

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

MARCH 14, 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, Paul P. Naquin, Jr., and Gabriel Beadle. Absent was David Hanagriff.

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

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

Barry Granger, 1607 Elm Street, Franklin, Louisiana appeared before the Council to discuss possible Home Rule Charter amendments.

Mr. Granger stated that he is in favor of a full time Parish President assuming the duties of Director of Economic Development.

Mr. Rogers offered discussion 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.

Mr. Hebert stated that the best solution to move forward is to keep it simple by proposing an increase in the Parish President's annual salary to \$40,000 and not change the job duties.

Several Councilmen stated that \$40,000 is not enough incentive to interest someone to run for Parish President that has experience and knowledge of government.

Mr. Beadle's concern with Mr. Rogers' proposal is that it will not allow the Parish President to do anything else, including running his own business if it interferes with the duties of the Parish President.

Mr. Bennett stated due to the economy, he is against raises for the Councilmen and the Parish President at this time and feels it is their duty as Councilmen to serve the Parish.

Mr. Ina stated for the record that whatever is agreed upon, he will not support the Parish Presidency that would consolidate the current Chief Administrative Officer's position.

Mr. Naquin informed that the current Charter states that all directors are appointed by the CAO, subject to approval of the Parish President and agrees that an increase in pay for the Parish President is needed.

In response to Mr. Naquin's statement, Eric Duplantis, Legal Advisor, stated that you cannot use public monies to pay dues for private organizations.

Mr. Hidalgo stated that the Parish President should not be handling day to day operations for the Parish but feels that he could take duties of the Economic Development or Public Works Director.

Rev. Mathews expounded on the current Home Rule Charter and stated that since the Charter was created nearly 35 years ago, verbiage needs to be considered for the future.

Mr. Rogers expounded on amending the last sentence of Section 2.A, "The president shall not engaged in any activity unrelated to Parish Government business that would interfere with or detract from the performance of duties as president."

Mr. Beadle expounded on the proposed amendment to Section 3.A (6), Powers and Duties of the President, "Appoint, supervise, and set salary of the Director of Economic Development in St. Mary Parish, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council membership", and questioned whether this pertains to replacing or appointing the Director of Economic Development.

Mr. Rogers stated that based on a conversation with Parish President, David Hanagriff, it would allow the Parish President to be able to oversee and run the Economic Development Department, hire additional help if needed, and set the salary based on the Council's approval.

Rev. Mathews suggested adding verbiage to the Home Rule Charter that allows for periodic increases for Councilmen, such as cost of living increase, which would be approved by the Council.

Mr. Rogers suggested creating an amendment to the Home Rule Charter that would remove salaries from the Charter and require that it goes to the vote of the Council to increase the compensation for Parish President and Councilmen for the next term of office.

Mr. Naquin expounded on salaries for the Police Jury, Consolidated Government, Home Rule Charter, and Commissions.

In response to several Councilmen's inquiry, Mr. LaGrange explained that the Economic Development Director is appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer subject by approval from the current Parish President. The Economic Development Director works closely with the administration and the Parish President. Mr. LaGrange also expounded on health benefits for the Parish President.

Mr. Bennett moved to take no action on amendments to the Home Rule Charter. Mr. Naquin seconded the motion, which failed by the following 3-8-0-0- Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Messrs. Bennett, Fryou, and Naquin

NAYS: Rev. Mathews, Messrs. Ina, Rogers, Hidalgo, Singleton, Hebert, Beadle, and Voisin

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Rogers suggested that the Councilmen send any changes or recommendations to Clerk of the Council, Lisa Morgan.

Mr. Rogers moved to recommend the proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter, Section 2.A, and to delete the last sentence, "The president shall not engage in any activity unrelated to Parish Government business that would interfere with or detract from the performance of duties as president." Mr. Ina seconded the motion, which carried by the following 9-2-0-0- Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Messrs. Ina, Rogers, Hidalgo, Singleton, Hebert, Fryou, Beadle, Voisin, and Rev. Mathews

NAYS: Messrs. Bennett and Naquin

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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