

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA
TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 2020**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met via video/teleconference on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call, the following were recorded present: Council Members Jason Amato, Ryan Louque, Mason Bland, Clyde Cooper, Vondra Etienne-Steib, Donald Nash, and Chairman Alvin St. Pierre.

Those also in attendance were; Linda Hubbell, Secretary; Peter Dufresne, Parish President; Felix Boughton, Finance Director; Richard Webre, Operations Director; Ingrid Leblanc, Human Resources Director; Eric Deroche, Emergency Preparedness Director; Amber Shepard, Public Information Office; and Cody Martin, Legal Advisor.

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

The Honorable Alvin St. Pierre, 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 Bland, the minutes of the April 29, 2020 regular meeting were approved as distributed, and the reading of these minutes dispensed with.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for March 2020 was approved on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Louque.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dufresne presented this report to the council:

- Tomorrow I will do another Facebook live presentation at 12:30 p.m. to provide the latest update.
- Senior meals will return to hot meals beginning tomorrow. Senior Centers will remain closed during Phase I. The Lucher Senior Center that has been serving as the hospital's day care center for hospital employees, during the crisis, has now been closed.
- The DHR satellite offices are awaiting a door so they can see clients by appointment.
- The Hwy 3125 project has resumed.
- The mobile testing site in District 5 opened on Monday and it doesn't seem to be utilized to its potential.
- The Gramercy testing site numbers are dwindling also. If this trend continues, the site will probably be shut down soon.
- The Governor's announcement on Monday that he will lift the State's Stay at Home Order, which will, in turn, allow me to lift ours. With lifting the stay at home orders, we will also lift the curfew as of Friday.
- We will no longer send out daily notification of case numbers unless we see a drastic spike in the numbers.
- Parish employees returned to work on Monday. Please be patient as we work through the backlog. The courthouse and our offices will remain closed to the public. Resident are encouraged to call for an appointment.
- I, the Sheriff, Mayor St. Pierre and Mayor Nosacka, Recreation Supervisor Brent Dicharry, along with Athletic Directors Coach Valdez and Coach Jenkins met to speak about Phase I. We will open our parks for baseball practice only. Phase I doesn't allow for tournament and large gatherings. The use of the parks and fields will be monitored using a scheduling system. Any team wanting to hold practice must call the Recreation office to schedule an appointment time. The lights will not be turned on at night for practice, so the teams must be off the field by dark. One team will be allowed on the field at a time, with a limit of 15 maximum on the field at a time. Parents and spectators must maintain 6' distance at all times. The coach or team representative will be responsible for providing hand sanitizer to the teammates and enforce social distancing and maximum number of people.
- Our local restaurants will begin opening this weekend. I have spoken with a few owners, and they have been preparing their individual establishments to accommodate the provision the Governor has made for Phase I.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comments were received on agenda items that required a vote.

PRESENTATIONS - None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilman Amato offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 20-99, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RACHEL SCHEXNAYDER AS A DISTRICT 2 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KEEP ST. JAMES PARISH BEAUTIFUL BOARD.** Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Councilwoman Etienne-Steib offered and moved for adoption **RESOLUTION 20-100, A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LEVAR JOSEPH AS A DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ST. JAMES PARISH COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY BOARD.** Councilman Nash offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

After the Council Secretary read aloud the ordinance and President Dufresne explained that this ordinance is to fund the Arc, **ORDINANCE 20-04, AND ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020, PARISH OF ST. JAMES, STATE OF LOUISIANA**, having undergone the hearing process, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque and was seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

President Dufresne explained that we need to Adopt our millages for the year. Several steps are required before we can adopt our millage. One step is that the council needs to announce its intent at a public meeting. This item is the first step. The millages were reviewed by the Legislative Auditor and are about the same as last year. We will ask for a full adoption at the June 24th meeting. After Councilman Amato offered a motion to call the meeting and Councilwoman Etienne-Steib seconded, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION 20-101, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF PAYROLL FOR THE MAY 15, 2020 PAYROLL, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-102, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO PAY PENDING CURRENT INVOICES AND PAYABLES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a roll call vote showing Amato, Louque, Bland, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, and St. Pierre and favor, and no response from Nash, due to technical difficulties, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-103, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SEEK AND RECEIVE REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FEEDING DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Bland offered a second and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-104, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ST. JAMES PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH FORTE AND TABLADA, INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Amato. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-105, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR TWO (2) NEW 2021 TRANSIT CONNECT (SMALL VANS), was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Cooper. Councilman Bland offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

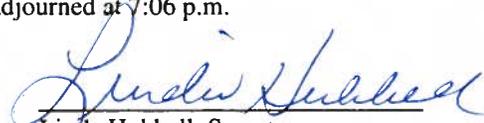
RESOLUTION 20-106, A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH IN ST. JAMES PARISH, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilwoman Etienne-Steib. Councilman Amato offered a second, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION 20-107, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CHANGE ORDER FROM COMMAND CONSTRUCTION FOR REPAIR TO A WATER LINE, AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, was offered and moved for adoption by Councilman Amato and seconded by Councilman Bland. After a unanimous roll call vote, the resolution was adopted.

At this time, Councilman Cooper asked what was going on with the levee. He said about two weeks ago he saw the Levee Board sandbagging where the water was eating into the levee. President Dufresne said he was not aware of it. Councilman Cooper said he doesn't see a lot of people going to the testing site. He indicated that people went to the Wallace testing site and to the Donaldsonville testing site. President Dufresne said the most important thing was that the residents have an avenue to get tested. Councilman Cooper inquired about trace results. Mr. Deroche said it is being done by the State Department of Health and the Parish does not have the results. Mr. Deroche indicated that we only have the results of our testing site in Gramercy and we do not get the results from the 5th District testing site. Councilman Cooper asked if we could get the results. Mr. Deroche said it was asked in the past and LDH will not giving that information due to HIPPA. The only information being release by LDH is on their website.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Nash and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary