



MINUTES OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 AT 5:00 PM  
ST. TAMMANY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX  
21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LA.

CALL TO ORDER BY THE HONORABLE ARTHUR A. LAUGHLIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY CORBIN

INVOCATION BY MR. STRICKLAND

ROLL CALL:

Rick Smith  
Larry Rolling  
Martha Cazaubon  
Kathy Seiden ABSENT  
Pat Phillips  
Cheryl Tanner  
Joseph Impastato  
Patrick Burke, III  
David Cogle  
Maureen O'Brien  
Arthur Laughlin  
Jerry Binder  
Jeffrey Corbin  
Jimmy Strickland, III

**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.**

**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.**

**RESOLUTIONS**


- Laughlin - **1. Resolution Council Series No. C-6890** - Resolution supporting and authorizing St. Tammany Parish Government to execute a contract for legal services related to the case entitled Military Road Revitalization Company, LLC and BCP Northshore Properties, LLC Vs. St. Tammany Parish Government, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Civil Action No. 2:24-CV-00055 I(2). (Laughlin/Cooper)
- Smith – said he is in favor of this. He believes it is prudent in moving forward and helping the people.
- Smith – moved to adopt, seconded by Cazaubon. Unanimous with one (1) absent (Seiden).
- Laughlin - **2. Resolution Council Series No. C-6891** - Resolution in support of proposed La R.S. 13:5726.1 which makes provisions relative to the coroner of St. Tammany Parish. (Laughlin)


- Emily Couvillion – explained that they would not be discussing the property that is currently in litigation.
- Dr. Charles Preston – is opposed to this and how this meeting is taking place. He said he didn't know about the meeting and found out about it through a Facebook post. He spoke about the meeting not being posted or televised. He also spoke about the coroner's office land and other issues he has with the resolution.
- Laughlin – read the resolution aloud.
- Lisa Preston – (against) did not speak.
- Dr. Ray Sigillito – spoke about the attachment not being releases until 11:30 on the day of the meeting. He said it is not fair. He said the meeting is not being done correctly. He said there is no precedent for the finances of one office being placed under another branch of government. He spoke in opposition to the resolution.
- Rhonda Sigillito – (against) did not speak.
- Benjamin Janke – (against) did not speak.
- Terri Lewis Stevens – in favor of this. Said she did not know they were going to vote on this tonight. She said when the Coroner's tax failed, it seemed like a vote of no confidence. She says the precedent has been set. She also spoke about the pond land.

#### COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Binder – said he would like to postpone this because there is not a lot of people in attendance. He said he is not saying that the Council has done anything. He also spoke about there already being a draft in the Legislature, so they can move forward without the Council's resolution.
- Cogle – asked if there was a Legislative sponsor yet because this is a request for legislation?
- Gina Hayes – responded that this is a resolution in support and they have spoken with several legislatures.
- Cogle – asked what is the rush and spoke to the meeting being televised.
- Impastato – said he is not in favor of postponing and this is to protect the people of the Parish.
- Smith – said there is 64 parishes and there are about 60 that work in this manner. He asked what's wrong with letting legislature know what they feel?
- Cogle – asked Preston why is this different from other parishes?
- Preston – responded and explained why St. Tammany Parish is different from other parishes.
- Cogle – asked Hayes a question about the millage that Preston referenced.
- Hayes and Leslie Long – responded and clarified how the millage works.
- Cogle – asked Hayes who were the legislatures she spoke with, and she said she doesn't think she should at the moment.
- Binder – stated that he was bothered that Hayes wouldn't give the names. He also spoke about the proposed legislature. He said he would rather have a full house.
- Cazaubon – asked Long to clarify the Coroner's millage and how it works.
- Long – explained that the millage is collected by the Sheriff's office and transferred to the Coroner's office.

- Rolling – made comments about this being a reflection of the new Coroner and how that is not true. He said this is about good government and the Legislature has the final say.
- Phillips – asked why this can't be go onto the March agenda?
- Laughlin – said he was informed that this could still go onto the March agenda.
- Phillips – said he would like to amend Binder's motion.
- Binder – said he assumed the agenda was closed and he has to think about amending the motion.
- Cogle – asked Hayes another question about the legislation.
- Impastato – asked Long to clarify again about the Coroner's office funds, and Long explained.
- O'Brien – said she would support pushing back until March and also spoke about transparency.
- Binder – moved to postpone until April, seconded by O'Brien. Motion fails with four (4) yeas (Binder, Corbin, Strickland), nine (9) nays, and one (1) absent (Seiden).
- Phillips – moved to postpone until March, seconded by Strickland. Motion passes with ten (10) yeas, three (3) nays (Smith, Rolling, Cazaubon), and one (1) absent (Seiden).
- There being no further business, meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

  
ARTHUR LAUGHLIN, COUNCIL CHAIR

  
KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

