

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 19, 2016**

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 19, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Ryan Louque, Ralph Patin Jr., Clyde Cooper, Kendrick Brass, Edward Kraemer and Chairman Alvin St. Pierre. Councilman Jason Amato was absent.

Those also in attendance were: Linda Hubbell, Council Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Bedar Warren, Director of Human Resources; Francis Hymel, Interim Director of Emergency Preparedness; and Bruce Mohon, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Cooper offered the invocation and Councilman Brass led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre Jr., 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 Cooper, the minutes of the October 5, 2016 regular council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel provided this report to the council.

- 1) Blind River Bridge completed in time for the Boat Club to successfully hold their \$100 dance this last Saturday night. We did make improvements with the launch area and parking lot to the satisfaction of most.
- 2) We will be completing the District 4 Senior Center & Multipurpose Building for October 24th. Of course, the ribbon cutting will not take place until Wednesday, December 7th @ 5 pm prior to our Council meeting.
- 3) The Paulina Park lights are completed and a light check was done last evening. There are a few minor things that the contractors need to take care of prior to turning the system completely over to the Parish. Most people should be very pleased with these lights.
- 4) Blaise & I attended the annual DOTD Priority Hearing in Baton Rouge held at the State Capitol yesterday. The State has so much more road work to be done compared to the amount of money they have to work with; I'm talking about in the billions. We can all expect to see a gasoline tax measure coming through the next legislative session.
- 5) The Gramercy Park Concession and restroom improvements are at a 25% completion status.
- 6) The Vacherie Annex renovations has begun having moved the Sheriff's and Workforce Investment Solutions to clear the way for our guys to begin on Utilities & other offices.
- 7) We are looking to move forward with replacing the 54" culverts on Hwy 642. We'll be getting with our legal guys to draw up a CEA to work with the State to make this happen. To give you a little history on the project, it was years ago that the State did a drainage survey and showed that these culverts were undersized.
- 8) In regards to the St. James Recreational Master Plan, we are asking the public for their input and requesting that they take a little time in participating in an online survey. Residents are invited to assess the parish's recreational facilities and express their preferences for recreational activities. A survey is available online at www.stjamesla.com/.../St-James-Parish-Recreation-Department-M... The results of the survey will provide insight into current and future recreation demands.
- 9) I have a few reminders for all of you:
 - a. Harvest Fest with the Seniors will take place on Thursday, October 27th at the St. James Reception Center on the West Bank.
 - b. St. James Parish Master Recreation Plan has a Public Meeting planned for Tuesday, October 25th @ 6 – 7:30 pm at the Vacherie Annex
 - c. St. James Parish Master Recreation Plan has a Public Meeting planned for Wednesday, October 26th @ 6 – 7:30 pm at the PR Building in Lutcher
 - d. Party with the Pumpkins on Tuesday, October 25th @ 4 – 8 pm at the Welcome Center in Gramercy
 - e. The Library Haunted House is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th @ 6 – 9 pm at the Lutcher Library
 - f. The Lion's Club and the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office are sponsoring the 6th Annual Pumpkin Patch Classic on Sunday, Oct. 30. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the 5k walk/run starts at 9 a.m.
 - g. Early Voting dates for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election will be from October 25th thru November 1st (Closed on Sunday) from 8:30 am to 6 pm at the Convent Administration Building and the Vacherie Annex. All St. James Parish Offices will be closed on November 8th.
 - h. Parish Holidays on November 8th (Election Day) and November 11th (Veteran's Day)
 - i. Veteran's Day Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th at Lutcher Park @ 4 – 7 pm
 - j. And, if you hadn't wished Council Chairman St. Pierre "Happy Birthday" yet, grab him after the meeting. Happy Birthday Shark!

Thank You ... May God Bless you and all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi !!!

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Anderson with Poche Plantation Arts and Crafts Festival invited everyone to the Festival on October 22nd and 23rd.

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

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

At this time Chairman St. Pierre requested to deviate from the agenda to dismiss a tabled resolution. Councilman Patin move to deviate to dismiss the tabled resolution with Councilman Brass offering a second. All six Councilmen in attendance were in favor to deviate with Amato being absent. Councilman Patin explained this resolution, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CYNTHIA TUREAUD AS THE DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD, stating that Cynthia Tureaud was not eligible at this time to serve on the board. Councilman Patin offered and moved a motion to dismiss the tabled resolution with Councilman Kraemer providing a second, the resolution was unanimously dismissed.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption RESOLUTION 16-162, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TERRENCE JONES AS THE DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-163, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD JOHNSON TO THE GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 16-21 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH GAS AND WATER SYSTEM TO ASSESS A MANDATED ANNUAL SAFE DRINKING WATER FEE PER METERED CONNECTION DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Hubbell read the following Notice of Public Meeting; Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers at the Parish Courthouse, 5800 Hwy. 44, Convent, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held within the Parish of St. James, to authorize the renewal and/or levy of ad valorem taxes.

Chairman St. Pierre stated this is an announcement that the Parish will notify our Senators and Representatives of our intent to call an election and post a notice in the official journal and on 12/7/16 we will call for the election. President Roussel stated that Mr. Kinler informed him that he was no longer interested in pursuing a millage.

RESOLUTION 16-164, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE OCTOBER 21, 2016 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Brass. After a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-165, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque and was seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-166, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION (MUNICODE), was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and was seconded by Councilman Brass. After a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption, RESOLUTION 16-167, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT. Councilman Kraemer offered a second, and after a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-168, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH LSU AG AND AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE SAID COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque and was seconded by Councilman Cooper. After a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-169, A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LSR'S INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION (ITE) APPLICATION TO THE BOARD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with Louque, Patin, Cooper, Brass, Kraemer and St. Pierre voting in favor of and Amato absent, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-170, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF QUALITY MACHINE WORKS, INC. FOR THE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT BELLE RUSE SUBDIVISION, LUTCHER LA, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Kraemer. Councilman Louque offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 16-171, A RESOLUTION IN PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2016 AS DYSAUTONOMIA MONTH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque. Councilman Brass offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN KRAEMER – Councilman Kraemer had no comment.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass stated the Recreation Master Plan Committee will host two public meetings next week, one on October 25th in Vacherie and one on October 26th in Lutcher. He encouraged all residents to attend a meeting and participate in the online survey. He continued to say that he and Mr. Mickey met with youth commission this evening and informed them of the process and encouraged them to help get the word out regarding the upcoming meetings and online survey. Councilman Brass informed the Council that he attended the North Vacherie Fire Department meeting and had concerns and issues with training requirements regarding the PIL rating. He requested a meeting with Mr. Hymel, the Fire Chief and President of the NVFD to discuss further. Councilman Brass requested a meeting with Mr. Gravois and Councilman Cooper regarding the evacuation route project. Councilman Brass wished Chairman St. Pierre a Happy Birthday.

COUNCILMAN COOPER – Councilman Cooper requested that Mr. Kinler come before the council to explain why he doesn't want to pursue the millage. President Roussel stated that he will make the request to Mr. Kinler. Councilman Cooper requested the status of the 5th District building. Mr. Gravois stated he will have the Legal Counsel attend the next Council meeting to provide an update.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN LOUQUE – Councilman Louque thanked Mr. Aucoin for the Economic Development Board annual report. Councilman Louque acknowledged the school's Job Readiness with the Jump Start Program. He continued to say how impressed his was with the program. Councilman Louque expressed his thanks for the updates on the parks and boat launch projects.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato was absent.

FRANCIS HYMEL – Mr. Hymel had no comment.

BEDAR WARREN – Mrs. Warren had no comment.

CHANTEL WAGUESPACK – Mrs. Waguespack wished Chairman St. Pierre a Happy Birthday.

BLAISE GRAVOIS – Mr. Gravois had no comment.

BRUCE MOHON - Mr. Mohon stated for clarification purposes, the Agreement for the School Board Resolution needed to be changed from Intergovernmental Agreement to Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

MICHELLE OCTAVE – Mrs. Octave had no comment.

CHAIRMAN ST. PIERRE –Chairman St. Pierre thanked Dr. Cancienne and Mr. Nassar for attending tonight's meeting. He also expressed his appreciation for the Jump Start Program. Chairman St. Pierre stated that from his review of the tax collection he noticed an increase of 13.7%. Chairman St. Pierre thanked everyone for the birthday wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Kraemer seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.


Linda Hubbell
Secretary