

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013**

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, January 16, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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 St. Pierre 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 Patin, the minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The Disbursement Report for December 2012, totaling \$1,870,955.22, was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman McCreary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Roussel began his report by proudly announcing that Marathon Petroleum has donated \$30,000 to St. James Parish Government and it will be used for the purchase of a sandbagging machine and other equipment to aid in hurricane relief assistance. President Roussel provided the Council with information or updates on the following: DOTD Road Priority Hearing; Head Start Monitor and Audit; Lutchter Library renovations; health screenings for parish employees; advertising for engineering firm for the CDBG-DR evacuation street project; back-up generator at the Convent Courthouse and jail; the Blue Roof program; tax assistance provided by the Department of Human Resources; LIHEAP funding and application process; delivery of business directories; parish audit will began April 17 to June 30. President Roussel asked Secretary Rodrigue to place a discussion of hurricane protection on the next agenda. In closing, President Roussel proudly informed the Council that the Script Care Inmate Prescription Program has provided a savings of \$25,000 in six months to the Parish and he thanked the Council for their approval to allow him to enter into this agreement with Script Care.

Councilman Amato arrived during the President's Report and assumed his seat on the Council.

President Roussel answered questions from Chairman Brazan regarding hurricane protection and flooding and from Councilman Amato regarding the tank farm meeting held earlier today.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Annette Thornton and Ms. Polskey with the River Parish Technical College were not in attendance.

Brent Dicharry, Recreation Department Supervisor, presented the Recreation Department Annual Report. He then provided information on the following programs; the Fitness Center; boy's baseball, girls' softball, men's slow pitch softball, men's flag football, soccer, Bidy Basketball, bantam football, the number of rentals for parish parks in 201, as well as assistance provided to other programs outside of the Recreation Department. Mr. Dicharry highlighted several projects just getting underway. In closing, Mr. Dicharry introduced the East Bank Coordinator Brian Lambert and the West Bank Coordinator Horatio Rapp, and he then answered questions posed by council members.

Ridgely Mitchell, President of the Youth Center Commission, updated the Council on the status of the commission and the Youth Center. Mr. Mitchell told the Council that the current employees at the Youth Center are aware that St. James Parish will no longer operate this facility as of June 30. He explained that there are two options, the multijurisdictional commission created by the legislature and Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack's plan and there are issues with both of these options. Mr. Mitchell explained that the last commission meeting was unproductive and the majority of commission members are waiting to see if DCFS approves Sheriff Mike Waguespack's facility and program. He further explained that the Commission currently has no funds to operate this facility as of July 1, 2013, and as Commission President, he has been unable to get commission members to discuss financial options. A very lengthy discussion regarding the Youth Center, the Commission and options for housing St. James Parish juvenile offenders then took place among the Council, President Roussel, Mr. Mitchell, Sheriff Martin and Mr. Mohon with Directors providing answers to questions posed by council members.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-17, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING RACHEL SCHEXNAYDER AS A DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-18, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DR. ROLAND WAGUESPACK TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL BOARD, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Ketchens and seconded by Councilman Brass. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-19, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MELISSA AUBERT AS A DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Brass and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brass offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-20, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF JUNIOR JAMES.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Ketchens and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-21, A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF HELEN LEBLANC, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin. A second was provided by Councilman McCreary and the resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman Brass then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-22, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A HEAVY DUTY FORKLIFT.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Ketchens and unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 13-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR ONE (1) LOW-BOY INDUSTRIAL TRAILER, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato with Councilman St. Pierre offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Councilman McCreary then offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-24, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR ONE (1) HEAVY DUTY 18-WHEELER TRUCK.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman Patin and unanimously adopted.

Councilman Amato led a discussion on the St. James Parish campground ordinance. Councilman Amato compared the St. James Parish regulations to Ascension Parish campground regulations, which he sent via email to his fellow councilmen, and he feels St. James Parish has a strong ordinance, but revisions to our current ordinance need to be made. Councilman St. Pierre suggested the Council consider a moratorium until the ordinance can be revised. This generated a very lengthy discussion among the Council and Mr. Mohon on placing a moratorium on campgrounds, amending the current ordinance with specific regulations for campgrounds, mobile home parks and RV parks, and a review of all parish ordinances. Mr. Mohon suggested that the Council consider the issue of a Code Enforcement Officer to monitor all parish ordinances and ensure compliance with parish ordinances.

RESOLUTION 13-25, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR TWO (2) 2013 THREE-QUARTER TON CREW CAB PICKUP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman St. Pierre with Councilman McCreary offering a second. The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

After President Roussel explained a conflict with the Police Jury Association Conference on February 20, Councilman Ketchens offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 13-26, A RESOLUTION RESCHEDULING THE FEBRUARY 20, 2013 MEETING OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL TO FEBRUARY 18, 2013.** The resolution was seconded by Councilman McCreary and unanimously adopted.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORT

COUNCILMAN BRASS – Councilman Brass received an update from Mr. Chenier on the drainage project on Old Vacherie Road, Magnolia Heights and the parking lot at the Health Unit. Regarding Planning Commission meetings, Councilman Brass has been receiving calls from constituents and he asked Mr. Chenier to have the Planning Commission consider alternating the monthly meetings on both the East Bank and West Bank. In closing, Councilman Brass invited everyone to the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee program on Monday, January 21, at St. James High School, at noon, and he recognized Gramercy Mayor Terry Borne.

COUNCILMAN KETCHENS –Regarding the evacuation streets, Councilman Ketchens asked that the potholes on Burton Street be repaired and he informed President Roussel and Mr. Chenier that a contractor at the neighboring NuStar facility has been moving heavy equipment on the back street and this is damaging the street. Mr. Chenier assured Councilman Ketchens that the contractor is responsible for repairing the street and Mr. Chenier will contact the contractor and address this issue. Upon questioning, Mr. Chenier explained to Councilman Ketchens that the parish receives one bill for all dumpsters in the parish and he can provide Councilman Ketchens with a bill for just the District 5 Park.

COUNCILMAN PATIN – Councilman Patin had no comment.

COUNCILMAN MCCREARY – Regarding the Convent diversion into Blind River and the Amite River Diversion Canal Modification Project, Councilman McCreary received a letter from Rep. Schexnayder expressing his support for these projects and Rep. Schexnayder will assist in moving these forward in the legislature and on the state level. Councilman McCreary received a call from Sen. Brown today committing his support for these projects and Sen. Brown will work diligently to have these projects completed.

COUNCILMAN AMATO – Regarding LA 3125 and the recent rains, Councilman Amato thanked President Roussel for contacting DOTD and Joey Tureau with DOTD for making emergency repairs on Saturday to the potholes on LA 3125. President Roussel assured Councilman Amato that LA 3125 is at the top of the St. James Parish DOTD Priority List. Councilman Amato thanked President Roussel for placing the discussion of hurricane protection on the next agenda.

COUNCILMAN ST. PIERRE – Councilman St. Pierre recognized Gramercy Mayor Borne and he asked that the Council send a thank you letter to Marathon for the donation. Councilman St. Pierre took part in the Head Start Audit and shared his comments as a member of the interview committee. Regarding the recycling bins, Councilman St. Pierre asked Mr. Chenier if we are receiving information such as the weight of items collected, and Mr. Chenier told Councilman St. Pierre that Shane Landry and Pam Ordoyne are handling the bins and will provide reports to the Council and the Keep St. James Beautiful Board. Councilman St. Pierre is concerned about the size and cost of the bins and this generated a discussion on the length of time from reporting a full bin to the time it is emptied, and the size of the bins. The Council does not want these issues to discourage the public from recycling. Councilman St. Pierre thanked the Fire Association, Police Chief of Gramercy, David Detillier and Mr. Chenier for assisting the town in ordering materials for the waterline project.

CHAIRMAN BRAZAN – Chairman Brazan recognized Sheriff Martin. Sheriff Martin informed the Council that Marathon, also, donated \$30,000 to the Sheriff's Office to be used to purchase emergency response items. President Roussel told the Council that \$5,000 was donated by Marathon to the Grand Point Fire Department, as well. Upon questioning, Chairman Brazan received an update from Mr. Chenier on the culvert project on South Peach Street. Chairman Brazan commented on the recent death on LA 20 along Bayou Chevreil, the number of sugar cane trucks traveling this highway, and he asked Secretary Rodrigue to send a letter to DOTD requesting the widening of LA 20 along Bayou Chevreil and replacing the existing bridge with a straight bridge. He asked Secretary Rodrigue to contact Mr. Orgeron with the LSU Ag Center to obtain the tonnage that travels on LA 20 to the sugar mills in Lafourche Parish. Chairman Brazan asked Mr. Chenier to perform a drainage survey on Desire Street and he said this will be his 2013 project. In closing, Chairman Brazan told Councilmen McCreary that Melissa Wilkins is sending a power point presentation to our state representatives and senators on drainage issues in District 7.

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 8:05 p.m.

s/ Angele R. Rodrigue, Secretary