



St. Charles Parish

Meeting Minutes

Parish Council

St. Charles Parish
Courthouse
15045 Highway 18
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
985-783-5000
www.stcharlesparish-la.gov

Organizational Meeting - Final

Council Chairman Dick Gibbs
Councilmembers Wendy Benedetto, Holly Fonseca,
La Sandra Darenbourg Gordon, Mary K. Clulee, Nicky Dufrene,
Marilyn B. Bellock, Bob Fisher, Julia Fisher-Perrier

Monday, January 13, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Courthouse

ATTENDANCE

Present 9 - Wendy Benedetto, Holly Fonseca, La Sandra Darenbourg Gordon, Mary K. Clulee, Dick Gibbs, Nicky Dufrene, Marilyn B. Bellock, Bob Fisher, and Julia Fisher-Perrier

Also Present

Parish President Matthew Jewell, Executive Assistant Rechell Champagne, Robert Raymond, Department of Legal Services, Chief Administrative Officer Mike Palamone, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Billy Raymond, Chief Operations Officer Darrin Duhe, Executive Director of Technology and Cybersecurity Anthony Ayo, Finance Director Grant Dussom, Emergency Preparedness Director Joe Ganote, Public Works/Wastewater Director Miles Bingham, Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert, Waterworks Director Robbie Brou, Community Services Director Joan Tonglet Diaz, Economic Development & Tourism Director Corey Fauchaux, Parks and Recreation Director Duane Foret, Justin Robert, Public Information Office

CALL TO ORDER

Councilwoman Fisher-Perrier, 2019 Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

PRAYER / PLEDGE

Pastor Chris Housewright
Grace Point Church, Destrehan

SPECIAL BUSINESS (PROCLAMATIONS, CANVASS RETURNS, ETC.)

[2020-0001](#)

Accept Nominations and Confirm Nomination - Presiding Officer for 2020;
Chairman, St. Charles Parish Council

Public comment opened; no public comment

Nominee:

Councilwoman Benedetto nominated Councilman Gibbs as Chairman

Nomination(s) Accepted

A motion was made by Councilmember Clulee, seconded by Councilmember Fisher, to Close Nomination(s) for File No. 2020-0001. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Nomination(s) Closed

VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMAN DICK GIBBS

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0002](#)

Accept Nominations and Confirm Nomination - Presiding Officer for 2020;
Vice-Chairman, St. Charles Parish Council

Public comment opened; no public comment

Nominee:

Councilman Gibbs nominated Councilwoman Bellock as Vice-Chairman

Nomination(s) Accepted

A motion was made by Councilmember Gibbs, seconded by Councilmember Benedetto, to Close Nomination(s) for File No. 2020-0002. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Nomination(s) Closed

VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILWOMAN MARILYN B. BELLOCK

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

Former Chairman Fisher-Perrier announced the meeting will recess for a few minutes.

Chairman Gibbs congratulated Parish President Matthew Jewell and continued with the remainder of the meeting.

[2020-0003](#)

Appoint Council Secretary

Public comment opened; no public comment

Nominee:

Councilwoman Fisher-Perrier nominated Ms. Michelle Impastato as Council Secretary

Nomination(s) Accepted

A motion was made by Councilmember Benedetto, seconded by Councilmember Fisher, to Close Nomination(s) for File No. 2020-0003. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Nomination(s) Closed

VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. MICHELLE IMPASTATO

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0004](#)

Adopt St. Charles Parish Council Rules

Public comment opened; no public comment

Ms. Michelle Impastato, Council Secretary, informed Chairman Gibbs of changes made to the council rules.

Chairman Gibbs stated that there are grammatical changes in the existing rules but nothing that dramatically changes the rules.

Councilwoman Benedetto spoke on the matter.

Chairman Gibbs spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE COUNCIL RULES AS AMENDED

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Adopted

2020-0005

Adopt St. Charles Parish Council Expense Regulations

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion

Amendment: to amend the proposed St. Charles Parish Council Expense Regulations as follows:

1. Index page 2. under "**COMMUNICATION**" add "Internet Service"
2. Index page 2. under "**MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT**" add "Internet Service"
3. "**COMMUNICATION**" page 8. add "Internet service shall be provided by the Parish. Expenses incurred for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of internet service equipment shall be paid for by the Department of Finance up to the limit allocated for each Councilmember in the annual enacted budget. In lieu of the Parish providing internet service, each Councilmember may choose to use a personal internet service provider and receive a monthly flat rate reimbursement up to the limit allocated in the annual budget."
4. "**MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT**" page 9. add "**INTERNET SERVICE**" to the subheading, and to add at the end of the first paragraph "...provided by the Parish."

Further Council Discussion

Executive Director of Technology and Cybersecurity Anthony Ayo spoke on the matter.

Robert Raymond, Department of Legal Services spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Clulee stated there were additional changes, mostly grammatical, that she would like incorporated in addition in globo.

Chairman Gibbs restated to add internet services to the parish council expense regulations and the grammatical changes amended in globo.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fonseca, seconded by Councilmember Benedetto, to Adopt as Amended File No. 2020-0005.

VOTE ON THE COUNCIL EXPENSE REGULATIONS AS AMENDED

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Adopted

[2020-0011](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of Finance
- Mr. Grant M. Dussom

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. GRANT M. DUSSOM

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher
and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0012](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of
Emergency Preparedness - Mr. Joe Ganote

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. JOE GANOTE

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher
and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0013](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of Public Works/Department of Wastewater - Mr. Miles B. Bingham

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. MILES B. BINGHAM

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0014](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of Waterworks - Mr. Robert Brou

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. ROBERT BROU

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0015](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of Planning & Zoning - Mr. Michael J. Albert

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. MICHAEL J. ALBERT

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0016](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of Parks and Recreation - Mr. Duane P. Foret

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. DUANE P. FORET

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0017](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of
Community Services - Ms. Joan Tonglet Diaz

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MS. JOAN TONGLET DIAZ

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher
and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0018](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of
Economic Development and Tourism - Mr. Corey Faucheux

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. COREY FAUCHEUX

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher
and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0019](#)

Confirmation Hearing for Appointment of Director - Department of Legal Services - Mr. Corey M. Oubre

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION OF MR. COREY M. OUBRE

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Confirmed

[2020-0006](#)

Appointment of Chairman to the Operations, Maintenance, and Construction Management Committee

Council Chairman named Councilman Fisher to act as Chairman.

Confirmed

[2020-0007](#)

Appointment of Chairman to the Legislative Committee

Council Chairman named Councilwoman Benedetto to act as Chairman.

Confirmed

[2020-0008](#)

Appointment of Chairman to the Contract/Finance and Administrative Committee

Council Chairman named Councilman Gibbs to act as Chairman.

Confirmed

[2020-0009](#)

Appointment of Chairman to the Special Projects/Public Safety, Health, and Environmental Committee

Council Chairman named Councilwoman Bellock to act as Chairman.

Confirmed

[2020-0010](#)

Appointment of Chairman to the Hurricane Protection Projects Committee

Council Chairman named Councilwoman Fisher-Perrier to act as Chairman.

Confirmed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Clulee, seconded by Councilmember Dufrene, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:32 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE.

Michelle Impastato
Council Secretary