

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A PUBLIC HEARING HELD BY
THE ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023**

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 at 6:00p.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Those present were Council Members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr., Jason Amato, Ryan Louque, Mason Bland, Clyde Cooper, Donald Nash, and Vondra Etienne-Steib.

Chairwoman Etienne-Steib called the Public Hearing on the following items to order:

**ORDINANCE 22-20, AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTING A SEWER USER FEE FOR THE
TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER FROM, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWER
SYSTEM IN THE PARKVIEW ESTATES SUBDIVISION**

Operations Director, Rick Webre, explained that eventually we will one ordinance to cover all subdivisions but right now we need to write an ordinance for each subdivision for the sewer fee. That fee will cover some the cost of labor, materials, and other expenses that impact the system.

Councilman St. Pierre said we need to give landowners a heads-up, until that ordinance is put into place, instead of after the acceptance. Mr. Webre said the new ordinance will take of that and indicated that the one-time user impact fee is not paid for by the landowner it is paid for by the contractor (homeowner) building the home.

After the council Secretary read aloud the ordinance, Chairwoman called for public comment.

Councilman St. Pierre verified that the fee will be placed in an escrow account and will be in the budget. Mr. Webre verified that it would.

No comments were received from the Public.

**ORDINANCE 22-21, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL**

After the Council Secretary read aloud the proposed ordinance, Councilman Bland explained that all of the points are pretty much in the ordinance. He indicated that the pay rate is not for the current council, it is for the next council beginning in 2024. He said the inflation rate since the last pay rate is about 86%, which is less than a 2% raise year-over-year. He reiterated, from the Advocate's article, that the council does not get insurance, retirement, and car allowance of any sort. He said that this was in the 2021, 2022, and 2023 budgets since it was introduced in 2020.

The following attendees spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance:

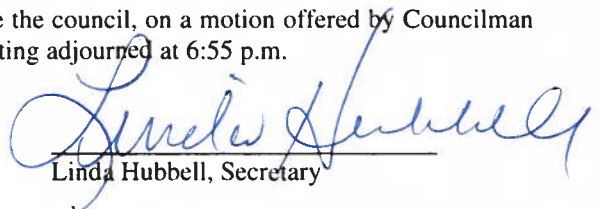
Michelle Roussel, 3355 Denise Street, Hester, LA
Gail LeBoeuf, 758 N. Ezidore Street, Gramercy, LA
Cully Frisard, 705 N Airline Hwy, Gramercy, LA
Dustin Poche, 3405 Maura Street, Paulina, LA
Karen Roussel, 3237 Denise Rd, Hester, LA
Sean O'Conner, 21222 Hwy 20, Vacherie, LA

Council members Alvin St. Pierre, Jr. and Jason Amato spoke in opposition on the proposed ordinance. Council members Ryan Louque, Mason Bland, Clyde Cooper, Donald Nash, and Vondra Etienne Steib spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance.

President Dufresne said this administration, and himself personally, has been working diligently on working to save money.

ADJOURNMENT

After determining there was no additional business to come before the council, on a motion offered by Councilman Bland and seconded by Councilman St. Pierre and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Linda Hubbell, Secretary