



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

Final

Council Chairman Julia Fisher-Perrier
Councilmembers Wendy Benedetto, Paul J. Hogan,
Terrell D. Wilson, Mary K. Clulee, Dick Gibbs,
William Billy Woodruff, Marilyn B. Bellock, Traci A. Fletcher

Monday, June 3, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Courthouse

ATTENDANCE

Present 9 - Wendy Benedetto, Paul J. Hogan, Terrell D. Wilson, Mary K. Clulee, John R. 'Dick' Gibbs, William Woodruff, Marilyn B. Bellock, Traci A. Fletcher, and Julia Fisher-Perrier

Also Present

Parish President Larry Cochran, Executive Secretary Robin Delahoussaye, Legal Services Director Robert Raymond, Chief Administrative Officer Billy Raymond, Executive Director Darrin Duhe, Executive Director Dwayne LaGrange, Finance Director Grant Dussom, Public Works/Wastewater Director Clayton Fauchoux, Senior Projects Manager Sam Scholle, Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert, Emergency Preparedness Director Joe Ganote, Chandra Sampey, Contract Monitoring Specialist, Heather Keller, Public Information Office

CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER / PLEDGE

Father John M. Ryan
St. Gertrude Catholic Church, Des Allemands

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Gibbs, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 20, 2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

SPECIAL BUSINESS (PROCLAMATIONS, CANVASS RETURNS, ETC.)

[2019-0170](#)

In Recognition: Mrs. Felicia Gomez-Walker, St. Charles Parish Public Schools Superintendent

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran

Read

[2019-0171](#)

Proclamation: "Weekend of the Catfish"

Sponsors: Mr. Woodruff

Read

[2019-0172](#)

In Recognition: Trash Bash Awards
2019 Spring Trash Bash Raffle Winners
Adelaide and Leo Harms
Sanova Smith

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran

Parish President Larry Cochran spoke on the matter.

Read

[2019-0173](#)

Proclamation: "The 2020 Census Campaign in St. Charles Parish"

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran

Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert spoke on the matter.
Chairman Fisher-Perrier spoke on the matter.

Read

REPORTS (FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES)[2019-0168](#)

Department of Emergency Preparedness and Hurricane Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Director Joe Ganote reported on the Department of Emergency Preparedness and Hurricane Preparedness

Parish President Larry Cochran spoke on the matter.

Mr. Ganote spoke on the matter.

Councilwoman Clulee spoke on the matter.

Councilman Wilson spoke on the matter.

Reported

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV, SECTION B OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER, CHAIRMAN FISHER-PERRIER 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 17, 2019, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE, HAHNVILLE, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

[2019-0169](#)

An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of not exceeding Five Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$575,000) of Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2019 (the "Bonds"), of the Parish of St. Charles, State of Louisiana; providing for the sale and issuance of the Bonds, awarding said Bonds to the purchaser thereof, fixing certain details of the Bonds, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Bond Counsel

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 17, 2019

[2019-0174](#)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the execution of a Construction Contract with Pontchartrain Partners, LLC for Project No. P080905-6B, grant reference Project No. BA-0216, Magnolia Ridge Levee Project, as part of the West Bank Hurricane Protection Levee Project, in the amount of \$2,399,905.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 17, 2019

[2019-0175](#)

An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Section 15-5.1. Engine brake (unmuffled compression brake) (a) to add (4) a "No Unmuffled Compression Brake" area on a stretch of Highway 90 in Boutte near I-310.

Sponsors: Mr. Hogan

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 17, 2019

[2019-0176](#)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the execution of a professional service agreement with Stuart Consulting Group, Inc. for providing all necessary professional engineering services for a preliminary study for the Ormond Center project. (Parish Project Number P190505).

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on June 17, 2019

ORDINANCES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING (INTRODUCED AT PREVIOUS MEETING)

[2019-0151](#)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the execution of a professional service agreement with Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc., for providing all necessary professional engineering services for a drainage maintenance project for Ormond Lakes Dredging (Watershed) Project No. P180806.

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Department of Public Works

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval

Speakers:

Mr. Walter Pilie, Destrehan

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 19-6-1

Council Discussion

Public Works/Wastewater Director Clayton Fauchaux spoke on the matter.

Parish President Larry Cochran spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 19-6-1

[2019-0152](#)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the execution of a professional service multi-phase project agreement with Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc., for providing all necessary professional engineering services for a project that replaces an existing 30-inch pump with a 48-inch pump at the Schexnaydre Pump Station (P.S.). (Parish Project Number P190502).

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Department of Public Works

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval

Speakers:

Mr. Walter Pilie, Destrehan

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 19-6-2

Council Discussion

Public Works/Wastewater Director Clayton Fauchaux spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 19-6-2

[2019-0163](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 for the Ellington Drainage Pump Station Project No. P080905-5D, grant reference Project No. H.013148, as part of the West Bank Hurricane Protection Levee Project, to increase the contract amount by \$36,252.00 and increase the contract time by fifty nine (59) days.

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Department of Public Works

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval
Senior Projects Manager Sam Scholle spoke on the matter.

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 19-6-3

Council Discussion
Mr. Scholle spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 19-6-3

[2019-0164](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement for Parish Project No P080802 Montz Master Drainage Plan Implementation with GCR Inc. to provide professional services regarding the acquisitions of servitude, fee simple parcels, and permitting.

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran and Department of Public Works

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 19-6-4

Council Discussion
Public Works/Wastewater Director Clayton Fauchaux spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 19-6-4

2019-0165

An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances for the Parish of St. Charles, Chapter 1 General Provisions, Section 1-2. Rules of construction and definitions by adding the following after the 3rd section paragraph: "Upon ordinances being constructed and made part of this Code, the manifest intent of the parish council expressed by the ordinance shall be liberally construed in order that the true intent and meaning of the parish council shall be fully carried out in all cases by the Administration through its interpretation and application of the Code of Ordinances. In cases where the parish council takes actions which are contradictory to the Code of Ordinances, the Parish President has the duty and obligation to not approve and not enforce such actions".

Sponsors: Mr. Hogan

Councilman Hogan motioned to Postpone Indefinitely File No. 2019-0165 based upon the legal opinion received on May 17, 2019; motion failed for lack of a second.

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Council Discussion

Reported:

Councilman Hogan Recommended: Approval

Proposed ordinance failed for lack of a majority by the following vote:

Yea: 1 - Hogan

Nay: 8 - Benedetto, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Failed

RESOLUTIONS

[2019-0166](#)

A resolution calling for the Chairman of the Council to appoint a Special Committee in accordance with Council Rule No. 32 to investigate the matters noted in the two "Special Matters To Be Considered By Council" which have appeared in the March 11 and May 20, 2019 council meeting agendas, both pertaining to the apparent Misuse of Public Equipment on Private Property.

Sponsors: Mr. Hogan

Reported:

Councilman Hogan Recommended: Approval

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion

Chairman Fisher-Perrier read into the record Parish Council Rule 32.

Parish President Larry Cochran spoke on the matter.

Proposed resolution failed for lack of a majority by the following vote:

Yea: 1 - Hogan

Nay: 8 - Benedetto, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Failed

[2019-0167](#)

A resolution authorizing and calling for the Parish Council to conduct a formal investigation into the two “Special Matters To Be Considered By Council” which have appeared on the May 20, 2019 council meeting agenda regarding the misuse of public equipment on private property, pursuant to the Home Rule Charter, Article III. Organizations, Structure & Distribution of Powers and Functions, A. The Governing Authority, 7. Powers & Duties of the Parish Council, c. iv.

Sponsors: Mr. Hogan

Reported:

Councilman Hogan Recommended: Approval

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion

Parish President Larry Cochran spoke on the matter.

Legal Services Director Robert Raymond spoke on the matter.

Chairman Fisher-Perrier asked Councilman Hogan to stay on topic.

Proposed resolution failed for lack of a majority by the following vote:

Yea: 1 - Hogan

Nay: 8 - Benedetto, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Failed

[2019-0177](#)

A resolution in support of the St. Charles Parish application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the improvements of the Wetland Watcher’s Park in Norco, LA.

Sponsors: Mr. Cochran

Public comment opened on the motion to deviate; no public comment

A motion was made by Councilmember Clulee, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, to deviate from the regular order of the agenda to take up File No. 2019-0177; a matter not on the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 6414

Deviated

Enactment No: 6414

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Executive Director Darrin Duhe spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion
Mr. Duhe spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Yea: 8 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6414

A motion was made by Councilmember Fletcher, seconded by Councilmember Benedetto, to return to the regular order of the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 8 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6414

Returned

Enactment No: 6414

APPOINTMENTS

[2019-0129](#)

A resolution to appoint Mr. Michael J. Dunn to the St. Charles Parish Planning & Zoning Commission as the District V Representative.

VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. MICHAEL J. DUNN

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 6415

SPECIAL MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL[2019-0156](#)

A resolution appointing an Official Journal to serve the Parish Council of St. Charles Parish for the period June 2019 through June 2020.

Chairman Fisher-Perrier opened the sealed bid and read the bid received from St. Charles Herald-Guide.

Public comment opened; no public comment

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

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

Enactment No: 6416

[2019-0072](#)

Misuse of Public Equipment on Private Property on July 1, 2018 in Paradis, Louisiana, was referred by the Legal Department to the District Attorney, who has since advised in a meeting held on May 8, 2019, his position remains that after careful review, he finds no criminal intent, would decline to prosecute and refuse any charges brought against the individuals involved, and it was his understanding this matter was referred to St. Charles Parish officials, which he believes is the appropriate agency to deal with this particular matter and its policies and procedure for employees going forward.

Sponsors: Mr. Hogan

Councilman Hogan discussed File No. 2019-0072.

Discussed.

[2019-0145](#)

Misuse of Public Equipment on Private Property in early 2018, when the Parish performed clearing and ditch work that was to be done by the developer of River Road Estates Subdivision shown on the construction plans, done by the Parish under the false pretense that it had a historical servitude in the work area, which documents obtained through normal channels and through public records request confirmed that the Parish has no historical servitude and that the first time the Parish ever performed work in this area was when it performed the illegal work in 2018, which is supported by a conversation had with two of the family members whose family owned the property from 1936 until sold for subdivision development in 2004, who stated that they have no knowledge of the Parish ever having worked on their property.

Sponsors: Mr. Hogan

Councilman Hogan discussed File No. 2019-0145.

Discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Benedetto, seconded by Councilmember Fletcher, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:33 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 9 - Benedetto, Hogan, Wilson, Clulee, Gibbs, Woodruff, Bellock, Fletcher and Fisher-Perrier

Nay: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE.

Michelle Impastato
Council Secretary