



MINUTES OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2022 at 6 PM

ST. TAMMANY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX

21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LA.

CALL TO ORDER BY THE HONORABLE JERRY BINDER.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY MS. CAZAUBON

INVOCATION BY MR. T. SMITH

ROLL CALL:

Marty Dean                    ABSENT  
David Fitzgerald  
Martha Jenkins Cazaubon  
Michael R. Lorino, Jr.  
Rykert O. Toledano, Jr.  
Cheryl Tanner  
James "Jimmie" Davis, III  
Christopher Canulette  
Michael "Mike" Maxwell Smith      ABSENT  
Maureen "MO" O'Brien  
Kirk Drumm  
Jerry Binder  
Jacob "Jake" Airey  
Thomas "T.J." Smith, Jr.

\*\*Binder – made a presentation to Kirk Drumm for his service as a Councilmember.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda.

To ensure that all speakers are heard please hold cheers and applause. Anyone who wishes to place a comment in the record but who does not wish to speak at the podium may fill out a speaker card and check the box indicating they do not wish to speak.

**SPECIAL ITEMS**

**BUDGET ORDINANCES**

- Binder - 1. Ord. Cal. No. 7109AA - Ordinance to adopt the 2023 Operating Budget. (Binder/Cooper) (Reintroduced 12/01/2022)
- Michael Finn – supports sustaining funding for the library.
- Barbara Hargrove – supports fully funding the library system.
- BJ Fontaine – St. Tammany library system is the best.

- Joan Simon – lived in Covington for 38 years. Supports fully funding the library. Says trust the librarians. Spoke about the parents' responsibility to choose their children's books.
- Terrice Moore – says please fund the library. They don't need to be under a microscope deciding books.
- Laura Diapolis – spoke in favor of supporting funding for the library.
- Terri Lewis Stevens – supports library funding. Says the library is really important. Says let them have autonomy, trust the librarians.
- Jamie Segura – is in support of the library system. Commends the Board of Control and Kelly Laroca and the employees. Says trust the librarians.
- Catalina Reina – has lived in the parish for 11 years. Says the libraries are outstanding. Has always felt safe in libraries. Says to trust the librarians and keep it funded.
- Kristen Luchsinger – resident for 25 years. Supports fully funding the library.
- President Cooper – said the budget included a 1% pool of funding to present to employees and also a 3% cost of living increase. Received an amendment for a 2% increase for Public Works over and above the aforementioned. Several employees have contacted him speaking against an increase for just 1 department. Employees said they are all worthy of an across the board cost of living increase. Said that the parish has not received an across the board COLA increase since 2019. He would suggest giving a 5% increase to everyone.
- Lorino – asked if the amendment was made would they need another special meeting?
- Cary Menard – answered yes.
- Lorino – said he would make a motion to adopt the budget as is and then make an amendment at the next meeting to increase the COLA.
- Airey – said he would be in favor of that as well.
- Adrienne Stroble, director of Human Resources – would like to know if it would be effective at the same time for all employees?
- Tanner – would suggest it be retroactive to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.
- Binder – asked would he like to do what Tanner suggested.
- Lorino – answered yes.
- Drumm – suggests the Council be included in this because there is no part time anything.
- Binder – made comments regarding the Council's pay increases. Said that in 2018 the Council agreed to abstain from salary increases.
- Tanner – called for the question.
- Stevens – asked for clarification on what is going on here. She spoke about the salary structure of the Parish. Said that Public Works deserves a raise. Asked where the money would come from for the 5% increase.
- Lorino – said Stevens is correct about Public Works. Made comments about the debate of pay raises.
- President Cooper – made comments explaining what happened and how he suggested a cost of living increase, not a pay raise. He said that adjustments have been made to several departments over the past few years. He will not support giving a cost of living increase to 1 department over another.

- Lorino – responded that it WAS a debate.
  - Airey – wanted to address the transparency regarding where the money would come from because they don't have that yet. They would need an amendment written out before they can vote on it.
  - Council discussion ensued.
  - Long - said that the staff has a substitute ordinance available.
  - Tanner – said she doesn't have problem with amending it tonight.
  - Stroble – is glad they recognized that everyone needs a COLA increase. Wants to clarify that all employees work hard. Said there is a compensation study that will help address the bottom tier pay.
  - Canulette – spoke to looking at classification.
  - President Cooper – asked Stroble to remind them of adjustments that have been made.
  - Binder – said he has seen salary studies in the past and was shocked, not in a good way. He would like to schedule a meeting with Stroble.
  - Toledano – said all employees work hard and thinks they all agree to that. Said the parish is fortunate that they can have this discussion tonight.
  - Stroble – explained the effective date.
  - Cazaubon – said she needs information ahead of time instead of spending an hour in the meeting discussing it.
  - Lorino and O'Brien made comments.
  - Lorino – moved to adopt, seconded by Tanner. Unanimous with 2 absent (Dean, M. Smith); becomes Ord. C.S. No. 22-5059.
  - Mary Burckell – spoke about her employees in the CAA.
  - BJ Fontaine – said both are correct. Need to compensate accordingly.
- \*\*moved to the appointment

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- Binder - 1. Resolution to appoint Robert Troncosco, Sr. to replace Paul Barcelona (resigned) on the Planning and Zoning Board of Commissioners. (Toledano)
- Toledano – spoke about Paul Barcelona's need to resign and spoke about Robert Troncosco, Sr.
- Troncosco – thanked people and spoke about himself.
- Toledano – moved to appoint, seconded by Cazaubon.
- Binder – since this is Parishwide, will need to suspend the rules and appoint.
- Toledano – moved to suspend the rules and appoint, seconded by Fitzgerald. Unanimous with 2 absent (Dean, M. Smith); becomes Reso. C.S. No. C-6706.

\*\*went back to **BUDGET ORDINANCES**

- Binder - 2. Ord. Cal. No. 7110AA - Ordinance to establish the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Assets. (Binder/Cooper) (Reintroduced 12/01/2022)

- Rick Danielson – Mandeville City Councilman at Large - is asking for the full support in fully funding the Mandeville Bypass Road. He spoke about the changes the Bypass Road would bring.
- Terri Lewis Stevens – spoke about the Bypass Road. Said it started at \$2 million, then went to \$11 million, now its \$24 million with \$9 million contingency. Said there will only be 2 roundabouts on this road? Wants to know where is the money going? Said the public needs more information.
- Toledano – believes this is a good project for the community as a whole. Asked Gina Campo about the project being deleted.
- Campo – explained that the project isn't being deleted and explained the \$6.4 million budget and money previously spent. She also explained the Capital Outlay.
- Toledano – asked that Mandeville invest more. Said the project needs to move forward.
- Davis – said he didn't know that there was already that much money in the budget.
- Campo – explained.
- Davis – asked Long to confirm.
- Long – explained.
- Davis – said the project will survive. He said this will get built, whether budgeted tonight or not. He was totally against this, but after getting more information, he is fine with this.
- Drumm – said not one is putting money in their pockets.
- Lorino – said it was insinuated that the project would be killed. It is not. Said they're here because of lack of information. Said if they move and keep the money, they all they need is an amendment.
- Tanner – spoke about why this was removed from the proposed budget (holding up \$24 million, not enough information, ROW acquisition, DOTD, etc.). She said they are not canning anything, a budget amendment can be done.
- O'Brien – mentioned that the ROW haven't all been purchased. And also, they are asking for state funding, so if they fund everything, they won't get state funding.
- President Cooper – said that the timing is now to provide the funding. He said revenue is available, but they are not taking it away from any other projects. The engineer said the project would let in the middle of next year and the money needs to be allocated. He said that there are 2 other projects that were funded before the plans were completed, the TJ Smith, Sr. Expressway and Ochsner Blvd. Extension. He said he busted his butt last week to answer questions. He said he doesn't want to take the money away and divvy it up among Council districts to pave more roads.
- Lorino – made a comment.
- Canulette – asked how many projects were asked to be looked at by the State.
- Jeanne Marino – answered 32 for a couple of hundred million dollars. She said the Mandeville Bypass Road is priority 2.
- Canulette – spoke about why the State would give the Parish money if they have it. He said they just want to know price.
- Tanner – reiterated previous concerns.
- Airey – addressed the Ochsner Blvd. Extension.

- Binder – made comments.
- Toledano – asked Daniel Hill to explain the project.
- Hill – explained.
- Toledano – asked Hill other questions.
- T. Smith – called the question.
- Cooper – hopes the Council will fund the Tammany Trace bridges because they are critical and need to be replaced.
- Binder – said there are confusions. One concern is that the consultant had repair or replace. He asked Campo a question.
- Binder – went back and correct because T. Smith called the question and there were supposed to be no more comments.
- Tanner – moved to adopt, seconded by Lorino. Unanimous with 2 absent (Dean, M. Smith); becomes Ord. C.S. No. 22-5060.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **MORATORIUM VACATION**

- Binder - 1. Reso. C.S. No. C-6705 - Resolution to vacate, in part, the moratorium established by Ordinance C. S. No. 22-4971 on the issuance of Building or Conditional Use Permits for construction or placement of building structures on property within a portion of Unincorporated Town of Alton Subdivision, specifically on Lots 10 thru 15, Sq. 51, Alton Subdivision in Section 23, Township 8 South, Range 14 East, St. Tammany (Ward 9, District 14). (T. Smith)
- T. Smith – moved to adopt, seconded by Canulette. Unanimous with 4 absent (Dean, Lorino, M. Smith, Airey).

## **ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION**

### **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE**

- Binder - 1. Ord. Cal. No. 7136AA - Ordinance to Reapportion the St. Tammany Parish Council Districts, and to Describe the Precincts that Constitute the Revised Districts, to Update, Correct, and Clarify Precinct Descriptions in the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, and for Related Purposes. (Parishwide) (Binder) (Reintroduced 12/01/2022)
- Vic Frankowitz – said he is available for questions.
- Canulette – moved to adopt, seconded by Tanner. Unanimous with 4 absent (Dean, Lorino, M. Smith, Airey); becomes Ord. C.S. No. 22-5061.
- Binder - 2. Ord. Cal. No. 7138AA - Ordinance to amend St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Appendix B – Parish Personnel Policies Ordinance. (Binder/Cooper) (Reintroduced 12/01/2022)
- Canulette – moved to adopt, seconded by Fitzgerald. Unanimous with 5 absent (Dean, Lorino, Toledano, M. Smith, Airey); becomes Ord. C.S. No. 22-5062.
- Tanner – moved to open the Off-the-floor agenda, seconded by Davis. Unanimous with 5 absent (Dean, Lorino, Toledano, M. Smith, Airey)

-Tanner – moved to introduce an amendment for a 5% total Cost of Living increase (an extra 2% on top of the proposed 3%), seconded by Cazaubon; because Ord. Cal. No. 7171.

-There being no further business, meeting adjourned at the call of the Chairman.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JACOB "JAKE" A. AIREY, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK