

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 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, November 5, 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, Kendrick 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; Legal Advisor Bruce Mohon and Special Counsel Victor Franckiewicz.

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 Patin, the minutes of the October 15, 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 October 2014 were approved on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by reminding councilmen, members of boards and commissions and parish employees to complete the mandatory yearly ethics training before December 31, 2014 as required by state law. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: lease renewal for the District 2 Park; thanked Mosaic Fertilizer for generous donations of \$10,000 to ARC and \$10,000 to Council on Aging; parking lot on east side of Convent Administration Building; update for Councilman Brass on waterline project in Magnolia area; mosquito spraying around Gramercy Park for Veterans Day celebration and will suspend spraying for winter months; parish United Way drive Monday, November 10, at 2 pm at St. James Reception Hall; and 2015 pocket calendars for each councilmen. Councilman McCreary asked that a letter of thanks from the Council be sent to Mosaic for the donations to the ARC and Council on Aging.

President Roussel then presented the proposed FY 2015 budget of the St. James Parish Council, and explained in great depth and much detail the accompanying budget message.

(Members of the public interested in viewing the budget and budget message may do so at the Parish President's Office at the Convent Courthouse, the Parish Council's Office at the Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, and at the Lutcher and Vacherie Libraries.)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

St. James Parish residents living on the East Bank, who are 100 years old or older, were honored and recognized; Elia Ordoyne, Celine Musgrove, Hazel Schaubhut, Annie Starlone and Una Dugas. President Roussel will visit each of them, since they were unable to attend the meeting, and he invited council members to join him on these visits if their schedule permits.

Henry Picard and David Boyd of BKI presented an update on the East Bank Drainage Study at the request of Councilman Amato. Councilman Amato recognized East Bank Drainage and Flood Control Task Force members Richard St. Pierre, John Hotard and Barry Leblanc, who were in attendance. Mr. Picard explained that Phase 1 is complete and has been submitted to Mr. Chenier for approval. Phase 2, which is in progress, takes the land use of the parish and applies it to existing drainage. Phase 2 is about 60% complete and an application has been submitted for Capital Outlay funds for fiscal year 2015-2016. Mr. Boyd, who performed the modeling, explained in detail the maps that were provided to councilmen. Mr. Picard and Mr. Boyd then answered questions from Councilmen St. Pierre and McCreary. Councilman Amato will invite Mr. Picard and Mr. Boyd to the Task Force meeting.

Before the Petroplex presentation, Special Counsel Victor Franckiewicz explained that the Council adopted a resolution on May 7, 2014 granting conditional approval to Petroplex. He then explained in detail the conditions in the resolution and the current status of the project as per these conditions.

At the request of Councilman Amato, representatives from Petroplex provided the Council with an update on the construction of the project. Boyd Bryan, attorney for Petroplex, explained to the Council that Larry Sciacchetano was unable to attend tonight and Corne van de Reijt with Verwater Group and Bengt Jarlsjo with Quanta Services, contractors for Petroplex, would present the Council with an update on the Petroplex project with the aid of a power

point presentation and then answer questions. Mr. van de Reijt, who is heading construction for Verwater, explained step by step the terminal construction and said the notice to proceed was received on July 20, 2014. He went on to explain the project management with the site plan as permitted, Phase 1 is under construction and Phase 2 is moving dirt. Mr. van de Reijt explained in detail the preload process for the foundation of the tanks, the specific testing that is taking place, the construction of the foundation, the construction of the tanks and testing required once the tanks are completed. Mr. van de Reijt, Mr. Jarlsjo and Mr. Bryan then answered questions from councilmen regarding the preload process, construction of first tank that should begin in February 2015, date construction contract was signed, recruitment of local workers and businesses with 12 local people currently working on site as of today, trailer on site without permit, and the status of the permit application with DOTD for pipeline under River Road. Mr. Franckiewicz then commented on the update and presentation by Petroplex representatives and he explained in detail that there is great concern that the conditions set forth in the resolution adopted on May 7, 2014 have not been complied with by Petroplex. Mr. Boyd then commented on these conditions and said Petroplex has fully complied with the resolution. Comments were received from Councilmen St. Pierre, Amato, and McCreary.

Chairman Ketchens then recognized Michael Calabro, 1182 St. James Street in Vacherie, who provided public comment on the Petroplex project and he urged the Council to do the right thing.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 14-144, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING YOLANDA JONES WILLIAMS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-145, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BREANNA BAILEY AS THE DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH COMMISSION**. Councilman Brass provided a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

After having been tabled at the September 3, 2014 council meeting, President Roussel and Mr. Chenier informed the Council that there will be a presentation at the November 19, 2014 council meeting on this subject that should provide answers to councilman's questions regarding the cross connection control program, and they asked the Council to table this ordinance until December 3, 2014. Councilman Brazan offered a motion to once again table **ORDINANCE 14-11, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM FOR ALL ST. JAMES PARISH UTILITY CUSTOMERS AS MANDATED BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS AND THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RULES AND REGULATIONS**, to allow for the November 19 presentation and to allow the Council time to review the information before action is taken. Councilman Brass offered a second. Receiving no comment from the Public and after a roll call vote with all voting in favor, the ordinance was tabled until December 3, 2014 and a presentation on the cross-connection control program will be made at the November 19 council meeting.

Having been tabled at the September 3, 2014 council meeting, President Roussel explained to the Council that the parish has requested an Attorney General's opinion, which has not been received as of this meeting, and he asked the Council to consider tabling this resolution until that opinion is received. Councilman McCreary offered a motion to table this resolution with Councilman St. Pierre offering a second. After receiving no public comment and upon a roll call vote showing St. Pierre, Amato, McCreary, Brass, Brazan, Ketchens for and Patin absent since he had left the chamber before the vote, **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH YOUTH CENTER AT FIFTY (50%) PERCENT OF APPRAISED VALUE**, was tabled until an opinion is received from the Attorney General's office.

ORDINANCE 14-12, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ST. JAMES PARISH FOR FUTURE STATE AND PARISH PROJECTS, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. Councilman Patin had reentered the Chamber at this time and assumed his seat on the Council. After a roll call vote showing all voting in favor, the ordinance was adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-146, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF KENT-MITCHELL BUS SALES OF HAMMOND FOR TWO (2) 2014 GMC BUSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato. Councilman St. Pierre offered a second, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-147, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUTCHER NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**, with Councilman Patin offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-148, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FEDERAL OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAM**, with Councilman St. Pierre offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-149, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUTCHER SEWERAGE POND, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

Councilman Brazan offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-150, A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING CONGRESS TO EXCLUDE MAN-MADE DITCHES FROM THE DEFINITION OF "WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES"**. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-151, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ST. JAMES AREA AGENCY ON AGING BUDGET TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 2014, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-152, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN ALL ASSURANCES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAYS FOR UTILITY SERVICES.** A second was provided by Councilman Patin, and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-13, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass. 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 19, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-14, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Brazan. 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 Hearings, which were scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, November 19, 2014, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, and Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at 6:15 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

At this time and after some discussion, the Council scheduled a special budget meeting for Monday, November 17, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre reminded and encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Day Celebration on November 9 at Gramercy Park. Regarding Petroplex, Councilman St. Pierre shared his comments and expressed his aggravation with Petroplex and more conversation is needed.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato informed the Council and the Public of the bonfire permit meetings next week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. He asked Mr. Deroche if the electronic sign could be used to inform the Public of these dates and times. Councilman Amato congratulated Poche Plantation on an outstanding and successful Fall Festival. Regarding the 2015 budget, Councilman Amato asked that funds be placed in next year's budget for early voting to take place at the Lutcher Library, which would make early voting more convenient for next year's elections, and he will continue to work with Registrar of Voters Lisa Medine to accomplish this. In closing, Councilman Amato shared his comments on the Petroplex project and the construction of tanks.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary commended and thanked Ken Guidry with the Cooperative Extension Service for the involvement and continuation of the FFA program.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass congratulated all local and state winners of the November 4 election. He commended Mark Anderson and the committee on the success of the Arts and Craft Festival that was a job well done. Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier to check the status of a work order he submitted regarding the lights over the District 6 building and basketball court. Regarding the waterline project in the Magnolia area, Councilman Brass asked Mr. Chenier if they could meet Friday and walk through the project.

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to have the grass cut in the ditch between La Belle Rue and Fern streets. He asked Mr. Chenier when the side walk project in District 7 would resume and Mr. Chenier would check the schedule of the work crew and report to Councilman Brazan. Regarding mosquito control, Councilman Brazan is very disappointed that no education has been provided to the public. In closing, Councilman Brazan commented on the donation the ARC received from Mosaic and this donation does not include Mosaic's United Way contribution.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel commended and congratulated Mark Anderson and Poche Plantation for an awesome job for the first year of the Arts and Crafts Festival.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for CAO/Directors comment and received none. He asked for comment from Sheriff Martin and Sheriff Martin invited everyone to the 4-H Turkey Shoot at the Sheriff's Shooting Range in Vacherie this weekend. Chairman Ketchens would like to schedule a meeting with President Roussel next week.

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 8:40 p.m.


Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary