

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 16, 2021

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Chairman Chris Tauzin has called a **Special Meeting** of the St. Martin Parish Council for 4:30 P.M., Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 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:

Parish President Chester Cedars to give a PowerPoint presentation about Medicare Carve-Out for Retiree Insurance.

6) ORDINANCES INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

7) RESOLUTION:

SUMMARY NO. 094-RS (Introduced by Tangie Narcisse, District 3)

A Resolution approving the adoption of a Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees, all as permitted by Section 4.15 of the Policies and Procedures Manual of the St. Martin Parish Government.

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."

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Tauzin.

The Invocation was read by Brooke Gillespie, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dean LeBlanc.

The following members were present: Byron Fuselier, Carla JeanBatiste, Tangie Narcisse, David Poirier, Chris Tauzin, Vincent Alexander and Dean LeBlanc. Members absent: Brook Champagne (excused) and Daniel Richard, Jr. (excused). Also present: Parish President Chester Cedars, Director of Administration Calder Hebert, Director of Finance Sean Hundley, Director of Public Works Kasey Courville and Parish Attorney Allan Durand.

Parish President Chester Cedars gave a PowerPoint presentation (*on-file*) about Medicare Carve-Out for Retiree Insurance. Parish President Chester Cedars declared that Section 4.15 of the Parish's Policy Manual, which the Council approved on March 2, 2021, now mandates that Medicare eligible retirees enroll in Part A and Part B of Medicare. Ordinarily, this coverage will thus become the primary insurance for the retiree while the Parish's retiree plan will be secondary or supplemental. However, working with Brown and Brown, St. Martin Parish Government has secured coverage for retirees via what is known as a Medicare Advantage Plan. It is a reflection of Part C of Medicare. Essentially this is a combination of both primary coverage and secondary coverage through one plan. The cost to the parish for this retiree coverage will be substantially less than what we are currently paying for the secondary coverage plan.

The current monthly cost for retiree coverage is \$18,706.68. With the Medicare Advantage (Part C), the monthly cost will be reduced to \$5,211.00. This computes to a monthly saving of \$13,495.68 or an annual savings of \$161,948.16. Equally as noteworthy is that spousal coverage which the retiree pays will be reduced from \$357.67 monthly to \$193.00 per month.

Parish President Chester Cedars explained the coverage afforded by the Medicare Advantage Plan is beyond that provided by the current program. Parenthetically, President Cedars noted that the Sheriff's Office recently adopted a similar plan for its retirees. Also, retirees with whom our Personnel Officer has thus far spoken with, have embraced the Medicare Advantage proposal.

Parish President Chester Cedars applauded the efforts of our Personnel Officer, Kim Duplechain, for her diligent work in securing quotes for this new program for retirees.

A general discussion ensued among Council Members and Parish President Chester Cedars. Several Council Members expressed concern over annual rate increases for retirees. President Cedars noted that this matter would be looked into further but will unlikely be an issue.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21-094-RS

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF A MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN FOR RETIREES, ALL AS PERMITTED BY SECTION 4.15 OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL OF THE ST. MARTIN PARISH GOVERNMENT.

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2000, the St. Martin Parish Council adopted a policies and procedures manual as required by Section 406 (E) of the Parish's Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, from the time of its adoption until March 2, 2021, the said Policies and Procedures Manual was not the subject of any formal action by the St. Martin Parish Council as regards any revisions or additions thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Parish President undertook a comprehensive review, evaluation, and consequential revision of that policies and procedures manual; and

WHEREAS, Parish President Chester R. Cedars submitted to the St. Martin Parish Council a revised Policies and Procedures Manual requesting formal approval by the St. Martin Parish Council as required by Section 4-06(E) of the Home Rule Charter of St. Martin Parish; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of Ordinance Number 21-03-1313-OR, on March 2, 2021, the St. Martin Parish Council approved the revised Policies and Procedures Manual; and

WHEREAS, Section 4.15 of the revised Policies and Procedures Manual provides that "Parish Government" may offer retirees coverage under a plan separate from the Parish's group health policy for employees; and

WHEREAS, for retirees, the Parish President has secured a quote for a Medicare Advantage Plan offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, Inc. and known as the "Blue Advantage Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid proposed retiree healthcare plan represents a significant cost savings without compromise to any coverage:

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Parish President, the ST. MARTIN PARISH Council does hereby approve of the retiree Medicare Advantage Plan offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, Inc. and known as the "Blue Advantage Plan."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid plan shall be and is hereby in lieu of the coverages currently available for Medicare eligible retirees.

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

YEAS: Byron Fuselier, Carla JeanBatiste, Tangie Narcisse, David Poirier,
Chris Tazuin, Vincent Alexander and Dean LeBlanc.
NAYS: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: Brook Champagne (excused) and Daniel Richard, Jr. (excused).

And the Resolution was declared adopted this 16th day of November, 2021.

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

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE:



BROOKE GILLESPIE
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL