

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING - MAY 19, 2020

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Chairman Dean LeBlanc has called a **Special Meeting** of the St. Martin Parish Council for 5:00 P.M., Tuesday, May 19, 2020, Carroll J. Fuselier Meeting Room 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 AND PUBLIC MEETING:
None.
- 7) RESOLUTION:

SUMMARY NO. 035-RS (Introduced by Carla JeanBatiste, District 2)
A Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, to authorize the rededication of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matter in connection therewith.
- 8) ORDINANCES INTRODUCED FOR PUBLICATION:
None.
- 9) ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

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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."

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dean LeBlanc.

The Invocation was read by Laci Laperouse and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daniel Richard, Jr.

The following members were present: Byron Fuselier, Carla JeanBatiste, Tangie Narcisse, David Poirier, Chris Tauzin, Brook Champagne, Vincent Alexander, Dean LeBlanc and Daniel Richard, Jr. Members absent: None. Also present: Parish President Chester Cedars, Director of Administration Calder Hebert, Director of Public Works Kasey Courville, P.E., Director of Finance Sean Hundley, Parish Attorney Allan Durand and Deputy Clerk of the Council/PIO Brooke Gillespie.

Council Clerk Laci Laperouse read Resolution Summary No. 035-RS {A Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, to authorize the rededication of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.} Parish President Chester Cedars gave detailed information for the proposed resolution regarding the Library Millage, which is scheduled to expire this year. Parish President Chester Cedars stated the St. Martin Parish Library actually has two (2) millages; one for 4.0 mills which will expire in 2024 and the other being the one expiring this year at 3.65 mills. Parish President Chester Cedars stated the request is to not only renew the 3.65 mill, but also rededicate 50% of the proceeds of the Tax received in each year for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining public buildings and recreational facilities, supporting programs for the elderly in the Parish if and as authorized by state statute, and/or for payment of mandated expenses for the operation of the criminal court system. Parish President Chester Cedars reminded the Council Members he started the discussion of this renewal in 2018 and, has had numerous meetings with the Library Board, as well as Foley & Judell,

LLP. Parish President Chester Cedars stated some basic observations that this proposition is not a product of, not intended to, and should not be interpreted as any sort of aspersion or criticism of the library system, including any past or present directors, board members or employees. Parish President Chester Cedars mentioned what led him to bring this proposition to the Council is the strong financial position the library system finds itself in. Parish President Chester Cedars stated one of the questions he has received was how much each of these areas receive. Parish President Chester Cedars noted that it will be determined by the Parish Council during budget preparation whether or not to approve how much each area receives. Council Member Tangie Narcisse asked Parish President Chester Cedars what happens should this renewal not pass. Parish President Chester Cedars stated we do not lose out on anything because it wasn't money the Parish had before, and the Library will continue on with its 4.0 mill. Council Member Tangie Narcisse also questioned the plan on building a library in the Village of Parks. Parish President Chester Cedars stated the Library Board would have to come before the Council for approval. Parish President Chester Cedars also noted that the rededication does not impact the fund balance. Parish Government is not asking that any part of the current proceeds that have been received and in the bank be rededicated. Parish President Chester Cedars explained that remains as is. Council Member Daniel Richard, Jr. asked Parish President Chester Cedars what amount would Parish Government receive should this renewal pass. Parish President Chester Cedars stated he is estimating that, as of now, it yields about 1.4 million dollars, therefore Parish Government would get an estimated \$700,000.00. Council Member Brook Champagne confirmed with Parish President Chester Cedars that should the renewal and funds be passed and rededicated, upon recommendation of Parish President Chester Cedars, the Council has the final say of the amount that is being redirected. Parish President Chester Cedars confirmed. Chairman Dean LeBlanc welcomed St. Martin Parish Library Director Ms. Charlar Brew. Ms. Brew briefed everyone on the services the library provides and continues to provide even through the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Brew gave statistics of the increased use of the libraries. Council Members and Parish President Chester Cedars thanked Ms. Brew. Upon hearing no further comments, Council Member Daniel Richard, Jr. moved to remove "supporting programs for the elderly in the Parish if and as authorized by state statute" from the proposition. After receiving no second, the motion failed.

The following resolution was offered by Carla JeanBatiste and seconded by Byron Fuselier:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-035-RS

A Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, to authorize the rededication of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 32 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020**, between the hours of six o'clock (6:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

**MILLAGE EXTENSION AND REDEDICATION
PROPOSITION**

Shall the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), be authorized to extend the levy of a special tax of 3.83 mills (the "Tax") currently authorized to be levied for public library purposes on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$1,500,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for an additional ten (10) years, commencing with the year 2021 and ending in 2030, and shall the Parish further be authorized to henceforth rededicate the Tax so that 50% of the proceeds of the Tax received in each year shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining public libraries in the Parish, including acquiring furniture, fixtures, buildings, lands, vehicles, and

equipment therefor, and 50% of the proceeds of the Tax received in each year shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining public buildings and recreational facilities, supporting programs for the elderly in the Parish if and as authorized by state statute, and/or for payment of mandated expenses for the operation of the criminal court system?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the *Teche News*, a newspaper of general circulation within the Parish, published in St. Martinville, Louisiana, and being the official journal of the Parish, once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Clerk is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Carroll J. Fuselier Parish Council Meeting Room, St. Martin Parish Government Annex Building, 301 W. Port Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020**, at **FIVE O'CLOCK (5:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said elections, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Parish will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Chairman and/or Clerk of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of St. Martin Parish and the Registrar of Voters of St. Martin Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

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

YEAS: Byron Fuselier, Carla JeanBatiste, Tangie Narcisse, David Poirier,
Brook Champagne and Vincent Alexander.

NAYS: Chris Tauzin, Dean LeBlanc and Daniel Richard, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 19th day of May, 2020.

/s/ Laci Laperouse
Clerk

/s/ Dean LeBlanc
Chairman

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
MILLAGE EXTENSION AND REDEDICATION
PROPOSITION

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Said special election will be held at each and every polling place in the Parish, which polls will open at six o'clock (6:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The polling places for the precincts are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$10,300.00.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the tax described in the Proposition shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Carroll J. Fuselier Parish Council Meeting Room, St. Martin Parish Government Annex Building, 301 W. Port Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020**, at **FIVE O'CLOCK (5:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the Parish are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at St. Martinville, Louisiana, on this, the 19th day of May, 2020.

ATTEST: /s/ Dean LeBlanc
Chairman

/s/ Laci Laperouse
Clerk

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF ST. MARTIN

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), the governing authority of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of the proceedings taken by the Governing Authority on May 19, 2020, ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, to authorize the rededication of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at St. Martinville, Louisiana, on this, the 19th day of May, 2020.

/s/ Laci Laperouse
Clerk

A motion was made by Byron Fuselier and seconded by Brook Champagne that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby adjourn. Motion was unanimously approved.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE:



LACI LAPEROUSE
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL