OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014

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, December 17, 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 Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Bedar W. Warren, Director of Human Resources; Chantal T. Waguespack, Director of Finance; and Jody Chenier, Director of Operations.

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 Amato, the minutes of the December 3, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for November 2014, totaling $799,298.82, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan and seconded by Councilman Brass.

At this time to accommodate the schedule of Judge Gravois, the installation of the Youth Commission took place. Chairman Ketchens recognized Judge Jude Gravois who presided over the installation of the Youth Commission. Judge Gravois, assisted by President Roussel, administered the Oath of Office to Youth Commission members Kelse Alexander, Breanna Bailey and Katy Roussel.

At this time, Jude Gravois, Vice-Chairman of the Keep St. James Beautiful Board, presented the annual report. Mr. Gravois highlighted some of the accomplishments of 2014 in the areas of anti-littering, recycling and beautification and he shared some of the dates for planned activities in 2015. Mr. Gravois thanked the Council for their support and he asked the Council to appoint individuals who are passionate about litter, beautification and recycling whenever there are openings on the Keep St. James Beautiful Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by extending his sympathies to Sherone Smith on the death of her mother and Sheila Clayton on the death of her mother-in-law. He provided the Council with information on the DHR Toy and Coat Drive, which took place earlier today, and President Roussel shared a call he received from a recipient of the Toy & Coat drive. President Roussel then provided the Council with information and/or updates on the following: artificial Christmas tree drive; Tax Commission sales ratio study of St. James Parish assessments; on-line auction process; retirement of Horatio Rapp, Recreation Department; DHR annual meeting on December 17; Operations annual meeting on December 23; parish offices will be closed December 25 and 26 and January 1 and 2 for the holidays; West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Risk Reduction Study teleconference on Friday, December 18; and the pull for the waterline under the Mississippi River will begin on Friday morning. President Roussel closed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Amato shared his comments on the inaugural artificial Christmas tree program for senior citizens and Head Start students, which will become an annual event. He thanked Mrs. Warren and the DHR staff for their assistance.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Hymel with T Baker Smith was unable to attend and provide an update on the Vacherie Drainage Study. Councilman Brass along with Councilman Brazan and Mr. Chenier met with Mr. Hymel earlier today and Councilman Brass informed his fellow councilman that the study is moving forward and an update should be provided in early 2015.

Steve Pavlovich and Sam Stines with Mosquito Control Services provided the Council with a review of the 2014 mosquito control program. Mr. Pavlovich explained that the program consisted of surveillance, larviciding, adulticiding, public education and efficiency testing and highlighted each aspect. Mr. Stines explained in detail the encephalitis surveillance, the efficacy testing and education provided to the public, which consist of radio spots, pamphlets, as well as a program at Vacherie Elementary School. Mr. Pavlovich and Mr. Stines then answered questions from Councilmen Brazan, Amato, McCreary, Brass and St. Pierre. The Council is requesting that Mr. Pavlovich improve the educational outreach, which all feel is lacking, and to inform the Council of the listing of the dates, times and name of radio stations for the radio spots, the dates and locations of pamphlet distribution, dates and times of all educational presentations in schools, senior centers, and organizations, as well as statistics on local hiring.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-164A, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LAMEKA T. WILLIAMS TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brazan and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-165, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRUCE DELATTE AS A DISTRICT 7 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 14-166, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF WORK PERFORMED BY LEGACY CONSTRUCTION SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION FOR THE EOC WAREHOUSE, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 14-167, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR FIRE HYDRANT MODIFICATIONS FOR THE LUTCHER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-168, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF MARY CARPENTER AS PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE HEAD START PROGRAM, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Brazan. Councilman McCreary offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted with Councilman Brass abstaining.

After an explanation from President Roussel and Councilman Amato, **PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-16, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30, CIVIL EMERGENCIES, OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND MITIGATION OF REGULATED AND UNREGULATED MATERIAL INCIDENTS WITHIN ST. JAMES PARISH,** was introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman McCreary. After a roll call vote showing all voting in favor, 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, January 7, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRAZAN – Councilman Brazan wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, remember our veterans and all of our armed forces who are serving at this time.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass thanked Mr. Deroche, Mrs. Octave, and Brent Dicharry for meeting on the District 6 Splash Park. Upon questioning, Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on the Magnolia Heights waterline project, new fire hydrants and driveway repairs. Regarding a letter received from the owners of the old Vacherie hospital, Councilman Brass asked Secretary Rodrigue to contact the new West Bank School Board members and Dr. Luce to meet early next year to discuss this. He asked President Roussel to encourage the industry purchasing St. James High School to use local, small businesses on the West Bank. In closing, Councilman Brass wished everyone happy and safe holidays.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked President Roussel and his staff, the Council, the Planning Commission, and the Youth Commission for their cooperation and support throughout 2014. Councilman Patin closed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, a happy and safe New Year and God bless all of you.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary attended the East Bank Senior Christmas Dinner at the Boat Club and he thanked everyone involved, in any way, for a successful event. He attended the Bonfire Festival, which was a huge success, and he extended his thanks and appreciation to the parish for the assistance they provide to the Bonfire Festival. Councilman McCreary closed by wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato thanked everyone for their prayers and support on the death of his sister-in-law, Patty. Councilman Amato commented on the Christmas Eve bonfire tradition and informed the Council that 135 permits were issued this year. He thanked the staff at the Welcome Center for their assistance in issuing the bonfire permits. In closing, Councilman Amato wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre welcomed President Roussel from his recent surgery. He attended the East Bank Christmas Dinner and commended and thanked everyone involved for the success of this event. Councilman St. Pierre extended his get well wishes to Legal Advisor Mohon. He attended a meeting earlier today with Mike Wong, representative from Sen. David Vitter's Office, and he informed his fellow councilmen that parish wide drainage, railroad crossings and drainage under the railroad tracks were discussed and it was a very

good meeting. Councilman St. Pierre commended and thanked the Keep St. James Beautiful Board for their efforts in 2014. He provided each of his fellow councilmen with a copy of the advalorem tax collections for 2014 from Ward 1 through Ward 7, including the towns of Lutcher and Gramercy, which he requested from the Assessor's Office. Councilman St. Pierre closed by extending his wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel commented on the Festival of the Bonfires and applauded everyone involved for another successful festival. President Roussel is proud to be an original member of the Festival Board.

CHAIRMAN KETCHENS – Chairman Ketchens extended an opportunity for CAO/Directors comment. CAO Octave wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Chairman Ketchens asked President Roussel to provide a list of the employee pay scale and said we need to remember those employees at the bottom of the scale in 2015 and St. James is the lowest compared to our neighboring parishes. Chairman Ketchens closed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Brazan, seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary