

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2018
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Parish Council met in Special Session on this date with Chairman Kevin Voisin presiding and the following members present: Rev. Craig Mathews, J Ina, Dale Rogers, Glen Hidalgo, Ken Singleton, Patrick Hebert, James Bennett, Sterling Fryou, and Paul P. Naquin, Jr. Absent was Gabriel Beadle.

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

The purpose of the Special Session is to discuss the Home Rule Charter and possible amendments.

Parish President, David Hanagriff appeared before the Council to inform that he has a commitment he must attend and wanted to state his opinion on the possible amendment changes.

Mr. Hanagriff expounded on Iberia Parish President's term limits and favored the three (3) term maximum limit.

Mr. Hanagriff informed that he plans to run for Parish President next term, regardless of the pay and feels that he should not participate in the discussion at tonight's meeting.

Gerard Bourgeois, 301 Riverside, Berwick, Louisiana appeared before the Council to express his concern on consolidation and rates of pay for the Parish President and the Parish Council.

Charles Culotta, P O Box 2300, Patterson, Louisiana appeared before the Council to express his concern on consolidation of districts.

Mr. Rogers expounded on the Ordinance proposing an amendment to Sections 3-04, 3-07, and 3-10 of the Home Rule Charter for St. Mary Parish adopted February 1983 and offered discussion on this matter.

In response to several Councilmen, Chief Administrative Officer, Henry "Bo" LaGrange explained that the current Charter states that all directors are appointed by the CAO, subject to approval of the Parish President and the salaries are subject to approval by the Council. The Proposal states that the Parish President would have the duty to appoint and set the salary of the Economic Development Director, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council Membership.

Rev. Mathews expounded on duties of a full time Parish President verses the duties of the Chief Administrative Officer and feels more research is needed before making a decision.

Mr. Naquin stated that the current Charter was written in 1983 with a part time Parish President position and commended Mr. LaGrange on his duties as Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Rogers stated that a full time Parish President should not be handling day to day operations for the Parish and that the proposed ordinance would allow the Parish President to handle the duties of Director of Economic Development.

Several Councilmen expounded on the Parish President's proposed duties of Director of Economic Development.

Rev. Mathews stated for the record that his opinion is that the current Director of Economic Development has done an outstanding job. Rev. Mathews also stated that he has been involved

in trying to increase economic opportunity for St. Mary Parish and feels that there are other factors as to whether or not companies locate to St. Mary Parish.

In response to several Councilmen's inquiries, Jason Akers with Foley & Judell, stated that the deadline to submit an Ordinance to amend the Home Rule Charter for the November 2018 election is mid-April to mid-May 2018.

Mr. Hidalgo expounded on term limits for Boards and Commissions.

In response to several Councilmen's inquiry, Eric Duplantis, Legal Advisor, stated that a member continues to serve that office until replaced. Mr. Duplantis also stated that research needs to be done to see if term limitations can be changed in the Charter to avoid violating State Law.

Clerk of the Council, Lisa C. Morgan stated that some boards have five (5) year term limits and suggested to be specific on term limits.

Mr. LaGrange expounded on Article VII, Section 7-06, Boards and Commissions and stated the Council can possibly adopt an Ordinance to establish term limits if the Statues do not address it.

Mr. Duplantis explained that even though it may be in the Charter, the Statue needs reviewing to determine whether it is constitutional. A Charter that violates State Statue is invalid.

Mr. Hidalgo expounded on sitting Council Members that shall not run for another Council seat that is vacated during his or her term without giving up the seat they had been elected to.

Several Councilmen and Mr. Duplantis discussed elections that may result from changes regarding term limits.

Barry Granger, 1607 Elm Street, Franklin, Louisiana appeared before the Council to discuss compensation for the Parish President and Councilmen.

Mr. Granger stated that he is in favor of a full time Parish President assuming the duties of Director of Economic Development with a pay increase and is also in favor of a pay increase for Councilmen.

Mr. Voisin called a Special Meeting to be held on March 14, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. to address changes to be made to the Home Rule Charter.

There being no further business, Rev. Mathews moved for adjournment. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion, which carried.

Lisa C. Morgan, Clerk

Kevin Voisin, Chairman