

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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, October 1, 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 P. Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar Warren, Director of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; Jody Chenier, Director of Operations; 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 McCreary, the minutes of the September 17, 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 September 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that St. James Parish has received a \$1.2 million dollar grant for home elevations in flood prone areas, and he explained the application process, which will be handled jointly by DHR and Operations staff. Mr. Chenier answered questions from Councilmen McCreary and Brass regarding this grant program. President Roussel announced that Lutchter High School has moved the October 31 football game to October 30 and the October 31 St. James High School football game is away and will start at 3:30 pm and Trick-or-Treat will take place on Friday, October 31, in St. James Parish. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: District 3 Splash Park ribbon cutting on October 6 at 5:30 pm; LIHEAP program; the Next 25 breakfast; Noranda apprenticeship program with Youth Build and United Way GED clients; early voting for November 4 election; Corps Of Engineers Board of Review meeting on September 16 in Washington DC regarding the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Study; River Region Chamber DC Fly-In; 2015 budget process has begun; Police Jury Association Region 1 & 2 meeting hosted by St. James Parish on September 22; Chamber Perks at St. Joseph Plantation tomorrow; ARC Golf Tournament on October 3; St. Michael Church Fall Festival on October 4 and 5; River Region Chamber breakfast on October 8; Night Out Against Crime on October 14; NACO Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus meeting on October 15; and the DHR Elderly Harvest Fest on October 30. President Roussel then answered questions from Councilman Amato regarding the Waters of America Act and Councilman Amato then asked Mrs. Octave to draft a resolution regarding this issue for the next council meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Landrieu, candidate for Congress for the Second Congressional District, addressed the Council introducing himself, sharing his platform, experience and goals.

Paul Aucoin, Executive Director of the Port of South LA, presented the Port Commission's Annual Report. Mr. Aucoin introduced Port Commission President Paul Robichaux and Port Commissioners Robert Roussel and Stanley Bazile from St. James Parish, who accompanied Mr. Aucoin. He presented the Council with information on tonnage and products handled by the Port, project announcements in the Port, consultant hired by the Port, petrochemical, chemical, fertilizer, oil and grain facilities located in the Port, economic impact of the Port, inland river system connected to the Port, benefits provided by the Port, the Marine Security Operations Center, invited councilmen to visit the Port facilities, and the St. John Airport operated by the Port. Mr. Aucoin encouraged the Council and President Roussel to contact the Port at any time if they can be of any assistance to St. James Parish. Mr. Aucoin then answered questions from council members regarding the fire boat and docking of river boats.

William Ironside, with Reserve Telecommunications, provided the Council with an update on the services RTC provides in St. James Parish. Mr. Ironside informed the Council that RTC has recently purchased two security companies and he explained that RTC will be focusing on home automation and video monitoring for security. RTC has expanded into the northern Lafourche Parish area and he explained the redundant route RTC will install to prevent West Bank residents from being without television as a result of any damage to the fiber optic line. Mr. Ironside said RTC is adding more channels, and unfortunately a price increase for RTC customers will take place on November 1. Mr. Ironside then answered questions from councilmen regarding reduced internet costs for families with students in school, notification of the cost increase to customers, and regular field evaluation of equipment. Councilman McCreary thanked Mr. Ironside for his help with cable at the new football stadium.

Mo Salah, with Professional Engineering & Environmental Consultants, presented the East Bank Water System Study. Mr. Salah began by first explaining in detail the waterline under the Mississippi River project connecting the two parish water plants. Mr. Salah then explained in great detail the East Bank Water study. He explained how the computer model showed a very low pressure on the western end of the east bank and the installation of a 250,000 gallon water tower in that area, along with the waterline connecting the two water plants, would alleviate the pressure problem and allow the pressure to be distributed evenly. Mr. Salah explained that the cost for the water tower is a separate cost from the waterline project, and he is assisting the Parish in obtaining CDBG funding to construct this water tower. Mr. Salah then answered questions posed by council members on both the water study and waterline project.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**RESOLUTION 14-132, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CYNTHIA CRAWFORD TO THE DISTRICT 3 RECREATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-133, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DOLORES FLORENT TO THE RIVER PARISHES TOURIST COMMISSION**. Councilman Brass provided a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION 14-134, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MELISSA LAURENT TO THE GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

Councilman Patin offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-135, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SHERITA ARD AS THE DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH LIBRARY BOARD**. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 14-136, A RESOLUTION DENYING THE APPLICATION OF WOLVERINE TERMINALS CORP. UNDER THE ST. JAMES PARISH LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, McCreary, Patin, Brass, Ketchens for and Brazan against, the resolution was adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-137, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF BLD SERVICES LLC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATERLINE UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-138, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014 AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH**, with Councilman Brazan offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-139, A RESOLUTION SETTING THE HOURS FOR "TRICK-OR-TREAT" ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT FROM 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM**, with Councilman Brazan offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary led a discussion on the current Acadian Ambulance contract, which he feels favors Acadian Ambulance and not the residents of St. James Parish. He explained that the term of the current contract is from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015 at a cost of \$656,187.48 a year or \$54,682.29 per month and how this fee is paid. Councilman McCreary contacted Steve Kuiper with Acadian Ambulance, who provided Councilman McCreary with information on the cost of ambulance service to surrounding parishes, method used to determine the annual cost of ambulance service, report on the number of calls made within the parish with response times, and the method of advising parish residents of the discount applied for services. He shared his comments on Acadian Ambulance membership, the benefits of membership, and the possibility of creating a parish emergency medical service. After some discussion, Councilman McCreary requested that a committee be formed to meet with Acadian Ambulance to discuss the high fees, the rates for transportation and a cost reduction for the current contract and future contracts, as well as any other questions council members might have regarding the ambulance contract. Councilman McCreary asked President Roussel to schedule this meeting with Acadian Ambulance.

**RESOLUTION 14-140, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASSUMPTION PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

**COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE** – Upon questioning, Councilman St. Pierre received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Beaver Canal permit process. Councilman St. Pierre reminded everyone that there are many festivals and events in St. James Parish during October and he encouraged parish residents to attend and support these events.

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato requested that BKI be placed on the November 5 agenda for an update on the East Bank Drainage Study and to provide the report for the initial meeting of the Drainage & Flood Protection Committee. Mr. Chenier told Councilman Amato he has a copy of this very lengthy report and he will provide Councilman Amato with a copy. Councilman Amato asked that the electronic signs be used to remind the public of early voting dates and times. Councilman Amato requested that discussion and action on a salary increase for the Justices of the Peace and Constables be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**COUNCILMAN MCCREARY** – Councilman McCreary thanked President Roussel for scheduling the meeting with the Corps of Engineers regarding the maintenance permit for drainage canals north of LA 3125. In closing, Councilman McCreary reminded everyone of the St. Michael Church fair this weekend.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin thanked Mrs. Octave, Mrs. Warren and Ms. Clayton for assisting the elderly in District 4, particularly Ms. Hymel and Mrs. Albert.

**COUNCILMAN BRASS** – Councilman Brass thanked President Roussel, Mrs. Octave and Mr. Donadieu for the start of the beautification project on LA 18 in the Magnolia area. He thanked Mr. Deroche and Mr. Chenier for placing portable lighting on Champion Street and he received an update from Mr. Chenier on the status of the permanent poles and lights on Champion Street. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier provided Councilman Brass with an update on the waterline upgrade project on Magnolia Heights. Councilman Brass received calls regarding today's rain and high water issues, and he asked Mr. Chenier to inquire about the status of the drainage study. In closing, Councilman Brass asked Mr. Deroche to meet next Friday to discuss the Bidy Basketball and Girls' softball programs.

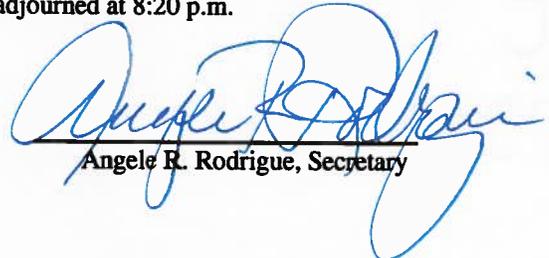
**COUNCILMAN BRAZAN** – Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to meet on Friday to ride around District 7 and discuss issues. He reminded everyone of the ARC Golf Tournament on Friday. Upon questioning, Councilman Brazan received an update from Mr. Deroche on the exercise pads for the walking track in the District 7 Park. Councilman Brazan inquired about the status of the time clocks and received an update from Mr. Deroche.

**PRESIDENT ROUSSEL** – President Roussel informed Councilmen Brass, Brazan and Ketchens that Union Pacific will schedule individual hazmat emergency response training with each of them.

**CHAIRMAN KETCHENS** – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for CAO/Directors comment. Mrs. Octave emailed each councilman a September monthly report, and she commented on the following; River Region Chamber DC Fly-in, NACO DC office visit, upcoming NACO meeting in Biloxi, moving of Historical Society buildings, Next 25, and GNO Inc. Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier for an update on the Barras Street evacuation route and Mr. Chenier will contact the landowner and keep Chairman Ketchens informed. Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier to meet with him next week to ride on Barras Street and address a drainage problem. He recognized his brother Anthony Jasmin and his nephew Travis Jasmin, who is a candidate for School Board from District 6. Chairman Ketchens asked Mr. Deroche to have a phone and computer installed in the new council office.

#### **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 8:20 p.m.

  
Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary