

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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, November 6, 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 Brass, the minutes of the October 16, 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 September and October 2013 were then approved on a motion offered by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Patin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by informing the Council that a final decision on the alignment for the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee will be made later this month. President Roussel then provided the Council with updates and/or information on the following: Lions Club Pumpkin Path and the Party with the Pumpkins; Veterans Day Celebration on November 10 at Gramercy Park; Commodities distribution; applications can now be submitted online for parish job openings; DHR Toy and Coat Drive on December 19; POD exercise on October 23; DOTD District 61 priority road hearing today at the state capital and answered questions from Councilmen McCreary and Amato; DHH declared emergency for all public water systems effective October 30 in response to the deadly amoeba issue; Home Rule Charter revisions; Chamber Perk Breakfast hosted by St. James Hospital on November 7. President Roussel informed the Council that he will be attending a meeting of the Parishes Against Coastal Erosion on November 8 at 10:30 a.m. and a meeting with Rep. Maxine Waters, sponsor of the Biggert-Waters Act, regarding the National Flood Insurance Program on November 8 at 2 p.m. President Roussel has been invited to attend President Obama's visit at the Port of New Orleans on November 8. In closing, President Roussel invited everyone to a Job Readiness Seminar presented by the St. James Business and Career Center on November 14, from 2 – 4 p.m., at the Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

President Roussel then presented the proposed FY 2014 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 Lutchet and Vacherie Libraries.)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, provided the Council with an update on the Comprehensive Master Plan. Mr. Gravois explained that adjustments recommended by the Committee were approved by the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission voted unanimously tonight to move forward with the Master Plan. The Planning Commission has scheduled a special meeting for November 20 at the Courthouse Annex for final review of the plan and the Planning Commission will then present the Master Plan to the Council at the December 4 council meeting. Mr. Gravois and Mr. Donadieu will meet with each councilman individually to review committee recommendations. Mr. Gravois will also meet with and present the Master Plan to the School Board. Mr. Gravois then answered questions posed by council members.

Ken Guidry, Parish Chair of the St. James Parish Extension Office, presented the Extension's Annual Report. Mr. Guidry introduced his staff: Al Orgeron Associate County Agent, Tara Roussel Extension Agent, Craig Roussel Horticulture Agent, Lisa Webre Nutrition Educator and Mollie Arceneaux Administrative Coordinator. He highlighted programs provided by the Extension Service. Mr. Guidry then answered questions from Councilman Amato and Chairman Brazan.

David Lambert, 3430 LA 44, Paulina, addressed the Council regarding the proposed Wolverine Terminal. Mr. Lambert expressed, in great detail and with great emotion, his concerns of the proposed terminal and presented the Council with a petition against the location of the Wolverine Terminal at the ADM site in Paulina.

Public Comments were received from Debra Laiche, 3168 Metge Street, Paulina; Charlotte Metge, 3172 Metge Street, Paulina; and Mark Bourgeois, 3106 Hwy 642, Paulina. All spoke in opposition to the proposed Wolverine Terminal at the ADM site in Paulina.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 13-164, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BILLIE KELLER TO THE DISTRICT 3 RECREATION BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-165, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING REGINA FAUCHEUX TO THE DISTRICT 3 RECREATION BOARD**. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

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, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

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, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman McCreary and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-166, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF COASTAL CULVERT AND SUPPLY, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF CULVERTS FOR A DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-167, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2013 AS PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH.** Councilman Ketchens offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. Chairman Brazan and President Roussel then presented the proclamation to Gene Linder, representing the American Cancer Society.

A discussion of the rescheduling of the January 1, 2014 council meeting took place. President Roussel explained that this meeting falls on the New Year's Day holiday which necessitates the rescheduling of this meeting. Publication requirements also necessitate rescheduling at this time. After a short discussion, it was decided that the Council would adopt a resolution rescheduling the meeting at the next council meeting.

RESOLUTION 13-168, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR FY 2011 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY/GOHSEP GRANT, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Brass. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman St. Pierre offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-169, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND EMPOWERING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL TO SIGN A CHRISTMAS BONFIRE PROGRAM AGREEMENT AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH THE PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT AND THE LAFOURCHE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT RELATING TO CHRISTMAS BONFIRES.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Amato and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-170, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR DRAINAGE PIPE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre. Councilman Patin offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-16, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato 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 20, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-17, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens 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 Hearings, which were scheduled for 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, November 20, 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse Annex in Vacherie, and Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at 6:15 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

At this time and after some discussion as to available dates and time, the Council scheduled a special budget meeting for Thursday, November 21, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lutchter Senior Center.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre extended his congratulations to Jim Riviere on his appointment to the Ascension/St. James Airport and Transportation Authority Board of Commissions by Sen. Troy Brown. Chairman Brazan asked that Mr. Riviere attend the next council meeting to introduce himself to the Council. Councilman St. Pierre encouraged all veterans and their families to attend the Veterans Day Celebration on November 10 at Gramercy Park. In closing, Councilman St. Pierre suggested that the 2013 accomplishments contained in the budget message be placed on our webpage for public viewing.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked the Paulina-Grand Point-Belmont Volunteer Fire Department and the Gramercy Volunteer Fire Department for providing mutual aid to the Lutchter Volunteer Fire Department in fighting two house fires last week. He said reimbursement of fuel expenses for providing mutual aide needs to be addressed by the Fire Association. Councilman Amato announced the dates and times for the bonfire permit meetings. Councilman Amato closed by thanking Mr. Guidry for providing information to the Council.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary thanked the members of the Planning Commission for moving the Master Plan forward and Mr. Gravois for the update. Councilman McCreary thanked and commended Mr. Guidry and staff for the terrific job they provide to the residents of St. James Parish.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin commended the presenters who spoke in opposition to the Wolverine Terminal.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS – Upon questioning, President Roussel explained to Councilman Ketchens that an additional air conditioner was in the 2014 budget for the St. James Reception Hall. Councilman Ketchens asked Mr. Chenier if the replacement of the stove could be considered in next year's budget as well.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass congratulated the Vacherie Rams B Team on winning the Super Bowl and they will be recognized at an upcoming council meeting. He thanked Mr. Guidry and staff for the success of the Party with the Pumpkins event held at the Welcome Center in conjunction with the Lions Club Pumpkin Patch. Councilman Brass received updates from Mr. Chenier on the Health Unit Parking Lot and the West Bank Road Program. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier told Councilman Brass that residents living on one-way streets are notified when the street will be closed due to road program overlay.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel informed the Council of the release from Noranda on Monday. Mr. Deroche then provided the Council with an update on action taken in response to this release. Councilman St. Pierre thanked Mr. Deroche for providing him with updates on the situation.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN – Chairman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier for information regarding a fire hydrant and he commended Mr. Chenier and crew for a great job on the sidewalk project. Regarding the lights on Bayou Chevreil, Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the location of a vendor for repair of these lights. Chairman Brazan extended his appreciation to Mr. Guidry and the staff at the Extension Service and he commended President Roussel on a great job with the budget message.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brass seconded by Councilman Ketchens and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary