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

AUGUST 26, 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, Rodney Olander, David W. Hill, Leslie Rulf, Jr., Patrick Hebert, James "Jimmy" Davis, Jr., Dean Adams, and Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D. Absent were J Ina and Mark Duhon.

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

Mr. Olander moved that the reading of the First Regular Meeting, August 12, 2026 be dispensed with and that the same be approved. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Hidalgo recognized the presence of former Parish President, David Hanagriff and Town of Baldwin Mayor, Clarence Vappie in attendance.

Marcell Hoskins appeared before the Council to discuss aerial mosquito spraying and road conditions in St. Mary Parish. She stated that she has gathered information and researched the cost of aerial mosquito spraying. She also expressed concern regarding road conditions, specifically Highway 90 during rainy weather.

Several Council Members and Administration discussed the high cost of aerial mosquito spraying and noted that Highway 90 is a State Road. Rev. Mathews informed that the Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD) has a public comment process and public relations division for submitting concerns regarding state maintained roads.

Following discussion, Mrs. Hoskins suggested that the Parish research available grants that may assist with the cost of aerial mosquito spraying.

Valerie Pitts, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration did not appear before the Council to provide an update regarding disaster aid available to St. Mary Parish residents following Tropical Storm Arthur.

Jasmin DuBois, Coalition Coordinator, St. Mary Parish Youth Prevention Coalition appeared before the Council to discuss the Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation. She informed that the Suicide Prevention Hotline number is 988 and that it is available 24/7.

Mr. Olander requested to move up Item 13A, "Proclamation declaring the month of September as Suicide Prevention Month."

Mr. Olander moved to adopt the following Proclamation. The Council seconded the motion, which carried by the following 9-0-0-2 Roll Call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Ina and Duhon

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, suicide is a serious public health issue that affects individuals, families, schools, workplaces, and communities across Louisiana and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention requires the collective efforts of families, friends, schools, healthcare providers, behavioral health professionals, faith-based organizations, community organizations, first responders, and local government; and

WHEREAS, every person has value, and creating communities where individuals feel connected, supported, heard, and empowered to seek help can save lives; and

WHEREAS, recognizing warning signs, starting conversations about mental health, reducing stigma, and connecting individuals with appropriate resources are important steps in suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized nationally as Suicide Prevention Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness, promote hope, encourage meaningful conversations, and remind members of our community that help is available; and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish community is committed to strengthening protective factors, fostering connection, supporting mental wellness, and creating an environment where individuals are encouraged to reach out for help when they are struggling; and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish Youth Prevention Coalition and its community partners are working to promote mental health awareness, suicide prevention, youth engagement, and access to supportive resources throughout St. Mary Parish; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility, and each of us has a role in building a community where people know they are not alone and where asking for help is recognized as a sign of strength;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the St. Mary Parish Council hereby recognizes September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Month in St. Mary Parish and encourages all residents, organizations, businesses, schools, and community partners to join together in promoting hope, connection, compassion, and mental wellness.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the St. Mary Parish Council encourages residents to check in on one another, listen without judgment, learn the warning signs of suicide, share available mental health resources, and take action when someone may be struggling**.**

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the St. Mary Parish Council encourages the community to embrace the message:

"YOU MATTER. STAY."

and to remember that small acts of connection can make a big difference.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Parish Council in regular session convened on this the 26th day of August 2026.

APPROVED:

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GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO, CHAIRPERSON
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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LISA C. MORGAN, CLERK
ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

In response to Rev. Mathews' inquiry, Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale stated that the opioid settlement funds received by the Parish have restrictions on the use of those funds. He stated that some of those funds were used for opioid treatment at the jail, drug court, Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) equipment, and to help pay for the Parish's share of the construction cost of the new crime lab. He stated that funds remain available from the opioid settlement.

Dr. Kristal Hebert, Executive Director of the Arc of St. Mary/Center of Hope, appeared before the Council to discuss transportation funding. She stated that the Arc of St. Mary, St. Mary Council on Aging, and St. Mary Parish Public Transit (operated by Community Action Agency) all provide essential transportation; however, their DOTD funding structures differ. She explained that the Arc and Council on Aging are identified as Section 5310 specialized transportation providers. She stated that DOTD funding under this program is limited to vehicles, paratransit vehicles, wheelchair lifts, and restraints, and that the Arc does not receive DOTD 5310 operating grant reimbursement for day to day transportation costs. She informed that Federal and State assistance requires local matches and that Parish and municipal support is necessary. She also informed that the Arc received a Section 5310 award for an 8 passenger wheelchair accessible vehicle but a local match of $13,575.95 is required. She further explained that St. Mary Parish Public Transit is a Section 5311 Rural Transportation Provider and may receive reimbursement for up to 50% of eligible net operating expenses, with a 50% local share that is required and that Section 5311 capital assistance is also available for vehicles, wheelchair lifts, and related support equipment. She requested the transportation funding request from St. Mary Community Action Agency, Inc. be referred to the Advisory Budget Finance Committee for further review before funds are committed.

Rev. Mathews stated that the handout submitted by Dr. Hebert to the Council does not indicate that the Section 5311 contract is not a St. Mary Community Action Agency contract, but rather a St. Mary Parish Government contract. He stated that the contract is awarded in the name of St. Mary Parish Government and the local government is required to find a community partner that can take on the risk and the financial burden of providing rural transit services to St. Mary Parish citizens under the contract. He further stated that a 50% match is required and that St. Mary Parish Government is the primary partner.

Dr. Hebert stated that the Arc is not asking the Council to deny funding, they are asking to consider the availability of the full range of funding resources for each transportation provider before making a decision.

Clarence Vappie, Mayor of the Town of Baldwin, appeared before the Council to inform them that he has submitted his application for the vacancy on Hospital Service District No. 1. He provided a brief history of his experience and knowledge and asked for the Council's consideration.

Dr. Gary Wiltz appeared before the Council in support of appointing Mayor Clarence Vappie to Hospital Service District No. 1 due to his knowledge and experience in the medical field.

Mr. Olander requested to moved up Item 15C, Appointment to Hospital Service District No. 1 (Bayou Bend Health System).

Evan Boudreaux	Christopher Harold Childers
Clarence A. Vappie	David Hanagriff

Mr. Olander moved to appoint David Hanagriff to Hospital Service District No. 1. Rev. Mathews seconded the motion, which carried. Dr. Rink abstained.

Mr. Olander stated that current board member, Robert Judice, represents the east side of Hospital Service District No. 1. He noted that David Hanagriff is the only applicant from the east side of the district and that he is requesting representation from that area.

Mrs. Hidalgo stated that she had spoken with Mr. Judice, who requested that the Council consider appointing someone who would continue to represent the east side of Hospital Service District No. 1.

Discussion was had relative to the Council's recent appointment of a vacancy on Hospital Service District No. 2 due to the importance of representation from that area withing the district.

Rev. Mathews stated that any of the applicants would be qualified candidates but agreed that there should be fair representation across the entire hospital district.

Parish President, Sam Jones submitted his report for a two (2) week period, ending August 26, 2026. He stated that a solar farm will soon begin construction that will bring jobs to St. Mary Parish.

Chief Administrative Officer, Paul J. Governale, submitted his report for a two (2) week period, ending August 26, 2026. 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.

In absence of Planning & Zoning Director, Mandi LeBlanc, Mr. Governale presented the following items as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission at their August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting:

a. Recommend Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: Blane Aucoin
P. O. Box, Amelia, LA 70340
Address: 10533 Hwy. 182 E., Amelia, LA

Parcel Id # 3524221113.00 - 5.31 AC situated in Sec. 23 T16S R13E and designated as Rem Oak Village Shopping Center on Plat 24b 190598; Acq. 42H 265361 – Sec. 23 T16S R13E

Zoned: General Commercial (GC) Zoned District

PURPOSE: Preliminary & Final Approval for the above referenced as shown on a plat titled "Preliminary and Final Subdivision Survey of Old Post Office Site Section 21 T16S-R13E For Aucoin Land Company, LLC Sections 23, T16S – R13E Town of Amelia, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. Surveyed by Gulf South Land Surveying, 207 Veterans Gatesmere CT., Lafayette, LA 70508, Louisiana 70510. Dated June 6, 2026.

b. Recommend Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: T & S Rentals
P. O. Box 144, Amelia, LA 70340
Address: 1505 Lake Palourde Road, Amelia, LA

Parcel Id # 3524261001.00. 1.00 Ac Tract being por of 6.60 Ac Tract "CDEFC" Per Plat 17A 149209 less road R/W and lying East of Lake Palourde Road also described as item "E" in deed 195 305394 Acq. 473 346651 - Sec.14 T16S R13E

Zoned: Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoned District

PURPOSE: Preliminary & Final Approval for the above referenced as shown on a plat titled "Survey Plat Showing a Lot Line Shift on Property Belonging to T&S Rentals LLC. Into Tract 1 & Tract 2, Located in Section 14, T16 – R13E, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. Surveyed by GIS Engineering LLC, 503 St. Mary St. Thibodaux, LA 70301. Dated July 17, 2026.

c. Recommend Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development Approval

Name: William Carpenter
1101 Alicia Lane, Baldwin, LA 70514
Address: 1101 Alicia Lane, Baldwin, LA

Parcel Id # 1994844052.00 3.12 Ac Por No 1 Nucoso Simeca et al part being por tract "CDEFGHKC" per plat 269 315399 Situated in Sec 22 T14S R9E Acq 352 327466. -Parcel Id# 1994844100. 1.01 Ac Por No 1 Nucoso Simeca et al part being por tract " CDEFGHKC " per plat 269 315399 Situated in Sec 8 T14S R9E Acq. 352 327466 Improvements. -Parcel Id# 1994844098.00 .14 Ac Por No 2 Nucoso Simeca et al part being por tract "CDEFGHKC" per plat 269 315399 Situated in Sec 8 T14S R9E Acq. 352 327466. -Parcel Id# 1994844099.00 .37 Ac Por No 2 Nucoso Simeca et al part being por tract "CDEFGHKC" per plat 269 315399 Situated in Sec 22 T14S R9E Acq 352 327466

Zoned: Agricultural (AG) Zoned District

PURPOSE: Preliminary & Final Approval for the above referenced as shown on a plat titled "Plan of Land Showing Property of Willian Lawrence Carpenter as per COB 352, Entry No. 327,466 to be subdivided into Tract "KLMNOHK" to be acquired by Matthew A. Darden, Tract "CPMLC" to be acquired by Jack Darden, & Tract "PDEFGONMP" to remain property of William Lawrence Carpenter Situated in: Sections 8 & 22, T14S – R9E St. Mary Parish, Louisiana Southwestern Land District, Surveyed by Miller Engineers & Associates, Inc. Engineers & Land Surveyors, 601 Main St. Franklin, LA 70538. Dated July 27, 2026. Dwg. No. 15374.

d. **Recommend Rezoning Approval**

Name: Robert Ford
Address: 2373 Chitimacha Trail, Charenton, LA

Parcel Id# 2175001014.00 - Lot Tract Being Rem Por Tract "JKLMFGHIJ" Per Plat 8K 87204 Bd L Barrilleaux - LA 326 - Adams and E Gueyral - P Scipion Et Al Acq. 45Z 281740 and Parcel Id# 2175001015.00 – Lot Bd A Pelous - LA 1092 - L Adams - A Pelous Acq. 45Z 281740 Improvement on the Land of Ford Robert O Acq. 45Z 281740 – Sec. 14 T13S R9E

PURPOSE: General Commercial (GC) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District.

Mr. Adams recommends the above Preliminary & Final Subdivision/Development and Rezoning Approvals. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

Dr. Rink moved that the Advisory Budget/Finance Committee Report, August 12, 2026 be approved. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

Dr. Rink introduced the following Ordinance:

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 General Commercial (GC) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) 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 the 26th day of August 2026; having been published in accordance with law.

EXHIBIT "A"

Name: Robert Ford
Address: 2373 Chitimacha Trail, Charenton, LA

Parcel Id# 2175001014.00 - Lot Tract Being Rem Por Tract "JKLMFGHIJ" Per Plat 8K 87204 Bd L Barrilleaux - LA 326 - Adams and E Gueyral - P Scipion Et Al Acq. 45Z 281740 and Parcel Id# 2175001015.00 – Lot Bd A Pelous - LA 1092 - L Adams - A Pelous Acq. 45Z 281740 Improvement on the Land of Ford Robert O Acq. 45Z 281740 – Sec. 14 T13S R9E

PURPOSE: GENERAL Commercial (GC) Zoned District to Existing Neighborhood (EN2) Zoned District.

Mr. Hebert moved to table Item 12B, "FOR INTRODUCTION – An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2341 – Sec. 1.4.8 Solar Farms; B - Permits No. 2. – Fees," to the September 9, 2026 meeting. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Referred from the August 12, 2026, Advisory Budget/Finance Committee Meeting - St. John Baptist Church has submitted their pre-application requesting funds for the Rebuilding Initiative 2026 – Funding request $20,000.

After discussion, Rev. Mathews moved to table this item to a time uncertain. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

Rev. Mathews requested to place a resolution on the September 9, 2026 agenda to obtain an Attorney General's opinion on the permissibility of using public funds for this purpose.

B. Referred from the June 24, 2026, Regular Council Meeting –

St. Mary Parish Tourist Commission (District 7, 8, and bordering 6 (1 Vacancy)) – 1 Vacancy:

Steve Morell

Mr. Adams moved to appoint Steve Morell to the St. Mary Parish Tourist Commission. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. St. Mary Community Action Agency, Inc. has submitted their pre-application requesting funds for Program Year 2027. Funding Request $69,500.00. (Transportation Funds - $45,500.00 and Elderly Nutrition - $24,000.00)

Rev. Mathews moved to table this item to the September 9, 2026 meeting. Mr. Rulf seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

B. Robbie Squires, Director, Government Affairs, Cox Communications Central Region has emailed: "As you know, 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: KATC Channel 105 and Gulf Coast Sports & Entertainment Channel 22.

If we are unable to reach a new agreement by the expiration dates, these networks can prevent us from including their stations in our lineup.

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

C. Appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

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

Evan Boudreaux	Christopher Harold Childers
Clarence A. Vappie	David Hanagriff

This item was discussed earlier.

St. Mary Planning & Zoning Commission – 1 Vacancy

Denise Webber Davis

Mr. Hill moved to table this item to the September 9, 2026 meeting. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Olander was absent.

Clerk of the Council, Lisa Morgan, informed that a late application was received after the deadline.

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

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, Chairperson