

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL OF THE
PARISH OF ST. MARY, STATE OF LOUISIANA

JANUARY 26, 2022
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Parish Council met on this date in Regular Session with Chairperson Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D. presiding and the following members present: Rev. Craig A. Mathews, J Ina, Scott Ramsey, Leslie “Les” Rulf, Jr., Patrick J. Hebert, James W. Bennett, Jr., Mark A. Duhon, and Dean S. Adams. Absent were Rodney Olander and Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo.

The Invocation was pronounced by Rev. Mathews and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ramsey.

Mr. Ramsey moved that the reading of the minutes of the First Regular Meeting, January 12, 2022 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

Parish President, David Hanagriff, suggested that in consideration of Item C under New Business, regarding quarterly reports from departments, as per the Home Rule Charter, he will provide written reports to the Council from the Economic Development Director and the Public Works Director.

In response to Mr. Ina’s inquiry, President Hanagriff stated that he will present quarterly reports beginning in April 2022.

Mr. Bennett thanked President Hanagriff for helping with the issue at the animal shelter this past weekend.

Chief Administrative Officer, Henry “Bo” LaGrange, stated that at the request of Council Members, iPads will now be used at Council Meetings and will replace all meeting information packets. He informed that big screens, cameras, and controlled wireless microphones have been installed and will be used for Council Meetings, conference calls, and emergency preparedness meetings. He stated that he anticipates providing an electronic voting system and an upgrade to the PA system.

Rev. Mathews thanked administration for the technology upgrades and recommended cleaning the hand held wireless microphones as it is used from person to person.

In response to Dr. Rink’s inquiry relative to live streaming Council Meetings, Mr. LaGrange stated that he will research alternatives.

In response to Mr. Duhon’s inquiry relative to the installation of stop signs at the intersection of Barrow Street and Tommie Street and also at the intersection of Barrow Street and Arnold Street in Amelia, Mr. LaGrange informed that President Hanagriff has vetoed both of those ordinances.

President Hanagriff stated the reason he vetoed both ordinances is because an Ordinance establishing a protocol prior to introducing an Ordinance regarding traffic control devices will be introduced tonight.

Chief Administrative Officer, Henry “Bo” LaGrange, presented his report for a two (2) week period ending January 26, 2022. (all items were informational.)

Mrs. Adams moved that the Public Hearing Report, January 12, 2022 – 5:45 p.m. and the Public Hearing Report, January 12, 2022 – 5:50 p.m., be accepted. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Bennett informed that the LaNERR Site Development Committee meeting will be held on February 8, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium.

Rev. Mathews informed that he and two (2) Council Members attended a Board of Commissions meeting and suggested implementing training for the board members.

Mr. Ramsey introduced the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance of the St. Mary Parish Council condemning the improvements consisting of the Plantation Inn Hotel, situated at 815 Highway 90, Parcel ID No. 298428104500-2984281004.00, as a result of same being in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare and ordering the demolition and removal of said improvements by the owner thereof in not less than sixty days from the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION I.

WHEREAS, Louisiana law, and in particular LSA-R.S. 33:4761 et seq. authorizes the governing authority of any Parish to condemn and cause to be demolished or removed any building or structure within the Parish when it is in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare;

WHEREAS, there has been submitted to the Parish a written report recommending the demolition and removal of certain structures, consisting of the Plantation Inn Hotel, situated at 815 Highway 90, Parcel ID No. 298428104500-2984281004.00, as a result of same being in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare;

WHEREAS, the Parish President has heretofore served upon the owner of the structures a notice requiring the owner to show cause at a meeting of this council why the structures should not be condemned, which notice provided the owner with the notice of the St. Mary Parish Council meeting to be held on February 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.;

WHEREAS, after hearing the evidence presented at the aforementioned Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council has determined that the structures in question are in fact in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare;

WHEREAS, it is the decision of this Council that the structures in question be condemned as a result of same being in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare.

SECTION II.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the St. Mary Parish Council, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana that:

- A. The improvements consisting of the Plantation Inn Hotel, situated at 815 Highway 90, Parcel ID No. 298428104500-2984281004.00 are hereby condemned as a result of the finding of this Council that same are in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare.
- B. NEU Corp, the owner of said property, is hereby ordered to demolish and remove said improvements not less than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Ordinance.
- C. In default of the owner complying with the order to demolish and remove the improvements, the Parish President may proceed with the demolition or removal of the condemned structures after giving notice to the owner and/or owner's agent and/or the attorney at law appointed to represent the owner giving the time when the work will begin upon the demolition and removal of the structures.
- D. In the event the Parish does perform the demolition and removal of the structures, or engages a third party or third parties to perform such demolition and removal, the Parish President is directed to file a lien and privilege upon the immovable and its improvements pursuant to the provisions of LSA-R.S. 33:4766.

SECTION III.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

SECTION IV.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION V.

Should any provisions of this Ordinance be declared in violation of state law, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this the 26th day of January 2022; having been published in accordance with law.

Mr. Ramsey introduced the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance establishing a protocol prior to introducing an Ordinance regarding traffic control devices.

BE IT ORDAINED that the St. Mary Parish Council hereby adopts a policy relative to traffic control devices:

SECTION I. Prior to introducing an ordinance for any type of traffic control devices on Parish Roads in St. Mary Parish, the Council Chairman shall make written request of the Parish's Chief Administrative Officer to conduct a review that such Ordinance shall conform to the requirements found in Louisiana R.S.32:235(B). The Parish's Director of Public Works (who, if necessary, may enlist assistance from an appropriate engineer with traffic control device engineering experience) shall perform such review. The review shall be in accordance with the "Louisiana Local Road Traffic Sign Handbook for Parishes and Small Communities", as revised or amended.

SECTION II. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request from the Chairman, the Director of Public Works shall render a written report addressed to the Parish Council stating his /her opinion as to whether the proposed traffic control change is appropriate, consistent with and in accordance with the provisions of the "Louisiana Local Road Traffic Sign Handbook for Parishes and Small Communities", as revised or amended.

SECTION III. If the written report provides that the proposed traffic control change is appropriate, consistent with and in accordance with the "Louisiana Local Road Traffic Sign Handbook for Parishes and Small Communities", as revised or amended; then, an ordinance may be introduced in accordance with the St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter.

SECTION IV. Notwithstanding the above provisions, any council member who may oppose the said recommendation may file a written request to the Council Chairman to schedule a Public Hearing before the Parish Council. The Council Chairman shall schedule the Public Hearing prior to the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting and shall place this item on the meeting agenda of which a vote is to be taken approving the introduction of the proposed ordinance which shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Parish Council. Upon a favorable two-thirds vote of the membership, the proposed ordinance may be introduced.

SECTION V. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION VI. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this the 26th day of January 2022; having been published in accordance with law.

Rev. Mathews moved that the following Resolution be adopted. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 9-0-0-2 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Mathews, Ina, Ramsey, Rulf, Hebert, Bennett, Duhon, Adams, and Rink

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olander and Hidalgo

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in his Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mrs. Lydia “Mrs. Lit” Delasbour Foulcard, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Foulcard was a longtime resident and native of Franklin, Louisiana, was a devout Catholic with a beautiful spirit which showered a spiritual blessing upon each and every person she came into contact with as a testament to her walk with Christ, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Foulcard was a loving mother of seven, grandmother of sixteen, and great grandmother of thirteen. Her maternal love and compassion for her family was always extended to family friends and has left a void in the hearts of many in the community, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Foulcard being known for her overwhelming kindness, generosity, and compassion has garnered a legacy to be felt for generations that knew her, and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mrs. Foulcard, and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Council hopes that her family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Mary Parish Council through the unanimous adoption of this resolution that they solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 26th day of January 2022.

APPROVED:

**KRISTI P. RINK, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

**LISA C. MORGAN, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Hebert moved that the following Resolution be adopted. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 9-0-0-2 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Ina, Ramsey, Rulf, Hebert, Bennett, Duhon, Adams, Rink, and Mathews

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olander and Hidalgo

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mr. Robert Gerald Ayres, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ayres was a resident of Patterson, Louisiana and received his Master's Degree Plus 30, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ayres started his teaching career at Patterson High School, where he taught Drivers Education and coached football, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ayres also held multiple public offices over the years, including 2 terms as a St. Mary Parish Councilman and enjoyed serving his community, and will be truly missed by his family and friends, and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mr. Ayres, and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Council hopes that his family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Mary Parish Council through the unanimous adoption of this resolution that they solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 26th day of January 2022.

APPROVED:

**KRISTI P. RINK, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

**LISA C. MORGAN, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Duhon moved that the following Resolutions be adopted. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried by the following 9-0-0-2 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Ramsey, Rulf, Hebert, Bennett, Duhon, Adams, Rink, Mathews, and Ina

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olander and Hidalgo

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing David Hanagriff, the President of St. Mary to execute a Permit Renewal Application for the existing Type I/II/III Harold J. "Babe" Landry Landfill.

BE IT RESOLVED, that David Hanagriff, the President of St. Mary, be and he is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the St. Mary Parish Council, to execute a Permit Renewal Application for the Type I/II/III Harold J. "Babe" Landry Landfill, to be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, with said Application to contain such terms, conditions and stipulations as he may best see fit, he being fully authorized in the premises.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 26th day of January 2022.

APPROVED:

**KRISTI P. RINK, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

**LISA C. MORGAN, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

In response to Mr. Duhon's inquiry, Mr. LaGrange explained that the solid waste permit is to allow acceptance of Type I waste which is industrial waste, Type II waste which is municipal waste (commercial waste and residential garbage), and Type III waste which is construction demolition debris waste. He explained that LADEQ (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality) requires that the permit be renewed every ten (10) years.

In response to Mr. Ramsey's inquiry relative to Type I waste, Mr. LaGrange explained that it goes into the same cell as Type II waste, which is a lined cell. Type I waste received is usually composed of creosote timbers and pilings, sand blasting sand, and carbon black material.

In response to Dr. Rink's inquiry, Mr. LaGrange stated that DEQ requires a permit application fee and that the consulting engineer also charges a fee to prepare and submit the document for the permit.

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing David Hanagriff, the President of St. Mary to execute a contract with Frisco Industrial Contractors, LLC relative to the Drainage Improvements Adjacent to the West St. Mary Civic Center project.

BE IT RESOLVED, that David Hanagriff, President of the Parish of St. Mary, be and he is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Parish Council, to execute a contract with Frisco Industrial Contractors, LLC, 210 Willow Street – Suite 1, Franklin, Louisiana 70538 relative to the Drainage Improvements Adjacent to the West St. Mary Civic Center Project, with said contract to contain such terms, conditions and stipulations as he may best see fit, he being fully authorized in the premises.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 26th day of January 2022.

APPROVED:

**KRISTI P. RINK, M.D., CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

**LISA C. MORGAN, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Referred from the September 22, 2021 Regular Meeting - Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Recreation District No. 1 (Amelia area) – 1 Vacancy

Nelda T. Dural

Dr. Rink informed that Nelda T. Dural does not reside in this district. Therefore, she does not qualify for this appointment.

- B. Discussion and approval as per Section 5.1, Article V. of Ordinance No. 2151 approving the fee for services to reimburse the Parish for employee Payroll and Human Resource services and functions provided to various Parochial Subdivisions of St. Mary Parish.

Rev. Mathews stated that an ordinance was adopted to provide this service through the Parish, which uses their professionally trained employees to minimize errors. He further stated that the fees charged to districts are reasonable.

Mr. LaGrange expounded on the spreadsheet he presented relative to the formula that is used to calculate payroll charges to districts.

Mr. Ramsey stated that there is a tremendous amount of theft/misappropriation of funds and payroll fraud among some of the districts. He questioned the duties/salary of the current board secretaries and questioned if the Parish is performing their payroll. He stated that he supports the Parish's supervision but disagrees with the fee schedule.

Mr. Bennett stated that he voted in favor of adopting Ordinance No. 2151 in 2018. However, seeing the issues with Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 2A (CGDD2A), now wished he hadn't. He expounded on additional work and time that it takes the secretary of CGDD2A to prepare the payroll documentation to submit to the Parish and elaborated on a list of issues submitted from the secretary and board members.

Mr. LaGrange stated that the issues the office manager is referring to is a requirement that was implemented to assure proper accountability, proper documentation on time sheets or time cards, and the proper approval by the appropriate supervisor to approve the employees time to assure payroll is consistent and is processed. He expounded on Ordinance No. 2151 relative to the Parish charging a reasonable fee to recover the costs of providing services.

After discussion, Mr. LaGrange informed that the Parish did meet with each entity to ensure that they use the proper forms and time sheets. He thanked the Council for their input and will review the fee schedule.

Mr. Duhon stated that “if this is for better record keeping and if a citizen calls for information for minutes of a meeting, Eric Duplantis told him four and a half years ago that you would get arrested for interfering with government activity.”

In response to Mr. Ramsey’s inquiry relative to Water & Sewer Commission No. 2 payroll concerns, Mr. LaGrange stated that the Parish should begin processing their payroll in the near future.

Per Rev. Mathews’ inquiry relative to a timeline of acquiring the remaining commissions and possible addition of payroll personnel, Mr. LaGrange stated that five entities were implemented as of October 1, 2021 and is expected to implement another group in the future. He stated that when additional entities are implemented additional staff may be needed.

Dr. Rink expounded on several issues and concerns from secretaries of several commissions relative to payroll and expounded on fees.

Per Mr. Duhon’s inquiry relative to the total cost for each board and the Covid money, Mr. LaGrange stated that each one is different and that he does not have the total cost at this time.

Mr. Ramsey requested to move this item to the February 9, 2022 Council meeting.

C. Discussion and action relative to technology upgrades to the St. Mary Parish Council Meeting room.

Mr. Ina requested to withdraw this item.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Bayou Vista Streets and Civic Improvement Committee – 1 Vacancy

No applications received.

Recreation District No. 3 (Bayou Vista Area) – 2 Vacancies

Calvin Johnson – Present Member

Michael J. Guillotte, Jr.

Clerk of the Council, Lisa C. Morgan informed that she received an application before the deadline from Kasey Crappell and that her name was inadvertently left off of the agenda. She further informed that Ms. Crappell is eligible to be appointed to Recreation District No. 3.

Mr. Ramsey moved that Calvin Johnson be reappointed and Michael J. Guillotte, Jr. be appointed to Recreation District No. 3. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

Recreation District No. 5 (Four Corners, Sorrell & Glencoe Area) – 1 Vacancy

Sommer Francis

Tamara Johnson

Rev. Mathews moved that Sommer Francis be appointed to Recreation District No. 5. Mr. Ina seconded the motion, which carried.

Recreation District No. 6 (Baldwin, Jeanerette, & Charenton Area) – 1 Vacancy

No applications received.

In response to Rev. Mathews' inquiry, Mrs. Morgan stated that this is Benny Druilhet's vacancy and that he has not contacted her to be reappointed. Rev. Mathews informed that due to phone issues at the Parish Courthouse, he received a text message from Mr. Druilhet requesting to be reappointed. Rev. Mathews requested to place this vacancy on February 9, 2022 agenda.

Water & Sewer Commission No. 2 (Bayou Vista Area) – 1 Vacancy

N.A. "Tony" Hensgens, Jr. – Present Member

Mr. Ramsey moved that N.A. "Tony" Hensgens, Jr. be reappointed to Water & Sewer Commission No. 2. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 (Chatsworth, St. Joseph, Irish Bend, Yokely, Sorrell, Websterville, Charenton, & St. Peter Street) – 1 Vacancy

Joel L. Authement – Present Member

Linel W. Toussaint

Mr. Ina moved that Joel L. Authement be reappointed to Water & Sewer Commission No. 4. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried.

- B. Rev. Mathews to request an allocation of \$49,700.05 from Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, & 10 3/10% Sales Tax Fund for the Drainage Improvements Adjacent to the West St. Mary Civic Center Project.

Rev. Mathews moved that funds in the amount of \$49,700.05 from Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, & 10 3/10% Sales Tax Fund be allocated for the Drainage Improvements Adjacent to the West St. Mary Civic Center Project. Mr. Ina seconded the motion, which carried.

Rev. Mathews stated that this allocation request is relative to Item 12D, "Resolution authorizing Parish President to execute a contract with Frisco Industrial Contractors, LLC relative to the Drainage Improvements Adjacent to the West St. Mary Civic Center project." He explained that residents adjacent to West St. Mary Civic Center are having drainage issues since the Civic Center was built and that a meeting was held with the Administration, the Public Works Director, the Drainage District, and DOTD to assess and rectify the problem. An engineering firm was contacted to create a design to tie the drainage systems together to remove water off of the property faster and to prevent residents from future flooding.

- C. Discussion and action relative to receiving quarterly reports at the St. Mary Parish Council Meetings from Evan Boudreaux, Director of Economic Development and Jean Paul Bourg, Director of Public Works. (Mr. Ramsey)

President Hanagriff stated that there is a chain of command under Mr. LaGrange and that the Council has access to the directors by phone or can schedule an appointment. He suggested that he will submit written quarterly reports to the Council and that the first quarter will be April, 2022.

Rev. Mathews thanked Mr. Ramsey for bringing this up for discussion and expounded on the Parish President's report as per the Home Rule Charter. He stated that he does not see the need to have the directors present their reports in person.

Several Council Members stated reasons that they are in favor of receiving written reports or reports in person.

Mr. Duhon stated that Mr. LaGrange gave him permission to talk to the Economics Development Director and Public Works Director.

Mr. LaGrange stated that the directors are assessable via phone or email and the Council can also contact him. He stated that President Hanagriff will proceed with having a written quarterly report in April, 2022.

President Hanagriff stated that both directors are under the supervision of the Chief Administrator Officer, Mr. LaGrange, and that a one on one meeting may be more productive.

There being no further business, Mr. Adams moved for adjournment. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried.

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Kristi P. Rink, M.D., Chairperson