

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **SPECIAL MEETING - JANUARY 23, 2018**

The St. Martin Parish Council met in Special Session pursuant to the following Notice of Special Meeting:

#### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

Chairman Jason Willis has called a **Special Meeting** of the St. Martin Parish Council for 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 23, 2018, Carroll J. Fuselier Meeting Room, St. Martin Parish Annex Building, 301 West Port Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana, in accordance with the Provisions of the St. Martin Parish Home Rule Charter, Section 2.07, Council Meetings and Rules, Paragraph C, to consider the following items:

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) INVOCATION
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 4) ROLL CALL
- 5) SPECIAL BUSINESS:  
None.
- 6) ORDINANCES INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING:  
None.
- 7) RESOLUTIONS:  
  

SUMMARY NO. 009-RS (Introduced by Jason Willis, District 3)  
A Resolution accepting the resignation of Parish President Guy Cormier, appointing an interim Parish President for St. Martin Parish until the office is filled by the vote of the qualified electors voting, and calling a Special Election to fill the unexpired term of Parish President Guy Cormier, St. Martin Parish, State of Louisiana, who resigned effective March 2, 2018.
- 8) ORDINANCES INTRODUCED FOR PUBLICATION:  
None.
- 9) ADJOURNMENT

*NOTE: According to the Home Rule Charter, Section 2.07, Paragraph C, "the power of the Council to act at a special or emergency meeting shall be limited, under penalty of nullity, to the objects specifically enumerated in the call."*

**ST. MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL  
LACI LAPEROUSE  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Willis.

The Invocation was read by Laci Laperouse and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lisa Nelson.

The following members were present: Byron Fuselier, Lisa Nelson, Jason Willis, Neil Thibodeaux, Chris Tauzin, Jill Hebert, Albert Menard, Dean LeBlanc and Daniel Richard, Jr. Members absent: None. Also present: Parish President Guy Cormier and Parish Attorney Chester Cedars.

A motion was made by Albert Menard, seconded by the entire Parish Council, and, therefore, unanimously adopted, as amended:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 18-009-RS**

A Resolution and proclamation acknowledging the resignation of Guy Cormier as Parish President, appointing an interim Parish President for St. Martin Parish until the Office is filled by the vote of the qualified electors of St. Martin Parish, calling for a special election to fill the unexpired term of Parish President Guy Cormier, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Guy Cormier, Parish President for St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, has informed the St. Martin Parish Council that he will resign his elected position as of March 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, acting pursuant to La. R.S. 18:652, Parish President Guy Cormier has formally advised, in writing, the Louisiana Secretary of State of his resignation; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid notice of resignation was received by the Office of Secretary of State on January 19, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the resignation of the said Guy Cormier is irrevocable under the dictates of La. R.S. 18:654; and

WHEREAS, the resignation of the said Guy Cormier creates a vacancy in the Office of Parish President and is deemed to have actually occurred on the date it became irrevocable, all in accordance with La. R.S. 18:583(C); and

WHEREAS, the St. Martin Parish Government has determined that the unexpired term of Office of the said Guy Cormier is approximately twenty-two (22) months; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-05(B) of the Home Rule Charter of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, provides that a vacancy in the Office of Parish President shall be filled by appointment by majority vote of the authorized membership of the Council within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-05(D) of the Home Rule Charter for St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, further provides that if more than one (1) year remains in the unexpired term of a vacant Parish President position, the aforesaid appointee shall serve until the office is filled by the vote of the qualified electorate in an election called by the St. Martin Parish Council; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-05(D) of the Home Rule Charter for St. Martin Parish also mandates that within fifteen (15) days of the vacancy, the St. Martin Parish Council issue a proclamation calling for the said special election:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council formally and officially acknowledges the resignation of Guy Cormier as Parish President, and extends its appreciation to him and his family for his years of dedicated and unselfish service to St. Martin Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby formally acknowledge and declare that a vacancy exists in the Office of Parish President for St. Martin Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby appoint Chester Cedars as Parish President to serve in that position until a special election is held and a qualified candidate duly elected and sworn into office; the said appointment being effective March 2, 2018. Moreover, the St. Martin Parish Council has determined that the said Chester Cedars meets all of the qualifications required by law relative to the Office of Parish President for St. Martin Parish, all as set forth in Section 3-03 of the Home Rule Charter of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with La. R.S. 18:402(E), the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize and call a special election to be held in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, for the purpose of electing a Parish President to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the said Guy Cormier.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to La. R.S. 18:467-468, the qualifying period for the said special election shall be from July 18, 2018, to July 20, 2018, inclusively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with La. R.S. 18:402(E), the primary election shall be held on November 6, 2018, with the general election, if necessary, to be held on December 8, 2018, and that the said election(s) be conducted pursuant to the election laws of the State of Louisiana.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that, as mandated by La. R.S. 18:602(E)(2)(b) and (c), the Clerk of Council for the St. Martin Parish shall: (1) immediately effect the publication of this proclamation in the official journal for St. Martin Parish; (2) within twenty-four (24) hours transmit by registered or certified mail a replica of this proclamation to the Honorable Becky Patin, Clerk of Court for St. Martin Parish; and (3) by registered or certified mail send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the said special election shall be promulgated as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Office of Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana issue forthwith to the said Chester Cedars the necessary commission and other documents required by law so that the appointee may assume the interim position of Parish President of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, without undue delay.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Byron Fuselier, Lisa Nelson, Jason Willis, Neil Thibodeaux, Chris Tauzin,  
Jill Hebert, Albert Menard, Dean LeBlanc and Daniel Richard, Jr.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSTAIN: None.  
ABSENT: None.

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 23rd day of January, 2018.

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Parish Attorney Chester Cedars humbly thanked the Council Members for their nomination and appointment as interim Parish President. Mr. Cedars exclaimed he will continue to steer the parish onward, completing projects already commenced and working with everyone and neighboring parishes. Mr. Cedars urged the Council Members to contact him with any issues or concerns. Parish President Guy Cormier stated he couldn't think of anyone better than Mr. Cedars to fill the position as he knows Mr. Cedars is a hard worker and looks forward to working alongside him in the days to come.

A motion was made by Albert Menard and seconded by Lisa Nelson that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby adjourn. Motion was unanimously approved.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE:

  
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LACI LAPEROUSE  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL