

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A PUBLIC HEARING HELD BY
THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

The Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, met for a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the Parish Courthouse in Convent, Louisiana on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 6:10pm, following the Board of Review.

The following were recorded present: Council Members Jason Amato, Ryan Louque, Mason Bland, Clyde Cooper, Vondra Etienne-Steib, and Chairman Alvin St. Pierre. Councilman Donald Nash was absent.

Chairman St. Pierre called the Public Hearing on the following items to order:

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 21-08, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT
AND/OR REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS, AND EXPENSES
INCURRED BY OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, AND EMPLOYEES OF ST. JAMES PARISH
GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF CIVIL LITIGATION AND/OR CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES**

Mr. Maley, Special Counsel, said that a citizen raised an issue on social media regarding the section number reference in the ordinance. He went on to explained that during the re-organization of the Code of Ordinances the company, hired for the project, placed the ordinance in a category that was not the same category of the one that had been amended. He further explained that it is the same ordinance, and it's a summary that appears online of that ordinance, and at the bottom of that ordinance, its indexed to ordinance 19-13. He added that they will fix that and go with what the company had decided was the right category and change it to 78-3, which references 19-13.

He said during the past two weeks, some of the council members wanted to address some issues. He stated the following changes will be made.

- WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall required a ~~simple two-thirds (2/3)~~ majority vote to pass and/or to be amended. ~~Abstentions and absences are excluded in calculating this two-thirds vote.~~
- Section 1. Section ~~78-3 82-2~~ is hereby amended as follows,
Section ~~78-3 82-2~~ – Defense fees, costs, and expenses
- (c) Any Payments under this ordinance are discretionary by the council and require ~~2/3~~ majority vote of the members of the council, to invoke.
- (d).....and (2) the St. James Parish Council ~~by 2/3~~ majority vote makes the decision to do.....
- (d)(D)....unmerited litigation or unwarranted criminal charges. ~~and a court deems that the civil litigation was frivolous and/or the court finds that the criminal prosecution was not justified.~~

At this time Chairman St. Pierre called for public comment. Ms. Gail Leboeuf, 758 N. Ezidore Street, Gramercy, spoke in opposition.

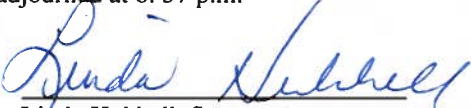
Mr. Maley then answered the council member's questions.

Mr. Ryan Donadieu, 3536 Irene Lane, Paulina said Section 18-37 (building official) has protections for that position, which he read aloud, and said he thinks it should be for all employees.

At this time Chairman St. Pierre requested a motion to accept the amendments to the ordinance. Councilman Amato offered a motion and was seconded by Councilman Louque. After a roll call vote showing Louque, Amato, Cooper, Etienne-Steib, St. Pierre in favor, Bland against, and Nash absent, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman Cooper and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6: 57 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary