



# 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.gov](http://www.stcharlesparish.gov)

### Final

**Council Chairman Beth A. Billings**  
**Councilmembers Holly Fonseca, La Sandra Darensbourg Gordon,**  
**Mary K. Clulee, Dick Gibbs, Nicky Dufrene, Marilyn B. Bellock,**  
**Bob Fisher, Julia Fisher-Cormier**

Monday, June 5, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Courthouse

### ATTENDANCE

**Present** 8 - Holly Fonseca, La Sandra Darensbourg Gordon, Mary K. Clulee, Dick Gibbs, Nicky Dufrene, Marilyn B. Bellock, Bob Fisher, and Julia Fisher-Cormier

**Absent** 1 - Beth A. Billings

### Also Present

Parish President Matthew Jewell, Legal Services Director Corey Oubre, Legal Services Assistant Director Robert Raymond, Chief Administrative Officer Mike Palamone, Chief Operations Officer Darrin Duhe, Executive Director of Technology and Cybersecurity Anthony Ayo, Director of Communications/Public Information Officer Samantha de Castro, Finance Director Grant Dussom, Emergency Preparedness Director Jason Tastet, Public Works Director Miles Bingham, Wastewater Director David deGeneres, Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert, General Government Buildings Facilities Manager Bob Messerly, Blaine Faucheux, Public Information Office, Dawn Higdon, Legal Services Department, Jim Polk, Emergency Preparedness Department

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Vice-Chairman Dick Gibbs (Acting Chairman); due to technical difficulties a 5 minute delay in the commencement of meeting occurred.

### PRAYER / PLEDGE

Reverend Carvin Smith  
Philadelphia Baptist Church, Hahnville

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Darensbourg Gordon, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 22, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

**SPECIAL BUSINESS (PROCLAMATIONS, CANVASS RETURNS, ETC.)**

[2023-0131](#)

Proclamation: "Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month"

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell

**Read**

[2023-0132](#)

Proclamation: "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day"

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell

**Read**

[2023-0133](#)

Proclamation: "Juneteenth Day of Observance in St. Charles Parish"

**Sponsors:** Ms. Bellock and Ms. Darensbourg Gordon

**Read**

[2023-0134](#)

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Charles, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax (ARC) therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Bond Counsel

Reported:

- Bond Counsel Recommended: Approval
- Mr. Jason Akers, representing Foley & Judell, L.L.P, spoke on the matter.
- Ms. Victoria Bryant, Arc of St. Charles Executive Director, spoke on the matter.
- Mr. Jeffrey Kuo, Ad-Hoc Member, Arc of St. Charles Board of Directors, spoke on the matter.
- Mr. Pernelle Pellegrin, Audit Partner of Martin & Pellegrin Group, spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion  
Ms. Bryant spoke on the matter.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 6698

## REPORTS (FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES)

### [2023-0135](#)

Department of Emergency Preparedness and Hurricane Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Director Jason Tastet reported.

Councilwoman Fonseca spoke on the matter.

Mr. Tastet spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Darenbourg Gordon spoke on the matter.

Acting Chairman Gibbs spoke on the matter.

**Reported**

### [2023-0136](#)

Parish President Remarks/Report

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell

Parish President Matthew Jewell reported.

Councilwoman Fonseca spoke on the matter.

President Jewell spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Darenbourg Gordon spoke on the matter.

Councilman Fisher spoke on the matter.

**Reported**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV, SECTION B OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER, CHAIRMAN BILLINGS AUTHORIZED THAT THE ORDINANCES, HAVING BEEN PRESENTED FOR INTRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE PARISH PRESIDENT, AND NOT REJECTED BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS, ARE TO BE PUBLISHED IN SUMMARY FORM AS FOLLOWS IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL WITH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE, HAHNVILLE, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FINAL PASSAGE:**

### [2023-0115](#)

An ordinance to provide for amendments of the St. Charles Parish Home Rule Charter, Article III, Sections A. 2. and B. 2., to adjust the annual salaries of the St. Charles Parish Council and Parish President as well as provide for submission of the proposed amendments to the qualified electors of the Parish of St. Charles.

**Sponsors:** Ms. Fonseca, Ms. Billings, Ms. Darenbourg Gordon, Ms. Clulee, Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Fisher

**Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 19, 2023**

[2023-0140](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Contract with Barriere Construction Co., LLC for Road Maintenance 2022-23 (Project No. P220501) in the amount of \$2,499,902.45.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

**Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 19, 2023**

[2023-0141](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Contract with Sealevel Construction, Inc., for Destrehan Pump Station (P.S.) No. 2 Conveyance Improvements (Project No. P181101), in the amount of \$9,190,697.00.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

**Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 19, 2023**

[2023-0142](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Fairway Consulting and Engineering, LLC, to perform engineering services for the River Oaks Lift Station Replacement (Project No. S230501), in the amount not to exceed \$191,000.00.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Wastewater

**Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 19, 2023**

[2023-0143](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Alpha Testing and Inspection, Inc., to perform testing services for Destrehan Pump Station (P.S.) No. 2 Conveyance Improvements (Project No. P181101), in the not to exceed amount of \$66,000.00.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

**Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 19, 2023**

## PLANNING AND ZONING PETITIONS

### [2023-0126](#)

An ordinance to amend the St. Charles Parish Zoning Ordinance of 1981, to change the zoning classification from M-2 to M-1 on Lots 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19, Esperanza Business Park Phase 2, as shown on the Final Plan Esperanza Business Park Phase 2 by Stephen P. Flynn, PLS dated April 8, 2020, Deputy Jeff G. Watson Drive, Luling, as requested by Debra Dufresne Vial for Esperanza Land, LLC & Hank Tatje for T Times 4, LLC.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Planning & Zoning

Reported:

P & Z Department Recommended: Approval

Planning Commission Recommended: Approval

Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert spoke on the matter.

Speakers:

Ms. Debra Dufresne Vial, Luling, representing Esperanza Land, LLC

### **Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-1

### **VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-1

---

**ORDINANCES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING  
(INTRODUCED AT PREVIOUS MEETING)**[2023-0122](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 2 - Final for Parish Project No. S170601, Luling Oxidation Pond Rehabilitation and Upgrades, to increase the contract amount by \$261,760.15.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Wastewater

Reported:

Wastewater Department Recommended: Approval  
Wastewater Director David deGeneres spoke on the matter.

**Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-2

Council Discussion

Mr. deGeneres spoke on the matter.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-2

[2023-0124](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of an Agreement by and between Diamond Green Diesel, LLC, St. Charles Parish, St. Charles Parish School Board, St. Charles Parish Law Enforcement District, St. Charles Parish Assessment District, Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana, and Pontchartrain Levee District to support the expansion of Foreign Trade Subzone 124 A to include Diamond Green Diesel operations at the IMTT Terminal in St. Rose, Louisiana.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval  
Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.

President Jewell invited Mr. Adam Keyes, Valero, to the podium to speak on the matter.  
Mr. Keyes spoke on the matter.

**Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-3

Councilman Fisher stated his reason for abstaining.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 7 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Fisher

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-3

[2023-0127](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 for SCP E. Dufresne Community Center Ida & Window Repairs, (Project No. EDCC 0322), to increase the contract amount by \$82,465.00 and increase the contract time by 9 days.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and General Government Buildings

Reported:

General Government Buildings Recommended: Approval  
Chief Operations Officer Darrin Duhe spoke on the matter.

**Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-4

Council Discussion

Mr. Duhe spoke on the matter.

Mr. Duhe invited Ms. Elena Anderson, Meyer Engineers, LTD to the podium to speak on the matter.

Ms. Anderson spoke on the matter.

Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-4

[2023-0128](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 for St. Charles Parish West Bank Library Hurricane IDA Repairs, (Project No. LR211105), to increase the contract amount by \$41,721.00 and increase the contract time by 76 days.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and General Government Buildings

Reported:

General Government Buildings Recommended: Approval  
Chief Operations Officer Darrin Duhe spoke on the matter.

**Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-5

Council Discussion

Mr. Duhe spoke on the matter.

Mr. Duhe invited Mr. Michael Tabb, Murray Architects to the podium to speak on the matter.

Mr. Tabb spoke on the matter.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-5

[2023-0129](#)

An ordinance to amend the St. Charles Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, Elections, Section 8-2. Visible Voting Precinct Boundaries and Polling Places, to merge voting precincts.

**Sponsors:** Ms. Billings, Ms. Fonseca, Ms. Darensbourg Gordon, Ms. Clulee, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Dufrene, Ms. Bellock, Mr. Fisher and Ms. Fisher-Cormier

Reported:

St. Charles Parish Council Recommended: Approval  
Acting Chairman Gibbs invited Mr. Josh Manning, representing South Central Planning & Development Commission to the podium to speak on the matter.  
Mr. Manning spoke on the matter.

**Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-6

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier



**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-6

[2023-0130](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Contract with Command Construction, LLC, for Barber Road Bank Stabilization (Project No. P210702) in the amount of \$2,880,543.00.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval  
Public Works Director Miles Bingham spoke on the matter.

**Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied**

Enactment No: 23-6-7

Council Discussion

Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.  
Mr. Bingham spoke on the matter.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 23-6-7

**PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

[2023-0139](#)

Mr. Russell Diggs, Sr.: Planning and Zoning Code Enforcement

**Heard**

**RESOLUTIONS**[2023-0137](#)

A resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a Federally Funded Agreement with the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for funding in the amount of \$5,350,985.16 to elevate 30 residential flood prone structures to prevent further damages and reduce NFIP claims.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Grants Office

Reported:

Grants Office Recommended: Approval  
Grants Officer Carla Chiasson spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened

Mr. Walter Pilie, Destrehan

Council Discussion

Ms. Chiasson spoke on the matter.

Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 6699

[2023-0139](#)

Mr. Russell Diggs, Sr.: Planning and Zoning Code Enforcement

Due to technical difficulties during Persons to Address the Council, Acting Chairman Gibbs invited Mr. Russell Diggs Sr., back to the podium.

Councilwoman Darenbourg Gordon spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Darenbourg Gordon invited Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert to podium to speak on the matter.

Mr. Albert spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Darenbourg Gordon spoke on the matter.

Mr. Diggs spoke on the matter.

Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Clulee spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Bellock spoke on the matter.

Legal Services Director Corey Oubre spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cormier spoke on the matter.

**Discussed.**

[2023-0138](#)

A resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the State of Louisiana Division of Administration Office of Community Development and St. Charles Parish regarding the allocation of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program funding as a result of Year 2021 Ida & May Storms.

**Sponsors:** Mr. Jewell and Grants Office

Reported:

Grants Office Recommended: Approval  
Grants Officer Carla Chiasson spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened; no public comment

**VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 6700

**SPECIAL MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL**[2023-0120](#)

A resolution appointing the St. Charles Herald-Guide as Official Journal to serve the Parish Council of St. Charles Parish for the period June 2023 through June 2024.

The Parish Council Office received sealed bid from the St. Charles Herald-Guide on May 31, 2023.

Acting Chairman Gibbs opened and read the bid.

Public comment opened; no public comment

**VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ST. CHARLES HERALD-GUIDE**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

Enactment No: 6701

## ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Bellock, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:23 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yea:** 8 - Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Dufrene, Bellock, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Billings

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE.**

---

**Michelle Impastato  
Council Secretary**