

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2018**

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, at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Councilmen Jason Amato, Ralph Patin Jr., Clyde Cooper, Jarred Favorite, and Chairman Ryan Louque. Councilman Alvin St. Pierre Jr. and Eddie Kraemer were absent.

Those also in attendance were: Hollie Zeringue, Deputy Secretary; Timothy Roussel, Parish President; Michelle Octave, Chief Administrative Officer; Ashley Poche, Assistant Director of Finance; Blaise Gravois, Director of Operations; Francis Hymel, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Ingrid Bergeron, Assistant Director of Human Resources; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

Councilman Amato offered the invocation and Councilman Favorite led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Honorable Ryan Louque, 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 Amato and seconded by Councilman Favorite, the minutes of the January 10, 2018 public hearing minutes were approved as distributed and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

On a motion offered by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Cooper, the minutes of the January 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes were approved as distributed and the reading of these minute dispensed with.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Roussel provided this report:

**Thank You ... May God Bless you; may God bless all of St. James Parish! Semper Fi !!!**

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Attorney John Young presented a power point message about the Opioid Crisis in our country and state. He and numerous lawyers have put together a trail team to represent parishes to file suit against drug manufacturers.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** - None

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** - None

**OLD BUSINESS**

The following updates were provided:

- North Vacherie evacuation route project – no additional update.
- North Vacherie railroad culvert upgrade – bids to be received soon
- North Rosary/High Ridge/Oak Street Drainage Update – waiting on report from engineer
- Culverts under KCS Railroad for Beaver Canal – Mr. Gravois and Councilman St. Pierre met with railroad
- 5<sup>th</sup> District Evacuation Route Update – Mrs. Octave stated they are still working on this
- T Poche Drainage Improvement Update – no additional update
- East Bank Street Light Repair/Entergy Update – no additional update

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 18-07, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE JANUARY 26, 2018 PAYROLL**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-08, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and was seconded by Councilman Favorite. . After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-09, A RESOLUTION WHEREAS ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY ROUSSEL AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL PROCLAIMS JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2018 AS CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK IN ST. JAMES PARISH**, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

**RESOLUTION 18-10, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO SIGN HOUSING FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND CHDO APPLICATIONS FOR ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ST. JAMES COUNCIL ON AGING INCLUDING AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS IN ORDER TO OPERATE EXISTING OR NEW HOUSING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY ST. JAMES PARISH IN THE YEAR 2018,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-11, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES (COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY) TO SIGN AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, REPORTS, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OF ITS ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-12, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, CAA TO SIGN FUNDING APPLICATIONS SUPPLEMENTS, AND ONE-TIME FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ON AGING INCLUDING APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES, AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS, BUDGETS AND REVISIONS IN ORDER TO OPERATE EXISTING OR NEW PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY ST. JAMES PARISH IN THE YEAR 2018,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Favorite. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-13, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AS THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR FEDERAL FY 2018 AND THE ONLY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO APPLY FOR AND ADMINISTER PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY ANY COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin.

**RESOLUTION 18-14, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO SIGN FUNDING APPLICATIONS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND ONE-TIME FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY INCLUDING APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES, BUDGETS, AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS IN ORDER TO OPERATE EXISTING OR NEW PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY ST. JAMES PARISH IN THE YEAR 2018,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Favorite and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-15, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DIRECT DELIVERY OF SERVICES BUDGET OF ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES – AAA FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato.

**RESOLUTION 18-16, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE III-B, IIC-1, IIC-2, III-D, AND III-E, AND OTHER CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018-2019,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-17, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES (COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY) TO SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR A HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAM,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato.

**RESOLUTION 18-18, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS AGREEMENTS, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS, CONTRACTS, CONTRACT AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS FOR 2018 FUNDS AND SERVICES BETWEEN THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY AND THE LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT, AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO SIGN SUCH CONTRACTS, ASSURANCES, REVISIONS, AND BUDGETS,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-19, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY TO NEGOTIATE, ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE DEEMED ADVISABLE, A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS, APPLICATIONS, BUDGETS INCLUDING AMENDMENTS, MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING, OR REVISIONS WITH THE LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION OF BEHALF OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-20, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL HOUSING CONSULTANT SERVICES AGENCY FOR PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSULTING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-21, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF REVISED AND/OR NEW TITLE V, AND OTHER CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS AND THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018-2019,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-22, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY TO NEGOTIATE, ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE DEEMED ADVISABLE, A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS, APPLICATIONS INCLUDING AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS AND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ST. JAMES PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 18-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL BE DESIGNATED, APPOINTED AND GIVEN AUTHORITY TO PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY FOR AN ON BEHALF OF ST. JAMES PARISH,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Favorite.

**RESOLUTION 18-24, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR RADIO ROOM FURNITURE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS-911,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato.

**RESOLUTION 18-25, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR RADIO ROOM FLOORING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS-911,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Favorite.

**RESOLUTION 18-26, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARISH PRESIDENT TIMOTHY P. ROUSSEL, TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH MEYER ENGINEERS, LTD,** was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Patin and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent, the resolution was adopted.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-01, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A FINAL REVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA,** was then introduced on a motion offered by Councilman Favorite and seconded by Councilman Patin with a roll call vote with Amato, Patin, Cooper, Favorite, and Louque voting in favor and St. Pierre and Kraemer absent. 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. on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent.

#### **COUNCILMAN'S REPORT**

Kraemer – absent.

Favorite – Councilman Favorite suggested a meeting to discuss funds for a summer camp. He also asked the Director of Operations if they had a plan for shutting down the streets that were coming up for repair. Director Gravois answered that a plan would be coordinated with the residents. Councilman Favorite would like a meeting discussing the rental of the District Park buildings.

Cooper – Councilman Cooper asked Legal Advisor Martin about the juvenile report. Mr. Martin told him he will follow up with him on his request. He asked the Director of Operations about the road repairs and when they would be starting. Director Gravois stated that weather conditions had the progress on hold, but would soon restart.

Patin – Councilman Patin thanked Operations Director, Blaise Gravois, for meeting with Mr. Creole.

Amato – Councilman Amato spoke of the new teaching style at Lucher Elementary and that it is being well received. He asked for a meeting to discuss the plans for Gramercy Fire Station. Councilman Amato asked about the storage building at Lucher Park and lighting being provided for safety.

St. Pierre – absent.

Louque – Councilman Louque asked the Director of Operations for a schedule to be sent to him on the street repairs program. He asked the Director also about making repairs to Bellevue Lakes.

### **DIRECTOR REPORT**

Poche – Assistant Finance Director, Ashley Poche, announced that W2 forms would be sent out in the mail starting Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Hymel – Director of Emergency Preparedness, Francis Hymel, stated that Representative Brass was going to meet with DOTD for guidance on a plan on what roadways to keep open in emergencies.

Bergeron – Assistant Director of Human Resources, Ingrid Bergeron, announced that the Senior Carnival is coming up.

### **COUNCILMEN'S REPORT**

**COUNCILMAN AMATO** – Councilman Amato thanked the parish employees and administration for their help with the Festival of the Bonfires. He gave a count of the bonfire permits. Councilman Amato requested to meet with Mr. Gravois after the meeting to discuss outfall canals. Councilman Amato wished everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas.

**COUNCILMAN LOUQUE** – Councilman Louque requested a letter be sent to the CN Rail regarding the rail crossing at Belmont Lumber. Councilman Louque wished everyone Merry Christmas.

**COUNCILMAN PATIN** – Councilman Patin wished a Safe Christmas to everyone.

**COUNCILMAN COOPER** – Councilman Cooper expressed condolences to the families of Mr. Stanley Vedol, Mr. Michael Jacobs, and Pastor Eddie Narcisse. Councilman Cooper requested a list of what the money from the proceeds of the Youth Center could be used for. Councilman Cooper also requested an update of the lights on the walking track in District 5. Mr. Gravois said it was done last week. Councilman Cooper requested the potholes on Pecan Street be addressed. Mr. Donadieu answered Councilman Cooper's questions about the status of the Land Use Plan. Councilman Cooper wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**COUNCILMAN FAVORITE** – Councilman Favorite requested a schedule of the road repair for District 6. He also requested a meeting with Mr. Gravois regarding a possible summer camp for the 6th District. Councilman Favorite said he was approached about a grease collection service for the parish. President Roussel said he received also received the information and forward it to Mr. Gravois. Councilman Favorite wished everyone Merry Christmas and God Bless.

**COUNCILMAN KRAEMER** – Councilman Kraemer requested an update on the Molaison project. Mr. Gravois said it is delayed due to the rain and snow. Councilman Kraemer requested Red Falgoust boat launch Rd be graded before the weekend. He also questioned the ditch behind Charles Road. Mr. Gravois said there is conflict between the property owners and is working to get the right-of-way.

**MICHELLE OCTAVE** – Mrs. Octave requested that Councilman Cooper included her in any meetings regarding the 5th District evacuation project. She said she will continue to work with South Central Planning relative to funding. Mrs. Octave wished Merry Christmas to everyone.

**BLAISE GRAVOIS** – Mr. Gravois stated that the boat launch road is maintained by the parish for use by the residents. He asked "if the sugarcane farmer did damage to the road, shouldn't he fix the road"? Mr. Kraemer suggested a letter be sent to the farmer. Mr. Gravois indicated that grease collection containers are currently at some sites in the Parish and will research to make sure the Parish is not in contract with those vendors.

**CHANTAL WAGUESPACK** – Mrs. Waguespack wished everyone a Safe and Blessed Christmas.

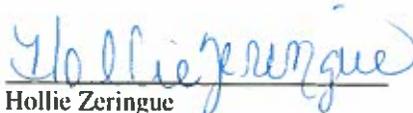
**FRANCIS HYMEL** – Mr. Hymel thanked everyone for their patience with the snow. He said there was an average of about 5" throughout the Parish. Mr. Hymel informed everyone that a meeting is set with DOTD to discuss opening bridges after freeze events. Mr. Hymel wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**BEDAR WARREN** – Mrs. Warren had no comment.

**CHAIRMAN LOUQUE** – Chairman St. Pierre said the Festival of the Bonfires was a good time. He asked everyone to thank Ms. Rhonda Lee for her time running the Festival the past 15 years. Chairman St. Pierre requested a letter be sent to Clay Schexnayder and Ed Price for their help with the new traffic light on Hwy 61. Chairman St. Pierre wished everyone Merry Christmas and to "Remember the Reason for the Season".

#### ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Patin and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

  
Hollie Zeringue  
Deputy Secretary