

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

APRIL 23, 2025
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA
6:00 P.M.

The St. Mary Parish Council met on this date in Regular Session with Chairperson Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo presiding and the following members present: Rev. Craig Mathews, J Ina, Rodney Olander, David W. Hill, Leslie “Les” Rulf, Jr., Patrick Hebert, James “Jimmy” Davis, Jr., Mark Duhon, Dean Adams, and Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D. Absent was Chief Administrative Officer, Paul Governale.

The Invocation was pronounced by Mr. Hebert and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Rulf.

Mr. Olander moved that the reading of the First Regular Meeting, April 9, 2025 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

Meaghan Thompson appeared before the council to discuss the St. Mary Parish mosquito program and the St. Mary Parish personnel policy manual. She stated that she is a former St. Mary Parish Employee of 12 ½ years. She stated her concern is that the Parish is working out of two (2) Personnel Policies. She referred to several sections of the policy and expounded on past cost of living raises, lack of merit raises, lack of communication, failing structure, accountability, recent change to the schedule of hours, and concerns regarding the mosquito program.

Several Council Members thanked Ms. Thompson for bringing her concerns before the Council. They had discussions relative to the personnel policy manuals and the Personnel Board.

Mr. Adams moved to expand the agenda to remove the old personnel policy and use the most recent policy that was recently adopted. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion.

In response to Mr. Duhon’s inquiry, Ms. Thompson stated that she initially worked at Kemper Williams Park then worked at Bayou Vista Barn as an equipment operator, and lastly worked at the Hanson Barn as Senior Clerk preparing payroll.

After discussion, Mr. Ina called for the question. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

The call for the question carried by the following 11-0-0-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Mathews, Ina, Olander, Hill, Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Duhon, Adams, Rink, and Hidalgo

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Adams moved to expand the agenda to discuss recommending that the Personnel Director and the Chief Administrative Officer implement the current personnel policy that was recently adopted. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried by the following 11-0-0-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Ina, Olander, Hill, Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Duhon, Adams, Rink, Hidalgo, and Mathews

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Adams moved to recommend to the Personnel Director and the Chief Administrative Officer to implement the current personnel policy for immediate enforcement. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried.

Rev. Mathews stated for the record, that discussion was had regarding possible changes to the Personnel Policy when it was adopted and stated that the current personnel policy needs to be revisited.

In response to Mr. Ina's inquiry, Clerk of the Council, Lisa Morgan informed that all members of the Personnel Board have been appointed but have not been sworn in due to waiting on an opinion from Legal Counsel relative to whether they need to complete an oath of office.

Dr. Rink informed that the Bayou Horseshoe Pitchers Association's President is inviting Council Members to attend and meet tourist at their Annual Louisiana Open Tournament on April 26, 2025.

Mr. Adams informed that early voting is open for a millage continuation for Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 2. He also informed that repairs to Bayou Ramos Bridge should begin in early May 2025.

Parish President, Sam Jones reported on rising waters and stated that Mr. Duhon coordinated a visit to the Bayou Chene Flood Gate that he, Mr. Duhon, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Davis, and Sheriff Driskill attended. He also reported that construction of Fire Protection District No. 11 Fire Station should begin soon. Discussion was had relative to land acquisition for this construction.

President Jones informed that the Chitimacha Tribe will receive funds to design the replacement and construction of the Charenton Bridge. Mr. Olander suggested moving the location of the bridge into shallow water to help cut construction costs.

President Jones also informed of a new defense manufacturing company that will be located at the old Gulf Craft facility, off the Charenton/Franklin Canal. They plan to fabricate 115 advanced surface vessels (a class of warships) that will create approximately 300 permanent jobs. Several Council Members discussed the need for available housing for the employees.

Economic Development Director, Evan Boudreaux expounded on the project and it's asset to St. Mary Parish. He explained that the company is Saronic Technologies and that they will be making a \$250M upgrade investment to the Gulf Craft facility and expand the current footprint to a total acreage of about 100 acres. He stated this location will be the global prototyping and production hub for their medium uncrewed surface vessels, an emerging class of warships that blends traditional marine craftsmanship with cutting edge autonomy and sensor technology, that will create 500 new jobs over the course of 3-4 years. He stated that he is working on a possible pipeline project for the Calumet Cut area.

President Jones further informed that he has sent letters to all local Congressmen to request \$500,000 for a drainage study and \$10M for repairs for the Bayou Vista area.

President Jones congratulated Mark Duhon for bringing businesses to the Amelia area.

Dr. Rink moved that the reading of the First Regular Meeting, April 9, 2025 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Olander introduced the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance of the St. Mary Parish Council condemning the improvements consisting of an abandoned burnt house, situated at 9365

Hwy. 182, Centerville, Louisiana, Parcel ID No. 2474581029.00, 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 an abandoned burnt house, situated at 9365 Hwy. 182, Centerville, Louisiana, Parcel ID No. 2474581029.00, 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 May 14, 2025, 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 an abandoned burnt house, situated at 9365 Hwy. 182, Centerville, Louisiana, Parcel ID No. 2474581029.00 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. Ray Rodrigues (99% owner and Adams Assets with Union Bank as secured party), 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 23rd day of April 2025; having been published in accordance with law.

ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance of the St. Mary Parish Council condemning the improvements consisting of an abandoned structure, situated at 141 Friendship Aly, Amelia, Louisiana, Parcel ID No. 3524241206.00, 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 an abandoned burnt house, situated at 141 Friendship Aly, Amelia, Louisiana, Parcel ID No. 3524241206.00, 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 May 14, 2025, 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 an abandoned structure, situated at 141 Friendship Aly, Amelia, Louisiana, Parcel ID No. 3524241206.00 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. Raymond Clark C/O Arthur Gray, 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 23rd day of April 2025; having been published in accordance with law.

ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2254 Regarding Public Comment During Parish Council Meetings

BE IT ORDAINED by the St. Mary Parish Council, in regular session convened:

SECTION 1.

That Ordinance Number 967, enacted on the 29th day of August, 1985, entitled “An Ordinance providing a procedure whereby persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard at meeting of the St. Mary Parish Council” was amended by Ordinance 2159 (2018) on the 12th day of September, 2018, styled “An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 967 (1985) Regarding Public Comment During Parish Council Meetings, was amended by Ordinance No. 2254 (2021) on the 11th day of May 2021 styled “An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2159 (2018) Regarding Public Comment during Parish Council Meetings is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 2. Public Comment on Agenda Item upon which a vote is to be taken

A public comment section shall be placed at the beginning of each meeting, or at any other point on the agenda, to allow and encourage citizen comment to occur prior to any action on an agenda item.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, any person wishing to address the St. Mary Parish Council or its committees on matters appearing on the meeting agenda, upon which a vote is to be taken, shall complete a speaker participation sheet located in the meeting room that includes the name and address of the speaker, along with a brief description of the item or items about which they wish to speak.

Persons shall be given a period of five (5) minutes to address the Council, which may be extended by questions from the Council and at the discretion of the Chairman of the Council.

SECTION 3. Public Comment on a matter relating to Parish government as noted in Section 2-07 (E) of the Home Rule Charter, which does not appear on the meeting agenda

Persons wishing to address the St. Mary Parish Council on a matter relating to Parish government as noted in Section 2-07 (E) of the Home Rule Charter which does not appear on the meeting agenda shall call the clerk of the Council and request to be placed on the agenda **with the subject matter relating to Parish Government**. Persons may be placed on the agenda by **requesting not**

later than 12 p.m. Noon on the Wednesday prior to the regular Wednesday meeting or in cases of a special meeting, two hours before the deadline for publication of the agenda of that meeting.

Persons shall be given a period of five (5) minutes to address the Council, which may be extended by questions from the Council and at the discretion of the Chairman of the Council.

This ordinance shall become effective and be in full force upon publication in the official journal of the Parish.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this the 23rd day of April 2025, having been published in accordance with law.

Mr. Adams moved that the following Ordinances be adopted. Mr. Duhon seconded the motion, which carried by the following 11-0-0-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Olander, Hill, Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Duhon, Adams, Rink, Hidalgo, Mathews, and Ina

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2389

An Ordinance in compliance with Ordinance No. 1973, Chapter 5 Procedures, Division 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearing, Section 5.4.2 Rezoning (Zoning Map Amendments).

WHEREAS, on March 12th, 2014, the St. Mary Parish Council adopted Ordinance No. 1973 – St. Mary Parish Unified Development Code, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5 Procedures, Division 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearing, Section 5.4.2 Rezoning (Zoning Map Amendments) provides a process for the official zoning district map to be amended, and

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

SECTION I - That certain tract of land described in Exhibit “A” is hereby rezoned from Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN3) Zoned District to allow for a Manufactured Home Park.

This ordinance shall become effective and be in full force upon publication in the official journal of the Parish.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this 26th day of March 2025; having been published in accordance with law; having been heard in a public hearing held at Franklin, Louisiana on the 23rd day of April 2025; was adopted.

APPROVED:

**GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO, CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

LISA C. MORGAN, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

This Ordinance was submitted to the President of St. Mary Parish on this the 24th day of April 2025 at the hour of 3:13 p.m.

APPROVED:

SAM JONES, PRESIDENT
ST. MARY PARISH

This Ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 25th day of April 2025 at the hour 11:21 a.m.

EXHIBIT “A”

Name: Randy Tisdale
Address: 1516 Lake Palourde Rd.
Amelia, LA

Parcel Id# 3524261147.00- Sec.14 T16S R13E
Lot Bd Self - Bayou Boeuf - Galliano - Montet & Boudreaux Acq 464 345043

PURPOSE: to rezone from Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN3) Zoned District to allow for a Manufactured Home Park.

ORDINANCE NO. 2390

An Ordinance in compliance with Ordinance No. 1973, Chapter 5 Procedures, Division 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearing, Section 5.4.2 Rezoning (Zoning Map Amendments).

WHEREAS, on March 12th, 2014, the St. Mary Parish Council adopted Ordinance No. 1973 – St. Mary Parish Unified Development Code, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5 Procedures, Division 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearing, Section 5.4.2 Rezoning (Zoning Map Amendments) provides a process for the official zoning district map to be amended, and

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

SECTION I - That certain tract of land described in Exhibit “A” is hereby rezoned from Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District due to the property currently being utilized as residential.

This ordinance shall become effective and be in full force upon publication in the official journal of the Parish.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this 26th day of March 2025; having been published in accordance with law; having been heard in a public hearing held at Franklin, Louisiana on the 23rd day of April 2025; was adopted.

APPROVED:

**GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO, CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

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

This Ordinance was submitted to the President of St. Mary Parish on this the 24th day of April 2025 at the hour of 3:13 p.m.

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**SAM JONES, PRESIDENT
ST. MARY PARISH**

This Ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 25th day of April 2025 at the hour 11:21 a.m.

EXHIBIT “A”

**Name: Randy Tisdale
Address: 1516 Lake Palourde Rd.
Amelia, LA**

**Parcel Id# 3524261146.00- Sec.14 T16S R13E
Lot Por Bd Self - Bayou Boeuf - Self - Shell Rd Acq 464 345043 Improvement on the land of T
& S Rentals LLC Acq 464 345043**

PURPOSE: to rezone from Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District due to the property currently being utilized as residential.

Mr. Ina moved that the following Resolution of Respect be adopted. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 11-0-0-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Hill, Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Duhon, Adams, Rink, Hidalgo, Mathews, Ina, and Olander

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mrs. Sylvia Ann Chauvin Borne, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borne was the mother of Judge Vincent Borne and six other children whom she loved unconditionally, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borne was a devoted wife, mother, grandmere, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, mentor, and teacher, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Borne was an accomplished quilter, needleworker, embroiderer, and seamstress, creating heirloom pieces cherished by her family, and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Mary Parish Council through the unanimous adoption of this resolution that we 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 23rd day of April 2025.

APPROVED:

**GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO, CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

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

Mr. Ina moved that the following Resolution of Respect be adopted. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 11-0-0-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Duhon, Adams, Rink, Hidalgo, Mathews, Ina, Olander, and Hill

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mr. Calvin Rodger Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was a man accustomed to overcoming challenges and exuded confidence though he was a very humble man; and

WHEREAS, he was stricken with Polio at 9 years old and had to learn at an early age to face difficulties in life head on and to make the best of what came his way; and

WHEREAS, he attended Northeast Louisiana State College where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Education and was a devoted and compassionate educator with 31 years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Marguerite Peterson Robinson of 62 years and was a devoted husband, son, brother, and uncle; and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Calvin Rodger Robinson and 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 23rd day of April 2025.

APPROVED:

**GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

ATTEST:

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

Rev. Mathews moved that Item 14C, “A Resolution providing for the approval and authorization for Change Order No. 1 relative to the Emergency Power Improvements at the St. Mary Parish Courthouse, FP&C Project No. 50-J51-21-01,” be adopted. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion.

In response to several Council Members’ inquiries, Lisa Morgan stated that the change order request is to increase the contract time to 126 working days due to delays in receiving parts. Mr. Adams stated that he would like to review all bids that were received.

Several Council Members discussed the original deadline date and the importance of having a penalty clause and requested a copy of the original contract. Lisa Morgan stated that she will forward it to them tomorrow.

After lengthy discussion, Rev. Mathews withdrew his motion and Mr. Hebert withdrew his second.

Mr. Adams moved to table Item 14C, “A Resolution providing for the approval and authorization for Change Order No. 1 relative to the Emergency Power Improvements at the St. Mary Parish Courthouse, FP&C Project No. 50-J51-21-01,” to the May 14, 2025 Council Meeting. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. We received the following financial statements:

St. Mary Parish Consolidated Gravity Drainage Dist. No. 2A – year ended September 30, 2024
St. Mary Parish Consolidated Gravity Drainage Dist. No. 2A/Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures – year ended September 30, 2024

B. Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Recreation District No. 3 (Bayou Vista) – 1 Vacancy

Cody M. Fontenot

Glen Elliott

Mr. Hill moved that Cody M. Fontenot be appointed to Recreation District No.3. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

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

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, Chairperson