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

MARCH 25, 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, Leslie "Les" Rulf, Jr., Patrick Hebert, James "Jimmy" Davis, Jr., Mark Duhon, Dean Adams, and Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D.

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

Mr. Olander moved that the reading of the First Regular Meeting, March 11, 2026 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

Arda "Alex" Yanik and Victor Gaarven appeared before the Council to give an update on the old Plantation Inn Hotel.

Mr. Yanik asked to be given to the end of summer to make repairs due to confusion of the condemnation process. He expounded on benefits to not demolish the old Plantation Inn Hotel and informed that he spoke with an attorney relative to putting money into a trust fund.

Mr. Gaarven stated that he is a licensed contractor in California and was called by Mr. Yanik two weeks ago to help with the project. He stated that the property is very unsafe and that an engineer, architect, and local licensed contractor need to be hired. He also stated that according to his research, no permits have been issued.

Several Council Members stated that the process was explained to Mr. Yanik several times, South Central Planning & Development's inspector met with him on the property and also informed of the process, and still no permits have been applied for and no work has been started.

City of Franklin Fire Chief Chuck Bourgeois appeared before the Council to discuss Fire District No. 5 and the cost for fire protection services. He expounded on a letter he submitted to the Parish and Council relative to adoption of a resolution by the City of Franklin, requesting that the Parish Council recalculate fire protection service costs and that implementation of a recurring review be re-evaluated every five years. He discussed the annual $16,534 fire protection allocation that has not been received from the Parish in two years. He stated that a fixed rate of $3,000 a month per the agreement is being received but has not been adjusted since 1987 to reflect increases in population, service demands, operational costs, or inflation. He stated that operations cannot continue under these conditions and asked that the contract be updated accordingly.

In response to several Council Members' inquiries, Chief Bourgeois informed of the cost and importance of funding needed to operate the fire department. He stated the fire department will stop running emergency medical calls outside city limits and cease preparing and submitting fire rating paperwork due to lack of funding. He offered thirty days to negotiate the contract, in writing.

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale stated that several organizations were cut due to lack of funding and the annual allocation of $16,500 was not awarded in 2025. However, a portion was given in 2024.

Mrs. Hidalgo stated for the record that this is her first time seeing the letter Chief Bourgeois is referring to. Chief Bourgeois stated that it was mailed in August 2025 and was recently emailed.

Discussion was had relative to administration working to find a solution to the problem and possibly placing a millage on a ballot.

Mrs. Hidalgo recognized Mayor Eugene Foulcard, City of Franklin in attendance.

Mr. Ina stated that Jacob Bell called him to inform he could not attend tonight's meeting to discuss "Save Our Children Mentoring Program" and will call to be placed on a future agenda.

Parish President, Sam Jones informed that renovations to the old Franklin Foundation Hospital will begin soon.

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale, submitted his report for a two (2) week period, ending March 25, 2026.

Item 2 of Mr. Governale's report stated that he and Jill Fisher, Director of Personnel, met with Lean Frog this morning and that they are on schedule and are updating job descriptions.

Item 3 of Mr. Governale's report stated that the Centerville Bridge repairs are on schedule and should be open to one lane traffic in April 2026.

In response to Rev. Mathews' inquiry, Mr. Governale stated that he and Finance Director, Desiree Gros, met with the new and retired bookkeeper and one board member of Water & Sewer Commission No. 4. He stated that one outstanding garbage and mosquito payment was received and that they intend to submit a current payment next week.

Planning & Zoning Director, Mandi LeBlanc, recommends the following item:

a. Recommend Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: Rivers Patout
611 Irish Bend Rd., Franklin, LA 70538

Address: Hwy. 317, Franklin, LA 70538

Parcel Id # 2354364054.00. 83.25 Ac Por 1400.00 Ac Tract Maryland Pltn BD above by a Carlin - below by W Garrett being situated in Sec. 51 T15S R10E, Acq. 25z 200591, Improvement on the Land of Maryland Company, LLC, Acq. 25Z 200591

Zoned: Agricultural (AG) Zoned District

PURPOSE: Final Approval for the above referenced as shown on a plat titled "Plan of Land showing property of Sterling Sugars, LLC as per COB 25Z, Entry No. 371,185 to be subdivided in Tracts "ABCDEA" & "FGHIJF" and to be acquired by Martha Anne H. Foster Situated in: Sections 51, T 15 S – R 10 E St. Mary Parish, Louisiana Southwestern Land District" as surveyed by Francis Fortier 3091 Highway 104, Opelousas,, Louisiana 70570, dated February 3, 2026.

Mr. Adams recommends the above Final Subdivision/Development Approval. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

2. Recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission at their March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting:

b. Recommend Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: Rodriguez Brothers Farms, LLC
P O Box 420, Franklin, LA 70538
Address: 1614 Hwy. 83, Franklin, LA 70538

Parcel Id# 1964861001.00. 19.20 Ac Bd Kemper - Colbert – Cypt. Road -Dumesnil Et Al Acq 44E 273756

Zoned: Agricultural (AG) Zoned District

PURPOSE: as shown on a plat titled "Property Line Adjustment between Ronald Rodriguez & Rodriguez Brothers Farms, LLC containing 0.702 acre (30,589 sq.ft.) located in Section 55, T14S-R9E Saint Mary Parish, Louisiana" as surveyed by Normand Land Surveying, LLC, 210 Evangeline Boulevard, Saint Martinville, LA 70582, dated January 24, 2023.

Mr. Adams recommends Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

c. Recommend Rezoning Approval

Name: Darla Lanie & Patrick Prados
Address: 548 Verdun Ln. & 558 Prairie Rd., Franklin, LA

Parcel Id # 2534521025.00 - Lot BD Richardson - Lane - Luke – Queen Acq. 370893 - 548 Verdun Ln., Franklin, LA &
-2534501031.00 - Lot 30A Resubd No. 30 Victor Von Schoeler Part Being The Prop of Shawn C And Laura Gash Austin Per Plat 114 293976 Acq. 117 294357 – 558 Prairie Rd., Franklin, LA

PURPOSE: Rezoning from Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to Agricultural (AG) Zoned District.

d. Recommend Rezoning Approval

Name: Bruce Saucier
Address: 2917 & 2800 Hwy. 87, Franklin, LA

Parcel Id # 2384901001.00 4.90 Ac Tract ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZA PerPlat 27u 209000 Being situated in Sec 39 T14S-R10E Acq. 195 305379, 2414881001.00 37.86 Ac Por Tract ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUV WXYZA Per Plat 27u 209000, Being situated in Sec. 37 T14S R10E, Acq. 195 305379, & 2414881003.00 27.19 Ac Por Tract ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUV WXYZA Per Plat 27u 209000 lying West of LA 87 Acq. 195 305379

PURPOSE:_Rezoning of three (3) parcels of property by Bruce Saucier from Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District and Light Industrial (LI) Zoned District to Agricultural (AG) Zoned District.

Mr. Adams recommends the above Rezonings for Approval. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

Rev. Mathews moved that the Public Hearing Report, March 11, 2026 – 5:45 p.m. and Public Hearing Report, March 11, 2026 – 5:50 p.m. be approved. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Ina reported that there were 41 participants at the Mary Bird Perkins Prostate, Breast, Colon, Skin, and Blood Pressure Screening event that was held on March 19, 2026 at Raintree Market in Baldwin.

Mr. Hill informed of the annual Basin Brew Fest to be held March 28, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. under the Morgan City overpass, must be 21 years old to attend.

Mr. Hill introduced the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance in compliance with Ordinance No. 1973, Chapter 5 Procedures, Division 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearing, Section 5.4.2 Rezonings (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 Rezonings (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 Single Family (SR) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to allow for a manufactured home to be placed on the property.

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 25th day of March 2026; having been published in accordance with law.

EXHIBIT "A"

Name: Karin Bertrand
Address: 10906 Hwy. 182, Franklin, LA

Parcel Id# 2234604021.00 - Lot 1A Bayouside Investments, LLC, Per Plat 441 341242, Acq. 470 346101

PURPOSE: Single Family (SR) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to allow for a manufactured home to be placed on the property.

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PURPOSE: Rezoning of three (3) parcels of property by Bruce Saucier from Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District and Light Industrial (LI) Zoned District to Agricultural (AG) Zoned District.

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PURPOSE: Rezoning from Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to Agricultural (AG) Zoned District.

Mr. Adams moved to expand the agenda to adopt a 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. Mr. Rulf seconded the motion, which failed. Mr. Hebert, Mr. Ina, and Rev. Mathews voted no.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Atchafalaya Golf Course Commission – 1 Vacancy

Douglas Streety, Jr. Randy Bijeaux
Rhett Fryou

Mr. Rulf moved that Rhett Fryou be appointed to the Atchafalaya Golf Course Commission. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. We received the following financial statements:

Recreation District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Mary – year ended September 30, 2025
Recreation District No. 3 of the Parish of St. Mary – year ended September 30, 2025

B. Didi Battle has written to resign from her position as a member of the Board of Commissioners for Bayou Bend Health System (Hospital Service District No. 1) effective February 20, 2026.

Ms. Battle will be sent a letter thanking her for her service and the vacancy will be advertised.

C. Terrence Johnson has written to resign from his position as a member of the Board of Commissioners for Recreation District No. 4, effective March 18, 2026.

Mr. Johnson will be sent a letter thanking him for his service and the vacancy will be advertised.

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

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, Chairperson