

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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, October 2, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Ralph Patin, Kendricks Brass and Chairman James Brazan. Councilmen Jason Amato and Terry McCreary were not in the Chamber for roll call. Councilman Charles Ketchens was absent.

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 Patin offered the invocation and Councilman Brass led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman McCreary arrived at this time and assumed his seat on the Council.

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 September 18, 2013 council meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

HEAD START FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head Start Financial Reports for August 2013 were then approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brass and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Councilman Amato arrived at this time and assumed his seat on the Council.

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that the Washington DC Fly-in, sponsored by the River Region Chamber for October 1 - 3, was cancelled due to the federal government shutdown. He said it will be rescheduled at a later date. President Roussel shared with councilmen pictures of projects the Operations Department is completing in Districts 1, 3 and 5. He reminded the Council that the Sheriff is hosting a Senior Crime Prevention Seminar tomorrow at the St. James Reception Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and transportation will be provided by the DHR transit system. President Roussel provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: River Region Chamber breakfast tomorrow at Café Perique; West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Study; thanked Mr. Chenier for the in depth letter regarding Alignment D; St. Michael Church Fall Festival this weekend; parish Relay for Life team fundraiser on October 8; Annual 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 in Gramercy from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; mandatory POD exercise for all full time employees on October 23 from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the St. James Reception Hall; DHR Community Meeting October 24 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the St. James Reception Hall; DOTD District 61 Priority Meeting on November 6 at the State Capital in Baton Rouge. President Roussel told the Council that the Home Rule Charter revisions must be done by referendum and he explained the process to place this on the April ballot. Councilman Amato, who spearheaded this review, further explained the process.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, provided the Council with a report on the Comprehensive Master Plan. Mr. Gravois explained that in July the Planning Commission formed a subcommittee, who along with Attorney Vic Franckiewicz, Permitting Supervisor Ryan Donadieu, and himself, have been meeting monthly before the Planning Commission meeting to review the Master Plan and highlighted areas they are reviewing. He explained the time line to bring the Master Plan to the Council in early 2014. Mr. Gravois then answered questions from councilmen.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 13-151, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DALE MELANCON TO THE DISTRICT 4 RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-152, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING VEDA BAILEY TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-153, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHAD WEIDERT TO THE GRAMERCY RECREATION BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 13-154, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF LAMARQUE FORD, INC. FOR AN F-250 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, UTILITIES DIVISION, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brass. A second was provided by Councilman St. Pierre and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-155, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF R. J. DAIGLE AND SONS CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE 2013 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR ST. JAMES PARISH**. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Rodrigue read aloud the public notice announcing that the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, plans to consider a resolution authorizing an ad valorem tax election to be held within the Parish at its meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Courthouse Annex Building, 2631 LA 20, Vacherie, Louisiana.

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-156, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2013 AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-157, A RESOLUTION SETTING THE HOURS FOR "TRICK-OR-TREAT" ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M., was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-158, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR DRAINAGE PIPE**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-159, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTIONS 205 AND 207 OF THE BIGGERT-WATERS REFORM ACT OF 2012 FOR FOUR (4) YEARS TO ALLOW FEMA TO COMPLETE THE CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED AFFORDABILITY STUDY ON PROPOSED NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) RATE INCREASES, SUBSIDY ELIMINATION, AND THE REVOKING OF GRANDFATHERED POLICIES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After President Roussel explained the ordinance and informed the Council that Mosaic has requested this be delayed to allow their attorney additional time for review, Councilman St. Pierre offered a motion to table this item for three months and Councilman Amato provided a second. After a unanimous roll call vote with Ketchens absent, **PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO MOSAIC FERTILIZER, LLC, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, (i) A DIRECTION TO CANCEL LEASE AGREEMENTS AND INDENTURES OF TRUST AND PLEDGE, AND (ii) AN ACT OF SALE; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING**, was tabled for three months.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-14, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 26, CIVIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND AFFAIRS, ADDING SECTION 26-4, NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote with Ketchens absent, the introduction of the ordinance was accepted and ordered filed with the Secretary for public inspection and publication of Notice of Public Hearings, which were scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, and Wednesday, November 6, 2013, at 6:15 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Chenier and crew for the work on Ferrero Canal. Upon questioning, Councilman St. Pierre received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Disaster Recovery Project in Gramercy Park.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato informed everyone that the process for the 2013 bonfire season has begun and he will provide updates to the Council. He extended his appreciation and thanks to all who took part in the ARC Golf Tournament and shared his comments. Councilman Amato asked his fellow councilmen to consider the Lutchter Library as an early voting location and to include funding in the 2014 budget for this.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary extended his condolences to the Glenn Louque family. Upon questioning, Councilman McCreary received a status update on the Youth Center from President Roussel and Mr. Deroche. Councilman McCreary explained the issue with red ants at Paulina Park and asked Mr. Deroche to address and monitor this issue at Paulina Park as well as at all parish parks.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS – Councilman Ketchens was absent.

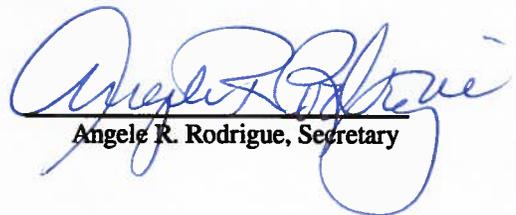
COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass explained an issue with bees at the District 6 Park and asked Mr. Deroche to have the Recreation crew address the issue. He received an update from Mr. Deroche on the West Bank Recreation Office phone. Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Magnolia Heights Old Vacherie Road drainage project. In closing, Councilman Brass announced and invited everyone to the First Baptist Church Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 5, beginning at 9 a.m. from the St. James Reception Hall to the church, and the First Antioch Baptist Church Breast Cancer Walk on October 19 at Paulina Park.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel announced that early voting for the October 19 election for District 6 Justice of the Peace is scheduled for October 5 and October 7 – 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at both the Convent Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex. President Roussel commented on the ARC Golf Tournament, the excitement of the clients and thanked all who assisted in making this a very successful event.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN –Chairman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier when the ditch and sidewalk project would begin and was told in early November. Regarding the time clock, Mr. Deroche provided Chairman Brazan with an update and Chairman Brazan would like to meet before the next council meeting to further discuss the time clock. He asked Melissa Wilkins, Public Information Officer, to have the Hwy 643/644 power point presentation sent to DOTD to be included in the District 61 Priority Meeting and to send a copy to our State Senator and Representative as well. Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the lights along Bayou Chevreil. In closing, Chairman Brazan commented on the ARC Golf Tournament.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brass seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary