



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Guy McInnis
Parish President

President's Report Council Meeting of Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Good Evening Councilmembers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to first welcome our new Information Technology Director, Michael Davenport who we are extremely excited to welcome as part of the team. Some of Mike's first duties will include creating a departmental work order system, updating the Parish website to include uploading back meetings as well as setting up the capabilities to Skype business meeting providing audio, video and web conferencing. This technology will enable us to save travel time driving to and from meetings, in particular, intergovernmental meetings.

On Wednesday, June 15, St. Bernard Parish will be hosting a Regional Parish Presidents meeting in the lower part of the Parish. The primary focus of the June meeting is to bring Parish leadership together in preparation of Hurricane Season, 2016. This will be a good opportunity to share information on the importance of organizing local governments to assist each other in times of emergency and need. Our goal is to work together to build regional bonds and resources that improve response, recovery and mitigation in order to protect the lives and property of residents in Louisiana. I hope you can all join us for what will be a very informative meeting.

Last week St. Bernard participated in the State of the Coast Conference. A panel of coastal Parish leaders, including Terrebonne, Lafourche, Cameron, St. Tammany, and Plaquemines addressed the challenges of fortifying Louisiana's coast. The panel pushed for more control over State projects and finding money to pay for projects necessary for protection and restoration work. Upgrades to St. Bernard's interior drainage system would create a more efficient and enhanced drainage system throughout the Parish. A flood defense system without adequate operation and maintenance is a risk that should not be overlooked. As a member of the CPRA board, St. Bernard Parish now has an all-important vote when it comes to the direction of coastal restoration, not only in St. Bernard, but in the State of Louisiana.

Bob Barton, St. Bernard Parish Government's Safety Officer is making tremendous strides implementing an effective and progressive Safety Program. He has visited every department and facility and continues to make on-site weekly visits. In his first 100 day review, he has focused on such things as proper on-site chemical storage; helping to facilitate a safety training program for Parish firemen so that they will know where all chemicals are stored and how to properly contain any potential hazard. He has worked with Animal Control and reviewed compliance of the State's 100 point checklist with the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission. The Road Department has

protective equipment and is facilitating safety classes. The Department of Public Works staff is working to produce architectural drawings of all Parish facilities that, in turn, can be used for fire/emergency evacuations. The Insurance Department is producing a binder which will contain architectural drawings of all Parish facilities with interior and exterior photos of those facilities. The Fire Department has conducted lifesaving classes at Mosquito Control and the Water Treatment Plant, and will conduct future classes at the Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Parish office personnel. Accident safety kits are now inside all Parish vehicles; in addition, most "field" vehicles have first aid kits, fire extinguishers and road safety cones. A new medical protocol has been implemented for the treatment of accidents and drug testing. Monthly, ten minute safety classes are now being conducted as well as new employee safety orientations. All of this information gives us a better idea of how departments, cooperating and working together, play a vital part in how we deliver services professionally and safely to our residents.

Coming into office, the Administration and Council knew that we were straddled with a budget balanced with 2.3 million dollars of one-time non-recurring revenue. We knew this matter would have to be addressed and was done 150 days into office. Administration's goal was to address major budget deficiencies; increase and improve services; instill accountability to all levels of Parish Government and build trust within the community while working closely with the Council. An example of reduced spending and increased services is the newly signed garbage collection contract which will realize a savings of over \$650,000 annually. The people of St. Bernard will receive additional debris pick-ups, recycling bins at both transfer stations and new carts. These type changes can only happen with the teamwork of Administration and Council and the support of the people of St. Bernard Parish.

We will continue to strive to reach our goals by working with our community members and building coalitions at every level.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy McInnis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

Guy McInnis
Parish President