



# ST. CHARLES PARISH

*PAUL J. HOGAN, PE*

COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT IV

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2010

TO: PARISH COUNCIL

FROM: PAUL J. HOGAN, P.E.  
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT IV

RE: RULE 31

I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on the proposed change to Council Rule 31. File Number 2010-0361 regarding a change to Council Rule 31 was tabled at the November 8, 2010 Council Meeting. Rule 31 states "A vote may be reconsidered at any time during the same meeting. A vote can be reconsidered at any future meeting provided the ordinance has not become law".

For ordinances to become law, they have to be enacted by the Council, signed by the Parish President (or neither approved nor disapproved but signed provided it is not vetoed), and advertised in the Official Journal of the Parish. Ordinances currently do not become law until after the next meeting, which is following the meeting that the ordinance was enacted. This allows the Council to bring up an ordinance that was enacted to be brought back up by the Council at a subsequent meeting without informing the public that the Council may change its mind.

That was not able to happen when the Rule was put in place. When the Rule was created, the Official Journal was published twice a week which provided for the ordinance to become law before the next meeting following the meeting at which it was enacted. The Council could not reconsider without calling for a Special Meeting which would provide notice to the public. With the way it is now, there would be no public notice. That is what I am trying to correct.

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Once the Council enacts an ordinance, it should only be allowed to be reconsidered at the same meeting. Any other reconsideration should only be by reintroducing the ordinance thereby informing the public and allowing public comment. Not to do so is like saying "I am going to tell you what you want to hear while you are in front of me, but I am going to do what I want after you leave". We should not have a Rule that allows us to do such a thing.

This proposed resolution simply removes the existing part which states "A vote can be reconsidered at any future meeting provided the ordinance has not become law".

I ask for your support in amending this Rule for the benefit of those we represent.

PJH/BJT306:ag