

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009  
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD  
VICE CHAIR RONNIE SMITH

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Edgard Courthouse, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Dale Wolfe, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V

**ABSENT:** Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Julien led the Prayer. Councilman Millet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perrilloux was present.

**Dale Wolfe/Haston Lewis - Dedication of the Edgard Courthouse Chambers to Mr. Rudolph S. Sorapuru, Sr.**

Councilman Smith read Ordinance 08-40, dedicating the Edgard Courthouse Chambers to Mr. Rudolph S. Sorapuru, Sr. He congratulated Mr. Sorapuru's family, on behalf of the Council, for his many achievements and outstanding service that he gave to this parish and with due respect and honor, we dedicate these chambers in his name.

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I would like to let everyone know that Mr. Sorapuru was most probably the first minority on this side of the river that was elected to the Police Jury. To tell the truth, he served throughout the parish all over at one time. He helped build this building too. He was a hard worker and you can believe when he gave you his word you could count on it. I am glad that he is getting this award."*

**Council Selection of Officers**

Councilman Lee stated, *"As all my fellow council members know, this is the time once a year that we reorganize and have election of our officers. At this time I am prepared to nominate Councilman Ronnie Smith as Chairman and Councilperson Cheryl Millet as Vice-Chairman."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to nominate Councilman Ronnie Smith as Council Chairman and Councilperson Cheryl Millet as Vice-Chairman. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to thank my fellow council members for having confidence in me and for electing me to this position. I hope that I can serve as well as Ms. Hotard did. I will do my best to make it work the way it should work. Thank you."

### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes December 23, 2008, Regular Meeting; Added Parade Permit request - WSJ Civic Association - Martin Luther King, Jr. March/Parade - Monday, January 19, 2009 - 11:00 AM

**MOTION:** Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes December 23, 2008, Regular Meeting; Added Parade Permit request - WSJ Civic Association - Martin Luther King, Jr. March/Parade - Monday, January 19, 2009 - 11:00 AM. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**08-73** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a Re-subdivision of Lots 803B, 878C, 879C, 822B, and two areas noted as a drainage servitude of St. Andrews Blvd Extension into lots herein designated as lots 803B1, 878D, 879D1, 879D2, 882C, and Parcels DS-1 & DS-2 of St. Andrews Blvd. Extension situated in Section 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (Belle Terre Land PZ-08-026) (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-73. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-74** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a Re-subdivision of a portion of the John Esperros Tract into Tracts herein designated as Tract A, Tract B, Tract C, Tract D, Tract E, Tract F, Tract Row, Parcel Y & M V, Parcel L & A and dedicate a 96' x 50' portion of Garden Grove of the John Esperros Tract. (Cypress Property Management - Esparros PZ 08-028) (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to table Ordinance 08-74. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-75** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to change the zoning classifications from R-1 to I-1 for a portion of Tract C, and from MHD to I-1 and C-3 for Tract E as shown on a survey map by Riverlands Surveying, of a portion of the John Esparros Tract situated in Sections 37, 53, 54, 55 and 56, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (Cypress Property Management, LLC - Esparros PZ 08-008) (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to table Ordinance 08-75. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-76** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a Re-subdivision of Lots 791A through 909A, Parcel DS-1 of St. Andrews Boulevard Extension

and an un-Subdivided portion of LaPlace Plantation into Lots herein designated as lots 791C through 909C, Parcel DS-1A, Parcel DS-1B and Parcel DS-3 of St. Andrews Boulevard Extension and Parcel R-1 of LaPlace Plantation all situated in Sections 21 & 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (Belle Terre Land - PZ 08-027) (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-76. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-77** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a re-subdivision of Lots 20 and 21, Square 6, Subdivision of Cornland Plantation into lots here designated as Lots 20-A, 20-B, and 21-A, Square 6, Subdivision of Cornland Plantation situated in Sections 43 & 44, T-11-S, R-6-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. (Ben Canales - PZ 08-022) (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-77. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-78** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a Re-subdivision of the upper 2/3 of Lot B, Lot C, Lot D, the upper 2/3 of Lot K (per COB 8, Folio 76), Lot L and Lot M of Lacaze Plantation into Lots herein designated as Lot C-1, C-2, C-3, D-1, D-2, D-3 and L-3 of Lacaze Plantation situated in Sections 26, 27, 53 and 54, T-12-S, R-18-E, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (Rene Zeringue - PZ 08-024) (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-78. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-79** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 06-13 to rename the following Street. AMP Circle to AMP-JFP Circle. (B. Hubbard)

**MOTION:** Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 08-79. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-80** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend ordinance 92-33 to change the consumer price index used to calculate the annual consumer price index adjustment from "The National Consumer Price Index published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics which shows a rise or decrease in the cost of living index for New Orleans, LA over the level of such cost of living in the previous year, to the U.S. city average 12-month percentage change in the Water and Sewer and Trash Collection Service Group of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (B. Hubbard)

Councilman Lee stated, *"I would like to ask to table this ordinance until we are able to meet with Siemens, which was a contractor that had done an energy savings/cost savings program with us under the previous administration. Several meetings ago I asked that we call this meeting; the administration has been unable to call that meeting. I can tell you*

*that one is forthcoming and I am asking this council to table this ordinance until we can sit down and go over that contract with the Siemens group."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to table Ordinance 08-80. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**08-81** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance establishing rates for the cost of water charged by the parish and/or consolidated waterworks district No. 1 to users of said waterworks system in the following rate tiers. (B. Hubbard)

Councilman Lee stated, *"I would like to ask that we table Ordinance 08-81 for the same reasons indicated on 08-80."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to table Ordinance 08-81. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to be introduced.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"On behalf of Mr. Smith, I ask that you accept the recommendations of the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the bids for concrete sidewalks, driveways and streets parish wide removal and replacement under advisement, approved to take the bids for electrical miscellaneous repairs under advisement to take the bids for the road improvement program for 2009 under advisement, approved to take the bids for corrugated metal take the bids for the annual fuel requirements for 2009 under advisement, approved to take the bid for liquid chlorine and sulfur dioxide under advisement, requested item to remain tabled (Authorization to execute an engineering services contract with Buchart Horn Inc. for design work at US 61 and Belle Terre Blvd and US 61 & 51 to relieve traffic congestion), granted administration authorization to advertise for a 20' Knuckleboom loader and approved to give all parish employees a 2% raise across the board, at the recommendation of the parish president. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters**

There were no personnel matters.

Julia Remondet, Director of EDC, stated, *"I would just like to remind everyone that on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Council Chambers in LaPlace we are having a 'How to do business with local and state government' seminar. It will be from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. We have Mr. Winston Williams from the Louisiana Small Business Development Center from the greater New Orleans region, who will be speaking on behalf of*

state government. We will also have Mrs. Brenda Labat, Purchasing and Procurement Director for the Parish. You can call the office and confirm that you will be attending or if you need additional information just call the main number with the parish."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Julien stated, "We want to encourage everyone to come out to the West St. John Civic Association March. I just want to make sure that everyone is aware of it and try to get as many people from the East Bank and the West Bank to attend. I would also like to encourage people to come to the seminar that is being put on. They have gone through a lot of trouble to put this on and for people who want to do business in the parish we just want to encourage you to come out so that we can keep more of the work in St. John."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to working together with everyone for the betterment of our parish this year."

Councilman Lee stated, "I would just like to wish yourself and Mrs. Millet good luck in leading this council through the year 2009. I have the utmost confidence in both of you. You have paid your dues and have done a lot of work to show that you are both good team players. I look forward to working with you."

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "Congratulations to you Ronnie for becoming the Chairman and to Cheryl for becoming the Vice-Chairman. Tomorrow makes one year that all of us were sworn into office. I can say for the most part it has been an enjoyable year. We have progressed our parish to the best of our abilities. We have worked well together on most of the easy issues and on the tough issues we did what we had to do but we got through it. Some of the tough issues that we had to deal with were issues that we inherited. Tonight I am glad that our meeting is going short. Like most of our meetings, we have shown the parish that we can conduct ourselves in a business like manner and that is what we are going to continue to show the parish for the next year. We do have some issues coming up this current year that we are going to have to deal with. I will be working with the council very closely. I am sure that we are going to move the parish forward the way we have to. There are going to be some good times and some bad times but it has been enjoyable and I appreciate everyone's cooperation. Thank you."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Employee Back Pay

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent - 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition 3) Coverage's, any/all material changes

Cable Franchise Negotiations

Any and all pending legal matters.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:58 PM, Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith  
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary