

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-6789

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MS. TANNER

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL STAFF

RESOLUTION TO THE PARISH PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL REGULAR REPORTING ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS OF PARISH GOVERNMENT AS SPECIFIED HEREIN.

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Council as the legislative branch of St. Tammany Parish Government is mandated to “adopt the operating budget and capital improvement budget and appropriate funds for the parish government”; and

WHEREAS, the Council is presented numerous budget amendments to the operating and capital budgets for consideration throughout the year which it is required to consider including: changes in revenues, increases in operating budgets, increases to capital project budgets, and the addition of new projects; and

WHEREAS, certain financial reporting is provided on a monthly basis pertaining to Parish funds, project ledger reports, and an operating budget report (budget to actual); and

WHEREAS, the Council passed a resolution in November of 2022, Resolution C.S. No. C-6677, requiring regular reporting regarding programs and projects, particularly the status of capital improvement projects, which is necessary for the Council to perform its legislative duty; and

WHEREAS, despite numerous requests, the Administration has not provided regular reporting to the Council on the status of the capital improvement program, programs and projects funded with local sales tax and grant funding, which hinders the ability of the Council to make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to not providing program and project status information on a regular basis, the Administration has ceased providing notification to the Council of procurements via request for proposals (RFP), request for quotes (RFQ), or selection of professional services contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Council was notified in a meeting with the Council Chair that the Administration would no longer be complying with the provisions of Ord. Sec. 2-274, which pertains to the selection of vendors for professional services contractors. In fact, the Council has been provided no information prior to award of any contracts by the Administration since April; and

WHEREAS, the in addition to the provisions of Ord. Sec. 2-274, the St. Tammany Parish Home Rule Charter provides,

A. The president as chief executive officer of the parish government shall have the following powers and duties:

(5) Sign contracts for projects, equipment, professional services and materials and supplies specifically identified in the approved operating and capital improvement budgets or as specifically identified by ordinance. Contracts for projects, equipment, professional services or materials and supplies not so identified shall be submitted to the council for approval.

(6) Submit to the council and make available to the public, within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the parish government as of the end of the fiscal year.

(7) Make such other reports as the council may reasonably request to enable the council to conduct its functions.

(8) The president shall attend all meetings of the council and keep the council fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the parish government and make such recommendations to the council concerning the affairs of the parish government as deemed desirable.

(9) Perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or may be required by the council, not inconsistent with this Charter.

WHEREAS, the Administration is required to provide reporting requested by the Council which it feels is necessary to enable it to conduct its functions, the President is required to advise the Council and keep it fully informed of the financial condition of the parish, its future needs, and to make recommendations concerning the affairs of parish government; and

WHEREAS, the President has not provided requested reporting on capital projects, programs, grant funding, procurement of goods and services, specifically, the selection of contractors for professional services contracts, as required by the Home Rule Charter and parish ordinances and, such failure to provide this information hinders the Council’s ability to perform its duties in an informed and transparent manner; and

WHEREAS, the President’s failure to present contracts for approval to the Council prior to signing where such contracts are not specifically identified in the adopted budget is in violation of the parish Home Rule Charter.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the St. Tammany Parish Government Administration shall provide detailed monthly reporting to the Parish Council pertaining to the status of all programs and projects funded with local tax dollars and grant funds, along with notification of any and all applications or requests for funds or change in use of funds from any source, including capital outlay, federal government programs, private grants, etc., prior to submission to the funding agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President shall notify the Council of all procurements, including selection of professional services contractors prior to signing of any contracts and present to the Council for approval prior to signature: all contracts not specifically identified in the operating or capital improvement budget, including any documents obligating parish government to receive and spend funds from grant sources of funding.

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 13TH DAY OF JULY, 2023, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

JACOB "JAKE" A. AIREY, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK