

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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, October 16, 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 Patin, the minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

**DISBURSEMENT REPORT**

The Disbursement Report for September 2013, totaling \$4,910,829.05, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERL AFFAIRS QUARTERLY REPORT**

After an explanation by President Roussel and DHR Director Octave on the need for the acceptance of this report with questions from council members answered by Mrs. Octave, the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs Quarterly Report, for the quarter July through September 2013, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman Ketchens.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by sharing a picture of the boat launch under construction in Grand Point. He provided the Council with updates and/or information on the following: the budget process; Night Out Against Crime; West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Study and Corps helicopter fly over he participated in; Lions Club Pumpkin Patch at the Welcome Center; the 4-H Party with the Pumpkins on October 29 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Welcome Center; employee United Way Campaign on October 17 at the St. James Reception Hall; Keep St. James Beautiful Electronics Recycle Day on October 19 at Golden Grove Truck Stop from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; Wolverine Terminals LLC information session on October 22 at 6 p.m. at the Paulina-Grand Point-Belmont Fire Station; POD exercise for parish employees on October 23 at the St. James Reception Hall; State Senate Insurance Committee flood insurance hearing on October 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the House Committee Room at the State Capital; Shell Gulf Coast GTL open house on October 23 at Rose's Catering from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; DHR Community meeting on October 24 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the St. James Reception Hall; DOTD District 61 Priority Meeting on November 6. President Roussel informed the Council that the parish will be taking part in an ameba awareness state wide call with GOSHEP, DHH, and CDC on October 17. He said sampling is taking place in the parish water system and assured everyone that the parish drinking water is safe. Regarding the Home Rule Charter, President Roussel informed the Council that Bond Attorney Hugh Martin suggested that the amendments be written before starting the process of placing this on the April ballot.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Ellen Pratt, CEO of St. James Parish Hospital, presented the Hospital Board Annual Report. Ms. Pratt highlighted the areas of finance, service, people, growth and quality. Ms. Pratt then answered questions from Councilman Amato regarding People's Health, charity care and national health insurance.

Paul Aucoin, Chairman of the Economic Development Board, and Steve Nosacka, Economic Development Consultant, presented the Annual Report. Mr. Aucoin provided information on board membership, major events and regional cooperation. Mr. Nosacka provided information on business growth, parish sales and use tax, property tax and taxpayers, active industrial projects, major industrial prospects, and continued growth and development. Mr. Nosacka and Mr. Aucoin then answered questions posed by Councilman Brass regarding the hiring of local residents by contractors and new industries and the startup of Nucor after the recent incident. Chairman Brazan commended the members of the Economic Development Board for their commitment, dedication and attendance.

Mike Chopin and Henry Picard, of Burk Kleinpeter, provided the Council with an update on the East Bank Master Drainage Plan. Mr. Picard explained in detail the status of the Master Drainage Plan. He also provided detailed information on the interim flood protection study and the three alternatives. Mr. Picard hopes to provide a draft of this study to the Council by mid-November. Councilman Amato had questions regarding the three alternatives that were answered by Mr. Picard.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** - None

**OLD BUSINESS**

After an explanation by President Roussel, Councilman McCreary offered a motion to rescind the August 21, 2013 vote on 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, and Councilman St. Pierre provided a second. After a unanimous roll call vote, the August 21, 2013 vote on Ordinance 13-10 was rescinded.

**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 St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-160, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF BRASSETTE FARMS, LLC FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF WATERLINES AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANTS**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 13-161, A RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE USE OF LOCAL FUNDS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES NEEDED IN THE COMPLETION OF AN APPLICATION UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (LCDBG) PROGRAM AND FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES PENDING GRANT AWARD**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens. Councilman Brass provided a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-162, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS AND ASSURANCES NECESSARY FOR LAND ACQUISITION UNDER THE LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-15, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH UNDER THE CIAP PROGRAM THROUGH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens 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, November 6, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-163, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE REVISIONS TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY GOVERNING ST. JAMES PARISH EMPLOYEES.** Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

#### **COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass received a status update from Mr. Chenier on the Road Improvement Program and the Old Vacherie Road Magnolia Heights drainage project. Councilman Brass commented on the recent PIAL meeting with a PIAL representative and members of the North and South Vacherie Volunteer Fire Departments. In closing, Councilman Brass thanked all who took part in National Night Out Against Crime events.

**COUNCILMAN KETCHENS** – Councilman Ketchens received an update from Mr. Chenier on the District 5 Multipurpose Building. Councilman Ketchens extended his sympathy to the family of Father Louis Oubre, former pastor at St. James and St. Philip Catholic Churches.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin invited his fellow councilmen and the public to the Wolverine Terminals information session on October 22 at the Paulina-Grand Point-Belmont Fire Station.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary extended his condolences to the family of Pete LeBlanc, a former parish employee. Councilman McCreary thanked the Paulina-Grand Point-Belmont Fire Department for participating in Fire Week activities at Gramercy Elementary, Paulina Elementary and Chanel. Councilman McCreary asked President Roussel to consider installing an electronic marquee at the Welcome Center.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato asked if we were receiving reports on the LA 3125 overlay project and President Roussel has not received any information from DOTD. Councilman Amato extended his appreciation to St. James Parish Hospital for everything they do for the residents of St. James Parish.

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Councilman St. Pierre thanked Ms. Pratt, Mr. Aucoin, Mr. Nosacka, Mr. Chopin and Mr. Picard for their presentations.

**PRESIDENT ROUSSEL** – President Roussel announced that the annual Veterans Day Celebration will be November 10, 2013 at Gramercy Park from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and reminded everyone of the electronics recycling day on October 19.

**CHAIRMAN BRAZAN** – Chairman Brazan reminded his fellow councilmen that the 2014 budget will be presented at the next council meeting and asked that they consider a date for a special meeting to review the 2014 proposed budget. The date of the special meeting will be decided upon at the next council meeting. Upon questioning, Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the lights on Bayou Chevreil. He asked Mr. Chenier to check into replacing the plugged culvert at Tri-Corner. Chairman Brazan asked Melissa Wilkins, Public Information Officer, to send the road presentation to Sen. Amedee and Rep. Schexnayder for their support.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens, seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary