

PASSED

The following ordinance which was previously introduced at a regular meeting held on June 22, 2022, a summary thereof having been published in the official journal together with a notice of public hearing which was held in accordance with said public notice, was brought up for final passage on a motion offered by Councilman Louque and seconded by Councilman Amato:

**ORDINANCE 22-06**  
**ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 118 "WATERWAYS" OF THE ST. JAMES PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL SECTION 1 - "NO-WAKE ZONES" AND REPLACE WITH SECTION 1 - "SPEED OF WATERCRAFT / IDLE ZONES"**

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance shall be to provide established safe operating speeds of watercraft upon the waterways of St. James Parish; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the provisions of LA R.S. 34:851.27 B, the establishment of a watercraft speed ordinance is necessary to address the interests of public safety; and,

WHEREAS, the council hereby shall repeal the current section 118-1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the St. James Parish Council that Chapter 118-1 of the St. James Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A hereto and made a part thereof.

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

YEAS: Cooper, Nash, Amato, Louque, and Etienne-Steib  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: St. Pierre and Bland

And, the ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 6th day of July 2022.

  
Council Chairwoman

  
Secretary

Delivered to Parish President: 07-06-2022

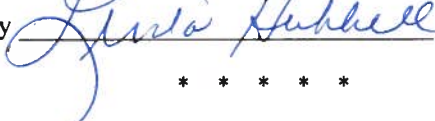
Approved: 7-6-2022

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Parish President

Returned to Secretary on 07-06-2022

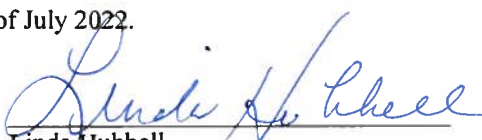
At 9:12 AM/PM

Received by   
\* \* \* \* \*

**C E R T I F I C A T E**

I, Linda Hubbell, Secretary of the Council of the Parish of St. James, State of Louisiana, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the St. James Parish Council in regular meeting held on the 6th day of July 2022.

Signed at Vacherie, Louisiana, this 7th day of July 2022.

  
Linda Hubbell  
Secretary

(S E A L)

## EXHIBIT A

### Section 118-1 – Speed Limit of Watercraft / Idle Zones

- (a) No person shall operate a motorboat, motor vessel or recreational watercraft on waterways of the Parish in excess of the posted maximum speed limit at that location which, when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected, shall be effective at all times or at such specific times as may be determined by the Parish Council. At any location where a sign has been legally erected reading "Idle—No Wake," or "No Wake Zone," or language with the same or similar meaning, each vessel shall operate at bare steerage speed, the slowest speed the vessel can travel while allowing the operator to maintain directional control of the vessel, to produce the minimum water turbulence.
- (b) By authority of the Parish Council, an area must include one or more of the following, in order to be considered for establishment of an official "Idle/No Wake Zone" on waterways of the Parish. Once created, the nominal distance within these zones shall be no less than three hundred (300') feet in all directions, or further distances deemed appropriate for the prevailing circumstances.
  - (1) Bridge crossing a waterway;
  - (2) Public boat launching facility;
  - (3) Public boat docking facility;
  - (4) Public docking facility with boat refueling (gasoline, diesel) capabilities;
  - (5) Intersections of major waterways;
  - (6) Any area with a history of boating related accidents; or
  - (7) Any area that, by nature, necessitates establishment for the purpose of providing a safe passage for boaters or safe docking.
- (c) The following areas are hereby declared idle/no wake zones:
  - (1) Blind River at its intersection with Airline Borrow Canal (in and about the property leased by St. James Parish for a public boat launching facility), on Airline Borrow Canal at a point beginning 100' approaching the St. James Boat Club access bridge and continuing past the Airline Borrow Canal/Blind River intersection 100', and on Blind River from its intersection with Airline Borrow Canal continuing to a point 100' past the maintained bulkhead of the St. James Boat Club (public launch / docking facility).
  - (2) Blind River in the vicinity of Our Lady of Blind River Chapel, from a point 300' up river to a point 300' down river.
- (d) In addition to the specific speed limitations herein provided for, no person shall operate a motorboat, motor vessel or recreational watercraft on any waterway within the Parish at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and potential then existing or in any manner which would endanger life or property.
- (e) Signage. The Parish shall determine all criteria (size, shape, color, wording, etc.) as to the design of proper signs to be placed at all official idle/no wake zones within the Parish. The Parish shall be responsible for the construction, placement and maintenance of all such signs. The signs shall, at minimum, contain the wording "IDLE/NO WAKE ZONE" to be placed at the beginning (all directions of travel) of each idle/no wake zone, and "END IDLE/NO WAKE ZONE" to be placed at the end (all directions of travel) of the respective idle/no wake zone.
- (f) Violation; penalty. A violation hereof by any operator of watercraft, other than those exempted, shall be punishable as provided in Section 1-13.