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

AUGUST 12, 2026
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

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

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

Mr. Olander moved that the reading of the Special Session Meeting, July 29, 2026, be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Adams stated that a discussion was had at the previous Council meeting regarding whether Charter amendments ever went on a ballot. He stated that the proposed Charter amendments to increase the Parish President's salary and to allow any Council Member to serve as Council Chair were presented to the voters in 2022, but both amendments failed.

Mrs. Hidalgo moved up Parish President, Sam Jones' report.

President Jones announced that Metal Shark is expanding and plans to hire additional employees. He reported on the possibility of an oil well being located in Berwick, a prospective business that would transport bagasse from both sugar mills to a separate location, and a prospective tire business that will recapture old tires.

Mrs. Hidalgo recognizes the presence of Mayor Eugene Foulcard, City of Franklin in attendance.

Fire Chief Chuck Bourgeois appeared before the Council to discuss the cost for fire protection services provided by Fire District No. 5. He explained that the contract dates back to 1987 and that Franklin is not requesting an increase in rates but rather an update to the contract to reflect the District's growth. He stated that, although no agreement has been reached, communication has been established and multiple options are being considered. He provided additional information regarding the requested allocation increase, the original agreement between the City and Parish, and a recap of funds provided to the Franklin Fire Department over the past 10 years. He stated that all services in the unincorporated areas of the City of Franklin will cease on December 31, 2026 if an agreement is not reached. He stated that Franklin currently receives approximately $32,523 per year, which covers only the structure portion of the agreement and not the per resident payment. He further stated any additional funding received under an updated agreement would be used for public safety equipment and firefighter salaries, which are necessary to maintain adequate fire protection services.

Several Council Members discussed who should bear the cost of providing fire protection in the District. Discussion included the possibility of a millage, double taxation, a partial tax, whether a dedicated source of revenue is provided by District 5, mutual aid provided by other Fire Districts, effects on fire rating, and per capita payment.

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale stated that the budget is due to be presented to the Council by October 28, 2026. He also stated that he emailed the Council Chief Bourgeois' research on structures, number of calls, funds that were given over the last 10 years, and the partial distribution given in 2024.

William "Bill" McCarty appeared before the Council to request consideration for reappointment to Hospital Service District No. 2 in Morgan City. He also discussed the various boards on which he has served over the years.

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale, submitted his report for a two (2) week period, ending June 24, 2026. He expounded on the fire insurance rating and boat landings.

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

a. Recommend Rezoning

Name: Boeuf Land Company LLC
Address: 2902 Lake Palourde Rd., Amelia, LA

Parcel Id# 3524281102.00 - Lot BD U Blanchard - F Fryou Jr - S P Glynn – Public Road Acq. 428 339135 & Parcel Id# 3524281103.00 - Lot Blanchard - Bayou Boeuf - S P Glynn - Pub Road Less 12W 120341 and 23F 186369 Acq. 422 338155- Sec 14 T16S R13E

PURPOSE: Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to place a manufactured home on the property.

b. Recommend Rezoning

Name: JLK Trust
Address: 1310, 1318, 1326, 1334, 1342, 1350, 1358, 1362, & 1368, Duhon Blvd., Amelia, LA

Parcel Id# 1310 Duhon Blvd., Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; - Parcel Id# 3494221036.00 - Lot 7 Being 1.79 AC Por Tract Q, Situated in Sec 44 T16S R13E, included in215.21AC,Tract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637. -1318 Duhon Blvd., Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221035.00 - Lot 8 Being 1.83 AC Por Tract Q Situated in Sec 44,T16SR13E,includedin215.21,ACTract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637.- 1326 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221034.00- Lot 9 Being 1.79 AC Por Tract Q,SituatedinSec44,T16SR13E,includedin215.21AC,Tract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637. - 1334 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221033.00 - Lot 10 Being 1.79 Ac Por Tract Q Situated in Sec 44 T16S R13E included in 215.21 Ac Tract "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637. - 1342 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221032.00 - Lot 11 Being 1.81 Ac Por Tract Q Situated in Sec 44 T16S R13E includedin215.21Ac,Tract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637. - 1350 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221031.00 - Lot 12 Being 1.81 Ac Por Tract Q Situated inSec.44T16SR13E,includedin215.21Ac,Tract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637.- 1358 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221030.00 - Lot 13 Being 1.82 Ac Por Tract Q Situated in Sec 44 T16S R13E included in 215.21 Ac Tract "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637.- 1362 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221029.00 - Lot 14 Being 1.85 Ac Por Tract Q Situated in sec 44 T16S R13E includedin215.21Ac,Tract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637.- 1368 Duhon Blvd Amelia, LA 70340 – Sec 44 T16S R13E; -Parcel Id# 3494221028.00 - Lot 15 Being 1.87 Ac Por Tract Q Situated inSec.44T16SR13E,includedin215.21AC,Tract"ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZAABBCCDDEEFFGGHHA" per map 34X 236649 ACQ. 412 336637

PURPOSE: Existing Neighborhood (EN3) Zoned District to Light Industrial (LI) Zoned District.

Mr. Olander recommends the above Rezoning Approvals. Mr. Duhon seconded the motion, which carried.

c. Recommend Specific Use –

Name: Corry and Amy Giroir
Address: 115 Laura St., Patterson, LA 70392

Parcel Id# 2864401053.00- Lot 5 Green Acres Subd Addn 1 Blk D Acq. 39g 253951- Sec.40 T15S R11E

Currently Zoned: Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District

Specific Use Purpose: to allow Livestock (chickens) in a Single Family Residential (SR) Zoned District.

Mr. Olander recommends Denial for the above Specific Use Approval. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried by the following 8-3-0-0 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: Hill, Hebert, and Duhon

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Discussion was had relative to the number of chickens, number of roosters, how long they have been on the property, whether they are kept in a coop, was the resident aware of the restriction(s), and whether restrictions are listed on the deed.

Rev. Mathews moved that the Public Hearing Report July 29, 2026 - 5:45 p.m. and Public Hearing Report July 29, 2026 - 5:50 p.m. be accepted. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

Rev. Mathews congratulated Fire Chief Clarence Clark, Fire Protection District No. 11, on being awarded the Medal of Valor in recognition of his exceptional courage and bravery for rescuing an individual from a burning home.

Mr. Rulf congratulated Patterson Fire Chief Scott Hutton, his staff, and Volunteer Fire Fighters on successfully lowering the community's fire rating to a Class 6 rating.

Mr. Duhon 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 Existing Neighborhood (EN3) Zoned District to Light Industrial (LI) 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 12th day of August 2026; having been published in accordance with law.

EXHIBIT "A"

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Address: 1310, 1318, 1326, 1334, 1342, 1350, 1358, 1362, & 1368, Duhon Blvd., Amelia, LA

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PURPOSE: Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District to place a manufactured home on the property.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Foster D. Johnson, just shy of his 98th birthday, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and brother, who enjoyed fishing, shrimping, gardening, and working on projects around his home, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was a devoted member and usher of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church and was a man of faith, community, and service whose dedication to helping others was evident throughout his life and in every role he held, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson honorably served in the U. S. Airforce and U. S. Army, including serving during World War II and the Korean War, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson worked in the St. Mary Parish School system, where he served as the first Black Principal for many years at Jacquet Elementary School in Morgan City, until his retirement and also served as a School Board Member for several years, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson also served on the Board of Directors for St. Mary Community Action Agency, St. Mary Association for Retarded Citizens, St. Mary Manpower Commission, Morgan City Board of Adjustment, Member of Morgan City Auditorium & Tourist Committee, Member of St. Mary Parish Advisory Council-United Way, Morgan City July 4th Committee, Young Memorial Technical Institute Advisory Committee, National Education Association, AARP, Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, and St. Mary Retired Teachers Association, Boy Scout Leader, and also worked as a local automobile salesman, and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Mary Parish Council wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mr. Johnson with the hope that his family will find comfort in knowing that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Mary Parish Council through the unanimous adoption of this resolution, hereby extend its 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 12th day of August 2026.

APPROVED:

_____
GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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

Mr. Hebert moved that the following Resolution be adopted. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried by the following 11-0-0-0 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Council desires to appoint an Advisory Standing Committee of the Citizens, and

WHEREAS, this Advisory Standing Committee of Citizens will be known as the Region 2 Advisory Boat Launch Facility Committee, and

WHEREAS, Advisory Committees' functions will be to investigate and study the feasibility of expanding and improving the Boat Launch facilities in their designated areas, and

WHEREAS, Region 2 shall be designated as all of that territory from the Calumet Cut East to the St. Martin and Assumption Parish lines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Mary Parish Council does hereby appoint a five (5) member Advisory Committee for Region 2 and does hereby designate their respective terms:

Region 2
Merlin Price, Jr. – 4-year term
Jeffery Fontenot – 4-year term
Chuck Sheehan – 3-year term
Mario Gross – 2-year term
Sidney Michel – 2-year term

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 12th day of August 2026.

APPROVED:

_____
GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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

Mr. Adams requested that the members' telephone numbers be available as point of contact.

Mrs. Hidalgo acknowledged the four (4) citizens in attendance who expressed interest in the boat launch issues and proposed resolution.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Referred from the Jun 24, 2026, Regular Meeting – Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions (previous appointment, Leslie Skinner did not take the Oath of Office):

Recreation District No. 2 – (Siracusa) – 1 Vacancy

Oscar "Sam" Toups Marva B. Stewart

Mr. Duhon moved to appoint Marva B. Stewart to Recreation District No. 2. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. William J. Miller has written – "Please accept this letter as my resignation from the following boards effective, August 5, 2026: Recreation District No. 4, Water & Sewer Commission No. 3, Waterworks District No. 5 and Wax Lake East Drainage District. I wish to thank you for all the assistance you have given me and allowed me to serve for so many years."

Mr. Miller will be sent a letter thanking him for his service on each board and the vacancies will be advertised.

B. Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 2A – 2 Vacancies

Dr. Tim Tregle Darren Gussman

Mr. Davis moved to appoint Dr. Tim Tregle and Darren Gussman to Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 2A. Mr. Duhon seconded the motion, which carried.

Hospital Service District No. 2 (Ochsner St. Mary) – 2 Vacancies

Jackie Cheramie – Present Member William McCarty – Present Member
Andree T. Hebert Judith Hidalgo

Mr. Hill moved to reappoint Jackie Cheramie and to appoint Andree T. Hebert to Hospital Service District No. 2. Mr. Duhon seconded the motion.

Mr. Hebert moved to amend the motion to reappoint Jackie Cheramie and William McCarty to Hospital Service District No. 2. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which Failed by the following 5-5-1-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Hebert, Davis, Adams, Hidalgo, and Olander

NAYS: Hill, Rulf, Duhon, Mathews, and Ina

ABSTAIN: Rink

ABSENT: None

Discussion was had regarding whether Hospital Service District No. 2 currently has representation from the entire service area, including the Berwick and Bayou Vista areas. Discussion was also had regarding the value and importance of retaining present members based on their experience and knowledge of the District's operations.

The original motion to reappoint Jackie Cheramie and to appoint Andree T. Hebert to Hospital Service District No. 2 Carried by the following 6-4-1-0 Roll Call vote:

YEAS: Rulf, Davis, Duhon, Mathews, Ina, and Hill

NAYS: Hebert, Adams, Hidalgo, and Olander

ABSTAIN: Rink

ABSENT: None

Mr. Hebert thanked William "Bill" McCarty for his years of service on Hospital Service District No. 2.

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

Brian L. Head – Present Member

Mr. Hill moved to reappoint Brian L. Head to Recreation District No. 3. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

Recreation District No. 4 (Patterson) – 1 Vacancy

Tommy Balom – Present Member

Mr. Rulf moved to reappoint Tommy Balom to Recreation District No. 4. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Ina congratulated Legal Counsel, Morgan Guillory Bodin on being elected without opposition to serve as City Judge City Court, City of Franklin.

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

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, Chairperson