

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th, 2017
CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX
VICE-CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 10th, 2017, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VII, Raj Pannu, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilwoman Remonet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr. and Geoffrey Michel were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (2 minutes per citizen)

There was no public comments at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

There was no introduction of businesses.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS:

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Madere as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Councilman Wright as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Snyder as Chairman of the Council and Councilwoman Hotard as Vice-Chair of the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"I'd like to say thank you all for allowing me in 2016 to be your Chair, it was a bumpy road but we succeeded. Thank you all for doing it again in 2017, but I think I'm going to sit back and hand this over to Mr. Snyder and I think he will do a fantastic job. I'm always a phone call away."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"First of all, I'd like to thank you for this honor and it is an honor, but I do think that we all should get a chance at doing this. I look forward to work with all of you and administration, and you guys so we can move St. John Parish forward like we've done for the past 5 years. We had a lot of accomplishments the last 5 years, we had a lot of up and downs we went through a lot of things, but we did it we had good leadership with our previous Chairmen and I just hope I can fill their shoes and kind of keep*

things going a little bit. Okay, so thank you again!"

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - December 27th, 2016, Regular Meeting; Parade Permit Approval - 44th Annual Krewe of DuMonde Parade Sunday - 2/26/17 beginning at 11:00 AM; Councilman Snyder - Appointment of Leatrice Arlie to the Library Board of Control

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items: Approval of Minutes - December 27th, 2016, Regular Meeting; Parade Permit Approval - 44th Annual Krewe of DuMonde Parade Sunday - 2/26/17 beginning at 11:00 AM; Councilman Snyder - Appointment of Leatrice Arlie to the Library Board of Control. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

16-58 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the Parish President to execute an Act of Lease with the St. John Theatre, Inc., a non-profit, for a period of 10 years, for an annual payment of \$1.00 per year with St. John Theatre paying the liability insurance for the building. This lease will hold the Parish Council harmless from any and all claims by or liability to third persons. Such lease agreement will be executed and approved by legal counsel. (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "This ordinance will allow continued use of the St. John Theatre by the St. John Theatre, Inc. through a renewed lease. The cost of the lease is \$1.00 per year through the year 2027 with an option to renew the lease at the end of the 10-year term if agreed to by both parties. This lease document has been reviewed and approved by Legal Counsel and Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Chairman Snyder. I just want to recognize that we do have members of our St. John Theatre Board here and I just want to acknowledge you guys and thank you for all that you do for the theatre. I try and make as many events as possible at the theatre and I know that it's truly a waiver of love you know for you guys, and you put a lot into it. It's a well-oiled machine, you know the productions go off without a hit, so I just didn't you know I just wanted to say thank you. Because I know that you all give of yourselves, so that theatre it's something that is a, it's almost a nice little tucked away gym in St. John. You know so I would encourage anybody who never been there, you never seen a production to do that and I just wanted to say thank you and thanks for you know coming here tonight, very smooth and easy you know, so thank you again for all that you do for St. John Theatre."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have just this to say about St. John Theatre and I was reminiscing out there with Mr. Bill because I remember when Mr. Snowdy, this was his baby you know, Mr. Snowdy used to teach at Leon Godchaux and East St. John I guess, he taught such a long time. But he jumped in this and he was instrumental in getting that thing and even for the parish to get involved with it and take it over and starting all of this, and look where we've gotten, we've had many, many, many shows since that. So I'd just like to just you know thank Mr. Snowdy for being such a visionary and looking at the cultural part of this so we can help our children out in the future. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 16-58. The motion passed unanimously.

16-59 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to rescind Ordinance 16-52. (L. Sorapuru)

The above item was removed from the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Thank you and once last time as the Finance Chairman and I also appreciate the council's opportunity to serve as your Finance Chairman, so one last time, I'd like to ask that the council accept the recommendations of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-01 - A Resolution authorizing and approving a grant agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Housing Corporation for administration of the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This is an annual requirement to obtain the LIHEAP grant through September 30, 2018. This resolution further authorizes the Parish President to execute all documents related to the grant. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-01. A resolution authorizing and approving a grant agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Housing Corporation for administration of the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP). The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Perrilloux asked, *"This LIHEAP that's for 2 years, September, I mean I'm sorry, yeah it's about 2 years?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Actually it's longer, it's based on the Federal Fiscal year, but our authorization for signature is on an annual basis. So it will go through that, we anticipate that it will continue, this has been an ongoing program, but in terms of authorization this one's been September of 2018. It's through their federal funds, it's through Ms. Lemon's office."*

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"Okay, I'm thinking about Trina, a Public Housing."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"No, no. This is Health & Human Services, they assist people with their Entergy bills and the funding comes from the Federal Government."*

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Correct ok, thank you."

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-02 - A Resolution authorizing the St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney's office to move forward with representing the Parish in active pursuit of the money claimed to be owed from Manjit Wadhwa, Wadhwa Realty, L.L.C. and Wadhwa Resort, L.L.C.

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes it's unfortunate that we're here at this point, but it's advised by Legal Counsel, this resolution grants the District Attorney's Office the authority to act on behalf of the Parish to pursue funds owed for the Belle Terre Maintenance Agreement. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-02. A resolution authorizing the St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney's office to move forward with representing the Parish in active pursuit of the money claimed to be owed from Manjit Wadhwa, Wadhwa Realty, L.L.C. and Wadhwa Resort, L.L.C. The motion passed with Councilwoman Pannu abstaining.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Sorapuru - (Carry Over 11-7-16) Update from Bond attorney on financing for water projects

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 12-13-16) Update on the administrative directive to consult an attorney concerning Fire Station #51 construction

Councilman Snyder stated, "I definitely have some questions on that. I just want to know where we are with that. I know we can't, we may not be able to discuss anything here, but I just want to know where are as far as looking for, as trying to find somebody to take care of this issue for us."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The Council actually authorized us to enter into an agreement with Mr. Carville. Unfortunately Mr. Carville has been in and out due to some personal issues, but we are working with him on the defined scope. We had some conversations with some of the volunteer fire departments that we don't anticipate a problem, and the other we're going to provide him with options that we'd like him to pursue."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay that's all I wanted to find out about that."

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage District III

Brian Nunes stated, "Good evening. The Reserve Drainage Project Phase III is currently proceeding on schedule and the additional design work that was approved is underway. For specific questions I do have the Design Engineer here in the house."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I passed there today and I saw they were moving the telephone poles, moving telephone poles over, that's to allow them to continue that construction on 24th Street?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That's correct. Which really is a right of way, so we haven't moved back to fit the pipes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right and then that way, and also we're going to continue all the way to Sweet Lorraine. Everyone love to hear that word."

Brian Nunes stated, "That's the additional design work that's on the way right now. I'll let Merrill address that."

Merrill Pollack, Buchart-Horn stated, "Good evening. We are beginning to proceed with the design now on the extension of the pipes on the East and West sides of 24th Street and on the West side of Sweet Lorraine to extend West side of Melius to extend up to Sweet Lorraine."

Councilman Madere stated, "And those telephone poles, have they moved them all over already? I know it was a total of about 6 or 7 of them."

Merrill Pollack stated, "I believe they're in the process of doing that right now, as we speak."

Councilman Madere stated, "And the only major concern I spoke with you a few minutes ago, was that water is still sitting in there on Perrilloux Drive."

Brian Nunes stated, "That's an issue that administration is handling right now, because it's a railroad culvert that blocking things and the Chief Administrative Officer and myself are coming in contact with Senator Cassidy's office, and we're setting up a meeting with his liaison and the railroad to have that cleaned out, as well as some other issues, we have both KCS and CN coming to these meetings."

Councilman Madere asked, "Is there any way, while we're waiting on this that we can pump that water out of there?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That could be possible. That's something I could look into."

Councilman Madere stated, "Problem is, just letting it sit there you know because if you pump it out through that canal on Martin Luther King Boulevard, it should move out."

Brian Nunes stated, "Right, we just got to get to the north side of the track."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, right. Then you pump it you know, pump it through there and you can get that water level down because it's pretty high."

Merrill Pollack stated, "Actually I think during construction the contractors is actually pumping that water across the railroad. But I think they may be going through one of the pipes that go underneath the railroad."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah I passed there the other day but it wasn't pumping, they had the pipe sticking through there it wasn't on they need to pump that water out. It shouldn't take no more than, it hadn't been raining, so it shouldn't take no more than a day to pump that water down."

Merrill Pollack stated, "Right, they'll pump it down when they're laying pipe and then when they're not working, obviously you know the water collects again. So..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Yeah it collects if it rain. It'll collect again if it rain, but I mean if you know if we have any rain in the last maybe 3 or 4 days, I mean 2 days for sure you know, so you try and pump it out. You know I understand when it rains because we hadn't gotten with the railroad yet, so I do understand it's filling back up. But I mean while we're having this dry weather right now available to us, they should try to pump down."

Merrill Pollack stated, "We have a construction meeting on Thursday and we'll discuss that with the contractor then."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Just one other thing since we're on this District III thing. I talked to Mr. Madere and on 26th Street I see they blocked the canal up on 26th Street, the drainage from up front. And I was just wondering why because I know the lady that lives there the last house and she couldn't get out her yard because of the rain, because it was flooded because the canal is blocked up with dirt and that's the way it's designed. It was designed to block it off for some reason."

Brian Nunes stated, "I don't think there's any permanent design to block it off. It might have been a temporary construction blockage and we'll deal with that Thursday if's it's still there. I didn't go there today but, I will visit tomorrow and we definitely have a meeting at 10:00 on Thursday morning so, there won't be any permanent blockages in that canal."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay thank you very much."

Lennix Madere - Update on Belle Pointe levee

Brian Nunes stated, "As far as the Belle Pointe levee. A conference call was held today actually at 4:00 with myself, the CAO, Mr. Jobe' and Blake were both in there as well. The discussion was to finalize plans for the berm construction. The manholes, 2 out of 3 manholes have already been elevated by the Utilities Department they have one more to do, which will be done within the next 2 weeks and then my department Public Works is prepared to do our portion which is to install culverts in the canal with screw gates on the end. We're going to do that as part of the berm construction so it's all done at the same time. The only outstanding issue involves the walking path at the Belle Pointe Park and the placement of the levee, after speaking with Delta Land today, they're going to provide their survey that shows their property line and where everything's going to be, they said next week. By next week we're going to review their things and we have our GIS Department reviewing what we think is right, we'll compare the two and then we're going to reconvene to figure out how to move forward."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay because I know we had this meeting with them several months ago, you know and I just didn't see any action or anything taking place that's why I put it back on this agenda, cause I wanted to make sure they understand that we need that section to be completed, so we don't have that same problem again that we had when we had that backwater flooding, yeah we don't want to have that same problem we had when we had to put that make shift levee, you know we had that concern about that backwater flooding. You know if we had that meeting I think during that time when they were supposed to get back with us, I hadn't heard anything from them."

Brian Nunes stated, "They did get back with us and we spoke of that today and they do understand the importance of that, that berm and they're 100% on board with constructing it, it's just a matter of where they're going to put it and that's what we need their survey which is our GIS and we need to make those match up and then we'll get the exact locations."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, one other thing. I didn't go back there towards Belle Pointe this week, I was out of town. But the week before we still had those plastic bags and dirt was still out there. Are we planning on picking that up?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That should be all removed by now. I was out there the other day and I didn't see it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah it was there 3 weeks ago. Like I said, it's been 2 weeks since I passed so."

Brian Nunes stated, "It's gone now. If you see any residuals we'll go remove them but there should be none."

Lennix Madere - Update on Chad B. Baker - findings from survey

Brian Nunes stated, "We did the survey based on results of the survey, the Parish Engineer drafted a report that was distributed on November 22, 2016. Based on preliminary review of the report and comparison with similar projects, the estimated cost of the project would exceed \$1 million. Because funding for this project was not included in the 2017 budget, a funding source must be identified."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay one other question. Do you know off hand how much we paid for that survey?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I believe it was maybe \$5,000."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well that's not too bad because I mean we paid \$5,000 but you know what they told me in that survey, basically we already knew. The wrong size pipe, miss aligning coverage you know and everything you know so that's one thing that we're going to have to try and work on, because Chad B. Baker like those other four streets been having a lot of problems. I will say this, that big rain storm we had the other day, okay Chad B. Baker held up pretty good compared to in the past. You know I don't know if it's concerning that us digging that Perrilloux Canal out a little more may have helped out a little bit, okay but it held up a lot better than it have in the past you know. Saying that though, we still need to address that street because that's one of the problem streets in that area for sure."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree. It needs to be addressed but again, with the construction cost estimated over a \$1 million, we need to find the funding source for that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well we're going to work on that. We'll find it."

Lennix Madere - Sewerage/Wastewater issues on Central Ave in Reserve

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes Mr. Madere, obviously the ultimate resolution you'll voted on today, after going through the bid process, though that's a

fairly lengthy process to get that on line. That Reserve Oxidation Pond will take over and relieve some of the pressure on the bump in that area and is the ultimate solution for that project."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well the reason I put that on there is because I received a lot of phone calls during that rain storm and I could understand the frustration those individuals have on that street you know and doing that, that was during the holidays basically and they had a lot of individuals had company at their homes you know and they were caught in a bind, and I saw the retention pond on the paper and I just wanted them to hear at the meeting that there is a solution to that problem. You know and that the parish is actually working towards, you know solving that problem for them you know, cause I don't think anyone should have that problem, it's been going on for several years, you know I don't mind taking phone calls, I totally understand you know and I was really very active in going out and trying to solve this situation you know but this retention pond can't come fast enough for these people."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir and I will say this, a portion of that construction, it's not, the relief will come prior to the completion, the goal is the completion of that project and activation of that facility. There is some electrical work at the Za Lift Station, that will be done at the very beginning and we had scheduled it that way. At the very beginning of that project, we'll actually provide some, we're hoping some temporary relief to that area and help with some additional, adding pumping capacity, but obviously the ultimate goal is to get the short distance from Za to the pond, rather than going all the way into LaPlace to be treated right now. It does a nightmare for pumping whenever you start pumping."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you."

Lennix Madere - Parish Parks upkeep and maintenance

Kerry Watkins stated, "Good evening Council. A meeting was requested with Councilman Madere to discuss his concerns, however quotes are being solicited to clean and paint the airnasium and install the soft tile surface. With regard to the vandalism claim, the information was sent to our insurance agent and follow-up is needed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay with the insurance I mean that's our insurance, Mr. Rollo right?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and how long ago did that vandalism happen?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "I want to say it happened in June."

Councilman Madere stated, "In June? Okay that's a long time. You know insurance companies I mean they get their money on time well then they should react quicker than this, you know I mean it's going to be June pretty soon again. You know and that park, we don't have any spare extra ones that we can put in place or?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "No sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "They don't have anything extra?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "No sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so you're going to get in contact with Mr. Rollo and try and make sure they get this done as fast as possible?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "Yes sir this week."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right because I went walking in the park you know and I noticed that you know, it doesn't look good. You and our park been kept up pretty good you know in the past and you know the beautification of it, you know and I understand and I hope the citizens realize that the park is there for them and you know stop a lot of the vandalism, but that Belle Pointe Park since I've been in office, I've been asking to have those graffiti and everything removed inside that airnasium, you know it's been 5 years and that needs to come down. You know I'm getting tired looking at Caveman when I walk around that park, written all up at the top and also on the backside, I think it's on that Eastside, that building where it's dirty at, you know I'd get them to pressure wash that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think I remember your request, and we originally had spoken with the fire department about doing it, but they don't ability to pressure wash but they were going to you know use their hoses, but we don't think that's actually going to remove the paint. So we want to repaint it and obviously you need lifts in order to get that high, and we'd like to do it correctly and make sure that it's taken care of. But just for informational purposes, the vandalism is a problem but this council approved the cameras at all of the parks, they're up, they're there, we have an agreement with the Sheriff's Office, so we definitely hope that it'll serve as a deterrent, we really don't want to catch anybody vandalizing the equipment, we're hoping that it will deter them. But at this point, we're going to follow up with the insurance agency, however; it's likely that our deductible is going to be so high we're going to have to foot the replacement bill for that equipment. But the goal is to you know stop the vandalism."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand about painting the inside, you know it's going to take a little time deal with the lift and everything. But on that backside, you know what I'm talking about Kerry?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We're just going to get somebody to do it all."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok."

Natalie Robottom stated, "So we're going to try to get quotes on somebody to take care of that project, get it done and get it done at one time instead of calling the fire department, some of recreation and a quote to just get it all done at one time."

Councilman Madere stated, "Now the outside part, I understand you're going to get it done one time, in the inside and the backside, but that backside is something that's a maintenance thing, a yearly wash down, that's all that is, you know with some little Clorox and little hose pipe that take care of that. Cause all that is just that green from the trees in that area, on that backside. Alright thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just have a quick question. With the insurance you said you filed a claim. So has..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We actually submitted the information to Mr. Rollo to pursue."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "When did we submit the information?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "In June. When the vandalism occurred."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So Mr. Rollo hasn't respond to it for some reason? I'm just wondering if there's a breakdown maybe we need to communicate with them."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There may be but we've had some interruptions in the office that pretty much handles it in HR. So maybe it went maybe it didn't so..."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Our office?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes, between the transition with the Director and not being a Director and so we need to follow-up."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss - Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40th JDC. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc. and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827

John Barrett vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket# 68043 (Graffiti issue)

Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40th JDC, #68308

Any and all pending legal matters

Councilman Perrilloux excused himself from the meeting at 7:10PM.

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to go back to regular session. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Chairman Snyder. Yes there will be action as a result of Executive Session."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Pannu seconded the motion to authorize the attorney to settle the Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40th JDC C#68308, in an amount to not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

17-01 An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 16-52, adopted on November 7, 2016, to delete Section II to clarify the Parish's continued participation in the South Central Regional Planning and Development Commission, and renumber Sections III and IV

accordingly (N. Robottom)

17-02 An ordinance amending Ordinance 16-38 relative to the annual Operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Juvenile Detention Fund and Criminal Court Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016 (N. Robottom)

17-03 An ordinance amending the test of Chapter 109 - Natural Resource and Environmental Preservation and Protection, Article II. - Coastal Zone Management with the intent of the adoption of the St. John the Baptist Parish Coastal Management Plan (CMP) and the establishment of a local coastal management program in accordance with The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) and The Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978 (SLCRMA) as amended and in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:214.21-214.42 and the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 43, Natural Resources, Part 1, Office of the Secretary, Subpart 1, Chapter 7, Coastal Management (Parishwide)
(N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening. As we begin 2017, we do so with a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm for all that is to come. First, I'd like to congratulate our new Assessor Mr. Lucien Gauff and Judge Jeff Perrilloux on recently being sworn into office. We look forward to working with them and wish them the best of luck in their new positions. I'd also like to thank former Assessor Whitney Joseph and Judge Mary Becnel for their years of service to the parish. This past weekend we experienced our first freezing warning of the winter season, and even though the weather event was minimal, it serves as a reminder to residents to make preparations at homes and businesses for the winter season if you have not done so already. This includes wrapping and protecting exposed pipes, insulating outdoor faucets, keeping an emergency kit of flashlights, extra food, water and safety items readily available, and maintain proper ventilation when using heating equipment. More tips can be found on our communication channels and again we ask residents to winterize their properties if not done so. Thank you to all who participated in our Shop Local Trivia Game. All winners are being notified and their names are being posted online at sjbparish.com. To claim your prize, please visit the Parish President's receptionist desk located inside of the Percy Hebert Building at 1801 W. Airline Hwy. in LaPlace. Residents are encouraged to continue supporting our local merchants throughout the year, which ultimately supports the parish. To be included in future campaigns, please register as a Shop Local business at www.sjbparish.com/shoplocal. There is no cost to register. In celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a march will take place in LaPlace on Monday, January 16th, at 9:00 a.m. proceeding up Belle Pointe Blvd., down Airline Hwy. to New Wine Christian Fellowship Center. A rally will immediately follow the march. On the West Bank, the West St. John Civic Association will sponsor its annual march and memorial program beginning at 12 noon. The march will begin at the Roland Borne, Sr. Memorial Library located at 2979 Highway 18 in Edgard and will travel along River Road to West St. John Elementary where a memorial program will take place immediately after. We will be hosting a Contractors' Job Fair to match large contractors with federal, state and local contracts with potential subcontractors and partners. The fair is Friday, January 20th from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. at REGALA Gym in Reserve. All contractors are invited to

take advantage of this great networking event. Contractors who attend will meet with companies who are currently working on our CDBG housing programs. Beginning yesterday, the north bound, right lane on Belle Terre Boulevard will be closed until January 18th for the removal of a section of abandoned pipeline. The left lane will remain open. This is the last scheduled relocation before the drainage project can begin on Belle Terre Blvd. The drainage project will start in the next 3 weeks near the former Terminix building (near vacant lot, around Formal Connection) and work south to Airline Highway. DOTD does NOT anticipate complete road closures of one direction on Belle Terre Blvd. at any time and the anticipated completion date is summer of 2017 then the overlay/asphalting project can begin. More information will be released from the Communication Department as received. Construction on the Hemlock St. project, which is a state project, was significantly delayed due to utility relocation issues, but is back on track. The project should be complete by the end of January and should not interfere with the LaPlace parade route. The West 10th St. Project is scheduled for completion at the end of February. They are currently completing curb work between the tracks and will resurface the entire street once that work is done. Your continue patience is appreciated. On Saturday, January 14th, I-10 westbound will be closed due to construction from 8:00p.m.-6:00a.m. Traffic will be re-directed to I-310, US 61, and US 51. Please make plans to leave early and take an alternate route. There are many road improvement projects underway and there are more planned for spring. We're asking residents to sign up to receive Parish emergency notifications and updates by visiting the parish website at sjbparish.com, visiting the parish's Facebook page, and viewing the government access channel for accurate and updated information. REMINDER: All Parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 17th. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT :

At 7:25PM, Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Larry Snyder
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY