

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2014**

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, October 15, 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: Angele Rodrigue, Council Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar W. Warren, 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 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 McCreary, the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for September 2014, totaling \$2,219,496.80, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Brazan.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council of the DOTD District 61 joint highway priority hearing on October 30 at 9:00 am at the State Capital in Baton Rouge. He will be attending this meeting and presenting the St. James Parish priority list. President Roussel would like to visit with each councilman to discuss the sales tax revenue and recreation in the upcoming budget and he will be scheduling these visits in the next few days. He informed the Council that the cypress log and train from the Historical Society have been moved to the Welcome Center and Rep. Ed Price has obtained funding to move some of the buildings from the Historical Society to the Welcome Center. As requested by Councilman Amato, President Roussel provided the Council with this update on Petroplex. Mr. Donadiou in Permitting is monitoring the project on a daily basis and providing updates to the Council. The Petroplex group did not come into the Permitting Office to apply for any construction or building permits. Dirt is being moved and being mounded; all dirt is from the site and no new dirt is being brought in; activity began on July 30; in August there were 8 days of work; in September there was 12 days of work and thus far in October there have been 7 days of work on the site. The resolution adopted by the Council defines the start of construction as permanent onsite fabrication, erection, or installation of a permitted facility (such as pile driving, installing structural supports and foundations, laying underground pipework, or constructing permanent storage structures) that is continuously pursued with reasonable diligence to complete the permitted facility within a reasonable time. The resolution also states that the conditions described above are non-severable from this approval. Should Petroplex fail to meet any condition, or should any condition be ruled unenforceable, this approval shall terminate. The Petroplex DEQ permit expires on October 31. President Roussel asked the Council for direction in addressing this issue with Petroplex. Councilman St. Pierre asked President Roussel to send a letter requesting Petroplex come before the Council to provide an update on the project and construction. Chairman Ketchens would like to ride with Mr. Donadiou to see the site. Councilman Amato asked that Mr. Franckiewicz, on behalf of the Council, send a letter to LDEQ advising them of the master plan, the resolution adopted and LDEQ needs to comply with our master plan in considering permit extensions. Continuing with his report, President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following; early voting for the November 4 general election; Lions Club Pumpkin Patch Petting Zoo; Party with the Pumpkins; DHR Senior Harvest Fest; and Poche Plantation Arts & Crafts Festival on October 25 & 26 in Convent.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bruce Unangst, candidate for Judge Division C, addressed the Council introducing himself, sharing his work experiences, courtroom experience and community service.

In the absence of Paul Aucoin, Chairman of the Economic Development Board, Audrey Temple, Economic Development Manager, and Steve Nosacka, Economic Development Consultant, presented the board's annual report. Mrs. Temple provided information on board membership, major events, accomplishments and regional cooperation. Mr. Nosacka then provided information on parish sales and use tax, property taxes and industrial taxpayers, active industrial projects/prospects, new industrial prospects, and continued growth and development of commercial, retail and service industries and job readiness for residents.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – None.

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

## OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Amato led a discussion on a salary increase for Justices of the Peace and Constables. Councilman Amato, along with Councilmen Brazan and Ketchens, served as the committee that reviewed current salaries, gathered data on salaries from surrounding parishes and parishes with populations similar to St. James Parish, reviewed the data and provided their fellow councilmen with a report at the last meeting. In lieu of a decrease in sales tax revenues and the price of oil, Councilman Amato suggested the Council consider tabling this item until the presentation of the 2015 proposed budget and after the special 2015 budget review meeting. Councilman St. Pierre then offered and Councilman Amato seconded a motion to table the consideration of a salary increase for Justices of the Peace and Constables until after the special 2015 budget review meeting. After a unanimous roll call vote, action on this item was tabled until after the special 2015 budget review meeting.

After an explanation from President Roussel with questions from councilmen being answered by Mr. Deroche and Mr. Chenier, Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-141, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ARRCO POWER SYSTEM FOR ONE (1) 70 KW NATURAL GAS GENERATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

## NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-142, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF LOIS JONES MOORE.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brazan, after he shared his thoughts on serving with Mrs. Moore, and unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 14-143, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014 AS CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Brazan. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

After an explanation from President Roussel and questions posed by council members were answered by Mr. Chenier, **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-12, 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 Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. 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, November 5, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

## COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

**COUNCILMAN BRAZAN** – Upon questioning, Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Deroche on the time clocks. Councilman Brazan shared his comments on the land use plan and he asked his fellow councilmen to consider having a firm, specializing in land use, conduct an independent study of our land use plan, look at our Planning Commission, look at our plan, look at what we do, see if we're doing the right thing and make recommendations, if necessary. Mr. Chenier explained to the Council that in order to obtain funding through the Restore Act (BP oil spill) we have to have a component in our land use plan that addresses coastal activities and recreation, so the land use ordinance will need to be amended in the very near future to include a chapter addressing this. Councilman St. Pierre shared his comments on review of the land use plan. Mr. Chenier added that he and Mr. Gravois met with the Duplantis Group to determine the minimum requirement the State requires in the plan regarding coastal activities compared to what we currently have in our plan and the report of their findings will be provided to the Council, which may provide Councilman Brazan with the information he is seeking.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier for an update on the drainage study being conducted by T Baker Smith so recommendations can be included in the 2015 budget. Mr. Chenier will contact T Baker Smith for an update. Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on the waterline upgrade project on Magnolia Heights. Councilman Brass extended his thanks to Entergy for placing street lights along Champion Street. He thanked President Roussel, Mrs. Octave and Mr. Donadieu for their efforts in addressing abandoned and blighted properties along LA 18 and LA 20 and thanked the businesses and industries for the donation of funds to provide dumpsters to clean these properties and improve the appearance of these two major highways.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin asked Mr. Chenier if there was a mechanism in place to make sure Petroplex is in compliance with the land use plan and Mr. Chenier said there was.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Regarding the Acadian Ambulance contract, Councilman McCreary shared information on the cost of the current annual contract, questions regarding a contract with a parish of similar size to St. James Parish and the benefits of membership versus a contract that he addressed to Acadian Ambulance at a meeting held prior to this council meeting. Councilman McCreary stated that Acadian Ambulance is providing and has provided quality service to St. James Parish for over 30 years, but he questions the amount of money currently being paid by the parish for this service. Councilman McCreary will provide the Council with information and recommendations to consider prior to contract renewal discussions before the expiration of the current contract in December 2015.

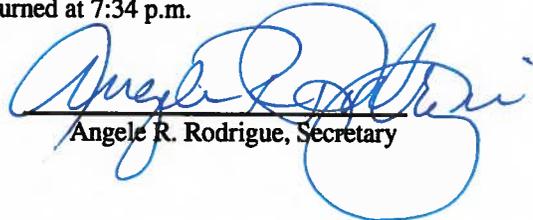
**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato thanked President Roussel for the update and progress on moving Historical Society items to the Welcome Center and he asked about the grey house. President Roussel provided an update of a recent meeting he attended on the project and he informed the Council that Nicholls State University will archive some of the museum items and artifacts and some will remain in the museum at the Welcome Center. Councilman Amato thanked the parish for assisting the town of Lutchter in replacing two large culverts on Second and Third streets. In closing, Councilman Amato extended his good luck wishes to candidates in the November 4 election.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter of thanks to Rep. Ed Price for obtaining funding to assist in moving buildings from the Historical Society to the Welcome Center. He commended Councilman Brass on his beautification project in District 6 and consideration is being given to extending the beautification project to District 1 and possibly District 2. Regarding Petroplex, Councilman St. Pierre expressed his concerns with the delay and said Petroplex was adamant with getting this project started and we need to let Petroplex know the Council is concerned. The Council does not want to set precedence and do something according to ordinance and then sit back and let Petroplex decide when they want to move forward. The Council has told Petroplex what we expect and it's time to move forward and let Petroplex know this is not acceptable.

**CHAIRMAN KETCHENS** – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for Directors comment and received none. Chairman Ketchens thanked Mrs. Temple, Mr. Nosacka and the Economic Development Board for the work they do for St. James Parish. He thanked Mrs. Warren for the Head Start training. Chairman Ketchens is receiving many calls regarding the company installing the fire hydrants and he has contacted Mr. Landry and asked Mr. Chenier to address this issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brass, seconded by Councilman Brazan and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary