

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

APRIL 22, 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: Rodney Olander, David W. Hill, Leslie Rulf, Jr., Patrick Hebert, James “Jimmy” Davis, Jr., Dean Adams, and Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D. Absent were Rev. Craig Mathews, J Ina, and Mark Duhon.

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 8, 2026 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Mr. Rulf seconded the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Hidalgo informed that Janet Aucoin called and requested to be placed on the May 13, 2026 meeting to discuss an update in reference to the St. Mary Parish Ordinance No. 2427 “Feeding of stray cats and dogs” and to suggest changes.

Renee Dupre, Assurance Financial Manufactured Home Lender, appeared before the Council in support of a Rezoning request for Karin Bertrand located at 10906 Highway 182, Franklin. She stated that the manufactured home is built to code and will be installed to regulations.

In response to Ms. Dupre’s statement that a manufactured home in the neighborhood is on single family zoned property, Chief Administrative Officer, Paul Governale stated that it is allowed on that property.

In response to Ms. Dupre’s inquiry, Mr. Olander stated that the single family zoning is not the issue, it is because they want to put a manufactured home on the property.

In response to Mr. Hebert’s inquiry, Ms. Dupre stated that it will be insured as a manufactured home, not a single family residence.

John Werner, 11076 Highway 182, Franklin resident, appeared in opposition to the rezone request for Karin Bertrand. He stated that his home is known as Dixie Plantation and has been on the National Registry of Historic Places since the 1980’s. He stated that he also owns adjacent property at 11050 Highway 182, Franklin and the reason he moved here and invested in this property is because Franklin has a unique collection of historic structures that attract visitors. He stated that a manufactured home will impact economic value to the area and asked the Council to adhere to the current zoning regulations.

Charles Billodeau, 10950 Highway 182, Franklin resident, appeared in opposition to the rezone request for Karin Bertrand. He stated that he also owns an adjacent lot to his residence and that his concern is that a manufactured home will devalue his home and property.

Becky Pitre, 10988 Highway 182, Franklin resident appeared in opposition to the rezone request for Karin Bertrand. She stated that she resides next door and that this area includes historic homes, residential homes, and is a scenic route into town to attract visitors. Her concern is that more rezoning will be allowed in the future.

Several Council Members stated they received calls from residents in opposition to the rezone. Discussion was had relative to zoning regulations, property value, revenue, and spot zoning.

After discussion, Mr. Adams requested to move up Item 13A, “FOR ADOPTION - 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). (Karin Bertrand)”

Mr. Olander moved to adopt 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 for Karin Bertrand. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which failed by the following 0-8-0-3 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: None

NAYS: Olander, Hill, Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Adams, Rink, and Hidalgo

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mathews, Ina, and Duhon

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale, submitted his report for a two (2) week period, ending April 22, 2026. He also submitted Departmental Quarterly Reports for Departments of Economic Development, Finance, Homeland Security, Personnel, Planning & Zoning, and Public Works. He also submitted a report from Tim Matte, St. Mary Parish Levee District Director, on the status of TE-168, Pump Station No. 4, Pump Station No. 9, Pump Station No. 8, and Pump Station No. 6.

Mr. Olander thanked Mr. Governale for helping install new playground equipment at the Centerville Park.

In response to Dr. Rink’s inquiry, Mr. Governale stated that repairs to the Centerville Bridge is on schedule and plan to be complete in early May 2026.

In response to Mr. Adams’ inquiry, President Sam Jones stated that the old Morgan City Bridge repairs plan to be complete by the end of the year.

Mr. Hebert informed that he and his wife have purchased the old Fairview Cinema in Bayou Vista and plan to re-open it on May 1, 2026.

Dr. Rink moved that the Public Hearing Report, April 8, 2026 be approved. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Hill moved to adopt the following Ordinance. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried by the following 8-0-0-3 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ina, Duhon, and Mathews

ORDINANCE NO. 2430

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 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 Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District and Light Industrial (LI) Zoned District to Agricultural (AG) Zoned District.

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; having been heard in a public hearing held at Franklin, Louisiana on the 22nd day of April 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 23rd day of April 2026 at the hour of 4:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

This Ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 27th day of April 2026 at 3:44 p.m.

EXHIBIT “A”

Name: Bruce Saucier

Address: 2917 & 2800 Hwy. 87, Franklin, LA

Parcel Id -2384901001.00 4.90 Ac Tract ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZA Per Plat 27u 209000 Being situated in Sec 39 T14S-R10E Acq. 195 305379, -2414881001.00 37.86 Ac Por Tract ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZA Per Plat 27u 209000 Being situated in Sec 37 T14S R10E Acq. 195 305379, & -2414881003.00 27.19 Ac Por Tract ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZA 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. Hill moved to adopt the following Ordinance. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried by the following 8-0-0-3 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Duhon, Mathews, and Ina

ORDINANCE NO. 2431

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 Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to Agricultural (AG) Zoned District.

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; having been heard in a public hearing held at Franklin, Louisiana on the 22nd day of April 2026; was adopted.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

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APPROVED:

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

This Ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 27th day of April 2026 at 3:44 p.m.

EXHIBIT "A"

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.

Mr. Hebert moved to adopt the following Resolution. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried by the following 8-0-0-3 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Duhon, Mathews, and Ina

RESOLUTION

Resolution of the St. Mary Parish Government authorizing Sam Jones, Parish President to execute any and all agreements and documents with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development – Office of Multimodal Commerce pertaining to the Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport.

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Government, as the governing body responsible for the operation and management of Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport, seeks to ensure the efficient execution of official agreements and documents necessary for airport operations, development, and funding; and

WHEREAS, such documents include, but are not limited to, applications, grant agreements, capital improvement plans, local funding matches, enrollment forms, and other related documents required for state programs; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the St. Mary Parish Government to designate a qualified individual to act on its behalf to execute such agreements and documents to facilitate timely and effective administration of airport-related activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ST. MARY PARISH GOVERNMENT:

1. **Authorization:** That Sam Jones is hereby authorized and empowered to act as the official representative of the St. Mary Parish Government to execute, on its behalf, all necessary agreements, supplemental agreements, project applications, sponsor certifications, local funding matches, enrollment and certification forms, and other related documents required for the operation, maintenance, and development of Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport.
2. **Scope of Authority:** The authority granted herein includes the ability to sign, submit, and certify the accuracy and completeness of all such documents, ensuring compliance with applicable state and local regulations.
3. **Effective Date:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect for one year or until revoked or modified by subsequent action of the Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport.
4. **Notification:** The St. Mary Parish Government shall provide an original of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and Development – Office of Multimodal Commerce, as required, to confirm Sam Jones authority to act on behalf of the Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 22nd day of April 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

Dr. Rink explained that a State Bill went to the House of Representatives yesterday that will change control and ownership of the Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport from the Parish to the State level.

Per several Council Members' inquiries, Mr. Governale stated that the Parish owns most of the property.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Referred from April 8, 2026, regular council meeting - Shayla Anderson, owner of The Stable Lounge, LLC, leasee of Columbia Talmore, Jr., located at 300 Bosco Road, Jeanerette, Louisiana (formally Queen Bee Daiquiris & Game Tyme) requests a residency variance to obtain a 2026 Full Liquor Permit. (Rev. Mathews)

Due to Rev. Mathews' absence, Mr. Hill moved to table this item to a time uncertain. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Robbie Squires, Director, Government Affairs, Cox Communication Central Region has written Cox is required to obtain permission from local broadcast stations and cable networks to provide their signals on our channel lineup. We're in discussions to renew agreements with the following programmers and broadcasters:

Station/Network	Channel(s)
Centro America TV	278
Pasioness	387
Wapa America	453
Cine Latino	267

We will keep you updated with any new information. Please feel free to contact me at (405)286-5061 or Robbie.Squires@cox.com.

- B. Chris Disher, Managing Director, Cajun Broadband, Inc. has emailed – Cajun Broadband applied for and was awarded a large fiber project to take place in West St Mary Parish including Four Corners and Cypremort Point. This is part of the GUMBO 2.0/BEAD program.

This is a new award and not related to the previous GUMBO 1.0 Projects.

As part of the requirements, we must submit a formal letter to St Mary Parish Government stating the project and projected start date.

Clerk of the Council, Lisa Morgan, stated that Mr. Disher has offered to give an update and provide more information on the GUMBO 2.0 Program, if needed.

- C. Discussion related to dilapidated housing in Siracusa Subdivision. (Mr. Duhon)

Due to Mr. Duhon’s absence, Mr. Adams moved to table this item to a time uncertain. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

- D. Discussion related to Facial Recognition Apps for dogs and cats. (Mr. Duhon)

Due to Mr. Duhon’s absence, Mr. Adams moved to table this item to a time uncertain. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

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