect flood insurance rates. Chairman Brazan said St. James Parish is trying to get these levees Corps certified.

**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 7:30 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary