



MINUTES OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022 AT 3:00 PM
ST. TAMMANY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX
21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LA.

CALL TO ORDER BY THE HONORABLE JERRY BINDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY MR. LAUGHLIN

INVOCATION BY MR. T. SMITH

ROLL CALL:

Marty Dean
David Fitzgerald
Martha Jenkins Cazaubon
Michael R. Lorino, Jr.
Rykert O. Toledano, Jr.
Cheryl Tanner
James "Jimmie" Davis, III
Christopher Canulette
Michael "Mike" Maxwell Smith
Maureen "MO" O'Brien
Arthur Laughlin
Jerry Binder
Jacob "Jake" Airey
Thomas "T.J." Smith, Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda, except Appeals.

To ensure that all speakers are heard please hold cheers and applause. Anyone who wishes to place a comment in the record but who does not wish to speak at the podium may fill out a speaker card and check the box indicating they do not wish to speak.

****Airey presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the budget/vetoed items.**

RESOLUTIONS

- Binder - 1. Reso. C.S. No. C-6715 - Resolution to vacate, in part, the moratorium established by Ordinance C. S. No. 22-4971 on the issuance of Building or Conditional Use Permits for construction or placement of building structures on property within a portion of Unincorporated Town of Alton Subdivision, specifically the property located at 62274 N. 10th Street, Alton, La. (Ward 9, District 14). (TJ Smith)
- T. Smith – said this would be his last act as a government official in St. Tammany Parish. He will be resigning tomorrow. He said he wanted to remind the Council that none of us have the power without the grace of God. Keep him first in everything you do.
- Kirk Drumm – said it was a pleasure working with TJ Smith, but he is sad to see him go.

-Terri Lewis Stevens – thanked TJ Smith.

-Council members made comments.

-T. Smith – moved to adopt, seconded by Davis. Unanimous with 1 absent (Fitzgerald).

DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

-Binder - 1. Motion to override the veto of Ordinance Cal. No. 7110AA. (Binder/Airey)

-Jamie Segura – Covington – Has been a resident for over 30 years and often leaves meetings disappointed. Said one reason is the way President Cooper is spoken to. Says Bypass Road is needed. Says putting things off down the road since 2014 is absurd. Says President Cooper is the administrator and is doing a good job. Says there is no bigger attraction than the trace. Says one of the main reasons people come from New Orleans. Doesn't support the override of the veto.

-Dwight Doskey – Covington – would also be upset if not consulted about the budget, but is this a rational response. Is taking funding away and putting it into unspecified items a rational response? Asked Airey about the oversight of the unspecified items. Need assurance that money will actually be there and that the torching of the President's budget isn't just political revenge.

-Binder – explained the working of Public Works funding to Doskey.

-Terri Lewis Stevens – asked how many have reached out since November to the administration. Asked why can't both sides come to a happy medium for the people.

-Lorino – asked Stevens a question about if he were one of her customers, wouldn't they discuss plans before she designed something for him. He went on to discuss the situation/relationship with the Parish President.

-Airey – spoke about the ordinance that defines what a capital project is.

-Dean – spoke about the budget and use of unidentified funds. He said it is not frivolous money. They account for everything and its in a public hearing that it is discussed.

-Davis - not a big fan of the word transparency, clarity is what gets things done. Says he is not going to drop the Bypass Road. The money will still be there. Constituents call all of the time telling him they need the road and asking questions about the road. He is not against the Parish President.

-Binder – spoke about his history with the previous administrations and discussions regarding the budgets. He hopes in the future they have meetings to discuss the budget.

-President Cooper – welcomed Laughlin. He wished TJ Smith the best in his retirement. Wanted to address a couple of things before he gets into specifics of the line-item veto. He spoke about Public Works. He said that Public Works gave a proposal to raise the amount in the budget used to fund projects to reduce the amount of budget amendments. He said they are not taking away the transparency or clarity of projects because they have oversight. This is not meant to be a slush fund. It is meant to expedite smaller district projects. He said he had a problem in the presentation that discussed the 5 major items in the budget. He said the Veto does not include those 5 items. the veto is on the 14 unidentified line items. He spoke about communication and spoke about a meeting he had today with Councilman Airey and Councilwoman Tanner. He spoke further about the budget and the veto. He is asking the Council to uphold the veto to help provide further transparency and to win back the trust of the citizens.

-Binder – made comments about the Public Works increase of \$2 million to over \$10 million being unspecified. He asked how is this any different? Asked why did the jump go from \$25K to \$100K with budget amendments going before the Council.

- Leslie Long – gave an overview of some things that have been discussed.
- Tanner – said that presentation should have been provided before now.
- Canulette – said all these explanations are just being heard. Said they need that information ahead of time. He said priority roads are already listed. Asked to call for the question.
- Canulette – moved to override the line-item veto, seconded by Tanner. Motion passes with 13 yeas and 1 nay (Dean).
- There being no further business, meeting adjourned at the call of the Chairman.

JACOB “JAKE” A. AIREY, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK