

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2026
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, Patrick Hebert, James “Jimmy” Davis, Jr., Mark Duhon, Dean Adams, and Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D. Absent were Leslie Rulf, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale, and Finance Director, Desiree Gros.

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

Mr. Olander moved that the reading of the Second Regular Meeting, January 28, 2026 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

Jazmin DuBois, Coalition Coordinator, St. Mary Parish Youth Prevention Coalition along with Bailee Guillory, Youth Engagement Board Chair, and Karley Boutte, Youth Ambassador, appeared before the Council to announce Teen Wellness Day on Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Franklin Recreation Center.

Janet Aucoin, Amelia resident appeared before the Council to discuss animal control and public safety matters. She asked for clarity on penalties, enforcement, reporting violations, required proof, and structure of the proposed ordinance for introduction regarding prohibiting the feeding of stray cats and dogs within the unincorporated areas of the Parish.

Evan Boudreaux, Economic Development Director, appeared before the Council with an update on the Industrial Development Board. He expounded on the legal foundation, duties, powers, and minimum criteria for ITEP Exemption of the Industrial Board.

Tina Billiot Rainey, Bayou Vista resident, appeared before the Council in opposition to a Specific Use for Bryan Rock to allow chickens and a rooster in an Existing Neighborhood Zoned District. She stated that her rear property is adjacent to Mr. Rock’s property and complained about the foul smell from the chickens, waste draining into her yard when it rains, and the noise of the rooster crowing all times of the day. She played a recording of the rooster crowing.

Discussion was had relative to notification requirements to residents, current number of chickens, distance to neighbors, the sale of various edible items, possible economic use on the property, and public nuisance.

Mr. Adams requested to move up Item 13A, “**FOR ADOPTION** - An Ordinance in compliance with Ordinance No. 1973, DIVISION 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearings, Section 5.4.3 Specific Use Permits granting a Specific Use. (Bryan Rock).”

Mr. Olander moved to adopt Item 13A. Dr. Rink seconded the motion.

Several Council Members discussed voting options, notification requirements, specific use process, and opposition from other neighbors.

After discussion regarding notification process, Mr. Olander withdrew his motion, Dr. Rink withdrew her second.

Mr. Olander moved to table Item 13A, “**FOR ADOPTION** - An Ordinance in compliance with Ordinance No. 1973, DIVISION 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearings, Section 5.4.3 Specific Use Permits granting a Specific Use. (Bryan Rock)” to the March 11, 2026 meeting and requested

Planning & Zoning Director, Mandi LeBlanc be present to answer questions regarding notifications. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried. Rev. Mathews voted no.

Chris Breaux, Attorney representing owners of the old Plantation Inn Hotel, located at 815 Highway 90, appeared before the Council and submitted a restoration project summary and estimates of repairs. He expounded on damages and repair costs before and after Hurricane Ida and Francine and the winter storm of 2025 resulting in a pending insurance claim.

Several Council Members discussed whether permits, inspections, architectural plans, and good faith efforts for improvements were ever done.

After lengthy discussion, Rev. Mathews requested to move up Item 13C, “**FOR ADOPTION** - 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. 2984281045.00 & 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 within sixty days from the effective date of this ordinance.”

Mr. Hill moved to adopt the following Ordinance. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried by the following 10-0-0-1 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rulf

ORDINANCE NO. 2422

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. 2984281045.00-2984281004.00, 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 within 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. 2984281045.00-2984281004.00, as a result of same being in a dilapidated and dangerous condition which endangers the public welfare;

WHEREAS, the Parish President shall send 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 January 14, 2026, 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. 2984281045.00-2984281004.00 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. Anything You Want LLC & D Palm Hotel LLC, the owner of said property, is hereby ordered to demolish and remove said improvements within 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 17th day of December 2025; having been published in accordance with law; and having been heard in a public hearing at Franklin, Louisiana on the 11th day of February 2026; 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 13th day of February 2026, at the hour of 10:37 a.m.

APPROVED:

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

This ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 18th day of February 2026, at the hour of 11:53 a.m.

Parish President Sam Jones reported on additional property acquired by Saronic, two (2) rigs that are coming to the Parish, and a State allocation of \$5,000,000 to renovate the old Franklin Foundation Hospital to accommodate 58-72 rooms for senior living.

President Jones discussed Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 debt to the Parish.

In response to Mr. Ina's inquiry relative to whether the City of Franklin and Town of Baldwin received any funds from the opioid settlement through the Parish, President Jones stated that funds were received and he will research the matter.

Per Rev. Mathews' inquiry regarding payments received from Water & Sewer Commission No. 4, President Jones stated that one (1) payment was received.

Rev. Mathews requested that Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 Board members, Joel Authement and Chad Gianfala approach the podium. They stated they just learned that garbage and mosquito fees were being collected from customers but were not being paid to the Parish and that a certified CPA has been hired.

Discussion was had relative to increased rates, creating a budget, and audit findings.

Mr. Duhon questioned whether uncollected fees from the district were listed as an IOU.

Evan Boudreaux stated that a ground breaking ceremony for the old Franklin Foundation Hospital will be held in March. He also informed that St. Mary Parish was the only parish in Louisiana to be chosen to participate in the Select USA Investment Summit. He expounded on Saronic's expansion project, a new investment coming to the east end of the Parish, and housing development.

Mr. Ina stated he is concerned with workforce development and the economic impact.

Rev. Mathews reported on the Association of Community Action Partnerships, that represent all 42 agencies, that was held earlier this week regarding workforce development boards.

Rev. Mathews informed that Almetra Franklin, CEO, Community Action, retired in December 2025 and was nominated and inducted by the Board of Directors into the National Community Action Hall of Fame.

Mr. Hill informed that the Basin Brew Fest will be held on March 28, 2026 in downtown Morgan City.

Mr. Ina informed that the 100 Black Men Annual Quiz Bowl will be held on February 28, 2026 at Patterson High School.

Mr. Adams introduced the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO.

An ordinance prohibiting the feeding of stray cats and dogs within the unincorporated areas of St. Mary Parish and imposing penalties for the violation thereof.

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

SECTION I. Feeding Stray Cats and Dogs

(A) Definitions, Policy, and Purpose

(1) FEED or FEEDING means the placing of dog or cat food, or similar food products of consumable materials attractive to dogs and cats which may result in dogs and cats congregating thereon on a regular basis, placed on the ground, in an obviously intended feeder, or in a feeder at height accessible to cats and dogs.

(2) STRAY means an unlicensed domestic or feral dog or cat running at large and unaccompanied or controlled by an owner.

(B) Policy and Purpose.

High populations of stray dogs and cats pose a hazard to human health and safety as such animals provide a fruitful breeding ground for infectious disease, including but not limited to rabies and distemper, and may otherwise bite or attack humans and domestic animals. Stray dogs and cats also carry fleas and ticks. In addition, food provided for stray animals is often attractive to wild animals such as raccoons and rodents and may create nuisance conditions such as rat harborage or other wild animal infestation. No person shall feed or allow the feeding of any stray cat or dog at any residential property within the municipal limits of the within unincorporated areas of St. Mary Parish unless they are the owner of record of the property on which the feeding takes place.

No person shall feed or allow the feeding of any stray cat or dog on any public property, business, or commercial area within the municipal limits of the within unincorporated areas of St. Mary Parish.

SECTION 2. Exceptions.

Veterinarians and persons who, acting within the scope of their employment with any governmental entity, non-profit, or humane society which have custody of or manages stray dogs and cats are not subject to the prohibitions of this section.

SECTION 3. Penalty assessment.

Violation of any provision of the ordinance by any person, firm, or corporation, whether as owner or occupant, shall be handled in the following manner:

(A) **First Violation.** The first violation of this article will result in a notice of violation by the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department, as well as a summons and complaint.

(B) **Second Violation.** The second violation of this article will result in another notice of Violation by the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department, as well as a summons and complaint.

(C) **Third Violation.** The third violation of this article will result in another notice of violation by the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department, as well as a summons and complaint.

Penalties, graduated schedule. The graduated fine schedule for the penalty assessment procedure is as follows:

First Violation: \$50 fine

Second Violation: \$100 fine

Third Violation: \$200 fine

Subsequent violations or failure to comply: \$200 fine

All other ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict with this ordinance, are hereby repealed. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or repealed for any reason, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected. All provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable and the invalidity of any part of this ordinance shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications of this ordinance.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this 11th day of February 2026; having been published in accordance with law.

Mr. Hebert moved to adopt the following Ordinance. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which carried by the following 10-0-0-1 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rulf

ORDINANCE NO. 2423

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2410 Section 4 Adding Council Members to speaking time limitations

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, was amended by Ordinance No. 2159 on the 12th day of September 2018, was amended by Ordinance No. 2254 on the 11th day of May 2021, was amended by Ordinance No. 2396 on the 14th day of May 2025, Ordinance No. 2410 was amended on 24th day of September 2025 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 on any item appearing on the meeting agenda

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, 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 Chairperson 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. Persons may be placed on the agenda by so requesting not later than 2 p.m. Thursday prior to the regular Wednesday meeting or in case 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 Chairperson of the Council.

SECTION 4. Council Members shall be allowed a period of five (5) minutes on an agenda item, which may be extended at the discretion of the Chairperson 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 14th day of January 2026, having been published in accordance with law and having been heard in a public meeting in Franklin, Louisiana on the 11th day of February 2026, 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 13th day of February 2026, at the hour of 10:37 a.m.

APPROVED:

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

This ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 18th day of February 2026, at the hour of 11:53 a.m.

Mr. Olander moved to adopt the following Proclamation. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 10-0-0-1 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rulf

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling (and any additional state/local sponsors) has designated March 2026 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling has a significant societal and economic cost for individuals, families, businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing this harm to individuals, communities and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals and organizations have dedicated their efforts to the education of the public about problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling, invite all residents of St. Mary Parish to participate in Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Mary Parish Council and the Parish President, on behalf of the entire St. Mary Parish Government, do hereby proclaim March 2026 as:

“PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH”

and encourage all citizens to support the National Council on Problem Gambling in their efforts to mitigate gambling-related harm nationwide.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 11th day of February 2026.

Sam Jones, Parish President

Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, Chairperson

Mr. Adams moved to adopt a Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in St. Mary Parish to vote upon the adoption of an amended St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter. Dr. Rink seconded the motion.

Discussion was had relative to the cost and date of the election, adding items to the ballot, and possible violations if it is not on the first available election, according to the ordinance.

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

The vote to adopt the following Resolution carried by the following 9-1-0-1 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: Hebert

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rulf

RESOLUTION

Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, to vote upon the adoption of an amended St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the St. Mary Parish Council, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Sections 5, and 22 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSITION

Shall the St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter be amended and restated to modernize parish governance by reducing the Parish Council from eleven members (eight district and three at-large) to eight single-member districts, eliminating at-large seats; updating council and parish-president compensation to reflect current duties, with cost-of-living adjustments every four years; establishing term limits of one-and-one-half consecutive terms for both the council and the parish president; designating the Parish President as chief executive and administrative officer, eliminating the separate chief administrative officer position; clarifying procedures for vacancies, meetings, and publication of ordinances; and removing obsolete or redundant sections, including outdated ballot and district provisions, all as provided in the revised St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter adopted by the Charter Commission?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the Parish once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Clerk is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Parish Council Meeting Room, 500 Main Street, Franklin, Louisiana, on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said elections, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Parish will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Chairperson and/or Clerk of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of St. Mary Parish and the Registrar of Voters of St. Mary Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to amend the Home Rule Charter. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

SECTION 9. Employment of Counsel. This Governing Authority finds and determines that a real necessity exists for the employment of special counsel on matters related to the special election, and accordingly, Foley & Judell, L.L.P., is hereby employed as special counsel for said purpose for a

term not exceeding one (1) year from the date of this resolution. The fee to be paid said special counsel shall be an amount computed at hourly rate based on the Attorney General's then current Maximum Hourly Fee Schedule, not to exceed \$1,000 in the aggregate, together with reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, and payment for the work herein specified is hereby approved without further action of this Governing Authority as and when invoices are presented. The scope of this legal representation does not involve federal claims.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in special session convened on this the 11th day of February 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the St. Mary Parish Council, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), on February 11, 2026, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the Parish on **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the Parish qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSITION

Shall the St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter be amended and restated to modernize parish governance by reducing the Parish Council from eleven members (eight district and three at-large) to eight single-member districts, eliminating at-large seats; updating council and parish-president compensation to reflect current duties, with cost-of-living adjustments every four years; establishing term limits of one-and-one-half consecutive terms for both the council and the parish president; designating the Parish President as chief executive and administrative officer, eliminating the separate chief administrative officer position; clarifying procedures for vacancies, meetings, and publication of ordinances; and removing obsolete or redundant sections, including outdated ballot and district provisions, all as provided in the revised St. Mary Parish Home Rule Charter adopted by the Charter Commission?

The said special election will be held at each and every polling place in the Parish, which polls will open at seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The polling places at the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$85,200.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5, Chapter 6-A and Chapter 6-B of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Parish Council Meeting Room, 500 Main Street, Franklin, Louisiana, on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the Parish are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Referred from November 12, 2025, Council Meeting, Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 2 (Morgan City/Siracusaville) – 5 Vacancies

Glen A. Swain – Present Member Paul Rappmundt
Nelda T. Dural

Mr. Davis moved that Glen A. Swain be reappointed and Paul Rappmundt and Nelda T. Dural be appointed to Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 2. Mr. Duhon seconded the motion, which carried.

- B. Referred from January 28, 2026, Council Meeting, Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Fire Protection District No. 1 (Cypremort Point) – 2 Vacancies

Kimberly Simon – Present Member

Mr. Olander moved that Kimberly Simon be reappointed to Fire Protection District No. 1. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which carried.

St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 (Chatsworth, St. Joseph, Irish Bend, Yokely, Sorrell, Websterville, Charenton, St. Peter Street) – 2 Vacancies

Willie Scott – Present Member Anthony R. Darden
Camile J. Punch Herbert Bell
Henry “Ray” J. Pontiff Marie L. Cole
Carla Stewart Davis

Mr. Ina moved that Carla Stewart Davis be appointed to Water & Sewer Commission No. 4. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

Dr. Rink moved to table the remaining vacancy to the February 25, 2026 meeting. Mr. Ina seconded the motion, which carried.

- C. Referred from January 28, 2026, Council Meeting - Discussion and action relative to collection fee enforcement at the boat landings regarding Ordinance No. 2355. (Mr. Hebert)

Mr. Hebert stated that people are not paying to launch their boats and no enforcement is being done. He informed that the board was abolished and has spoken with the Sheriff, who said he will enforce the parking/launch fee.

Mr. Duhon stated that he has received complaints and has removed tires and trash from the Amelia Boat Landing himself. He also purchased a weed eater for a neighbor to use at the boat landing.

After discussion, Mr. Hebert moved that the Council recommend the Sheriff Department enforce the current ordinance. Mr. Ina seconded the motion, which carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. We received the following financial statements:

- St. Mary Parish Clerk of Court – year ended June 30, 2025
- Gravity Sub-Drainage District No. 1 of Gravity Drainage District No. 2 – year ended September 30, 2024
- Recreation District No. 7 – year ended September 30, 2025
- West St. Mary Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District – year ended December 31, 2024

B. Terry Foulcard, Registrar of Voters writes in compliance with LSA-RS 42:282-286, she submitted the Report of Expenditures for the St. Mary Parish Registrar of Voters Office for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

C. Appointments to the 16th Judicial District Children and Youth Planning Board for the Parish of St. Mary:

- Education Representative – Rachael C. Sanders, Ed.D. – Present Member
- Criminal Justice Representative – Anthony J. Saleme, Jr.

Mr. Hill moved that Rachael C. Sanders be reappointed as Education Representative to the 16th Judicial District Children and Youth Planning Board and Judge Anthony J. Saleme, Jr. be appointed as Criminal Justice Representative to the 16th Judicial District Children and Youth Planning Board. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

D. Discussion and action pertaining to Opioid Distribution Settlement. (Mr. Ina)

Mr. Ina withdrew this item.

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