

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

### **REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 7, 2017**

The St. Martin Parish Council met in Regular Session convened at 5:07 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2017, Carroll J. Fuselier Meeting Room, St. Martin Parish Annex Building, 301 West Port Street, St. Martinville, Louisiana.

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 Dean LeBlanc.

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 Legal Counsel Andrew Shealy.

A motion was made by Albert Menard and seconded by Byron Fuselier to approve the minutes of the St. Martin Parish Council Regular Meeting of February 7, 2017.

This motion 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 motion was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

A motion was made by Dean LeBlanc and seconded by Albert Menard that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby extend the agenda to add Terry Guidry, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director, under Item No. 6: Persons to Address the Council.

This motion 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 motion to extend the agenda was declared carried by unanimous vote this 7th day of March, 2017.

After attending a Spring Flood Forecast meeting, Director Terry Guidry stated the outlook is good. Parish President Guy Cormier thanked Mr. Guidry for his work.

A motion was made by Albert Menard and seconded by Chris Tauzin to open the Public Hearing to obtain public comments regarding an ordinance being considered for final adoption.

This motion 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 motion was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

Chairman Jason Willis asked for public comments regarding the proposed ordinance being considered for final adoption.

Clerk of the Council Laci Laperouse read the ordinance summary.

Doug Girard, resident of Gecko Road, was asked by residents of Gecko Road to be the spokesman and declare their opposition to this rezoning. There is a petition signed by several residents (*on-file*) that are all opposed to this rezoning. After expressing the concerns of the residents and himself, Corey Lovell of Acadiana Speedway Group addressed the concerns, stating the stipulations agreed upon by the Planning Commission and Acadiana Speedway Group address all of their concerns. Council Member Albert Menard mentioned the calls he has received are all against this rezoning, to allow for a go-kart race track. Council Member Albert Menard did mention some residents claimed they did not know about this rezoning. Planning and Zoning Coordinator Heath Babineaux confirmed and exhibited (*on-file*) to the Council Members that letters were sent to residents of Gecko Road advertising and proper signs were placed in the area regarding this request. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst Council Members, Legal Counsel Andrew Shealy, representatives from Acadiana Speedway Group and a couple of residents in opposition of rezoning 1071 Gecko Road, to allow for the operation of a go-kart race track.

Upon requesting and hearing no further comments from the audience regarding the proposed ordinance being considered for final adoption, the Chairman requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Chris Tauzin and seconded by Byron Fuselier that the Public Hearing be closed.

This motion 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 motion was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

A motion was made by Daniel Richard, Jr. and seconded by Chris Tauzin to adopt Ordinance Summary No. 1170-OR.

A substitute motion was made by Albert Menard and seconded by Lisa Nelson to amend the Ordinance to “close at 8:00 p.m.” instead of 10:00 p.m.

Chairman Jason Willis requested a roll-call vote for the substitute motion of closing at 8:00 p.m.

The voting was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Lisa Nelson and Albert Menard.

NAYS: Byron Fuselier, Neil Thibodeaux, Chris Tauzin, Dean LeBlanc and Daniel Richard, Jr.

ABSTAIN: Jill Hebert.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Jason Willis announced the substitute motion failed.

Chairman Jason Willis requested a roll-call vote for the following:

A motion was made by Daniel Richard, Jr. and seconded by Chris Tauzin that the following ordinance be adopted:

**ORDINANCE NO. 17-03-1170-OR**

AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE AND ASSIGN THE APPROPRIATE ZONING CLASSIFICATION, WITH SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, AS REGARDS TO THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 12.826 ACRES, SITUATED AT 1071 GECKO ROAD, AND LOCATED IN SECTION 109, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, ST. MARTIN PARISH, LOUISIANA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the St. Martin Parish Council that by virtue of this ordinance, and in accordance with Section 2-11 of the Home Rule Charter for St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, and pursuant to the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, the following described property shall be rezoned from R-2 (Mixed Residential) to I-1 (Light Industrial):

That certain tract of land, situated in the Fourth Ward of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, on the West side of Bayou Teche, located in Section 109, Township 8 South, Range 05 East, containing 12.826 Acres, and being identified as TRACT No. 5, described on that certain plat of survey by Clarence Thibodeaux, Surveyor, dated September 8, 1991, recorded in Book 1191, Folio 809, under File Number 269942, of the Conveyance Records of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana; the said property containing such dimensions and boundaries as shown and depicted on the said plat of survey.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this zoning classification change is being made to allow for the operation of a go-kart race track, Acadiana Speedway Group, at 1071 Gecko Road, Assessor's Parcel No. 0580003027. The zoning change will be solely and exclusive to the 12.826 acres (TRACT 5), more or less, of land outlined in red on the attached plat of survey, prepared by Clarence Thibodeaux, Professional Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor. If a change in this type of business is desired in the future, the change would have to be approved by the Parish Council in the form of an amended ordinance. Once the go-kart race track is closed or the subject property is no longer owned by Keith Thibodeaux, the zoning classification will automatically revert back to the old zoning classification of R-2 (Mixed Residential).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the use of the said property for the purposes defined by Appendix A of the St. Martin Parish Zoning Ordinances relative to the I-1 classification are hereby restricted as follows:

- A. Acadiana Speedway Group is limited to eighteen (18) races a year, between the months of February 1 and November 30.
- B. The large, outdoor lighting surrounding the track shall be turned off by 10:00 P.M. Additionally, all remaining lighting shall be turned off by 11:30 P.M.
- C. The decibel level of all activities conducted on the property shall comply with all noise ordinances of the state of Louisiana and Parish of St. Martin. Furthermore, any activity conducted on the premises shall not use any sort of public address (PA) system after 10:00 P.M.
- D. Any and all visitors shall be off of the premises by 11:30 P.M.
- E. The organizers are to periodically spray the racetrack with water to control the dust.
- F. Alcohol consumption is to be controlled as best as possible.
- G. There is to be absolutely no parking on Gecko Road.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the St. Martin Parish Zoning Ordinances, including, but not limited to, Appendix A attached thereto, be and is hereby amended to reflect the entirety of this edict.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall not affect any other provisions of the St. Martin Parish Zoning Ordinances, and its applicability shall be and is limited to the property described herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any provision, word, phrase, or clause of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

This ordinance shall become effective as provided by Section 2-12 of the Home Rule Charter of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana.

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

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

And the Ordinance was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Chris Tausin and seconded by Dean LeBlanc that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-028-RS**

WHEREAS, a contract for the Breaux Bridge Manor Drainage Improvements Project (HMGP#1786-099-0002), was awarded to low bidder, M. Matt Durand, L.L.C., in the amount of \$582,957.20; and

WHEREAS, Quality Engineering and Surveying, L.L.C. (QES) has recommended Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$20,415.00 (decrease).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize the signature of Parish President to execute Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$20,415.00 (decrease) for the Breaux Bridge Manor Drainage Improvements Project, by M. Matt Durand, L.L.C.

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

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

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Byron Fuselier and seconded by Jill Hebert that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-029-RS**

WHEREAS, the St. Martin Parish Government entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Facility Planning and Control of the Division of Administration for the “Four-Mile Bayou Road Improvements Project,” Planning and Construction (St. Martin); FP&C Project No. 50-J50-12-01; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget in Exhibit “A” reflects the current level of funding and the resulting funding as depicted in Exhibit “B”; and

WHEREAS, FP&C Project No. 50-J50-12-01 also reflects a change in Article VIII regarding change orders as mandated by R.S.39:126; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement must be amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the St. Martin Parish Council, in Regular Session convened this 7th day of March, 2017, that Parish President Guy Cormier’s signature be ratified on the 2nd Amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Facility Planning and Control of the Division of Administration for the “Four-Mile Bayou Road Improvements Project,” Planning and Construction (St. Martin), for and in behalf of the St. Martin Parish Government.

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 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Daniel Richard, Jr. and seconded by Byron Fuselier that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-030-RS**

WHEREAS, the St. Martin Parish Government is required to complete the Louisiana System Survey and Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagement of Government Entities annually; and

WHEREAS, the St. Martin Parish Government has contracted with Maraist & Maraist, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the financial audit of fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize the execution of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the audit for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

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 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Jill Hebert and seconded by Lisa Nelson that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-031-RS**

WHEREAS, St. Martin Parish meets the requirements to participate in the Summer Nutrition Program as established by the United States Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, due to the success of last year's Summer Nutrition Program, St. Martin Parish Government is again interested in sponsoring such a program in St. Martin Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby endorse the participation of the St. Martin Parish Government in the Summer Nutrition Program for the year 2017 and authorizes the St. Martin Parish President to sign all necessary documents for application into said program.

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 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Byron Fuselier and seconded by Jill Hebert that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-032-RS**

WHEREAS, St. Martin Parish Government wishes to hire Ms. Connie Horton (an independent contractor) for the duties related to the opening, closing and cleaning for events scheduled at the Coteau Holmes Civic Center at 1814 Coteau Holmes Highway, St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582 and that she will work on as needed basis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Connie Horton's contract is effective March 6, 2017, and will expire on March 6, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize Parish President Guy Cormier to execute a contract in behalf of the St. Martin Parish Government with Ms. Connie Horton.

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

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

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Byron Fuselier and seconded by Lisa Nelson that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-033-RS**

WHEREAS, St. Martin Parish Government wishes to hire Mr. Travis Meche (an independent contractor) for the duties related to the opening, closing and cleaning for events scheduled at the Coteau Holmes Civic Center at 1814 Coteau Holmes Highway, St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582 and that he will work on as needed basis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Travis Meche's contract is effective March 6, 2017, and will expire on March 6, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize Parish President Guy Cormier to execute a contract in behalf of the St. Martin Parish Government with Mr. Travis Meche.

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

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

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Dean LeBlanc and seconded by Lisa Nelson that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-034-RS**

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Trace was designated a National Heritage Area October 2006, a distinction given to only 37 areas in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the heritage area is to preserve the unique, regional landscape and culture while making it accessible to visitors and the general public; and

WHEREAS, a letter from Debra Credeur, Executive Director of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission/Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, was sent to the Parish requesting the appointment/reappointment of a commissioner to serve on the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (ATC) as St. Martin Parish's representative; and

WHEREAS, the term for the St. Martin Parish representative is March 12, 2017 to March 12, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby reappoint Mr. Aaron Flegeance as a commissioner of the Atchafalaya Trace Commission, representing St. Martin Parish, Louisiana.

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, Dean LeBlanc and Daniel Richard, Jr.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Albert Menard.

ABSENT: None.

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Dean LeBlanc and seconded by Chris Tauzin that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-035-RS**

WHEREAS, a contract for the Colonel Jeff DeBlanc Parkway and Landry Lane Roadway Improvements Project, was awarded to low bidder, Coastal Bridge Company, L.L.C., in the amount of \$207,765.00; and

WHEREAS, Professional Engineering & Surveying Co., Inc. (PENSCO) has recommended the Administrative Plan Change in the amount of \$4,470.69 (decrease).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize the signature of Parish President to execute the Administrative Plan Change in the amount of \$4,470.69 (decrease) for the Colonel Jeff DeBlanc Parkway and Landry Lane Roadway Improvements Project, by Coastal Bridge Company, L.L.C.

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 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Lisa Nelson and seconded by Byron Fuselier that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-036-RS**

WHEREAS, a contract for the Cade Community Center Chiller Building Addition Project, was awarded to low bidder, Garden City Construction, in the amount of \$334,374.00; and

WHEREAS, Vermilion Architects, L.L.C. has recommended Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$5,500.00 (increase).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize the signature of Parish President to execute Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$5,500.00 (increase) for the Cade Community Center Chiller Building Addition Project, by Garden City Construction.

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 7th day of March, 2017.

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A motion was made by Byron Fuselier and seconded by Chris Tauzin that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-037-RS**

WHEREAS, a contract for the Beau Bayou Swamp Hydrologic Restoration Project, was awarded to low bidder, LeBlanc Marine, L.L.C., with a total bid in the amount of \$1,662,128.00; and

WHEREAS, Sellers & Associates, Inc. has recommended Contract Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$33,149.00 (increase).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Martin Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute Contract Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$33,149.00 (increase) for the Beau Bayou Swamp Hydrologic Restoration Project, by LeBlanc Marine, L.L.C.

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 7th day of March, 2017.

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Clerk Laci Laperouse read the ordinances introduced for publication, as follows:

SUMMARY NO. 1171-OR (Introduced by Dean LeBlanc, District 8)

An Ordinance authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017, of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; designating the date, denomination and place of payment of said Bonds; providing for the payment thereof in principal and interest; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

SUMMARY NO. 1172-OR (Introduced by Byron Fuselier, District 1)

An Ordinance abolishing Sub-Road District No. 3 of Road District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, in accordance with and as authorized by Section 577 of Title 48 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

SUMMARY NO. 1173-OR (Introduced by Neil Thibodeaux, District 4)

An Ordinance to amend Chapter 20 of Article I of the St. Martin Parish Code of Ordinances by the repeal, amendment, revision, enactment, and/or re-enactment of Section 20-4 of the said Chapter 20 of Article I, all relative to the imposition of emergency service charges for telecommunications.

SUMMARY NO. 1174-OR (Introduced by Jason Willis, District 3)

An Ordinance to repeal Subsection E of Section 2-01 of the St. Martin Parish Home Rule Charter and to call for an election on said issue as provided for in Section 7-01 of the St. Martin Parish Home Rule Charter.

Prior to adjournment Parish President Guy Cormier reminded everyone the March 21, 2017 Committee Meetings will be held at the St. Martin Hospital Annex Building, 210 Champagne Boulevard, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Parish President Guy Cormier addressed a few questions from the Council and audience regarding projects around the parish. Council Member Chris Tauzin urged everyone to attend the LCPA-West (Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association-West) meeting, which will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., located at the Catahoula Elementary School gym.

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