

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO. C-6630

COUNCIL SPONSOR: M.SMITH/CANULETTE PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PARISH ADMINISTRATION  
ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO RETAIN AN  
EXPERIENCED NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED COMPANY FOR  
THE OPERATION OF TAMMANY UTILITIES EAST.

WHEREAS, the Parish Government has the legal responsibility for the safety, welfare and health of the Citizens of the Parish; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented the numerous issues that have existed and currently exist with the operation of the Tammany Utilities East system; and

WHEREAS, said documentation is submitted for entry into this Council proceedings and can be found online at the Parish Council page; and

WHEREAS, said documentation contains an official report of the independent consulting firm of Owens and White along with complaints of citizens concerning the operation of Tammany Utilities East; and

WHEREAS, District 9 Councilman Mike Smith and the Tammany Utilities Workgroup gathered data regarding the systemic failures, substandard equipment, lack of accurate system maps and the lack of sufficient numbers of highly trained certified workers required to operate the Tammany Utilities East system in a consistent and satisfactory manner; and

WHEREAS, The Owen and White Report states Free Chlorine is a disinfecting method that can be used with the water sources used by Tammany Utilities East; and

WHEREAS, Private systems in the Greater Slidell area and the rest of the state use Free Chlorine and Tammany Utilities East is the only part of the Tammany Utilities system not to do so; and

WHEREAS, Tammany Utilities East was unable to plan and execute the recent Chlorine Burn of the system as per the Owen and White Report, without the hiring at considerable expense, of a local consultant; and

WHEREAS, Tammany Utilities East did not sustain the burn for the 60-day period targeted, unilaterally abandoning the effort within two weeks and failing to set a 1.0 target level for all outfalls in the system; and

WHEREAS, The Parish Council did not concur with the decision to abandon efforts to continue the burn; and

WHEREAS, during the Chlorine Burn, when the Steele Road Well pump would kick on to keep a normal and safe working pressure on the water system, chlorine residual dropped in the entire system with the issue never being resolved during the burn of the system; and

WHEREAS, Tammany Utilities East then went back to a chloramine disinfection system and should return to a Free Chlorine system after appropriate adjustments are made regarding the operations of the wells; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes the only way to swiftly, systemically, and significantly improve Tammany Utilities East in a timely and satisfactory manner is to form a public/private agreement with a company experienced in successfully running a comparable or larger water system on a day to day basis; and

WHEREAS, this is a practice done successfully in many water systems in this state such as nearby Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and can be done within St. Tammany Parish; and

WHEREAS, the problems of the current state of the system are beyond the short-term abilities of the current levels of expertise in the rank and file and logistical scope of Tammany Utilities East, even when augmented by highly paid consultants; and

WHEREAS, this new management and operational structure would not only provide the needed boots on the ground, logistics and expertise necessary for day to day operations but would also give acting director of Tammany Utilities East the time to plan, and implement the large scale projects now being funded for improvements and bring the workforce of Tammany Utilities East up to appropriate levels of skills and numbers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Parish Council is requesting that the Parish Administration issue a Request for Proposal to retain an experienced nationally recognized company for the Operation of Tammany Utilities East.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY \_\_\_\_\_, SECONDED BY \_\_\_\_\_

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 7TH DAY OF JULY, 2022, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY BINDER, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL