

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, December 4, 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, Kendrick 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 Ketchens, the minutes of the November 20, 2013 council meeting and the November 21, 2013 special budget meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

HEAD START FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE REPORTS

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by announcing that DOTD has recognized St. James Parish Transit with an Award of Achievement for the highest percentage growth in transit passenger ridership in the Louisiana Rural Area Transit Program and he congratulated Mrs. Octave and the transit staff. President Roussel provided information and/or updates to the Council on the following: LIHEAP funding contract from October 2013 to September 2015; West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Study and Corps choice of Alignment C; River Region Chamber DC Fly-in on December 2 and 3 attended by President Roussel, Mr. Chenier, and Mr. Donadieu; National Flood Insurance Program update: DHR will provide free income tax assistance through the VITA program; refining of the parish logo; finalization of agreement on the Boat Club lease; Veterans Day after action review on Friday at the Welcome Center. President Roussel announced that Larry Roussel and Rhonda Lee will appear on the December 6 WBRZ Tune-in early morning program promoting the Bonfire Festival. He provided the Council with the dates for the Senior Christmas Dinners; West Bank Dinner on December 10 at the St. James Reception Hall and East Bank Dinner on December 18 at the Boat Club. President Roussel announced that the Parish will see a cost savings for the renewal of the Workman's Compensation program.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Rev. Marshall Cooper, 8180 King View Street, St. James, addressed the Council regarding the proposed South LA Methanol project. Rev. Cooper expressed his concern in locating this facility next to the District 5 Recreation Park and informed the Council that residents of the area are circulating a petition against South LA Methanol locating there. He would like South LA Methanol to consider locating in an area upriver from the park. Rev. Cooper asked the Council to consider the people who live next to the proposed site of this facility.

Christopher Vizzini, with Progressive Waste Solutions, provided the Council with an update on the recycling program that began with Progressive on August 1, 2013. Mr. Vizzini commented on the level of participation by parish residents in recycling thus far, and he provided statistics from August to October on the total pounds and tons collected, as well as the number of trees, landfill space, electricity, air pollution and water saved. Mr. Vizzini then answered questions from councilmen.

Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations, provided the Council with an update on the Comprehensive Master Plan. Mr. Gravois, with the assistance of Permitting Supervisor Donadieu and Attorney Vic Franckiewicz, presented a power point presentation of the Master Plan that highlighted the six goals of the Plan; preserving community assets, human services, housing, economic development, infrastructure and land use. The land use maps will be located at the Convent Courthouse and Vacherie Courthouse Annex for the public to view. Chairman Brazan has asked Mr. Gravois to present the Master Plan again at the December 18 meeting in Vacherie. Mr. Gravois then answered questions posed by council members.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Council received letters regarding the proposed Wolverine Terminal in Paulina from the Paulina Community, Todd Lambert, Wanda Carter, Mark Bourgeois, and Malcolm and Charlotte Metge that were read aloud by Secretary Rodrigue.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

RESOLUTION 13-179, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LEO MCQUEEN TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Patin. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE 13-18, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE INCURRING OF DEBT AND ISSUANCE OF TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,530,000) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA; PRESCRIBING THE FORM, TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AWARDED SUCH BONDS TO THE PURCHASERS THEREOF; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, having undergone the hearing process, was then offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-180, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A GRANT UNDER 49 CFR 5311, NON-URBANIZED AREA FORMULA PROGRAM, AND/OR 49 CFR 5309, DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM**. Councilman Ketchens offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-181, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PROJECT APPLICATION WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR GRANTS THROUGH THE US DOT FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), AS AUTHORIZED UNDER FEDERAL TRANSIT LAWS, AS CODIFIED 49 USC SECTION 5317, NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM, AND EXECUTING A CONTRACT WITH LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT UPON PROJECT APPROVAL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre and seconded by Councilman McCreary. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-182, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A GRANT UNDER SECTION 3037 OF TEA-21 AND/OR SECTION 5316 OF SAFETEA-LU, JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE, COMPETITIVE (FORMULA) GRANTS.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre commented on the special budget meeting and thanked the Directors and Administrative Assistant Joan Louque for providing answers to councilmen's questions.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Councilman Amato received an update from President Roussel on the fire suppression ordinance. Councilman Amato reminded everyone of the Bonfire Festival to be held at Lutchter Park on December 13, 14, and 15. In closing, Councilman Amato thanked the Parish for assisting the town of Lutchter with the hanging of Christmas lights.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Councilman McCreary asked Mr. Mohon to send a letter to Mr. Louque for non-compliance of family subdivision ordinances.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin thanked Mrs. Octave and the Administration for assisting with his annual distribution of Thanksgiving baskets.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS – Councilman Ketchens thanked Rev. Cooper for speaking on behalf of District 5 in opposing South LA Methanol and Councilman Ketchens said he stands behind the group 100 percent. He recognized former District 5 Councilman James Mitchell. Councilman Ketchens closed by thanking Mr. Deroche for attending a meeting with him at Shell Capline.

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass expressed his condolences to Gramercy Alderwoman Rhonda Lee and asked that a letter of condolence be sent. He recognized School Board Chairman Charles Nailor. Upon questioning, Mr. Gravois told Councilman Brass that he has already scheduled the Master Plan Presentation on the School Board agenda. He received an update from Mr. Deroche on the installation of the Park Rule sign at the District 6 Park. Councilman Brass shared with Mr. Chenier some complaints he has received from District 6 residents regarding the contractor for the road program.

PRESIDENT ROUSSEL – President Roussel thanked the Council for adopting the 2014 budget and participating in the budget process and the directors for accommodating the councilman during the budget process. President Roussel then commented on changes to the NFIP and the Biggert-Waters Act that are of the utmost importance to the future of St. James Parish and thanked the Council for their efforts on these two important issues.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN – Chairman Brazan recognized Sheriff Willy Martin, who reminded everyone to follow the rules on the levee when building bonfires and the state highway laws to accomplish the parish goal of zero fatalities in December. Sheriff Martin wished everyone a safe happy holiday season. Chairman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to provide him with updates on the lights on Bayou Chevreil, the fire hydrant, and the DOTD meeting regarding Hwy 643 and 644. In closing, Chairman Brazan thanked President Roussel and the directors for their work on the 2014 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Ketchens seconded by Councilman Brass and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary