



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

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 19, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Courthouse

ATTENDANCE

Present 8 - Beth A. Billings, Holly Fonseca, La Sandra Darensbourg Gordon, Mary K. Clulee, Dick Gibbs, Nicky Dufrene, Bob Fisher, and Julia Fisher-Cormier

Absent 1 - Marilyn B. Bellock

Also Present

Parish President Matthew Jewell, Legal Services Director Corey Oubre, Chief Administrative Officer Mike Palamone, Executive Director of Technology and Cybersecurity Anthony Ayo, Director of Communications/Public Information Officer Samantha de Castro, Finance Director Grant Dussom, Public Works Assistant Director Brandon Bernard, Wastewater Director David deGeneres, Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert, Economic Development & Tourism Director Corey Fauchaux, Eric Zurcher, Public Information Office

CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER / PLEDGE

Silent Prayer

Pledge was led by Chairman Beth A. Billings (Councilwoman-At-Large, Division A).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Darensbourg Gordon, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 5, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

SPECIAL BUSINESS (PROCLAMATIONS, CANVASS RETURNS, ETC.)

[2023-0144](#)

Proclamation: "247th Anniversary of American Independence"

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Read

[2023-0155](#)

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Charles, State of Louisiana, to vote upon the adoption of amendments to the current St. Charles Parish Home Rule Charter; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

Chairman Billings requested that File No. 2023-0155 be deferred until after File No. 2023-0115.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fonseca, seconded by Councilmember Fisher, to Defer File No. 2023-0155 until after File No. 2023-0115. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6702

Deferred

Enactment No: 6702

REPORTS (FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES)

[2023-0145](#)

Port of South Louisiana

Mr. Paul Matthews, Chief Executive Officer reported.

Councilwoman Clulee spoke on the matter.

Mr. Matthews spoke on the matter.

Reported

[2023-0146](#)

Parish President Remarks/Report

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell

Parish President Matthew Jewell reported.

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, JULY 10, 2023, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE, HAHNVILLE, TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

[2023-0152](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 (Final) for Hill Heights Drainage Improvements, Project No. P190802, to decrease the contract amount by \$116,284.80 and 41 calendar days.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0154](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Eustis Engineering, L.L.C., to perform geotechnical services for the Luling Pond Lift Station and Upgrades (Project No. S211204), in the lump sum amount of \$47,900.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Wastewater

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0153](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Danny J. Hebert, P.E., L.L.C. d.b.a. Civil & Environmental Consulting Engineers, to perform engineering services for the East Bank Bridge Park Improvements (Project No. RECEBI23), in the not to exceed amount of \$293,500.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Parks and Recreation

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0156](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Volkert, Inc., to perform engineering services for the KCS Canal Drainage Improvements (Project No. P230401), in the not to exceed amount of \$260,348.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0157](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of an Amendment No. 2 to Ordinance No. 19-7-3 which approved the Professional Services Agreement with Picciola & Associates, Inc., to perform engineering services for the Destrehan Pump Station (P.S.) No. 2 Conveyance Improvements (Project No. P181101), in the not to exceed amount of \$111,500.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0158](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Shread-Kuyrkendall & Associates, Inc., to perform engineering services for the Engineers and Good Hope Canals Pipeline Location Investigation (Project No. P230402), in the lump sum amount of \$112,315.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0159](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Bryant Hammett & Associates, LLC, to perform surveying services for the Texaco Road Survey (Project No. P230601), in the lump sum amount of \$41,640.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0160](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Principal Engineering, Inc., to perform engineering services for a US 61 Canal Improvements Project (Project No. P230602), in the not to exceed amount of \$48,656.25.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0161](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a contract with TEH Enterprise, LLC, for construction services for the St. Charles Parish West Bank Spray Park (Project No. WBSP2112) and additional parking located at the Edward Dufresne Community Center in the lump sum amount of \$2,200,000.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Parks and Recreation

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0162](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of an Amendment No. 1 to Ordinance No. 22-6-9 which approved the Professional Services Agreement with Volkert, Inc., to perform engineering services for the Engineers Canal Pump Station Improvements (Project No. P220206), in the not to exceed amount of \$716,508.00.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0163](#)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of Amendment No. 3 with Principal Engineering, Inc., to perform design services for the East Bank Master Drainage Plan (Project No. P200601), in the amount not to exceed \$569,737.50.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Public Works

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

[2023-0164](#)

An ordinance to amend the 2023 Consolidated Operating and Capital Budget, Amendment No. 1, to add revenues and transfers totaling \$32,441,531 an addition of accumulated fund balance of \$25,228,515 and expenditures, including transfers, totaling \$56,374,813 for all Governmental Funds for the purpose of adjusting beginning 2023 fund balances across all funds to match ending 2022 Final Budget balances and to re-apply various construction, architectural/engineering, and other fees unexpended in 2022 for Parish projects that were not completed during 2022 and apply them to 2023.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Finance

Publish/Scheduled for Public Hearing to the Parish Council on July 10, 2023

**ORDINANCES SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING
(INTRODUCED AT PREVIOUS MEETING)**

[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. Darensbourg Gordon, Ms. Clulee, Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Fisher

Reported:

Councilwoman Fonseca Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Billings Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Darensbourg Gordon Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Clulee Recommended: Approval
Councilman Gibbs Recommended: Approval
Councilman Fisher Recommended: Approval

Speakers:

Mr. Walter Pilie, Destrehan
Councilwoman Fonseca spoke on the matter.
Mr. Bobby Donaldson, Norco

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 23-6-8

Council Discussion

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Yea: 6 - Billings, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs and Fisher

Nay: 2 - Dufrene and Fisher-Cormier

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 23-6-8

2023-0155

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Charles, State of Louisiana, to vote upon the adoption of amendments to the current St. Charles Parish Home Rule Charter; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Fonseca, seconded by Councilmember Darenbourg Gordon, to deviate from the regular order of the agenda to take up File No. 2023-0155 a matter which was deferred earlier in the meeting.

Public comment opened on the deviation; no public comment

The motion to deviate failed to receive the required unanimous votes for passage by the following vote:

YEAS: BILLINGS, FONSECA, DARENSBOURG GORDON, CLULEE, GIBBS,
FISHER, FISHER-CORMIER

NAYS: DUFRENE

ABSENT: BELLOCK

Motion Failed (Vote was not unanimous)

Enactment No: 6702

Chairman Billings questioned Legal Services Director Corey Oubre whether the motion to deviate required a unanimous vote.

Legal Services Director Corey Oubre advised to take a five minute recess to review the Parish Council Rules.

Chairman Billings announced there will be a five minute recess.

Chairman Billings reconvened the meeting calling for a motion to take up File No. 2023-0155 per Council Rule 25. Council Rule 25 Any matter before the Council may be considered at any time, the Order of Business notwithstanding, provided at least five (5) of the Council vote in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cormier spoke on the matter.

Chairman Billings spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion

Mr. Oubre spoke on the matter.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Fonseca, to take up File No. 2023-0155 per Council Rule 25. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 7 - Billings, Fonseca, Darenbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

Nay: 1 - Dufrene

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6702

Motion Carried

Enactment No: 6702

Reported:

Councilwoman Fonseca Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Billings Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Darensbourg Gordon Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Clulee Recommended: Approval
Councilman Gibbs Recommended: Approval
Councilman Fisher Recommended: Approval
Bond Counsel Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Fonseca spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened

Mr. Walter Pilie, Destrehan

Council Discussion

Councilwoman Fonseca invited Mr. Jason Akers with Foley & Judell, L.L.P., to the podium to speak on the matter.
Mr. Akers spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Yea: 6 - Billings, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs and Fisher

Nay: 2 - Dufrene and Fisher-Cormier

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6702

[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

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval
Chief Administrative Officer Mike Palamone spoke on the matter.

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 23-6-9

Council Discussion

Mr. Palamone spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 23-6-9

[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

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval
Chief Administrative Officer Mike Palamone spoke on the matter.

Speakers:

Mr. Walter Pilie, Destrehan

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 23-6-10

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 23-6-10

[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

Reported:

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

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 23-6-11

Council Discussion
Mr. deGeneres spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 23-6-11

[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

Reported:

Public Works Department Recommended: Approval
Chief Administrative Officer Mike Palamone spoke on the matter.

Public Hearing Requirements Satisfied

Enactment No: 23-6-12

Council Discussion
Mr. Palamone spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 23-6-12

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

[2023-0147](#)

Ms. Sondra Washington: Planning and Zoning (Mobile Home)

Councilwoman Darensbourg Gordon spoke on the matter.
Ms. Washington spoke on the matter.
Chairman Billings spoke on the matter.
Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert spoke on the matter.
Councilwoman Fisher-Cormier spoke on the matter.

Heard

[2023-0148](#)

Rev. James Williams, III: Boutte Park

Councilwoman Darensbourg Gordon spoke on the matter.
Rev. Williams spoke on the matter.
Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.

Heard

RESOLUTIONS

[2023-0149](#)

A resolution endorsing a waiver from Appendix C, Subdivision Regulations of 1981, Section III. Geometric Standards, B. Blocks, 3. Arrangement, as requested by Geraldine Sanders and Ruth Ann Tassin.

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.

Public comment opened; no public comment

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6703

[2023-0150](#)

A resolution endorsing a waiver from Appendix C, Subdivision Regulations of 1981, Section III. Geometric Standards, B. Blocks, 3. Arrangement, as requested by Dawn R. Dufrene, Nelda Stidham Woodruff, and Barbara Stidham Schneider.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell and Department of Planning & Zoning

Reported:

P & Z Department Recommended: Denial

Planning Commission Recommended: Approval

Planning & Zoning Director Michael Albert spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened

Ms. Dawn Dufrene, Des Allemands

Ms. Nelda Stidham Woodruff, Des Allemands

Council Discussion

Mr. Albert spoke on the matter.

Ms. Dufrene spoke on the matter.

Councilman Dufrene stated his reason for abstaining.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Yea: 7 - Billings, Fonseca, Darensbourg Gordon, Clulee, Gibbs, Fisher and Fisher-Cormier

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Dufrene

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6704

[2023-0151](#)

A resolution to support Louisiana’s request to take primary enforcement responsibility (primacy) for the permitting of geologic carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) facilities.

Sponsors: Mr. Jewell, Ms. Billings, Ms. Fonseca, Ms. Darenbourg Gordon, Ms. Clulee, Mr. Gibbs, Ms. Bellock, Mr. Fisher and Ms. Fisher-Cormier

Reported:

Parish President Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Billings Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Fonseca Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Darenbourg Gordon Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Clulee Recommended: Approval
Councilman Gibbs Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Bellock Recommended: Approval
Councilman Fisher Recommended: Approval
Councilwoman Fisher-Cormier Recommended: Approval
Parish President Matthew Jewell spoke on the matter.

Public comment opened; no public comment

Council Discussion
President Jewell spoke on the matter.

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

Enactment No: 6705

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Fonseca, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Bellock

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE.

Michelle Impastato
Council Secretary