

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

MAY 13, 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, Leslie “Les” Rulf, Jr., Patrick Hebert, James “Jimmy” Davis, Jr., Mark Duhon, Dean Adams, and Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D. Absent was David W. Hill.

The Invocation was pronounced by Mr. Davis and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Duhon.

Mr. Olander moved that the reading of the Second Regular Meeting, April 22, 2026 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Hidalgo moved up Item 14B, “Resolution of respect in memory of Mr. Michael G. Brocato.”

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hill

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mr. Michael “Mike” Brocato, Sr., and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brocato was a loving husband, father, grandfather, soon to be great grandfather, brother, and dear friend, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brocato was a faithful servant whose standard of faith was always high and who built his life centered on faith, family, and community, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brocato was a mentor, steady presence, believed in doing things the right way, held high expectations, cared deeply about the people around him, known for honesty, precision, work ethic, approached everything with full effort, pride, and lived his values every day, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brocato served as a teacher and coach at Berwick Junior High School and Assistant Principal and Principal of Patterson High School for more than 20 years, and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mr. Brocato 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 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

Mrs. Hidalgo moved up Item 14C, “Resolution of respect in memory of Mr. Joshua “DJ Fab” Singleton.”

Rev. Mathews moved to adopt the following Resolution. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 10-0-0-1 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hill

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mr. Joshua “DJ Fab” Singleton, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Singleton was a loving son, father, brother, uncle, mentor, and dear friend, whose real gift was joy, connection, and making memories from high school dances to college nights, reunions to bingos, and festivals to community events, and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council and our entire Parish-wide community hereby acknowledge that Mr. Joshua "DJ Fab" Singleton was truly adored and revered as so much more than an amazing and inspiring radio personality who left a mark on the airwaves and in the hearts of many, had a love of community, and passion for music that echoed far beyond the radio studio, his dedication to his craft and his genuine connection with his listeners and the community was his undeniable gift for bringing people together through music, and

WHEREAS, DJ Fab was so gifted at transcribing people’s words and thoughts into messages of motivation and even hope, as such that when you heard his very distinguished, trademark voice over the airwaves, whatever it was he advertising, announcing, or promoting, you knew you just had to be part of it, and

WHEREAS, it’s also noteworthy that Mr. Singleton had a particularly special touch of class and elegance that his radiant personality added to so many of our special events. When DJ FAB was on his 1’s and 2’s, there was a special presence in his radiant personality that placed his gift and talent in high demand, and

WHEREAS, the greatest contribution and blessing to St. Mary Parish, to which his gifts and talents are attributable, is the indisputable fact that Mr. Singleton used his platform and voice as a source of empowerment for his listening audience across southwest Louisiana and St. Mary Parish in particular, by sharing vital information aimed at improving the quality of life and the overall general welfare of our citizenry, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Singleton’s legacy is a testament to his talent, warmth, and commitment to bringing joy to many through music, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mr. Singleton 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, and that we will remember that JOSHUA SINGLETON AKA DJ FAB AS A GREAT HUMANITARIAN FROM ST. MARY PARISH LOUISIANA!

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

Lisa Morgan informed that Janet Aucoin called and requested to be placed on the May 27, 2026 meeting to discuss an update in reference to St. Mary Parish Ordinance No. 2427 “Feeding of stray cats and dogs” and to suggest changes.

Belinda Johnson Robinson, mother of advocate Marcus Johnson, appeared before the Council to announce the Annual World IBD Day/Crohn’s and Colitis Disease Awareness Day will be declared on May 19th and celebrated on May 23, 2026 on the Bayou Side in Franklin from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Adams requested to move up Item 14A, “Proclamation proclaiming May 19, 2026, as Annual Awareness Day World IBD Day/Crohn’s and Colitis Disease in St. Mary Parish.”

Mr. Adams 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, Rulf, Hebert, Davis, Duhon, Adams, Rink, Hidalgo, Mathews, and Ina

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hill

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, World IBD Day is observed annually on May 19 to raise awareness of inflammatory bowel diseases, including Crohn's disease and Ulcerative colitis, which affect millions of people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) are chronic, lifelong conditions that cause painful inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract and can significantly impact the physical, emotional, and financial well-being of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, despite advances in medical research and treatment, there remains no known cure for IBD, and continued public awareness, education, advocacy, and research are essential to improving quality of life and advancing toward better treatments and ultimately a cure; and

WHEREAS, healthcare professionals, caregivers, advocacy organizations, researchers, and community members work tirelessly to support those living with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis through compassionate care, education, and public outreach; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness and understanding of IBD helps reduce stigma, encourages early diagnosis and treatment, and promotes support for those affected in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the St. Mary Parish Council and the Parish President, on behalf of the entire St. Mary Parish Government, do hereby proclaim May 19, 2026, as

“WORLD IBD DAY/CROHN’S AND COLITIS DISEASE”

and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of supporting individuals living with inflammatory bowel disease and to promote awareness, education, and research efforts throughout our community.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

In response to Rev. Mathews’ inquiry, Robert Raheem, Chief Nursing Officer for Bayou Bend Health System, stated that they have seen several cases of Crohn’s and Colitis Disease.

Robert “Bret” Allain, II, Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners with Bayou Bend Health System appeared before the council with an update. He introduced Stephanie Guidry, CEO and Robert Raheem, Chief Nursing Officer in attendance. He expounded on the importance of having services available locally.

Stephanie Guidry informed of the new physicians and specialties offered at Bayou Bend Health System. She expounded on the Wellness Center, Fitness Center, new construction, future construction, and community education.

Robert Raheen informed of the partnership with Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) regarding Tele-Cardiology Medicine Specialist, Tele-Neurology regarding stroke evaluations, Tele-Nephrology regarding kidney diseases, and Tele-Psychiatry regarding behavioral and mental health services.

Mr. Allain updated on the remodel, construction, and funding, and stated that funding was obtained through grants and match money without borrowing any money. He expounded on future construction, recruiting new physicians, Medicaid enrollment decline, shifts from standard Medicare to Medicare Advantage, which is negatively affecting the financial outlook and Medicare Cost Report, and critical access. Rev. Mathews encouraged quarterly updates be given to the Council.

In response to Rev. Mathews' inquiry, Mrs. Guidry stated that she is confident that their relationship with Community Health is vital in order to stay functional. She informed that Bayou Bend can also answer any Medicaid questions to ensure proper coverage.

Parish President, Sam Jones stated that Mr. Allain obtained funding to build the Bayou Bend Wellness Center and to keep the Morgan City Hospital open when he was State Senator.

Dr. Francis Sicard appeared before the Council to answer any questions relative to his specific use request to allow horses in a single family residential zoned district.

Mr. Hebert requested to move up Item 16J, Hospital Service District No. 1 appointment to the Board.

Mr. Hebert moved to appoint Sandy McClelland to Hospital Service District No. 1. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried. Dr. Rink abstained.

Rev. Mathews stated that Christopher H. Childers may have a conflict if appointed.

President Jones informed that Director of Homeland Security, Jimmy Broussard is retiring and Ross Mire has been hired as the new Director. He stated that Mr. Mire has experience from working at The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and experience, specifically hurricanes, from working at the Sheriff's Department.

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale, submitted his report for a three (3) week period, ending May 13, 2026. He also submitted an update from LEAN Frog regarding the Compensation and Classification Study for Parish employees.

Item 3 of Mr. Governale's report stated that the HoopLa initiative is a partnership between the New Orleans Pelicans and the Louisiana Legislative Charity Fund that raises funds to refurbish basketball courts throughout Louisiana that is funded through the annual House vs. Senate Charity Basketball Game. He stated that Elizabeth Davis Park has been chosen for this program.

Mr. Governale stated that due to delivery of a part, the projected opening of Centerville Bridge is May 24, 2026,. He also read a letter from Louisiana Workman's Comp regarding a Risk Hazard Assessment that was performed at the Transfer/Pickup Station in Franklin and reported it to be in great shape, well organized, and commended the workers. Mr. Duhon also commended the workers.

Per Mr. Ina's inquiry, Mr. Governale stated that the Federal Government is trying to redirect funds for the St. Joseph Walking Trail Project. However, Michael Domingue is working hard to keep funding for that project.

In response to Mr. Adam's inquiry relative to removal of signs in the Courthouse elevators regarding early voting awareness, Mr. Governale stated that posting notices with tape damages the walls. He also stated no one asked for permission to post them in the elevators and suggested the proper place to post would have been on the first and third floors.

Several Council Members discussed the importance of voter education and awareness.

Planning & Zoning Director, Mandi LeBlanc, presented the following items as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission at their April 20, 2026, Regular Meeting:

a. Recommend Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: Edward Payton III
17883 Hwy. 182 W., Baldwin, LA 70514

Address: 17883, 17885, 17897, & 17911, Baldwin, LA

Parcel Id # 1994844093.00 Lot Por No 2 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 Being Por Tract "ABCDEA" Per Plat 110 293433 Situated in Sec. 22 T14S R9E Acq. 110 293450,

-1994844094.00 Lot Por No. 2 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 Being Por Tract ABCDEA Per Plat 110 293433 Situated in Sec 22 T14S R9E Acq. 110 293450.

-1994844089.00 Lot Por No. 2 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 Being Por Tract "BFGHIDCB" Per Plat 110 293433 Situated in Sec 55 T14S R9E Acq. 248 312502,

-1994844090.00 Lot Por No. 2 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Pe Plat VV 36274 Being Por Tract "BFGHIDCB" Per Plat 110 293433 Situated in Sec 8 T14S R9E Acq. 248 312502,

-1994844091.00 Lot Por No. 2 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 Being Por Tract "BFGHIDCB" Per Plat 110 293433 Situated in Sec 22 T14S R9E Acq. 248 312502

-1994844047.00 2.65 Ac Por No. 3 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 also described As Por No. 3 Salvadore Ansi Et Al Part Situated in Sec 8 T14S R9E Lying South of Hwy 182 Acq. 248 312502,

-1994844095.00 .43 Ac Por No. 3 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 also described as Por No. 3 Salvadore Ansi Et Al Part Situated in Sec 55 T14S R9E Lying South of Hwy 182 Acq. 248 312502,

-1994844020.00 .20 Ac Por No. 3 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 also described as Por No. 3 Salvadore Ansi Et Al Part Situated in Sec 22 T14S R9E Lying South of Hwy 182 Acq. 248 312502.

-1994844053.00 .14 Ac Por No. 4 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 also described as Por No. 4 Salvadore Ansi Et Al Part Situated in Sec 8 T14S R9E Lying South of Hwy 182 Acq. 248 312502,

-1994844096.00 .15 Ac Por No. 4 Nucoso Simeca Et Al Part Per Plat VV 36274 also described as Por No. 4 Salvadore Ansi Et Al Part Situated in Sec 55 T14S R9E Lying South of Hwy 182 Acq. 248 312502.

Zoned: Agricultural (AG) & Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned Districts

PURPOSE: Preliminary & Final Approval for the above referenced as shown on a plat titled "Plan of Land Showing a portion of property of Edward Payton, III as Per Entry No's 293,450 & 312,502 to be subdivided into Tracts "ABCDEFGHJIKA" & "LJIHGFL" situated in: Sections 8 & 22, T 14 S – R 9 E St. Mary Parish, Louisiana Southwestern Land District" as surveyed by Miller Engineer & Associates, Inc. Engineering & Land Surveyors 601 Main St. Franklin, Louisiana 70538, dated March 12, 2026. DWG. No. 15319

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that this item was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission with the modification to subdivision standards to allow for alternative fire protection in place of the fire hydrants requirement based on the verification letters from Fire Chief Cook with the Town of Baldwin and Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 stating that safety standards are met.

b. Recommend Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: Succession of Kerry and Charlotte Landry
190 Fortier Rd., Jeanerette, LA 70544

Address: 190 Fortier Rd., Jeanerette, LA

Parcel Id # 1754924075.00 - 2.50 Ac Por Tract No. 3 George Landry Est Part being Por 26.45 Ac Tract BIJKLMNOPQRSDCB Per Plat 429 339285 Situated in Sec. 33 T13S R8E Acq. 429 339285 and Parcel Id# 1754924076.00 - 22.85 Ac Por Tract No. 3 George Landry Est Part being Por 26.45 Ac Tract BIJKLMNOPQRSDCB Per Plat 429 339285 Situated in Sec 34 T13S R8E Acq. 429 339285

Zoned: Agricultural (AG) Zoned District

PURPOSE: Preliminary & Final Approval for the above referenced as shown on a plat titled "Showing property boundary survey and partition of a portion of Tract "BIJKLMNOPQRSDCB" belonging to Kenneth K. Landry herein, creating Tracts "H-I-G-J-H", "A-B-C-D-W-V-S-A", "S-V-U-T-R-S", "R-T-O-P-Q-R", "E-F-G-J-K-L-W-D-E", "W-L-M-U-V-W", and "U-M-N-O-T-U." Said property is situated in: Sections 33 & 34, T 13 S – R 8 E, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana. Surveyed by S. J. Langlinais & Associates, INC. Consulting Land Surveyors 2413 Veterans Memorial Drive Abbeville, Louisiana 70510. Dated April 7, 2026.

Mr. Olander recommends the above Preliminary & Final Subdivisions/Developments. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried. Mrs. Hidalgo abstained.

c. Recommend Specific Use

Name: Francis Sicard
Address: 1933 Hwy. 182 E., Bayou Vista, LA

Parcel Id# -2984341057.00, Lot 6-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd Acq. 36C 241792 - Sec.20 T15S R12E; 2984341013.00 - Lot Por No 5-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd., situated in Sec. 20 T15S R12E, Acq. 36C 241792; 2984341059.00 - Lot Por No 4-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd., Situated in Sec. 20 T15S R12E; Acq. 36C 241792; 2984341014.00 - Lot Por No. 4-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd., Situated in Sec. 19 T15S R12E, Acq. 36C 241792 & 2984341058.00 - Lot Por No. 5-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd., Situated in Sec. 19, T15S R12E; Acq. 36C 241792.

Currently Zoned: Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District

Specific Use Purpose: to allow for horses in a Single Family Residential Zoned District.

Mr. Olander recommends the above Specific Use Approval. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried. Mrs. Hidalgo abstained.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that there was one opposition at the Planning & Zoning meeting from a direct neighbor due to concerns regarding waste disposal, flies, and rodents.

Dr. Rink moved that the Public Hearing Report, April 22, 2026 – 5:45 p.m. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Hebert informed that he attended the South Central Planning Commission meeting on behalf of President Jones that was very informative and the next meeting will be held in St. Mary Parish.

Mr. Ina informed that he, Rev. Mathews, Economic Development Director Evan Boudreaux, and State Representative Vinny St. Blanc attended a meeting recently regarding a potential new business opening in the Parish.

Mr. Olander introduced the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO:

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2424 of St. Mary Parish to replace Archon Information Systems, LLC d/b/a Civicsource with a qualified/certified company for the process of advertising and sale of adjudicated properties; and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Council previously adopted Ordinance No. 2424 authorizing a contractual relationship with Archon Information Systems, LLC d/b/a CivicSource for the administration, advertising, and sale of adjudicated properties; and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Council has determined that it is in the best interest of St. Mary Parish to amend Ordinance No. 2424 to allow for the replacement of Archon Information Systems, LLC d/b/a CivicSource with another qualified and/or certified company capable of administering the process for advertising and sale of such adjudicated properties in compliance with Louisiana law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the St. Mary Parish Council, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2424 is hereby amended to remove and replace all references to Archon Information Systems, LLC d/b/a CivicSource with language authorizing the Parish President to contract with a qualified and/or certified company to administer the process for advertising and sale of adjudicated properties, including but not limited to listing, marketing, conducting sales, and facilitating compliance with all applicable statutory requirements.

SECTION 2. The Parish President is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate this amendment and to enter into an agreement with a qualified and/or certified company for the provision of said services, in accordance with applicable Louisiana procurement laws.

SECTION 3. All other provisions of Ordinance No. 2424 not inconsistent with this amendment shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

This ordinance having been offered and read on this 13th day of May 2026; having been published in accordance with law.

ORDINANCE NO:

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.

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

WHEREAS, DIVISION 5.4 General Procedures for Public Hearings, Section 5.4.3 Specific Use Permits provides a process for the granting of a specific use, 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 approved and granted a specific use to allow for an existing Church and Accessory Facilities.

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 13th day of May 2026; having been published in accordance with law.

EXHIBIT “A”

Name: Francis Sicard

Address: 1933 Hwy. 182 E., Bayou Vista, LA

Parcel Id: 2984341057.00 - Lot 6-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd.; Acq. 36C 241792; Sec.20 T15S

R12E; 2984341013.00 - Lot Por No 5-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd.; situated in Sec. 20 T15S R12E; Acq. 36C 241792; 2984341059.00 - Lot Por No 4-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd.; Situated in Sec. 20 T15S R12E; Acq. 36C 241792; 2984341014.00 - Lot Por No. 4-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd.; Situated in Sec. 19 T15S R12E; Acq. 36C 241792 & 2984341058.00 - Lot Por No. 5-B Clarke Bayou Vista Subd.; Situated in Sec. 19 T15S R12E; Acq. 36C 241792

Currently Zoned: Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District

Specific Use Purpose: to allow for horses in a Single Family Residential Zoned District.

Clerk of the Council, Lisa Morgan, offered public comments relative to the following ordinances.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hill

ORDINANCE NO. 2432

An Ordinance levying and imposing a tax of 5.72 mills for the purpose of maintaining and supporting the St. Mary Parish Public Library and its branches as directed by a special election in the Parish of St. Mary, excluding the municipality of Morgan City, for the year 2026; and levying and imposing a forty-six hundredths (0.46) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, excluding the City of Morgan City, for the year 2026.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. Mary Parish Council of the Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on May 13, 2026, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the open meetings law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Constitution, that the taxing authority voted to adopt and impose the following millage rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2026, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

2026 Levy

Library Tax (Maintaining and Supporting)	5.72
Library Tax (Debt Service)	0.46

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Mary, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2026 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

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 8th day of April 2026, having been published in accordance with law and having been heard in a public meeting in Franklin, Louisiana on the 13th day of May 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 _____ day of _____ 2026, at the hour of _____.

APPROVED:

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

This ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the _____ day of _____ 2026, at the hour of _____.

ORDINANCE NO. 2433

An Ordinance levying a tax of 7.60 mills Parish Tax located outside the municipalities for all parochial purposes and segregating for local and parochial purposes and levying and imposing a 3.80 mills tax located within the municipalities to help defray the expenses of the Criminal Justice System of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. Mary Parish Council of the Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on May 13, 2026, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the open meetings law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Constitution, that the following millage rate(s) be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish and within the incorporated municipalities and towns within the Parish for the year 2026, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE

Parish Tax (Outside Municipalities Parochial Purposes) (Purpose of defraying the expenses of the Parochial Government, and for other legal purposes shown by the budget.)	7.60
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Criminal Justice System Tax (Within the Incorporated Municipalities and Towns) 3.80
(Purpose of helping defray the expenses of the Criminal Justice System of the Parish.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Mary, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2026 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

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 8th day of April 2026, having been published in accordance with law and having been heard in a public meeting in Franklin, Louisiana on the 13th day of May 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 18th day of May 2026, at the hour of 10:47 a.m.

APPROVED:

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

This ordinance was returned to the Clerk of the Council on this the 19th day of May 2026, at the hour of 3:28 p.m.

Dr. Rink moved to adopt the following Resolutions. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried by the following 10-0-0-1 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hill

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Mary Parish Council does hereby adopt and approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for St. Mary Parish Sales & Use Tax Department as completed for year ending December 31, 2025.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

RESOLUTION

Resolution approving and authorizing Sam Jones, the President of the Parish of St. Mary to execute a contract with Del-Con, LLC relative to the construction of a new Central Fire Station for St. Mary Parish Fire District No. 11 contingent upon approval of State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning & Control.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Sam Jones, President of the Parish of St. Mary, be and he is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Parish Council, to execute a contract in the amount of \$2,070,000 with Del-Con, LLC, P.O. Box 916, Berwick, LA 70342, relative to the construction of a new Central Fire Station for St. Mary Parish Fire District No. 11 contingent upon approval of State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning & Control, with said contract to contain such terms, conditions, and stipulations as he may best see fit, he being fully authorized in the premises.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

Per Mr. Hebert’s inquiry, Mr. Governale stated that the project was open to accepting public bids.

Rev. Mathews and Dr. Rink commended Fire Chief Clarence Clark and board members for their hard work to construct a new fire station and stated that this is a major achievement for the district.

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing Sam Jones, Parish President of St. Mary Parish to execute an agreement with Land Unlockd relative to the process of advertising and sale of adjudicated properties.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Sam Jones, Parish President of the Parish of St. Mary, be and he is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Parish Council, to execute an Agreement with Land Unlockd relative to the process of advertising and sale of adjudicated properties, with said agreement to contain such terms, conditions, and stipulations as he may best see fit, he being fully authorized in the premises.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

Per Dr. Rink’s inquiry, Mr. Governale stated that this will be better for the Parish and that the Sheriff Department currently uses Land Unlockd.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Council request the relocation of the Polling Place for Precinct No. 40, and

WHEREAS, this relocation would move the Polling Place for Precinct 40 from Sumpter Williams Branch Office to the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium, and

WHEREAS, the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium is a public facility located within the boundaries of Precinct 40.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Mary Parish Council does hereby recommend the relocation of the Polling Place for Precinct 40.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Mary Parish Council does hereby request that the relocation change be submitted to the U. S. Department of Justice and the Secretary of the State of Louisiana.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing the President of St. Mary Parish to execute a Lease of Public Property for Polling Place Precinct 40.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Sam Jones, the Parish President of the Parish of St. Mary, be and he is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Parish Council, to execute a Lease of Public Property with the City of Morgan City, P. O. Box 1218, Morgan City, Louisiana 70381, for Polling Place Precinct 40, Morgan City Auditorium, 728 Mrytle Street, Morgan City, LA 70380, with said lease to contain such terms, conditions, and stipulations as he may best fit, he being fully authorized in the premises.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 13th day of May 2026.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

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

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 **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026**, between the hours of six o'clock (6:00) 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, DECEMBER 9, 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 \$2,000 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 13th day of May 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 May 13, 2026, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the Parish on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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 six o'clock (6:00) 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 \$14,500.

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, DECEMBER 9, 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. We received the following financial statements:
St. Mary Parish Tourist Commission – year ended September 30, 2025
- B. Trey Brazan, Attorney, Secretary of State, has written that in accordance with La. R.S. 18:653, I am enclosing a copy of the notice of resignation received from the Honorable Jonathan “J.P.” Henry as Constable, Justice of the Peace Ward 8, Parish of St. Mary, which has created a vacancy.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:602, the governing authority shall within twenty (20) days from the date of the vacancy (on or before May 4, 2026) make an appointment to fill the office. After an appointment has been made, the certified minutes of the meeting, or a certified resolution, should be sent to our office. A commission will be issued to the person appointed to fill the vacancy.

Please be advised that a special election is not required for this office in accordance with La. R.S. 18:602(E), and the appointee can serve until the end of the current term.

If the governing authority does not timely appoint an individual in connection with this vacancy, we will transmit notice to the Governor to do so in accordance with La. R.S. 18:602(D).

Per Mr. Adams’ inquiry, Lisa Morgan stated due to conflicts from possible applicants and not meeting the 20 day requirement due to having a three week span between Council Meetings, the Governor will appoint a Constable for this Ward.

- C. Discussion and action relative to the Official Journal for the Parish of St. Mary for the year July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

BIDS RECEIVED:

St. Mary and Franklin Banner-Tribune	The Morgan City Review
\$6.00 per square (billed in column inches)	\$6.00 per square (billed in column inches)

Mr. Hebert moved that the quote of \$6.00 per square (billed in column inches depending on font and type size) from Publisher of The Morgan City Review serve as the official journal of St. Mary Parish for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027) be accepted. Mr. Rulf seconded the motion, which carried.

- D. Patsy Powell has written to formally notify you of her resignation from her position as Commissioner of Board of Directors of St. Mary Parish Tourism Commission effective April 17, 2026.

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

- E. David McGuire has written to resign from the Recreation District No. 2 Board of Commissioners effective immediately.

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

- F. Angelena Brocato has emailed to resign from Hospital Service District No. 2.

Mrs. Brocato will be sent a letter thanking her for her service and the vacancy will be advertised.

- G. Calvin Johnson has written to resign from his position of the St. Mary Parish Recreation District No. 3 effective immediately.

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

- H. Lane Boudreaux has written to resign from his position as a board member of Recreation District No. 3 effective April 29, 2026.

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

- I. 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)
ABC – WBRZ	17

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

- J. Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Drainage District No. 6 (Amelia) – 2 Vacancies

Janet L. Aucoin
Miguel Perez

Phong Nguyen
Shannon Boykin

Mr. Duhon moved to appoint Miguel Perez and Shannon Boykin to Drainage District No. 6. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

Fire Protection District No. 2 (Centerville) – 3 Vacancies

John Higdon – Present Member

Larry J. LeBlanc – Present Member

Mr. Olander moved to reappoint John Higdon and Larry J. LeBlanc to Fire Protection District No. 2. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried. Lisa Morgan informed that a present board member phoned after the deadline and will be put on the May 27, 2026 agenda.

Hospital Service District No. 1 (Bayou Bend Health System) – 1 Vacancy

Sandy McClelland

Christopher H. Childers

This item was discussed earlier.

Recreation District No. 4 (Patterson) – 1 Vacancy

Tommy Balom

Mr. Rulf moved to appoint Tommy Balom to Recreation District No. 4. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

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

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, Chairperson