

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 2015
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 Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 13th, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Art Smith, Councilman District I, Lucien Gauff, Council-at-Large, Div. A, Jaclyn Hotard, Council-at-Large, Div. B, Michael Wright, Councilman District V

ABSENT: Cheryl Millet and Ranney Wilson

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux was present.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES

Brandon Collins with Clear Results was present at the meeting and gave a brief description of his business. He is in Reserve and is open 24/7. He is a bail bonds man new to the River Parishes. He has also opened his business to do onsite drug testing, alcohol and ankle bracelet monitoring and a host of other services. He is happy to be here and looks forward to working in this parish to keep the business in the parish. He can be reached at 504-914-4304 or Brandoncollins.yahoo.com.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman Wright stated, *"At this time I would like to nominate Councilman Lennix Madere for the Finance Chair and Councilwoman Cheryl Millet for the Finance Vice-Chair."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to nominate Lennix Madere as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Councilwoman Cheryl Millet as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"On behalf of the council I would like to thank you for your service Councilman Perrilloux you did an excellent job and so we do appreciate all of the hard work and extra time that you put into representing the council. I would like to offer a motion that we name Councilman Michael Wright as Council Chairman and Councilman Marvin Perrilloux as Council Vice-Chairman."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to nominate Michael Wright as Chairman of the Council and Marvin Perrilloux as Vice-Chairman of the Council. The motion passed with

Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence and congratulations to all the others."

Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Director of Parks and Recreation

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a follow up to a memo sent earlier this week. The recommendation is Mr. Kerry Watkins is recommended as Recreation Director, pending restoration of the salary in the 2015 budget. I understand there is an ordinance to restore that tonight so hopefully within the next couple of weeks that will be taken care of. Mr. Watkins is a native of St. John Parish with a passion for sports and youth mentoring and a wealth of knowledge about youth and adult sports programs. He is a business owner who manages daily operations including scheduling, budgeting, inventory, payroll and customer relations. Kerry has a drive and determination to succeed as Director of Parks and Recreation. He is a former professional football player for the Montreal Alouettes of Montreal, Quebec, with an eight year career in the Canadian Football League. He serves as a volunteer coach at both high school and elementary schools, is a youth mentor, and possesses the leadership skills and qualifications to continue the strides made in the department. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta. This is my recommended appointment."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is it possible for us to take care of that salary through procurements until we get our ordinance passed for the budget?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I think he means to get his salary through a procurement as a professional service."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is exactly what I meant. Is it possible we can do this? We want him to hit the road running."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We don't have any money in our professional services line item."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We don't have money anywhere so that we can get some money to put him to work?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yes we do."

Councilman Wright stated, "I think we have actually done the request to deal with the Utilities director also so I think there should be some funding available."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to appoint Kerry Watkins as the Director of Parks and Recreation. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Kerry Watkins stated, "I just want to thank everybody for this opportunity and I look forward to working with Mrs. Poche and the rest of the staff to move this program forward and to continue to add successful programs and find ways to generate and get people to come

into our parish. So I look forward to the hard work and whatever you need from me I am here and I am passionate about it."

Councilman Wright stated, "Well Mr. Watkins we have been anxiously awaiting this appointment congratulations."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just wanted to say congratulations personally and I would like to say I was one of the individuals and I know my fellow council members felt the same way about trying to get someone in that position. It has been two years that the position has been vacant and you were one of the five individuals that I had recommended so I am glad to see that you got the call and I have confidence that you are going to do a great job because when I made the recommendation I always had in my mind that you could do the work given the opportunity so I am glad that you are here. It has been a long time coming but I am glad to see you move forward and do the things that we talked about."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I just wanted to congratulate him on his appointment. I guess the biggest thing is the money is an issue but I see you in the gym every day. You have been at the fields every day. I know you are already working so I appreciate that. I appreciated your passion before and I know you will do a great job. I have already spoken to some of your friends and the people around the parish they are willing to work with you and willing to help get our program to where we all think it needs to be. I think you have already talked to a lot of them saying hey guys I am going to need help one of the persons you spoke with was Mrs. Poche and she is willing to continue working hard as she did before and you said you are going to need her to continue working with you and you are going to work with her so I think we are making the strides that we all look and think that St. John the Baptist needs so congratulations."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to say Mr. Watkins you and I spoke and you know how I feel about the situation but just letting the public know I think you are qualified to do the job and that you will do exceptional. So anytime you need us for something call us we are willing to help because the kids are our main objective here and we want to see them succeed in this parish and have a lot for the kids to do and our seniors we are going to look at all of the options just come to us with whatever you need but thank you and congratulations."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Again congratulations it was a privilege even to offer the motion to bring you on. I know you have a wealth of experience with athletics and also from operating a business. So you have a unique skill set that you will bring to the department that can benefit from both of those. I do look forward to a lot of good things. We are here obviously we support you we want to pay you before it is time so definitely lean on us for anything and in turn we will gladly accept your invitation to come and see you meet things as well."

Councilman Smith stated, "Yes congratulations Mr. Watkins and like everyone else has said I know you are going to work hard. I know you are going to bring credence to the program. I know Mrs. Poche is looking forward to the help. It is something that we desperately need and I know you are going to take our program to a higher level. Good

luck to you and if you need anything let me know."

Councilman Snyder stated, "While we are on this I would like to make a motion that we secure his services through a procurement of professional services. We need to get started."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to secure the services of Kerry Watkins as Director of Recreation through a procurement of professional services. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Director of Utilities

Natalie Robottom stated, "The recommended appointment for this position is Mr. Blake Fogleman, Professional Engineer, effective February 2nd, this will allow Mr. Fogleman an opportunity to provide notice to his current employer. He is recommended to fill this position as Mr. Virgil Rayneri will be retiring at the end of February and we are planning for a one month transition with both of them there to transfer all of the compliance issues, testing, protocol, employee status, as well as all the projects that are underway in the Utilities Department and we are looking forward to moving forward."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Actually I just received this information today on this individual which is not really enough time for me to look at the information. I am glad that I did inquire about how we were going to pay two directors as one time so I am glad to see that you located some money in the wastewater budget to accommodate this transition however I have received this information today. So I am not able to vote. I would offer a motion to table this item if the council so wishes."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to table the Appointment of Director of Utilities. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes - December 10th, 2014, Special Meeting; Approval of Minutes - December 23rd, 2014, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Parade Permit - MLK Parade - 1-19-15 - WSJ Civic Association; Lucien Gauff - Appointment of Carmen Baloney to the Planning and Zoning Commission

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - December 10th, 2014, Special Meeting; Approval of Minutes - December 23rd, 2014, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Parade Permit - MLK Parade - 1-19-15 - WSJ Civic Association; Lucien Gauff - Appointment of Carmen Baloney to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

14-59 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval of a Re-subdivision of Tract 1 of Wego Plantation north of Louisiana Highway

3127 into Tracts 1-A & 1-B, located in Section 12, T-12-S, R-18-E, Southeastern Land District, West of the Mississippi River, Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish (PZS-14-1097) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Keller stated, "This re-subdivision was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission at the December 15th meeting, and Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-59. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 10-13-14) Discussion Lions Water Plant Phase VIII design

Councilman Snyder stated, "I read something today so I am just going to carry that over until we can have some real discussion on it."

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 12-23-14) Update on Occupational License permitting

Councilman Madere stated, "I put this on the agenda because it was brought to my attention and I just wanted it to be said at the meeting so that the information could get to these individuals that have permits for businesses because it was brought to my attention that an individual had a permit for a store but was also selling automobiles. I just wanted to clarify when you get a permit as a grocery store or any other business that that permit is limited to just that particular service?"

Angelic Keller stated, "Correct."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I just wanted to make sure that the public knows this because we had this happen a couple of years ago when another individual did the same thing. I just wanted it to be made public on record that they understand this that when they go in and get a permit it is for that particular business and that is what they are supposed to be doing in that particular site and not anything other than that."

Angelic Keller stated, "Yes when you apply for an occupational license when it comes through P&Z we are looking at zoning compliance. So based on what the applicant or business owner states that they are the type of use or what they are selling or what services they are providing we are going to make sure that that use is in accordance with the zoning districts. So we are approving for that specific use so if they decide

to do something else we have not approved that because an addition might not even be in compliance with the zoning codes."

Councilman Madere stated, "That type of violation can also cause them to lose the permit that they already have is that possible?"

Angelic Keller stated, "That violation would have to go through Code Enforcement yes."

Councilman Madere asked, "But it is possible?"

Angelic Keller stated, "I am sure it is possible. There is a process that they would have to go through that isn't technically a function of our office but going through the process I am assuming if they get prosecuted because they are in violation of their occupational license then it would be determined if the license could be revoked."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to add to what you said because that is an issue and is a problem especially with convenient stores. It happened in Cambridge. I went to the Assessor and he actually went back there himself to check for a license for a store selling cars and they didn't have a license to sell cars and I think he gave them the third degree and they are legal now because they are selling cars but they are supposed to have a permit for that."

Marvin Perrilloux - (Carry Over 12-23-14) Discussion relative to Industrial Board

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to remove that from the agenda until I get with Mrs. Dinvaut so that we can go over the bylaws and see who she is going to have representing that area and Mr. Perrilloux so I would like to remove that until we schedule a meeting."

Art Smith - Update on the construction of the Edgard Courthouse

Councilman Smith stated, "I just wanted to let the public know what is going on with the Courthouse and with some of the records being moved to Amite."

Daron Cooper stated, "Mrs. DeFrancesch would have to comment on the records being moved or anything of that nature. I can address you on the construction side of the project on the current state we are in. We are in a critical stage trying to complete this project by the end of February right now the demolition work is complete, we are framing walls, we have completely remodeled the bathrooms, they are going to be installing insulation and closing up walls. The project is a little bit behind schedule due to the additional work that we had to do in the courthouse but we do plan on being finished by the end of February."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Are we planning on doing anything with the entrance out there as far as a slipping hazard?"

Daron Cooper stated, "The front entrance is slate it is a natural stone that is down there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that may be but when a lot of moisture coming through it when the humidity is high it is very slippery. Do you

think we can get with the contractor so that we can do something about that even if we just put some sand down there? Something needs to be done about it."

Daron Cooper stated, "That slate has been down there for years. It is the original flooring that was in the courthouse with the addition of the new juvenile section we just expanded it out further but that is the original flooring that has always been on the outside of the courthouse. I am not sure we can look at some measures and we would have to investigate further procedures for adding a non-slip texture but I will have to look into that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It looks nice don't get me wrong but we have to be concerned about that side of it also."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to comment on what he was saying. There is something that can be done with it because this same situation happened at the Superdome and after a number of people fell they decided to pick everything up and put the anti-slip slate down. So either we have to put something on the existing surface or we may have to move that surface because it is very dangerous so while we are in the process of renovating we want to make sure that not only do we renovate a building right but make sure that we don't have anything hazardous outside of that building. I know you are going to look into this and get back with us."

Lennix Madere - Update on Railroad cleaning project

Brian Nunes stated, "The plan is still the same as it was the last time we talked. At the beginning of the New Year CN Railroad was going to start coming back and working on extensions of certain culverts that they wanted extended and then replacing some at our request. I sent an email to CN this morning and I have not heard back but I wanted to get their tentative schedule as to when they would be in St. John because I know they were doing culverts in St. Charles, St. John and St. James. The last I heard they were still in St. Charles making their way back this way. I tried again to get an update this morning and was unable to get one. I can provide you an update as soon as I hear back."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay what I want to say about that is they came in cleaned that section 3179 to E. 31st Street and I said that I wanted to see a nice rain storm so that we could see the effects of it and it actually did happen. We had a huge rain storm and just from them cleaning that one side E. 31st Street to E. 24th Street experienced a great improvement as far as drainage is concerned. I passed that night and the water was high but not into the street by the next morning everything was gone the water was out. So just that little improvement along that stretch made a big difference and that was just one side of the track because I actually crossed over to the other side of the track which is another canal that they are responsible for that side has debris and trees in it and my point is that we could improve drainage and that just shows that a little maintenance and a little clean up goes a very long way. So if we do both sides and get the other railroads to do their part and I mean throughout the parish and I am still not backing off of the fact that we may need a class action law suit if they don't understand. This proves that water can really get out of here is they don't have all of that debris in the ditches. The

rain storm that we had the other night if that area hadn't been cleaned that area would have had water for 2-3 days but it actually got out in a matter of an hour so to me that proves one thing clean it up and get it out. So the railroad has to step up or we have to step up our efforts to make them do what they have to do. I would say it was 100% better and if they clean them all it would be great so if you could look into that and try to keep the pressure on them."

Brian Nunes stated, "I will continue to do that. The CN railroad has been extremely responsive to us. What we can do is also to ask our residents to continue to assist us because two days after they were gone there were toilets in the same ditch. So our residents have to help us also to keep this maintained and keep these items out of the ditch."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand what you are saying. We all need to work together. We do have one that fails to cooperate they are just starting to cooperate so if we can get them and the residents and we do our part we should be doing a lot better. I thank you for your effort."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Mr. Nunes I know you have been working in the Little Hope area could you just make sure that area with the railroad track and the water is draining pretty good I just want to make sure it is getting out all the way through. So whenever you make your walk through would you check that area? All the areas need to be checked but can we just make sure after cleaning the ditched and blowing out the culverts that the drainage keeps working."

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage project in District III, estimated date of start

Brian Nunes stated, "Okay the drainage project in District III was the Reserve drainage phase III that dealt with the areas to the East of Central Ave. I approached the engineers today and they have a representative here is you have any specific questions on a timeline."

Councilman Madere asked, "Those on the East side of Central exactly what streets are included in that project?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I don't have it with me. I believe the streets are E. 23rd, 24th and 25th right up in that area and the streets that intersect Perrilloux Drive."

Councilman Madere stated, "I got some reports that some of the residents call and asked was that your company out there actually marking some of the area?"

Mira Para, Buchart Horn, stated, "That would have been our surveyor sub they started preliminary work."

Councilman Madere stated, "That is what I wanted to know but you still don't have an exact date of when you were actually going to get started with this?"

Brian Nunes stated, "What happened with this contract we had to make sure that all the fees were adjusted and we accurately accounted for

topographic and anything else that needed to be done and then some permitting aspects and we are trying to get the railroad to work with us on this one like they have been so we were taking all of that into account before we finalized the scope. We have that done now as a matter of fact the contract is in final review right now and once that is signed then we are ready to move. As soon as we give them the go ahead they are going to go and start."

Councilman Madere asked, "Is this going to include picking up the wrong sized culverts and putting the right size so that there will be no bottle necking?"

Mira Para stated, "Yes that is correct we will basically survey all of the drainage structures in the area and analyze the entire drainage system to determine where the choke points are."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you."

Rhonda Lemons/Eliza Eugene - Homework Hut After-School Tutorial Program

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Good evening council it is with great joy that we are holding the Homework Hut afterschool tutorial program for students and parents at the Homer Joseph Center. Being a past school board member with a district of over 35,000 students at a time I certainly understand the importance of alternative education and most importantly providing the service in a safe and inviting environment. The Homer Joseph Center is just that but what is also unique as it relates to holding this program at the center is the opportunity for parents to participate in other educational opportunities at that same time that their children are receiving homework assistance. The assistance is provided from 3:30 until 5:30 in the classroom, healthy nutrition and physical fitness will be facilitated from 3 until 4:30 in the lecture room and the computer lab is open from 2:30 PM until 7:30 with the instructions beginning at 6:30 PM. So all together we envision a wholesome educational opportunity for the families and if you do not have any questions at this time Ms. Eugene will give you some insight and provide an overview of the program."

Eliza Eugene, Blessed to be a blessing, stated, "First off I want to thank you for support of the program. We have seen growth both in participation and in the academic achievements of our students. This program has also demonstrated the roll that community partnerships have in improving the overall academic performance of our students. This will be our 4th year for our Homework Hut. We started initially with 20 kids in the LaPlace Housing development and through that partnership with the schoolboard, DA's Office, and the parish we have expanded. This year we will have six sites and one of the things that we are doing is we are having Homework Hut for families because as you all may know many parents are struggling with the common core curriculum. So now by expanding that partnership and we have Homework huts that will be offered in all four libraries this year as well where there will be certified teachers and an aide there to assist with any assistance that the child or parent may have in regards to their homework. I also have to thank other sponsors such as Entergy, Marathon, Nalco, DuPont and Valero. We realize that we have a problem in St. John Parish. We have 88% of our kids at what is considered the child poverty rate and that just simply means that 88% of our kids, which 85% of those kids are

children of color eat free or reduced lunches. So if there is a need for assistance most of those parents cannot hire a tutor to assist their kids. So in our efforts to attack this ongoing problem that is why we chose to partner again with the schoolboard, parish, housing authority and the DA office for this initiative. We initially started at Emily C. Watkins. We are very proud that Emily C. Watkins is now ranked in the top 5% of schools in the state for growth, that is 68 out of 1,200 schools. So again that is an ongoing relationship that we have with them. We work very closely with the principal's and the administration in regards to this program for the best academic achievement that we can. We target students who are at risk for academic failure. Certified teachers and aides are there to assist the kids. Our goal is that students demonstrate academic improvement and move up in the system. We allow the administration to identify the kids that are struggling and as you may know as we were passing out toys for Christmas I felt so blessed because some of the kids ran up and asked Ms. Eliza when is our program starting so when you hear that and you see that it brings you joy because they look forward to that and I can say this to you all out of everything that I do this is one of the things that I am most passionate about because I do believe to whom much is given much is required. So this is one of the ways that I have chosen to continue to give back to St. John Parish. According to a recent article on Nola.com December 9th it takes \$46,662.00 per year to incarcerate one juvenile whereas we have a program last year we serviced over 300 kids and our budget doesn't exceed what it takes to incarcerate one juvenile. So we would like to thank our many partners. We give each child a healthy snack when they come in and we also assist them and we are looking forward to working with Mr. Watkins when a child wants to get involved in recreation we assist them with fees or whatever we can do to assist we will do that so we are a partner to St. John."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Are we going to introduce this program at the next school board meeting too?"

Eliza Eugene stated, "It has been approved already."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And all the flyers went out to the schools? The reason I am asking is because I talked to some little girls around the holidays and I was asking them how their grades were at 5th Ward School in Reserve and they weren't too good D's and F's and I asked them why and they said because their mothers didn't know how to do the math to help with the school work and I said I was going to see if I could get them some help. I will get you their names to help these little girls."

Eliza Eugene stated, "I would be more than happy to have that and that is one of the reasons as a business partner to St. John Parish Schools I attended the National Education Association conference for the past two years and that is one of the obstacles that we have had how do we get more parental engagement because parents are struggling with the common core just as much as the kids are that is why we are now offering this at a central location so that every library now during those hours kids and their parents can go in there and they would have assistance with certified teachers that will be there to help them. I am very proud to say we worked at 5th Ward last year and they are now an AC school."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was at the last school board meeting and I would like to thank Mr. George for just putting that money out there what you asked for is what he gave you to help to satisfy the teachers and aides and to all the sponsors it just takes one child at a time to change the culture if we can do it one at a time we can help the children. I know this is Eliza's passion and whatever we can do we don't have any money but we have a new chairman and he can find money and if we can do something we would be glad to help."

Eliza Eugene stated, "The partnership using all of the parish buildings and resources that is the help. The schoolboard has been very gracious with the teachers and the aides other partners have helped with supplies so this is really an effort that we try not to ask just one person for everything this is a unified effort because it does take a village and I believe each one of us are just villagers in the village so we all have a part to play so what you have done I appreciate it and it is great to know that if there are other needs that we would certainly address those but as for right now we are blessed and I truly thank you so much."

Councilman Madere stated, "I want to commend you on this effort this is going to be very beneficial to the kids in St. John Parish. At one time that center was questioned as far as the value of that building but with this program that you are putting in place the value of the center has gone up 300+ whatever its real value is so what we need to do is do whatever we can to make sure that this building is safe, clean and nice so that when these kids go there they see something representative of what a better life can and should be and we are going to do everything that we can to make sure that when they go there to that building it is nice on the outside and the inside and a lot of education is taking place. So that building right now in my mind is one of the most valuable buildings in St. John Parish bar none."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I just wanted to say thank you very much. It is much needed. It is something that shows a need that we have and yet you are dedicated to filling these voids that we have in our community and anything we can do that is what we are here for so thank you."

OLD BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Notice of Public Hearing

Natalie Robottom stated, "Notice is hereby given that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held within St. John the Baptist Parish to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax at its meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace Louisiana. The tax is for the courthouse and jail."

Natalie Robottom - Resolution R15-01 - A Resolution authorizing inclusion of the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail - Phase IV in the DOTD Transportation Alternatives Program

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution is required by DOTD for Phase IV of the Mississippi River Trail - from West 10th Street Reserve, to the St. James Parish line. Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I know we had some conversations about this previously as it relates to bonfires has that been addressed with this stage?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we held a meeting last week there was only one bonfire in Garyville this year and I think the public safety department was going to reach out to that person the second bonfire actually moved to Reserve so we are still considering the shelves but before investing the \$7,000.00 per shelf we wanted to talk to the bonfire builders to see if they were interested in that so we have not moved forward with that this is the requirement to get started to accept the money to go into design."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-01. A Resolution authorizing inclusion of the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail - Phase IV in the DOTD Transportation Alternatives Program. **WHEREAS**, DOTD through the Transportation Alternatives Program, has agreed to fund 80% of the construction for the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail - Phase IV at an estimated construction cost of up to \$3 Million Dollars. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, acting as governing authority of said Parish: **SECTION 1.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for the required 20% local match of the estimated \$3,000,000.00 construction cost. **SECTION 2.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for design engineering, construction administration, inspection and testing. **SECTION 3.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for managing and maintaining the project. **SECTION 4.** That St. John the Baptist Parish assumes full responsibility for any legal liability incurred as a result of the project. **SECTION 5.** That Natalie Robottom, Parish President, be named Signatory Party. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Transportation Alternatives Program Manager, Road Design, Attn: Ms. Laura Riggs, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution R15-02 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign a Multi-Parish Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the Parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion, St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary, Ascension, St. James, LaFourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, Livingston, and Tangipahoa for Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution, in conjunction with the parishes listed above, is to provide support in the event an emergency is declared in St. John Parish and requires assistance. This Multi-

Parish Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance agreement will allow the partnering parishes to apply for State and Federal reimbursement when assistance is provided. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-02. A resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign a Multi-Parish Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the Parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion, St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary, Ascension, St. James, LaFourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, Livingston, and Tangipahoa for Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance. **WHEREAS**, coastal Louisiana is geographically vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters; and **WHEREAS**, LSA-R.S. 29:726, 29:726.29:730.1 & 730.2 recognizes this vulnerability and provides that its intended purposes are to: Reduce vulnerability of people and property of the Region to damage, injury, and loss of life and property prepare for prompt and efficient rescue, care and treatment to threatened or affected persons; Provided for the rapid and orderly rehabilitation of persons and restoration of property; Provided for cooperation and coordination of activities relating to emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery; and **WHEREAS**, in addition to the State, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recognized the importance of the concept of coordination between local governments, and **WHEREAS**, the entities which have chosen to become signatories to this agreement wish to provide emergency mutual aid and assistance amongst one another at the appropriate times; and **WHEREAS**, these agencies agree to enter into emergency mutual aid and assistance, with the attached agreement embodying the understanding, commitments, terms and conditions for said aid and assistance. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Parish President of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish: **SECTION 1** That the Parish President of St. John the Baptist Parish, is authorized to sign a Multi-Parish Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the Parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion, St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary, Ascension, St. James, LaFourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, Livingston, and Tangipahoa for Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance **SECTION 2** That this agreement shall be effective upon the Parish President signing the Emergency Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

Michael Wright - Resolution R15-03 - A Resolution authorizing street sign variance

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-03 - A resolution authorizing the Rue Des Jardins Civic Association to remove and replace the following street signs at its expense, including maintenance and replacement expense thereafter, said signs being allowed to deviate from the Parish required specifications: Bradford Drive, Mimosa Drive, Oleander Street, Palm Street, Alice Lane, Fir Street, Mahogany Street, W. 5th Street, W. Maple Loop, E. Maple Loop, Jack Street, Ice Factory Lane and Orange Loop, Sleepy Redwood Street, Spruce Street, Sycamore Street, Walnut Street, Cardinal Street. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and

Councilman Wilson absent.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss Parish Building Security. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

There was no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Lennix Madere - 205 E. 30th Street

Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal

Parish Buildings - Security

Water bill issues

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

Lennix Madere - Code Enforcement

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

15-01 An ordinance at the written request of the Parish President, an ordinance amending ordinance 14-53 relative to the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015, as follows: By amending Recreation Fund, line 22, Salary Director to the sum of \$65,000.00 (N. Robottom)

PARISH PRESIDENT REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Good Evening and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and are ready to tackle a new year. First, I'd like to congratulate Judge Jasmine, Becnel & Snowdy and new District Attorney Bridget Dinvaot on being sworn into office yesterday. We look forward to working with you and wish you the best of luck. I'd also like to thank District Attorney Tom Daley for his service to the parish and wish him a speedy recovery. I'd like to thank the residents and industry representative who attended the Garyville/Mt. Airy CAP*

(Community Advisory Panel) meeting last night. The meeting was extremely informative and beneficial. Thank you to all who participated in our Shop Local Trivia Game. All winners were notified and their names are posted online at sjbparish.com or on the Parish Facebook page. 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 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 for membership. I would like to congratulate the St. John Relay for Life committee for hosting a successful Celebrity Waiter Night. It was a wonderful event that raised \$6,000 for cancer research. Not to mention, I always discover a new appreciation for wait staff! I'd like to thank Ms. Bernetta Ambres for coordinating a recruiting visit by Dr. Cynthia Warrick, Interim President of Grambling State University and her recruitment staff in St. John last week. Dr. Warrick and her staff joined the Superintendent, School Board members and Grambling alumni for visits at both West St. John High and East St. John. The public is invited to attend a grand opening of the new location of Saint Optical tomorrow, Wednesday, January 14th from 9 am to 1 pm. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 11 am. The new store is located at 1518 West Airline Highway in LaPlace, in the same shopping strip as Little Caesars and Smoothie King. In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 19, a march will take place in LaPlace at 9:00 a.m. proceeding up Belle Pointe Blvd, down Airline Hwy to the Percy Hebert Building. 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 from the Roland Borne, Sr. Memorial Library located at 2979 Highway 18 in Edgard and will move East along River Road toward the Edgard Courthouse. The memorial program will begin immediately after the march at the Community Center. The Department of Health and Human Services will offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program from February 3 through April 14, 2015 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only. The program is designed for low-to-moderate income taxpayers, persons with disabilities, elderly taxpayers, non-English speaking persons, and Native Americans to receive free basic tax services from trained volunteers. Please call the Health and Human Services Department at 985-536-4955 to schedule your appointment. Students in 3rd through 8th grade can receive homework assistance Monday through Thursday beginning January 20th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Locations include the LaPlace Public Housing Office, Homer Joseph Center and all Parish libraries. For more information contact Eliza Eugene with Blessed to be a Blessing at 985-359-9954. Basketball season has started at REGALA and games are played on Mon, Tues, Wed Thurs and Saturdays. We want to wish each team the best of luck this season and encourage you to come out and support the recreation programs. The public is invited to participate in numerous other activities hosted by the Rec Dept. including tennis camp, basketball free play, Zumba, painting classes and more. Visit the website or view the government access channel for more information. The Department of Health and Hospitals confirmed in December results from water samples taken in Water District #1 are negative for ameba. Effective Monday, the Utilities Department switched from a free chlorine disinfectant back to a chloramine disinfectant, which is the standard treatment for Parish water systems. Of course you know at this point I want to thank Blake for coming and encourage him

to be patient this is very important to the parish and the residents of the parish to maintain the safety, health and welfare for our residents dealing with the utilities department. This will happen and I am extremely disappointed that this council that attempts to seem concerned about our residents failed to make a very necessary vote to move our parish forward. Congratulations to St. Charles Comet Eric Lewis on being named the 2014 All Parish Defensive MVP, West St. John's Morell Bartholomew for being named offensive MVP and Ram Coach Robert Valdez for being named Coach of the Year. REMINDER: All Parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 20."

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, "First off I would like to send my condolences and prayers to Mr. Henry Oubre's family. I had an opportunity over the holidays I visited the War Veteran's Home and Mr. Oubre was 94 years old and I spoke with him and all of his faculties were good he wanted to talk politics I was surprised to hear that he had passed because he was in such great spirits but I think he lived a full life at 94 and my prayers go out to their family. Also Mr. Lambert Matthews I want to send my condolences to his family. Both of them happened to be in the home and both are family friends and I send my prayers to them both. On a happy note, congratulations to our new DA and the Judges they were sworn in yesterday. We are all looking forward to them working to move St. John forward in the direction that it needs to go in. Also congratulations to Mr. Watkins another person who has already hit the ground running. He has been working for a while now and I am looking forward to working with him and seeing the program advance."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to congratulate the Judges that were sworn in yesterday and Mrs. Dinvaunt and Mr. Watkins. We wish you all the luck in the world. I would like to say hello to Mrs. Thomas that I met yesterday a really sweet lady and she just impressed me so I just want to tell her congratulations and thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to congratulate the DA and the Judges and also the school board members who are being sworn in this week. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Watkins on being our new Recreation Director I know he will do a great job. I just want to make another comment. Mrs. Robottom I think the people and the council just wanted to make sure that Mr. Fogleman whoever he is because I don't know before they approve it and they want to see who he is, look at his bio instead of getting it today. So I think it was a cheap shot that you took. We don't want to make the wrong selection and have the wrong person doing the job so I take offense to it and that is why I am going to comment on it. I think they wanted some time to review to see where this guy was from and what his qualifications are so that is all I have to say."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I also would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and congratulations to the new DA and all the Judges some of whom were re-elected without opposition and some who was re-elected. I also want to send thanks and well wishes to our outgoing DA Tom Daley. Also I would like to mention again Sheriff Tregre wanted to mention his officer of the year program is this Thursday at 6:00 PM at the Civic

Center you can get your tickets at the Sheriff's Office tomorrow is actually the last day to get tickets. I will kind of echo with Marvin Perrilloux often times we are asked to vote on things at the last second. I received some information on a gentleman that I don't even know if he is sitting here I wouldn't know what he looks like and if he is or he isn't I don't know because I don't know who the person is. I received a resume yesterday and I believe that is unfair. So to say that the council pretends to care about its residents is a low blow for an administration who ran on transparency and openness. I think we need to walk the walk and not just talk the talk."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would also like to congratulate the judges that were sworn in yesterday and to our new District Attorney, Mrs. Dinvaunt and to Mr. Watkins for his appointment as our Recreation Director. Also I would ask everyone to keep Mr. Tom Daley and his family in your prayers as he goes through this illness and we wish him a full recovery. I would also like to make a comment about the statement that Mrs. Robottom made and being one of the council members representing the district that was affected by this situation I am not going to vote and appoint someone unless I know who this individual is. I need to talk to him. I need to know all of his qualifications. This is a very important decision, very important. We had a mistake the last time so we want to make sure we get it right this time and I am not going to vote until I meet this individual, know all about this individual because not only do I owe it to myself I owe it to the voters in my district to make sure that this never happens again. It shouldn't have happened this time and it should never happen again. Thank you."

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to congratulate our District Attorney, Mr. Watkins and to the judges that were re-elected and also thank you to Dr. Ward for coming down from Grambling University to WSJ. It was a great honor for her to come down to us and to just be a part of our family. Also I would like to congratulate Mr. Bartholomew and my condolences to the Matthew/Lambert family. I knew both families very well and they are great people."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:00 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Wilson absent.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary