

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 2019
CHAIRMAN THOMAS MALIK
VICE-CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019, 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 VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., and Law Clerk Kennilyn Schmill were present.

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to return into the regular meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Remonet, Councilman Becnel and Sorapuru absent.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to take a 5 minute recess. The motion passed with Councilwoman Remonet, Councilman Becnel and Sorapuru absent.

MOTION: Councilwoman Snyder moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - February - Black History Month

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for February - Black History Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - February - Heart Health Month

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for February - Heart Health Month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - January 8th, 2019, Regular Meeting; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (December 2018); Councilman Snyder - Re-Appointment of

Ronny Michel to the Historic District Commission; Councilwoman Remondet - Re-Appointment of Stephen Guidry to the Historic District Commission

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 8th, 2019, Regular Meeting; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (December 2018); Councilman Snyder - Re-Appointment of Ronny Michel to the Historic District Commission; Councilwoman Remondet - Re-Appointment of Stephen Guidry to the Historic District Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

18-36 (Carry Over 11-13-18) An ordinance naming the Baseball Complex located in the Juan Anthony Park in Edgard - the "DeVante Smith Baseball Complex" (K. Becnel)

The above item will remain a carry over to the February 12th, 2019 meeting.

18-37 (Carry Over 11-13-18) An ordinance naming the Airnasium located in the Juan Anthony Park in Edgard - the "Raeaneka Small Airnasium" (K. Becnel)

The above item will remain a carry over to the February 12th, 2019 meeting.

18-49 (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 01-08-19) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lot 2-RM of Farm Lot 18 and Farm Lot 19 of Hope Plantation into Lots 2-RM-1 and 2-RM-2 of Farm Lot 18 and Farm Lot 19 of Hope Plantation, located in the area generally bound by Esperance Street, Miano Street, and South Church Street, containing municipal address 125 Miano Street, Garyville, LA, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on October 23, 2018 (N. Robotom)

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 18-49 from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This re-subdivision request was recommended for approval unanimously by the Planning Commission at its December 17th meeting. Based on consistency with the zoning district requirements and intent of the Land Development Code, Administration recommends approval."*

Councilwoman Remondet stated, *"I want to have a discussion if possible."*

Councilman Malik asked, *"You want to have a discussion?"*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion for discussion of Ordinance 18-49. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Remondet stated, *"I just want to say we postponed this vote last meeting, because there was some confusion between these lots and a proposed subdivision next door. It was all getting, there was work going on, on the proposed subdivision which I think we put a stop work on that because they're not permitted yet..."*

Rene Pastorek stated, *"That's right."*

Councilwoman Remondet stated, *"So the community was pretty confused about what, was the subdivision and what was strictly just re-subdividing. So that was the delay from last time, but we have no objection with this. Thank you. I'm good with it, thank you."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-49. The motion passed unanimously.

19-01 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Ordinance 92-33 to discontinue the automatic CPI-W increase to the residential water/utility bills as follows: To amend Ordinance 92-33 by deleting: "and in each additional year thereafter, the rate shall be adjusted downward or upward in accordance with the change in 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" (J. Hotard)

Robert Figuero stated, "Thank you Councilman. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is "a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers." While the annual CPI will generate approximately \$455,000 which was approved in the 2019 budget, it is not a revenue raising measure. The CPI is a measure to keep pace with rising costs of operating and maintaining the systems, i.e. payroll, insurance, fuel, chemicals, facilities, vehicles & equipment, electricity, testing, etc. Because current rates do not cover all operational costs, removing the CPI will challenge our ability to maintain and operate both systems. Additionally, it will have a negative impact on our ability to sustain the systems and it could affect our bond rating. Subsequently, Administration does not recommend approval of this ordinance."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you so much. And this is obviously this is my Ordinance, in this Ordinance you can see 92-33, just how old it is. And just to address one quick comment that it's not a revenue raising measure, I offer the argument that any measure you have in place, it increases your budget by \$455,000 is revenue raising. This Ordinance and like I said it's old, it puts in place into our water rates and automatic increase, and it's high as this automatic increase to 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 the City of New Orleans. And I have two (2) issues with this: 1) that we have tied our increase to the cost of living in the City of New Orleans, but more specifically and I'll say this-it's long overdue. I should/not I because anybody could do it, but we should have removed this a long time ago. To have an automatic increase in especially the Utility Fund is a problem. I looked at our neighboring parishes more specifically St. James and I like to compare us to them more often because St. Charles we can compare, but their budget is so much larger they actually subsidize things we can't afford to subsidize. And so my intentions for this is: 1) to remove the automatic increase and then come back with a mechanism to increase our utility rates if at any time Administration believes that we need to cover the cost of the fund. For example in St. James Parish what they do, is they don't have an automatic increase they use other mechanisms whether it's looking at Louisiana Rural Water Indexes and things like that. But all of the increases must be approved by the Parish Council. And I think what that does and that would be my intention to come back and say if we want to increase water rates, it should not automatically increase every year. And if you think about what your minimum water bill has been for the last 10 years or 15 years, you know that especially if you run the minimums, it has slowly you know increased every year, which I just-I believe that's a bad practice. So what I believe and what my plan will be is to adopt something (right now remove this automatic increase) and to adopt something similar to what we have in some of our neighboring parishes where they don't automatically increase it, but the increases come through the recommendation of administration by looking at the water rates and such similar to Parishes our size and getting approval by the Council. Because the way that it's done now, it takes the accountability I would

say out of it because it's just going to automatically increase. So to me it's a bad practice. With that being said, I will offer the motion obviously to approve my Ordinance 19-01, to remove the language that states: in each additional year thereafter, the rate shall be adjusted downward or upward in accordance with the change in 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, and that will be my motion that we remove that language. And so, we have no more automatic increases in our resident's water bills."

Robert Figuero stated, "Just to address what Councilwoman Hotard was saying. She's correct, that the majority of the times the CPI is an increase. However, it does stipulate as she read that it could decrease as well. Again, if the Labor of Department Bureau comes out and says that the cost of living has gone down, then it could be a negative effect as well. So then which we would have to follow that as well. I've broken down if you look at this last several years budgets and I could pass this around to everyone if you'd like, our expenses have increased consistently from year to year. Example again, we just had a 3% pay increase for all employees, well all you know all these increases, all the chemical increases that for the most part increased by 3, 3½% every year, it come straight to our bottom line, it's affects our expenses. Again I understand the Councilwoman's point there, but the cost continue to increase every year and we have to pay. So you would be looking at the same stipulation every single year coming and approving that measure. Otherwise we'd end up in a deficit from year to year. Over the last several years I mean we've lost several hundreds of thousands of dollars in both funds, water and waste water. We're operating out of a deficit that we have to supplement ourselves from sales tax district. So again, we've put more burden on the sales tax district by removing the CPI increase, which the intent of the sales tax district was not to supplement these proprietary funds. And again if you would like I can pass this around just to see, I broke it down with the synopsis of the last 3 years, as far as our revenues and expenses and the effect of the CPI would have, um will has have/had over the last 3 years."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. I take offense to using the defense to removing an automatic increase to lay that on the backs of our employees to add a 3% increase. If we are truly going to get serious about spending, and use words like 'DEFICIT' so loosely, than I would think that when we were asked to approve an executive lounge so that upper level management could eat in exclusiveness of other upper level employees, that that would of also been taken into consideration. There should not be an automatic increase every year passed on to the consumer for our water bills. We should of never put this into place, and I would like you know you said it could be adjusted downward, maybe it has been adjusted downward I'd love to know when was the last time we adjusted downward. We know last year it's been adjusted upward because it's going to collect \$455,000 more dollars. What I think is the proper mechanism, is if any fund is operating in a deficit, the procedure would be to come to the Council and ask to evaluate that specific fund. But to automatically know that whether you operate in an efficient manner in Utilities (water bills specifically), or in an inefficient manner that you will automatically be given the increase is problematic. And my motion stands as it is, it's very clear as to what it's going to accomplish and there will be mechanisms put in place to address any deficiencies that there could possibly be as we would address any deficiency and any fund. But I will not sit lightly to throw out a raise for employees as a defense to automatically increasing water bills for our residents. Will not tolerate that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, you said the CPI that's in affect right now that automatically increase the resident water bill, the amount. I think we're already in the deficit with them already with the CPI. So it haven't done its job to keep us out of a deficit. Okay, we're in a deficit already. So the fact that we been increasing automatically haven't done anything as far as the deficit within the Utility Department. Okay so I think what Ms. Hotard is saying, what I am saying is the citizens, no one like to have a bill automatically increase on them, just because something happened in New Orleans. Okay but what I think what she saying is that, you're not saying that you want increase but it come back to the Council to okay the increase instead of automatic increase. I think that's what the whole thing is about, automatic. It didn't say you're going to eliminate increasing, it's just that it come back to the Council to make that decision. Instead of automatic, and I think most people in the community would prefer that."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you, and I will say you know we did take the first step tonight in creating efficiencies in the Utilities Department with the new AMI System, which will long-term create savings for the department without adding an increase cost to the taxpayers. You know I think what we can to also when we're looking for a long term solution to the parish's water problem, we need to start looking at the operational inefficiencies in a ways that we can have a system that we can have a system that can be more efficient from an operational standpoint for reoccurring cost. And I do think we also need to look at ways to lower the water bills for the residents, I do think this is a good first step, but I also think we've had talks to about rededicating mileages with the Marathon money coming in 20/21, depending on what that is I do think we should look into alternatives and to rededicating mileages for ambulance and mosquito control. That way we could if we had to at some point, increase the user fee, we could, but let's start with rededicating what we have to try and lower the cost so every month the resident is not getting hit with a higher bill and In this case every other year. So I do support this Ordinance."

Robert Figuero stated, "Thank you Councilman. And Councilwoman Hotard, I was not trying to insult anyone. My job and I've said this multiple times too many people here, my job is not to get emotional. My job is to look at the numbers and state the facts, and simply put/removing the CPI would increase the deficit that we're operating out of right now. And Councilman Madere, if we would've of had this these CPI increases in the past then we would be in a larger deficit. Again, my intent wasn't to criticize anyone, but that's a fact that there are cost of living expenses across the board and you all eluted to that on multiple of occasions. And so that is something that we do deal with, and that we do live with. Again, it's the numbers the numbers are what they are, and that's all I'll say."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you. Mr. Wright stole my and I agree with you Mike, I really do. I think since, we made the first step, and to me and you put that with what Ms. Hotard said a little while ago about looking at other ways of coming up with some funds and I think we put those two together we just move with this move we have made here now. Maybe we should give our people a little break. At first I was totally against this, because everything I own they got a charge on it, and it's a 3% raise or all my insurances and a (except for my house note) you know, that's the only that don't goes up every year. But, it's got user fees on it or they got you look at LP&L I mean they got theirs, they will hit you with something. But anyhow, I think that we ought to give this these, this AMI System a chance to help us out of some of this deficit we are in right now, along with the process we're going to be using, I'm sure that Administration working on that process for collecting some of these six, seven million dollars that we're got

out there right now, deficit that people owe us in utilities. And along with that, and let's in the meantime we can give our people a little break. And I you know I'm going to go along with it, so I just for that for that reason."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thanks and I'll be really quickly. And I can appreciate where you're coming from, the issue is stating facts is when we state selective facts. Yes it's a fact that if we remove this, then it won't generate the automatic increase but we can bring up like said all of those other things, I don't even remember how much the executive breakroom was actually going to cost, that could have been a fact that you chose. Nonetheless, the Ordinance is where it stands and I believe not having the automatic increase might actually cause us to a little bit more efficient in those water systems to say, okay we can't just operate by knowing we're going to get this additional money, so where is the aggressiveness on trying to be efficient in those departments and get some of the cost in line. So maybe this can be the first step in evaluating some of those funds that we have that are operating in deficiencies and figure out how do we get them out without the answer always being on the shoulder of the taxpayer? Thank you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes I just want to address a couple of comments that were made. 1) Relative to increasing efficiencies, and I think through the 2019 Budget - Blake spent a lot of time shoring up his budget and I think he cut about a million dollars. Again, dealing with chemicals and getting a better handle on some of the expenditures. Part of the problem is, we have four (4) water systems. So we have four (4) sets of chemicals, four (4) sets of electrical bills, employees that have to man all these facilities, when we go to our neighboring parishes, most of them have one on the East Bank and one on the West Bank. We have one that functions in Pleasure Bend (that we do subsidize), because there's not enough residents to support it. So there are certain things that we can do to increase efficiencies, but there are others that we can't. We are stuck with the system that we have and until we regionalize or do something else, we're having to manage four (4) different water systems, and they are classified as four (4) different water systems. So there are cost that we can cut and then there are some that we can't. And I think the number of plants and I think we have eight (8) waste water plants, you know again there are cost associated with running that number, I think there a couple we'd like to take offline but there's a cost associated with that to transfer the waste water to other sites. So we're restricted on just how much we can cut based on the infrastructure that we have, so I fully understand that. With regard to the CPI, I don't think the Parish always had a CPI and it didn't have it across all Enterprise Funds. However when there was a need for funds, the Council had difficulty increasing rates on residents. So the decision was made to utilize a fair system of Consumer Pricing Index so we wouldn't have to come back every time, because in your vote to use CPI you have actually agreed that we need to look at the rates on an annual basis and use CPI. I think it would be very difficult, regardless of what we came with for the Council to vote on increasing rates on residents. And we are in a deficit, I think we introduced three funds, we sent out letters in 2017 letting the Council know that there's some problem funds, which is why we started talking about rededications that we're having to put off until we receive the Marathon funds. But our water, our waste water, and our public work fund, which doesn't generate very much on its own are functioning in a deficit, so whatever you make, we'll have to go back and look at. However, we're in a deficit the failure to continue to approve what was budgeted for 2019, will increase that deficit and you know it's something that maybe we could have looked at during the budgeting process, but we budgeted knowing that this was in place and it's reflected in the budget that was approved by the Council."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Approving this Ordinance tonight won't change anything in the budget. The budget that was approved in 2019 was already done, and any automatic CPI increase is already in place. So removing the automatic increase only affects what would happen in January of 2020, which is almost a year away which should give us enough time to examine our system. So I just want to make that correction, this will not subtract any money that's in the fund..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Well then that clear we're good."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yeah."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We can move on. We're good. Hey we accept that because actually we wait for the CPI to come out in January, so if you'll good with this year, I'm good and move it."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah I just want to say you know, I know the adjustment on the CPI and all that, it sounds good and it is a good thing to do, Councilwoman Hotard made a very good point. But on the next point, in back of my mind I got to look at this deficit every day, I look up drive around I look at those waste water tanks and I think several of my colleagues went to visit Garyville, in that area and visited the waste water tanks in LaPlace area also. There were a number of mechanical and maintenance items that you'll sited that needed to be taken care of, and I can't support taking any money from this department at this time. We can look at giving Senior Citizens a little bit better discount in this community, but this Utility Department is in shams right now, 20 years of neglect, 25 years of neglect plus in counting so 'NO'. And like Mr. Snyder, yes I did spend 36 years in industry and I understand what it takes to keep a plant running, and right now we're on a limb and prayer right now, and everybody know it, just not the water meters. So I'm going to standby what you guys voiced your opinion to me a couple of months ago on the condition of the facilities that we have to operate and give drinking good safe drinking water to people. Thank you."

Councilman Wright stated, "I would agree with you Mr. Sorapuru. However, the only difference is that 12 months down the line or 11/10 months, if we need to reintroduce something to increase the water rates for next year, we can do that. We're not taking any money away, we're just taking away the ability for it to automatically increase or decrease every other year. So I do agree with you, our department is in a crisis, so that will require the Administration to come to us (the Council), publicly advertise before the people to say we're going to raise your rates because x, y, and z. So we're not taking away money, we're just taking away the ability to automatically take the money for the residents every year."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And Mike look-I understand that clearly but, you know it's going to be you know, I would not want to put the next Council in that position to come back and ask for an increase. I mean, I would to me."

Councilman Wright stated, "It would actually be this Council for next year."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And so, that's where I stand I think it's a good idea, but maybe let's come up with an idea to give some Senior Citizens and people that are on some disabilities some reduced rates. That! I will support that 150%."

Councilman Malik asked, "What was the date of the last increase?"

Robert Figuero stated, "It was January of last year."

Councilman Malik stated, "January of last year. What was the increase?"

Robert Figuero stated, "It was 3.2."

Councilman Malik asked, "3.2%?"

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Malik stated, "3.2! The expectation for Marathon to come on the tax rolls in when?"

Robert Figuero stated, "They'll be on the rolls in 2020, but the revenues will not be realized until 2021."

Councilman Malik stated, "Until 2021. So we can look at revisiting this based if this thing is if the, is it 19-01 (I'm sorry). If 19-01 passes, we're actually looking at probably one time, one year. Um okay."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes Mr. Sorapuru is right about those conditions of those facilities. Okay but to fix those facilities, the increase for the residents, they won't be able to do it by themselves. They'd have to go out and get some additional funds, cuz if we have to rely on the increase of the water bill to fix those facilities, it'll 100 years before we get it done, that's how the condition on those things be. Those facilities have to be looked at this year, we have to find some money, when we finish with these water meters, okay then we have to turn our attention to those individuals, facilities, repairing them or shutting them down and coming with central or just maybe one, but it's going to take a lot of money to straighten that out, and it's 25 years of neglect. Okay, as of my estimation when I went over there and looked at those facilities, and it's not going to be done by the increase on the water bill for the individual residents. We're going to have to go out and get some extra money like we did for these meters to fix those facilities. What we can only do now is as far as keeping them operational and fix what we're capable of fixing right now, until we can secure money or we can do a complete overhaul or like Ms. Robottom said, in St. Charles Parish they only have a central, you know we have I think about seven (7) different facilities that we're trying to take care of? Alright so we have to get out of those seven (7) and get maybe to one on the West bank and one on the East Bank, but that's going to take a lot of money. And the increase for the residents with water bills is not going to handle that. It won't even come close."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-01. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru against.

19-02 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 21 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to establish and define the St. John the Baptist Parish Precinct Boundaries, Merge and Consolidate Precincts, and establish Precinct Polling Places (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "This amendment will move the polling location from the current building for precincts 4-8, 4-10, 4-11, 4-12 and 4-13 from the to the new St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex. In the Ordinance as written, I think they added 'East' to the name of the building. So what we're requesting is approval of the Ordinance with the correction to the name of the St. John the Baptist Government Complex. But this would move the voting location from this

building to the new government complex."

Councilman Malik stated, *"I missed one thing, you said east?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I was actually typed in the Ordinance the East Bank Government Complex, that's not the name of the building. So we'd like to correct the name of the building, but make the move."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-02. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Yes, I accept the minutes of the finance meeting be accepted."*

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the finance meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Remondet absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-05 - A Resolution adopting a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as a required part of St. John the Baptist Parish's annual financial and compliance audit

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This Resolution enables the Parish President to complete the Compliance Questionnaire as a required component of the 2018 Financial and Compliance Audit. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R19-05. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Remondet absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, *"Mr. Chairman."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"Yes ma'am."*

Natalie Robottom asked, *"Can I make a request."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"Absolutely."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"A personal privilege. I need to leave in and go into New Orleans to pick up my mother. Can I move up my remarks, I think you guys would have to approve that at a, as an agenda change?"*

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to suspend the rules to move up the Parish President Report. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Remondet absent.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Please continue."

Natalie Robottom stated, "First of all, I'd like to follow up on what you mentioned earlier. I'd like to begin by offering my condolences to the family of long-time Councilman Haston "Lipper" Lewis, who passed away on yesterday. Mr. Lewis was a staple in the community and he will be missed. And of course, on behalf of the Parish, we thank him for his service. Yesterday we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with the two parades and two programs. It was and continuous to be a great time to reflect on what Dr. King lived and died for and to strive to be more King-like in our actions and words. Thanks to everyone who worked to make sure both marches and programs were successful, because without a coordinated effort, it wouldn't be possible. I'd also like to congratulate our New Orleans Saints for a great season, I know many of us are heartbroken based on the debacle, but it was a great run and we're looking forward to another run next year. Since the government shut down, the President had explored, this is just to clear up some of the rumors, options to fund the border wall by declaring a natural disaster and utilizing Army Corps of Engineer funds and disaster funds that would have affected the West Shore Project. It's my understanding that's off the table right now, our Congressional delegation has committed to keeping off the table, and I encourage you (although you can't call) but if or call the offices, but if you talk to any of our delegation, definitely want to thank them and ask them to continue to support these projects that are very much needed. I'd like to thank the leadership and members of the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce for holding their Quarterly Member Luncheon in St. John at the St. John Community Center. It was an opportunity to showcase the parish and the facility to small business owners and to highlight some of what we have to offer in our River Parish and some of the opportunities. The event was well-attended, including several St. John business owners who are also members of the organization. I had the honor of addressing the membership on a variety of issues and again thank them for coming to St. John Parish and spending their money here to rent our facility to hire, cater, and to you know just share what we have to offer here in St. John. We will be hosting a groundbreaking for the Safe Room Project, Thursday, January 24th, at 10:00 a.m. next to the Emergency Operations Center. As many of you may know this project started in late 2012/2013, it's funded through an HMGP Grant and funds through the Parish. We're excited that we're finally breaking ground, they have a process of approving things that takes a fairly long time, so we're looking forward to moving this project forward. Once constructed, the safe room will provide a safe location for recovery operations and it'll house Parish employees and critical staff during and immediately following emergency events. Many of you have read that the St. John Animal Shelter with the help of Jefferson Parish seized over 140 dogs on Friday, and they're trying to move them to foster groups. However, in the interim, they are asking and we are asking for help with cleaning kennels and other shelter duties since they are so overwhelmed. I did reach out to the President of Jefferson who did provide us some support, but this is a large number of animals and our small shelter cannot absorb this number without some assistance. The Shelter also desperately needs foster homes for the dogs, volunteers to sit with the dogs and pet and cleaning supplies such as bleach, bleach wipes, towels, cleaning rags, paper towels, dog bowls, beds, food, just everything. You can drop off supplies or volunteer at the Shelter between 8:00 and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Shelter is located at 488 West 2nd Street, which is River Road in LaPlace, and it can be reached at (985) 651-7387. Unfortunately, you know there are a

variety of animals that were collected, some can be adopted some may not, some of them are wonderful animals but they were living in horrendous conditions, no one likes to have to take pets, but the mere fact that there were 140 dogs on the property is problematic in itself. So again, if there's anyone who can assist us, who's interested in assisting, we ask that they contact the Animal Shelter and our Manager-Rachel. A new session of the FastTrac Program for small businesses will commence in the Spring. A certification workshop for the small and emerging business program, which is required to enter into the FastTrac Program, will be held Wednesday, January 30th, 2019, at the River Parishes Community College in Reserve from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please come out to learn more about the program, program overview and other program certifications. Fishermen and others, who frequently at Lake Pontchartrain and Frenier Landing, should be advised that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program will begin soon in Lake Pontchartrain. It's a group of volunteers will launch into the lake to remove abandoned and derelict crab traps to help with water quality in Lake Pontchartrain. This program will run for a 10-day period, between 12:00 a.m., February 1st, 2019 through 11:59 p.m., February 10th, 2019. As such, the use of crab traps will be prohibited during this time, and any crab traps found will be considered abandoned and discarded by Wildlife and Fisheries as part of this program. So again, this will start February the 1st, it's an attempt to clear the old abandoned crab traps from that area, so again don't leave your traps there or they will remove them thinking they're derelict as well. I am excited to announce the birth of my first grandchild. I think many of you have seen that on Facebook, Camilla Ruth Robottom or Cam. Came a little bit early, supposed to be in February decided to come on in last week. But she's a healthy 7lbs. 2oz's, so Hernandez and I are officially in the Grandparents Club and we're very excited to be there, which is why I'm having to leave tonight to go get my mom. I'm sorry."

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage and road repair in District III

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Following a conference call with the owner of the company, the Assistant Director of Public Works and the Contractor met last week to address the sinkholes. The Contractor will resolve the matter when weather permits."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay cuz I was there that they went, we took that ride out there and I didn't have a chance to go back and see. But the explanation you have me I understand about the weather. So as soon as the weather clears up, they're going to take care of it."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Right."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, no problem with that. Thank you."

Thomas Malik - Update and information, for the public, on the new Administrative Building Offices and hours

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Departments in the Government Complex Building include the Parish President's Office, the Council's Office, Planning and Zoning, Utility Billing, Economic Development, Grants, Finance, Purchasing & Procurement, Human Resources, Communications, Assessor's Office and the Registrar of Voters. Office hours remain the same from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. All phone numbers remain the same."

Councilman Malik stated, "The Judges, are we planning on moving the Arcuri

Center?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "There have been discussions with the Judges, they have not made that decision as of yet."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I do know that they met with the Mr. Figuero on last week, the Judges have been there they've done a tour, also with the DA, and again as I've stated, they're under review and she'll be making the decision very soon."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay thank you. The rest of the building, that's going to be turned over to the Sheriff or who's going to remain there?"

LaVerne Toombs asked, "In this building?"

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes ma'am."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We have not yet had a meeting with the Sheriff, I do know he's under the impression that he's going to access this building, but that not, we have not had further discussion to put that in writing or concrete. So we should be having that conversation with him soon."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay good yeah, cuz I know that there's a he has a pretty big expense of something like - what is it?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I will say that this particular Chamber will remain for our committees to meet continually, so will continue to have access to this particular area, as well as the EOC, and where Ms. Annette was sitting and the conference room, we will still have that area."

Councilman Malik stated, "The a/after our deposit for Utilities at the new building, has that been set-up yet?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I know that there was another component on here that we're going to discuss and we can discuss it now or we can wait for the other area to talk about the drop box."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah I think we can cover it now and everybody can..."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Ok, sure. I think I'm going to let Mr. Figuero have a talk to you about that because he's been more involved in that process than I have."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes ma'am thank you."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir. We've consulted with DOTD, as far as the mapping and so forth and trying to make sure we're within the correct ordinances and permissions. We're also looking at our Traffic Committee that's going to get together, they've met already and talking about restriping the parking lot and so forth making it a one-way and one-way out. We have identified a location for the drop box, now it's just a matter of getting the parking lot restriped. But again, making sure that DOTD was good with the plans so forth since we had the permits originally for the parking lot when we built the building. Just it's all about safety, it's just making it one-way in one-way out. But we have the drop box

physically already, it's just a matter of installing it, and the initial plan I tell you is to put it by the Sheriff's office on the outside on that far outside, one of the far outside islands coming from the Sheriff's office or the other side of the Percy Herbert Building going towards Airline, cuz making that a one-way, it's partially one-way already, so we're looking to make that entirely one-way and then make the other entrance a one-way in and one-way out allowing residents easy access to drive-up do a drive through, drop box and then continue out to Airline Highway. But again, we're just we're waiting for DOTD, they've responded we're going back and forth with a couple of dialogues with them, we're just waiting on their final approval and then we're going to restripe the parking lot and put some signs up, make it one-way and so forth."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you Mr. Figuero."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And also Councilman if I may. Residents can still drop their water bills at the Service Center in LaPlace, as well as in Garyville."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay. Are there any on the West Bank?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I don't believe so. I believe they can go to the convenient store and pay their water bill I guess."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Club Grocery."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "But there's no drop box on the West Bank."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you very much."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I just want to say, Ms. Toombs I've got a number of calls about standing in the rain and the cold weather at the Arcuri Center, and they're looking at this big beautiful new building sitting right here so, I hope maybe we could speed that meeting up with the Judges or get together to accommodate them to their needs you know. I got face to face conversations and I got a couple of calls from people concerned about that so."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes Councilman, you sent me an email in regards to that and again as I stated earlier, we've been in conversations with the Judges and they will be making decisions whether they're going to move into the new building or remain where they are."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay, thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "First of all, why do we need to make it a one-way in? I would hate to have to miss that one."

Robert Figuero stated, "We looked at multiple, I mean we've had multiple conversations about this with several individuals, several engineers, and I think it balls down to safety. Because of some of the locations we're were talking about putting it to look like you were going to put cars possibly on a head on collision (even though it's a parking lot), and for the sake of safety and having a flow from the individuals that we consulted with to include DOTD, they recommend that it's possibly being a one-way area that way you would eliminate any possibility of customers walking in the parking lot, anyone walking in the parking lot, cars coming the wrong way not paying attention, distractions and so forth. So just based on the recommendations we've had with several individuals, we think that that would be a safer practice."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How long it's going to be before they start striping and restriping with that? You have an idea?"

Robert Figuero stated, "I don't think it'll be long at all. We've had multiple discussions and we're waiting, we know the traffic a...the Traffic Committee, yeah the Traffic Committee I know they're developing a parking lot plan. Yeah, you know how to restripe it and signage and so forth to make it in accordance with the ordinances and restrictions and so forth. So, I don't think it's going to take long, it's just a matter of getting that information back with them making sure DOTD is good with it, and then we're having it done."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok."

Larry Snyder - Update on the street painting in District VI

Councilman Snyder stated, "I guess this the question I just asked, is leading into this one because if we going to get some professionals in here to stripe this parking lot, can you we get those same people to stripe that intersection over there on Ormond and Madewood? That thing then got to be dangerous, and I've gotten a few calls over there and it's actually dangerous. And because they have so many ways you can turn there and people got to go by the streets. So, I know I talked to Ms. LaVerne, she told me about the Grant we're working on. But if there is something that we can do, I see your response here but if there's something we can do ahead of time to get a least get some yellow lines down there, I would appreciate it if we could get that done. And if we're getting these people to come here to do that, maybe we ought to just add that to their/my wish list to their wish list. Okay, just that corner. They got a lot of streets that I know need to be done, but that's a dangerous intersection right there."

Larry Snyder - Update on the C.J. Savoie Contract

Councilman Snyder stated, "What's what, has it been signed?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "No sir. Actually I had emailed Mr. Savoie on last week requesting a meeting to review his contract."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well we reviewed that contract already I thought! Had the legal people looked at it?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We forwarded to legal on last week, the contract that you all had was not part of the template it stated. Administration requested a meeting with the Parish Engineer to finalize the contract. The document submitted and determined to be legally sufficient was not in the Parish's approved template, included the incorrect address and omitted items previously included in the previous contract. Additionally, Administration is requesting amendments to the scope of work to meet their current needs. No changes are being made to the number of hours worked. Once finalized, a budget amendment will be introduced as the contract award exceeds the amount budgeted and approved. So again, I did receive an email from Mr. Joseph Savoie stating the fact that he didn't believe that he should meet at this time, I emailed him back today requesting another meeting just to go over his contract, I'm not sure if he is not in agreement with some of the items in the scope of work in regards to the amount or the hours of the contract, that's not within question. I believe what's in question is in regards to some of the items that we included in the scope of work."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay if I'm not mistaken, I think we voted to approve that contract as is, depending on legal review. Legal had reviewed it they give you a little different template, didn't change anything in the contract and that's what we voted on. Am I right? Or do we need to vote on this again, to do this? To get this contract signed tomorrow? Or do we have to ask our Chairman to sign it? But whatever's best for this Administration, because we got a contract been there for years, there was a lot of work put in to it by the previous Councils, and I don't know if anybody never have any issues with the contract or with the work that we're supposed to be getting done through the contract. From my understanding any of the Directors can direct work, any of the Council, the Administration the Parish President, can direct work to these people?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "All we're asking Councilman Snyder is for us to sit down and talk to our Parish Engineer and..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "We not going change the contract. We not going change the contract, we going get that contract get that contract voted on, we done voted on it already you know, and let's just get these people sign the contract and get away with this. And let's get put this behind us. I don't know what these games we playing, you trying to get someone else in here?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Councilman that is not the case at all."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You got to stop, well make me believe that then. If we not trying to get some other engineering firm in here to do what these people been doing for 30 years with us, and helping us out! This is ridiculous, this is ridiculous, playing these games!"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Councilman Snyder, I don't know what you mean in reference to playing games, but I do know that there's some items on the scope of work that we wanted to talk to the Parish Engineer about. Again as I stated..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Is there a problem? What was wrong with the scope of work all them other years he was there? What was wrong? And why we need to change it now?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Sir, we have three departments that the Parish Engineer works with, that is Planning & Zoning, Utilities, and Public Works. And in those departments there are items that we would like for the Parish Engineer to address, and to work with those Department heads on particular projects and one in particular..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "There is nothing wrong with that because my understanding is according to the contract, according to the contract, any of those Directors can direct work to that Parish Engineer. Including us and the Parish President, and that's what it says in their contract. So what's the big deal of having Planning & Zoning Director come and have this firm doing some work for him?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Because we have it in writing, we haven't had it in writing before in his previous contract."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It's in the contract!"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "It wasn't in the contract before Councilman."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't know what contract you read. I know what contract I read."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We broke the contract down in particular departments."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Who all can direct work to those people? Who all can direct work to this Engineering Firm?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Based upon the scope of work that we presently have and this particular contract Councilman Snyder, is broken down into what Planning & Zoning, Utilities and Public Works. Different from what Mr. Savoie..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "It says it actually says Directors, it actually says Directors."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "It's pretty much the contract that we have in place, has not changed drastically. It's just a few items in the scope of work..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "This says Directors. You know what the change...what the change is? Tell me what the change is."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I'll be more than glad to sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Tell me the most significant change."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Assist in Capital Project efforts, we would for them to attend monthly Capital Project meetings. When I first started as a Purchasing & Procurement Director, our Parish Engineer would attend those meetings, I don't know what happened but they don't attend those Capital Project meetings anymore, and we would like for our Parish Engineer to be there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know something! You got to invite him, you got to invite him you got to make him feel welcome, things like that, that's important..."

LaVerne Toombs interrupting stated, "Okay well sir, I didn't again, I don't..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "When you have 'm with the time of day you have 'm, you got to do those things."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Councilman, I have no problem inviting the Parish Engineer, and again I don't know what you mean by making him feel welcome. I think that Mr. Savoie and I have a great working relationship..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I asked the question last week about these meters. I said has our Parish Engineer look at that? No! Hadn't even looked at it. They hadn't even passed it by him. That's what I'm talking about."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We make every effort Councilman Snyder to make sure that our Parish Engineer looks at all of the projects..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Well this Six Million Dollar job we got coming up right here, and we were talking about these meters going out for bids and who need to look at them and I asked about our Parish Engineer, but they had not given them to him to look at yet. That's what I'm talking about playing games."

Councilman Malik stated, "The Chair is going to recognize our Attorney, Mr. Green."

Keith Green, Jr., District Attorney's Office stated, "Good Evening again Council. I just wanted to just clarify that our office did review the contract that was sent over by Council Secretary, Ms. Landeche, in accordance to a motion you all passed at the November 27th meeting. We deemed that contract to be legally sufficient. Ms. Landeche, we sent it back to her and then she said that she would send it over to Administration for execution in accordance with the motion that you all passed at that November 27th meeting."

Councilman Snyder stated, "November 27th."

Jackie Landeche stated, "And I did email the Parish President to that affect, yes."

Councilman Malik stated, "So the, a...I'll stop in tomorrow and sign it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Let me just say this. I could understand Mr. Snyder getting kind of getting upset about this. Here's what Administration have to realize, and yourself to Ms. Toombs. This Council is the Governing Body, this Council spoke loud and clear at the meeting that the contract was supposed to be approved according to what the motion was with no changes in that contract, except for the amount of money and the few language changes that legal recommended. Okay, no other changes was authorized by this Council, so that means no other changes can be done to that contract. That was passed by the Governing Body of the Parish, so nothing that you want to change, nothing that Ms. Robottom want to change can take place. It goes as the Council instructed Administration to do. And that's the job for the Council to instruct and Administration job is to follow the instructions voted on by this Council. And I think it was voted on unanimously for this to happen. So to be just talking about some changes that yawl want to make or some stuff you want to change, or some stipulations, doesn't fly tonight. It's not going to happen. The motion was loud and clear, how it's supposed to be handled. So as far as I'm concerned, and I'm pretty sure the rest of the Council members feel the same way, it's a done deal."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just kind a want to make it, simple! Just bringing all this back. If I recall correctly the motion was directing Administration to renew and sign the existing contract, not contingent upon Administration's approval of the original terms. So for Administration not to execute an order by the Council, is just unacceptable. The directive was clear, and the directive wasn't to renew it pending Administration's approval, it was to execute. And it's simple, there isn't a debate. The motion was simple! If Administration wants to change the scope, that's fine we welcome it come with an amendment. But the directive at the time was clear."

Councilman Malik stated, "We're going to execute the contract tomorrow. Is there any other..."

Jackie Landeche interrupting stated, "We have to have a motion to do that."

Councilman Malik stated, "No we already did."

Jackie Landeche stated, "No."

Councilman Malik stated, "We need a motion we need a motion."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I got a motion."

Councilman Malik stated, "Sir, Mr. Snyder make a motion."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'd like to motion that the Parish President sign this contract with C.J. Savoie Engineering Firm, tomorrow. What's the date?"

Councilman Malik stated, "January 23rd will be tomorrow sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "January 23rd..."

Jackie Landeche asked, "By close of business?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "By close of business day. No that's a direct order, that's maleficence in office."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion that the Parish President sign the contract with C.J. Savoie Consulting Engineers, Inc. tomorrow, January 23rd, by the Close of Business. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I got one question for legal. It's okay on the same matter?"

Councilman Malik stated, "Mr. Snyder has a question for you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "If this action doesn't happen tomorrow, which we have directed. That would be considered a, what? Maleficence in office?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "I can't give you a direct/a definite answer on that, however I would say that it would be in violation of the Charter. That would be a Charter violation, considering it would be a directive by the Council for the Parish President to act, and if that act is not committed, then that end by itself would be a violation of the Charter. We could do some research and go from there, but bare minimum that's what you would have."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you sir."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just so, does/is Administration opposed to carrying out the motions that the Council has passed? I just want a yes or a no. So we'll know whether or not we're going to come back in two weeks with this issue or can you sign the contract tomorrow?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I can't give you a yes or a no answer Councilwoman."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "On whether or not Administration plans to carry out the actions taken by the Council?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I'm the Parish President and she's not here to speak for herself. So again, I'll relate the question."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That's fair that's fair, okay."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Well can we...question. Can I get recognized? I'm sorry."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "If we have the contract in hand tonight, Mr. Green,

will the Chairman of this Board, be allowed to sign this contract in behalf of the Parish President tonight, now?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "A motion was actually made for the Parish President, directing the Parish President to execute it tomorrow by a certain time, so I would think that would be a question we could address in the evening that that doesn't occur."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "So we need a timeframe if it's not signed by noon tomorrow. I'd like to make a motion..."

Councilman Malik stated, "We've already made the motion, which is to have...hang on hang on. We already have the motion to sign the contract, have the Parish President sign by Close of Business, January 23rd, which is tomorrow."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay!"

Councilman Malik stated, "And it was unanimous. So that's our direction, so we've already voted so. But anyway..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting asked, "But if it's not signed by tomorrow, that's the question I want to put to you."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "If it's not signed by tomorrow, then the Council would be free to deal with it in another manner. But we'll have to wait to see to make sure that..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting asked, "So we have to wait to come back in two weeks to deal with it?"

Councilman Malik stated, "No. We're going to find out tomorrow."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "No sir. You all can call a Special Meeting, you all can meet whenever you all decide to. So yes sir."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay cuz this is my first rodeo, okay!"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Absolutely."

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

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "No problem."

Larry Snyder - Update on the pumping stations for the District VI Flooding situation

Verdell Kindrick stated, "There are 3 pumping stations and 6 pumps currently installed in District VI. We are working with the Parish Engineer on cost estimates and specifications for canal dredging that will address capacity issues in the area. Additionally, Public Works staff are cleaning areas recommended by the Parish Engineer."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir appreciate that. Now I've talked with the Parish Engineer, and actually I sent him to you, okay? And a, what I'm looking at, they got two areas they got two areas I'm really concerned about okay? We got water all over the place I do understand that, but they got the

place over on what street that is?"

Verdell Kindrick stated, "West Frisco?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Frisco, West Frisco right, in that curve right there..."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "And East Frisco correct. Right."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And East Frisco not bad, that West Frisco is bad. Especially when got these rain, I mean that water that goes up to people's garage, almost every time in some cases. Okay, that's the places I'm concerned about. I know they got some issues there, because when Brian was here you know, Brian did a lot of work over there and I guess he must've left the record, paper work somewhere over there and they came up with something. I know Mr. Savoie know exactly what they came up with, because he wrote a report on it. And so that's what I want to look at, that area right there and there is one other area, I'm talking about looking to put a little pump there some kind of way, or two little pumps there or three little pumps there and see if we could get see could we get some of that water out there during that heavy rain. You know, all of this back there we can dig this canal deep as we want to, that area there is not going to help that area. It's going to still flood there, and the area over here on English Colony, those two areas is like a is like a is like a barrel over there, it's like a bowl in those two areas. Those two areas I want to look at, I know Mr. Savoie supposed to look at the one over on West Frisco, but we haven't had a chance to look at the one over here. I think the one on English Colony going to be a lot easier to do, cuz there's a canal not a 100 feet from it, a big canal you understand? So that's want I want, I want to look at some pumps for those areas and see what we can do. I mean I got some money back there in those big pumps but I don't know if that's going to help them small areas out there that flood, those big pumps we're getting our levee now, we going dig all those canals up anyhow. So I got some money with some big pumps, I'd rather use that money for those little in those strategic areas right there."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Well I did get with the Parish Engineer on those areas and his recommendation was 20 which was 2013, and he did specifically say that we clean those culverts..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I think they did that."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Those catch basins in that area and that's what we did today. We took care of all that area there..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "And that may help."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Yeah, that's what we're looking at to see if it's going help. And..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "But they did water, they did a hydraulic test back there. They actually put water in those lines and the water was flowing well until it got a certain height and then it start flowing backwards to that area back there. That's what happened. I remember Brian did that test, that water test back there. They put some hoses down in there and that's what happened. And that's why that thing flushed in that area so badly, if you go stand there looks like you're standing in a bowl and looking up and everything else around it."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "It is a bowl, it is a bowl."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right! You know and that's where we need those pumps at."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Well we're gonna get back with the Parish Engineer to see what can he come up with."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well he got something right there he about...you got something you want to say about this Mr. Joseph?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "No I was just going to reiterate that we did we did meet with Mr. Kindrick, the report he's referring to he is correct. It was done in 2013 and at that time they did clean out those catch basins and culverts. That did improve the flow at the time, what we had discussed was the possibility it's now, you know you're talking eight (8), seven (7) years later, it could have happened or silted up again or there could be a root blockage, we recommended going in taking a look at those catch basins and culverts, cleaning them out again, and then reassessing it to see if a pump would be some type of force water drainage would be necessary at this point and time to get it out after those are cleaned and see if that resolves the issue."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah, well that's fine and I'd like to look at that as much as we can, but I know we did the tests on that the hydraulic tests over there, and it showed all the water was flowing up from both ways to that area right there."

Joseph Savoie stated, "Right, you're correct."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And it shouldn't have been going that way, put it that way. It shouldn't have been going there, it should have been going a different direction. That's what Brian told me when he was here, and with the cameras they put in there and the water test they took. But whatever we're doing we got to at least get some ideas on what direction we need to go from here, and let's see if we find some money to do that. They got Rob sitting back there, he said he'll get us all kind of money, you know we approve his contract. So we going, we got to get some money to do that drainage."

Joseph Savoie stated, "And we're going to follow-up with Mr. Kindrick again after we've had a chance to look at the culverts again, and see if that resolves the issue and then we'll come up with another plan and provide another report."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I got you. Thank you, thank you, thank you Mr. Kindrick."

Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding administration's plans to facilitate future billing, pending billing issues and disconnects

Robert Figuero stated, "Staffing changes are being made to accommodate a disconnect crew and office staff to assist with the disconnect process. When in place, disconnect notices, Robo calls and door knockers will be placed on homes notifying residents when disconnect crews will be in their neighborhoods. We will begin with Cycle 1 and progress accordingly. With regards to billing issues, 1 staff member has been assigned to assist customers with issues that cannot be resolved by the 4 billing clerks or by phone. Water meter and billing issues are being handled by the Billing Manager and CFO."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know this not our first rodeo Mr. Figuero and I, and I kind a just surface plan, we kind of talk this before because I'm still concerned about this going forward how we're going to collect some of this money we got, the people that want to pay their bills, because there are people that want to pay their bills. Okay, they want to pay their bills but they just can't afford to come up with a thousand (\$1,000), or two thousand (\$2,000), even if it was their fault, their fault they got into that predicament. But there's some people that really do want to want to pay their bills, and those are the ones that I'm really concerned about, we need to help them out as much as we can as far as plans, coming up with some kind of plans put them on some kind of plan, and plus paying their water bill, but we need to get them in. And we need to discuss these things, and put some humanity in it when we discuss it with these people. Because you got to understand these people coming in begging. They don't have very much, okay! And when they come in there some of them are going to be embarrassed, so we got to treat them like I would treat my grandbaby you know, with a glove with a soft glove, because these are the kind of people you don't get in there."

Robert Figuero stated, "Absolutely, and that's our intent. Blake was working on several different policies and so forth to implement, obviously when he left it came to me. I'm looking at the policy itself and refining it and as you and I had discussed, by all means there will be a payment plan option in there, we're outset at any parameters because every case is different, my intention is to sit across not necessarily myself but either Curtis or myself will sit across from every individual that needs a payment plan, look them in the eye, and work something out with them, cuz like you said this is personal, we understand it, so it's not going to be a one fit for everyone, so that will absolutely be a part of it and in order to move forward. So, we understand that and I understand the nature of it, and again the customer service aspect of it, we're going to make sure we take care of the residents and like and take care of them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good, and that's all I'm asking for this, I mean somebody else may have some issues on this I don't know."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I know Robert has helped me with a few things over the last few weeks and I truly appreciate that. But, I had had some calls in the last two days and I spoke to and I mentioned it to Reed but, I want Curtis to double check the emails he's gotten in the last few months, he'll tell you he's working on things and four months later they're calling you back they never heard from anybody. And it's not that I think he's doing that on purpose, I just think he's overwhelmed, I think he needs to go back make sure he can put a check by those emails cuz it's a repeat of the same problem never taken care of. But I'd appreciate that."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes ma'am. Over the last couple of weeks I've been sitting down with him going over a couple of things and I'm encouraging him to do a couple of things differently and look at some things, and prioritize and organize himself, and I think we're making progress with it so, but absolutely I understand I agree with you, the day gets away from everybody..."

Councilwoman Remondet interrupting stated, "I just think he had so much you know but, but we need to double check those things..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "We're putting mechanisms in place to try to relieve some of that pressure from him and then distribute some of those duties among some other people."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Okay, thank you."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay Robert, this is a question I have okay? We're talking about like Mr. Snyder said, working with people to help them help them with their bills who were neglecting them, but I still got a situation. They're going to have a little coming in and ya'll are going to be heartbroken and I told ya'll and I sent a report several times, this lady has Stage 4 Cancer, lives by herself (I'm a tell you who it is after the meeting I don't want to call her name). Stage 4 Cancer, came to my job can barely walk, that lady be in MD Anderson, out of 60 days she spent 40 days over there most of the time. Live by herself, lady was paying a normal bill and this is ridiculous. Since I've been on this Council, used to be \$60, \$60. That's before you even took this position, and all of a sudden it jumped to 120, 180. The lady got nervous, one of her children said, 'I'm going to pay the bill'. He said maybe it's going to get back down to where it's supposed to be. I be damn if it did! He paid 180, then all of a sudden here it come again, 200, 240, now remember, this individual has Stage 4 Lung Cancer and she'd not going to get disconnected and she's going to pay. Why yawl can't fix that bill where that lady was paying her normal bill? They went over there, she didn't have no leaks, that lady been dealing with this 3 years, and this is ridiculous and it broke my heart Friday when she came over and she could hardly walk yawl to get in my office. She said Kurt, all I want them people to do...they got me at a seven hundred and something dollar bill. I live by myself I'm not here, she's never there. A matter of fact she's at MD Anderson right now! So who's using her water? No body's using it. So I'm going to fight with the disconnect cuz she not going to get disconnected. And I tell you what, and if we got to go to the media we're going to go. Because we got our little I got a, we're strategizing right now we got a plan together and we don't call it the news we're going to go from top to bottom. How could yawl not fix that lady bill? That lady know she wasn't there, she should have been staying in a rate of \$60.00 or less and, but \$780 and she's never there. So I'm against I tell yawl, I tell you what! In my District nobody is just getting disconnected, if they can prove where they bill just spike, and spike and spike, with that stupid averaging and um all that kind of stuff. That's the problem, estimating and averaging, that is crazy. Like I told everybody the simplest solution, I've been in business a long time, if I saw my bill spike from \$60.00 to \$300.00, and yawl say pay the average, alright, pay the average, okay we're going pay the average. So when I pay the average, how in the hell yawl couldn't erase that \$240.00? You know start from scratch but 'NO', she paid her average her \$60.00 she should have been 180, not even 180. It came back again, with another you know like spiking them bills so...I'm telling yawl, yawl going to run into a lot of problem just going over there think yawl going disconnect people, but I know on my West Bank we're going to fight! On my East Bank too! Because I got several calls and I've been sending them to Curtis, but my heart breaks for this lady \$780, and she's in there and don't know if she's going to be there tomorrow. You know Stage 4 Lung Cancer. So I'm just telling you, I'm just telling you it's unfair. It's very, very unfair."

Robert Figuero stated, "And Councilman, I've worked with the majority of the Council members up here on certain bills here over the last couple of months from time to time and what I've found out is that, it's always case by case. And what you're explaining right now, absolutely, that does not sound normal by any..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, "It doesn't. And the poor lady she done wrote several times..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "And there's usually an explanation, without knowing who this lady is, without never seeing the bill, without never seeing her

account, I really can't speak to it. I'll take a look at it...

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, *"I'll tell you who it is after the meeting."*

Robert Figuero stated, *"But I mean I think Councilman Snyder has dealt with me on several occasions and usually when those ridiculous cases like that come, we usually find the reason that there's, it's usually very self-explanatory. Most people sit down and look at them say, oh okay we understand. Again, that doesn't sound right it doesn't sound normal, without looking at it I can't speak to it, but I can assure you you're right! There's no reason for some..."*

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, *"Cuz I..."*

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, *"To consume \$700 within one month..."*

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, *"And I have another one with a \$3,000 bill right now..."*

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, *"Yeah. And again we see the estimates..."*

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, *"\$3,000."*

Robert Figuero stated, *"And we've seen the estimate actuals and we know what's going to happen. Again, if you've got multiple estimates, the likelihood of you getting high a bill is almost at 90-100%. You know we know that, so when these bills occur, we have a mechanism in place to correct that immediately once we see that and to resolve that issue."*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Like I say, my simple solution was like just to me I mean it's elementary. If the bill you know it was \$60.00 and went up to 240, she paid her \$60, hell credit \$180. You know, bring that lady back to where she supposed to be not just her, everybody you know."*

Robert Figuero stated, *"And again, we have to follow certain processes that was lined up by the Attorney General's office..."*

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, *"I understand."*

Robert Figuero stated, *"So we can't just arbitrarily give water away, you know we've got a process that we have to follow..."*

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, *"But even if you know she didn't use it, it's not giving it away I mean she didn't use it."*

Robert Figuero stated, *"Well yes sir. So we'll take a look at it. Just please give me the information I'll take a look at it and then we'll get to the bottom of it."*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Alright, I'll write it down for you."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"And I think sir that the Administration, so I think this is going back about 18 months both counts with Administration has already dictated that because of these erroneous bills, because of these problematic bills if you received a bill when you've been paying, that the Parish is not going to shut-off/disconnect any water. So that I think we've already discussed"*

that. So...

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "And for clarification, I'm sorry Councilman..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Clarification yeah, if you received a bill for \$50.00 and you continuously pay that, and this is an averaged bill you know then..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "The disconnect notices are specifically going to the residents that have received actuals, and their bills are all normal, and they should have been paying their bills and haven't been paying those bills. The ones that you're talking about those cases, those are not the people that we're going to target to go and try and to disconnect. We want to disconnect the people that have been receiving regular bills, and just haven't paid their bills. The ones that have the irregular bills and so forth, those are not the individuals until we get those resolved and get some consistency, um we're not going to be looking to..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, "Because basically, yeah and I'm sorry, just like the lady with the \$3,000 bill. She's just worried. [CROSSTALK]"

Robert Figuero stated, "Right, that's not going to be one you know, that's not one that that we're talking about. We're talking about the guy with the minimum bill, 7, 8, 10, 9, 10, 15 months, minimum bill every month, actuals not paying your bill, you know those are the individuals that we're looking to collect that money from."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes and this is my last time speaking on this. One issue we got is that, Mr. Becnel, that lady you're talking about tell her go see Ms. Murray, Ms. Murray will take care of her. This issue I have is that we're not getting back to people. Okay, remember the bill I talked to you about the other day? The lady say, Mr. Snyder I know I owe the money, I'm a pay the money I just need to talk to somebody and so we can work out something."

Robert Figuero stated, "Right."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Nobody ever called her back. Nobody ever called her back, you know and I think we need to get some people, we talked about this a while back about two or three people that can deal with things like that and give them some responsibility give them some guidelines. They should be able to say, let me look at this. Half of the people you got working over there got many years' experience dealing with bills, all your clerks over there that's dealing with bills. They can look at a bill they know how to figure out if it's real or not real, or people been paying on it and give them some latitude whereas they could say well look, this is what we're going to do; we're going to do this we're going to do that. We might get some of this backlog of people off of the list if we have more people doing, you don't have to hire nobody else you got people over there doing it right now. You know you got people over there that deal with been dealing with people with problems sitting right in here. You got two or three people over there that can handle that. I think yawl need some help over there."

Robert Figuero stated, "I agree."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know, and people don't like our system because we don't call nobody back, leave a message you can never get nobody when you call,

that's discouraging like this lady here. Lady sick and went over there got out her bed and went over there, because you know why? We say we're going to cut her water off!"

Robert Figuero stated, "And not making any excuses for my people in utility billing as I've been observing for them for last couple of weeks, they're working. I mean they're working! You know so it's not like they're sitting around not making phone calls. I'm not saying that's right and it's inexcusable, everyone should be able to get a phone call back and receive a phone call. I completely agree with you, I'm a work towards to correct that, but I can assure you my people in utility billing aren't just sitting back not doing anything. I mean they're busting their butts. It just they're up against, you know what I told them the other day? It's not your fault. It's not your fault in a sense that we haven't upgraded a system in 40 plus years (a software system), it's not their fault that the meters are failing out in the field, you know however, they're dealt with dealing with the problems. You know and that's their job, and they're required to do it. But in essence they're inheriting a problem that they didn't create, but it's their responsibility to make sure and they try and resolve these issues as quickly as possible. So we're going to work on that and I've got some mechanisms here that if we need to bring in some extra people we're going to bring in some extra people, in a short-term in a temp capacity to assist us in accomplishing these goals. But I agree with you, there's absolutely zero reason for any constituent or for any person that has a water bill issue not to receive a phone call back within a timely manner."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah at least let them know you're working."

Robert Figuero stated, "And that I'm going to work on resolving."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, Mr. Figuero I agree with everything you say about the workers in the Utility department. I know they have a hard job, they're doing the best they can, okay what it is they're being given to work with. Okay how they have to do it. And I'm going to say this, you also made the comment when you can't give away the water, I understand that too. But, and I made a suggestion (I don't think you was here when this first started). We didn't have the software that could actually do it, but in the case of that lady that you're talking about, I have a lady called me the other day. Her water bill is always \$50.00, you know she lives by herself, and it wasn't until the last water bill she get one for \$150.00, she don't have any leaks. Okay, so those are the types of things that pop up you know, she's been paying \$50.00 every month. My suggestion was, a long time ago just like you said it wasn't the fault of the people in the Utility department you know, it wasn't the fault of the other residents either that the meter failed."

Robert Figuero stated, "Correct."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay but they are the ones that's going through the burdens and the trouble and they're anguished about especially an elderly lady that's sick, she don't need that type of stress in their life. Okay and a lot of these other elderly people, that's who I feel for. When they open up a bill and they see a bill for \$150.00, this lady was totally upset on the phone, you understand, we don't realize what these people go through. You know I went visit and may not have nothing to do with this, but I went visit Twin Oaks today to see a guy, Mr. Ronnie Smith that used to be on the Council and everything. And you know it really broke me up to see a lot of people/citizens over there that we seem to just forget about. Okay and when these bills hit these individuals that

sick like that, you don't know how much damage that does to them. You know and that's what I feel bad about. Okay and I feel bad for that lady, I feel bad the lady that called me, okay and I don't have an answer for them. And that's the thing that breaks me up, I don't have answer to soothe the problem that they're going through. You understand, they're left with the problem all by themselves, they don't have anyone to call, no one to answer you know to help them. And that's the thing, and I said it before, if we had let everyone pay the average water bill if we had the system to do it, no one would ever be talking about water bill until we fixed the meter. In fact all the citizens wouldn't even care if you never fixed it because they would be getting their average water bill they was getting. Okay so, that just for almost two years now, this really I'm just tired of it, the citizens tired of it you know, we have to get this these meters in place and get things working right. Because we're causing not something these people are suffering, angry you know true things that they had no fault in causing this problem. Okay and that's the thing in two years we have not relieved the pressure on them. And that's the thing that bug me about it, and every time I get a phone call - especially not, not to say I don't care about young people, but when you're talking someone that have a fixed income, that's maybe in the 70, 80 years old, you understand, that's a lot of anguish they go through when they open that bill. Okay and that's the thing that I'm concerned about and that's why we have to get this thing fixed."

Larry Snyder - Update on the status of the DEQ loan application

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think we're straight with that."

Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding RFP for class of water meter and control systems determination

Councilman Snyder stated the above item has been discussed.

Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding satellite locations for Utility Bill payments

Councilman Snyder stated the above item has been discussed.

Lennix Madere/Larry Snyder - Update on Utilities, operational and safety issues at all Waste Water plants - path moving forward

Reed Alexander stated, "The Utilities Department continues to work on the issues and an updated list was provided to the Council for review. The chlorine masks and equipment were received and issued to the appropriate employee(s). Utilities will continue to provide on-site training on all departmental operations."

Councilman Madere stated, "That list that you're talking about, that list was given to us about a month ago. Okay, that wasn't given last meeting, it wasn't given the meeting before about three meetings ago that list was given to us. In fact I still have a copy it was a big long sheet with everything on it. Okay have not received an updated list."

Reed Alexander stated, "It was sent today."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh well today!"

Reed Alexander stated, "I apologize it was sent to Ms. LaVerne I think on Friday, I was under the assumption she was going to send it out but I sent it out today."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, so it's an updated list that you sent out

today?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, so I didn't have a chance to look at it. Okay just, just on the list I just want to make sure like I mentioned earlier, those facilities have some serious problems that's going to take a lot of money. The issues that myself (I'm letting Mr. Snyder speak for himself), but the issues that I'm basically concerned about was the one that's concerned directly with the safety of the employees. The welding of the rail and the buoy and those types of stuff, the mask and everything. The other stuff as far as the problems with the tanks themselves and some of the other equipment, that may take a lil time but we want to make sure that the employees are not in any danger that they have everything that they need. That's the thing I'm concerned about."

Reed Alexander stated, "The buoys the, the hose reels, the safety mask were all delivered to the sites or to the employees."

Councilman Madere asked, "The rail?"

Reed Alexander stated, "I'm not sure what facility that was at."

Councilman Madere stated, "All of them."

Reed Alexander asked, "All of them needed rails?"

Councilman Madere stated, "All of them needed some type of repair."

Reed Alexander stated, "Ok."

Councilman Madere stated, "Some type of welding or something. All the rails."

Reed Alexander stated, "Look, I do know we're working with a contractor, I think he was working in the Garyville plant."

Councilman Madere stated, "Garyville, but all of them has some type of defect on those rails. All the rails that they walk on need to be checked."

Reed Alexander stated, "We have received the preliminary drawings, the Parish Engineer is looking at them right now for the West Bank facility. So we are doing that project. It's just, we're looking at the preliminary drawings, it's not the you know, set that's going out to the contractors yet."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Reed, what are we doing to stay out of trouble we got in before with water issues, with chlorine and stuff like that in the water? We're having any kind of audit? Do we have any spot checks or anything set-up you know whereas, maybe once every two or three months we'll go and take some samples, one of their managers go take some samples and make sure things is alright? I mean I know we got flushes and things going through, as far as samples and things like going, how/what we're doing these days? How long have we been doing it?"

Reed Alexander stated, "We're taking samples, we evaluate the samples, we just got off of a chlorine burn on the East and the West Bank, well the West Bank I'm

sorry, and the Reserve District we got off the chlorine burns in those two districts. We have an application in to do a chlorine burn in the LaPlace system if needed."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is this something new we got? Is that something new we're doing or that's something you put in after this system? Had a problem with the system?"

Reed Alexander stated, "That is something new we just did. You know we did a chlorine burn when we had the ameba, we did a chlorine burn when we started to notice that some chlorine residuals was not holding at the required levels that we were looking for. We were struggling to maybe get to the levels that we were looking for, so we decided to do a chlorine burn. But we are doing a, I mean we do monthly samples, all of our samples are passing they're actually done by a third party, they're not done by the Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right, right!"

Reed Alexander stated, "So it's not, you know that's a third party number you're getting, that's not a parish employee."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So is there any reason why we're not getting the good chlorine residuals at the end of the like hitter like we, have we looked into that?"

Reed Alexander stated, "We are getting them, what we were doing was we noticed it was getting kind of harder to keep that high number that we wanted. We're nowhere' near the .5, I can tell you that right now."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You're nowhere near the .5 right now?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Nowhere near the .5 anywhere."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay. And it's always been that way? Even before the chlorine burn?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Since the ameba, yes. And since before the chlorine burn, yes. What we was noticing was, we were keeping a higher number. So what we look at we're leaving the plant we went to our MRT. We were noticing that that MRT number was dropping and my guy had to go out there to flush it to keep that higher number up. So him having to go out there and flush it we're wasting a lot of water. So let's just do a burn, clean the pipes and then the residuals back higher than what it was even before the ameba. Well right after the ameba, I'm sorry."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay alright, so we got some things in place to keep us from getting back to that again. That's what I'm looking for, yes correct. Cuz we don't want to go back there again. Okay and Mr. Madere touched on the things on my concerns that these plants, we went over these plants and they got issues all over these plants. Did you ever put that fence up around the chlorine? No!"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes sir. Which one?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "At LaPlace back here..."

Reed Alexander stated, "At Woodland?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah at Woodland."

Reed Alexander stated, "No sir, we didn't put a fence up."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes, Mr. Madere thank you for putting this on about the update on Utilities and Operations. The Pleasure Bend Unit, Reed, I spoke to you about two weeks ago and you said that the filters were a problem at that Reverse Osmosis Unit?"

Reed Alexander stated, "We were getting some sand in the filters, we actually just received filters I want to say Friday before I knocked off, I got an email saying that they received at the warehouse. So we're looking to get the contractor to come and install them."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So what's the timeframe on that?"

Reed Alexander stated, "I'm really not sure. I know we have a meeting Friday about it."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Okay could you give us an update?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes I can give you an update."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Thank you."

Reed Alexander stated, "Mr. Snyder I'm sorry. Woodland was supposed to have a fence up at the chlorine..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I just, it was just a fence around chlorine tanks, chlorine cylinders, you know because one side is open I think one side of it is open. And..."

Reed Alexander interrupting asked, "The side that's open to get the chlorine into the..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Yeah right, right, right, so I was asking, why don't we have it enclosed in case we get some strangers deciding to go in there one night and play around..."

Reed Alexander interrupting stated, "I mean the whole facility has a fence around it..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Yeah, yeah I understand, so maybe it's not done that way."

Reed Alexander stated, "I've never seen in any of my 16 years of being with the parish, I never seen a fence around the chlorine cylinders. We don't have them around..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "There are always alternatives in the making things..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "But when you got a dangerous chemical like that..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Exactly that's yeah..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "When you got a dangerous chemical like that you take extra precaution. It's not very much fence, it's just a little about five feet, you know five feet fence. And that's all I'm saying, we can do that in house."

Reed Alexander stated, "We could look at that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes Reed. There was a when we took a tour facilities, the Waste Water Facilities, they had a, what they call a 'Rake', that big thing that turn to get out the big materials. Have they fixed that yet?"

Reed Alexander stated, "No sir. The contractor that's working in Garyville is going to be the contractor to fix that. What you have to do when you do, do, the rake, you have to take the whole system down. So you have to drain the whole tank to get the material changed on the rake. You got to be able to get in the tank and be able to do that..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No, no, no. We're not talking about the same thing then."

Reed Alexander stated, "The rake around the clarifier. Skims the water..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No, no, no, no, no, no. You're talking about the skimmers. I'm talking about the rake when the raw sewage first go into the facilities, it's a big drum that turns it have grabbers on it, okay and it grab the big materials you know like the diapers and everything else that come out that goes through that. That's what I'm talking about, that's what they call a 'Rake'. Okay it's a big barrel, everything it spins through there and grabs all like plastic bottles, papers and everything like that and lets water go through."

Reed Alexander stated, "Specifically the millstreams at the River Road Waste Water Treatment Plant. That's the ones we're talking about?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, that big one."

Reed Alexander stated, "No they haven't been repaired. We're waiting on a sprocket."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, now we're going to have to try and speed it up because that thing been down 8 months. It was 8 months when I went tour the facilities, okay so it's about a year now. Okay, so we have to make sure and get that done because the put a burden on the rest of the facility because all your solids is going through the facility. Okay and that thing is designed to keep it out. Okay so we definitely have to get that fix."

Councilman Malik asked, "Sir, how long have you been waiting on the sprocket?"

Reed Alexander stated, "I can take a look I know we did receive some parts, we put them on and it broke again. What we're having problems with is the screens are only designed for a certain flow. When we get a rain event that flow..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "We're exceeding that rate. Okay..."

Reed Alexander interrupting stated, "And that sprocket is breaking. It's a, I

want to say it's a 60 inch sprocket. So it's not anything anyone keeps on the shelf, it's actually something that someone has to manufacture us. We've tried to do a chain, we currently going one on one sprocket to motor, and seeing if that works. We went tour the St. Charles Plant and that's what St. Charles is using."

Councilman Madere asked, "What they're using?"

Reed Alexander stated, "And it's the same screens that we have so we're thinking that's going to work."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok."

Councilman Madere asked, "Right, I just want make a correction. When we took a tour of that facility, that rake was always operated by a chain, okay and the chain kept breaking they told us that the sprocket (stainless steel sprocket) was the way to go. Okay cuz they say that's what St. Charles have. Now you're telling us the sprocket is not working."

Reed Alexander stated, "The sprocket did work once, and we're going to a different material now."

Councilman Madere stated, "So you're going to a different material? Cuz I know the thing was operated by a chain. Okay and the chain was on there kept breaking you know, but we have to find something okay, whatever St. Charles is using theirs not breaking. Okay they have two, two of those things and they're using a sprocket. Cuz we was told Blake, that's where we got the idea to use a sprocket from them."

Reed Alexander stated, "It is where we got the idea."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so I mean why is it breaking with us and not with St. Charles?"

Reed Alexander stated, "That I can't explain. I do know it's a different flow that when you talk about St. Charles to St. John, it's a different flow..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well waste water, hey waste water is waste water..."

Reed Alexander interrupting stated, "I say a different flow, I'm not talking about a two different compositions of water, what I'm talking about is it's a different flow rate. When you went to St. Charles did you notice the big pit that they have right outside of their screens, that's what pumps the water up to their screens, so they allow to go up, we don't have that pit we get the water straight from the collection system. The upgrades that we're doing to the lift station right here in the back of the parish building, are going to help those screens. By slowing that water down not hitting the plant all at one time."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay so during the timeframe that we went over there, you'll were able to get the sprocket and had it operating for a while, and then the sprocket broke?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay. Alright, we have to find a way to get it fixed."

Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding sidewalk issues on W. 5th Street - area going towards the River Road

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Public Works staff are evaluating existing conditions at this location and will provide a report of their findings and recommendations within the next two weeks."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I read that and I appreciate it and I know you're going to take a look at it. But I also had mentioned it to Mr. Savoie before I had this on here, and he gave me a report back (I don't know if you've seen it), you've seen the report?"

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Yeah, I've seen it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, okay and I had received an email from a resident in that area, she said she concerned because this elderly lady passed on that sidewalk and twice she slipped, and fell in the ditch cuz the sidewalk in some areas is almost on a 45 degree angle. You know going down towards the ditch and some is up and I tell you I pass that road a lot and really never paid attention to it, until it was brought to my attention. Then when you take a slow ride from that light going towards DuPont, that track, you can see that pave walk is deplorable condition and either we have to fix it or condemn it."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Well we did along with Ms. LaVerne, we rode that area out and a..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Saw it pretty bad yourself huh!"

Verdell Kindrick stated, "We notices some conditions of it and we discussed that, we're going see what we can do in house."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, appreciate it. I know the resident going to appreciate that you know cuz she say that she been concerned about those pave walks since Mr. Labat, [LAUGHTER] so that's a long time."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you, and Verdell I know we've held off last couple of years just because of funds, but from the portion between Bradford and Main Street, they're pretty deplorable condition also with a lot of segments either missing or gone [CROSSTALK], Larayo."

Verdell Kindrick asked, "Larayo?"

Councilman Wright stated, "Yeah but by Larayo where Bradford Street to Main Street, that whole section. Probably need to replace it all, but there a lot of spots that do need to be replaced."

Verdell Kindrick asked, "Okay, I'm going to look at that."

Julia Remonet - Update on Reserve Drainage Project Phase II Strategy to move project forward

Councilwoman Remonet stated, "I know Natalie, I didn't know if LaVerne was going to talk about that or what. I just was trying to figure out, I know this has been on the books the whole time I've been here and then Mr. Wilson's term, and I know some of the issues but, after this time I just thought we could get it to another/at least get it approved."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well we were able to submit the packet, our Engineering Firm committed in late December, and it's now being under review and final approval and it takes about 60-90 days, but we're also in conversation with Congressman Graves to help us as well as the CN to and to expedite the process."

Councilwoman Remondet asked, "Is that going to DOTD to approve?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "No it's not."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Okay, the railroads."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I just was surprised it couldn't've of been grandfathered in, cuz they had approved it and came back and said, that it needed to go back to the railroad."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Right, cuz of the/there was a rule changed in regards to the permit. And so we had to resubmit the application and that took a process, few months for that to be completed. And again, as I stated we just submitted the entire packet to the railroad, and it takes about 60-90 days for final approval. And from there then..."

Councilwoman Remondet interrupting stated, "Cuz it's putting pressure on Verdell as well, because he's got people hollering for pumps, waters' getting in their houses, you know it's everything and can't fix roads. So."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And then the other too, of course you know Congressman Graves can do what he can, but of course with the government shutdown that may delay it somewhat..."

Councilwoman Remondet interrupting stated, "Exactly, that'll slow us down."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Right."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Okay, thank you. And I just want to tell Tom the next item we can skip that item."

Julia Remondet - Discussion regarding general format/guidelines of Request for Proposals used by the Administration

Councilwoman Remondet requested to skip the above item.

Marvin Perrilloux - Update on speed bumps needed on Gardenia and Cartier

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "We talked already and I didn't know you were staying, I could have told you go. I was satisfied with the conversation we had, and also I think Lou or somebody called one of the constituents and we had to get more signatures to verify, and I had Jackie was in on the conversation so I'm good."

Rene Pastorek stated, "Perfect."

Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion regarding the path forward in reference to expropriating land for the LaPlace Park Levee

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes, we discussed that in the Financial, we

terminated the contract and path forward is, I know we're looking at a firm to expropriate the property, just for the Council concerns at market value. They just not going to take people land, but it will be at and then just pay it at market value. So that will be coming up."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah we want to be fair about that."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So Mr. Perrilloux, the Corps of Engineers is going to be the one doing that?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "No, we're talking about the LaPlace Park Levee, not the master levee. No, no, it's in LaPlace Park."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay alright, alright."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "This is something Ms. Hotard and I been working on 10 years."

Larry Sorapuru - Discussion regarding River Parish Tourist Commission funding and possible redirection of funds

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah I attended a hearing at the Senate Hearing at the Capital a few months ago. And a number of articles been coming, a lot of parishes been looking at their Tourist Commission. And they're rerouting some of the funding that comes to that Commission. But also after seeing some of those articles and I understand the Director Mr. Boe, gave a pretty good report on the funding that they have and the channels of funding that comes in, visit the enterprise fund, the hotel sales tax, and state tax that's going in. But, I also attended a meeting with our Historical District Group a couple of weeks ago. And I was hoping that we could get a team together, some Council people, go sit down with the Tourist Commission, some members from each Parish and look at rerouting some money that they are getting into housing with our Historical District. We have a lot of older houses on the River Road, in different parts of the parish, not take what they have just reroute some of that funding that's going in, a percentage or so. We want to promote Tourism, we can capture abided housing at the same time. Put in a 10 year plan on the table and take a look at that. Um, you know we need to look at what we can do to put the dollars to work in St. John Parish and it would benefit Economic Development, bring some jobs along the way. So if anybody would like sit down with maybe two or three of us meet with the Commission, and put a team together. We can only support it, but the Legislature would have to approve that to happen. So, if yoll interested give your name to Ms. Landeche, I'll be glad to set-up a meeting to meet with the Commission, to meet with our Legislative Delegation, there are one or two of them that might support that, I don't know if that's something ya'll want to support, we have monies that can go towards transportation, we got a contract we just renewed with Louisiana Transit. We can put monies toward transportation, you know, so there's some options that we can look at if you want to help put together a nice 10 year plan, that's all I'm asking."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Jackie put my name down and add another 300 people who are looking for money to restore a house. They will all be coming with me."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Until I'm convinced that we have money like that Mr. Sorapuru, what I've read is that the money that we get from hotel and motel taxes okay, we get that money it goes to the state, the state takes a percentage of that and give to the Tourist Commission. That's the \$124,000 that we see going to

them every year. The rest of the money comes to the Parish, now, the Parish can direct that money to anywhere they want to direct that money to. We direct that money to the Civic Center and the Tourism our Civic Center. The three hundred something thousand dollars that we get from that it goes to the Civic Center, that's where that money comes from. I don't know if we got any control over to what goes to the Tourist Commission, cuz you know that's a State thing, you got to go to Legislature to mess with that. But if I'm not mistaken, that's how that particular part of it works. The part that goes to them, we can't touch that, cuz that's how they operate, that's how they operate...

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "And Larry, I'm not saying take money away from them that they have. We can reroute some of the funding for Economic Development..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "But from where?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "From the motel tax!"

Councilman Snyder stated, "The motel tax goes to the state."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well we can apply..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "State send it back to us..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "We can apply for it that's what I'm saying. We can apply for it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We're getting it we're getting it Mr. Sorapuru."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "We can apply for more, that's what I'm saying. If ya'll don't want to look at it that's fine. I'm just trying to put a 10 year plan to move this parish forward. We've got over 600 pieces of property adjudicated to the parish that can (we're cutting grass on some of them), we got to upkeep. I'm just saying..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I hope I'm wrong I hope I'm wrong about this. But what I read about it, that's the way it works."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well it's not an idea that you're wrong, let's be innovative let's be proactive, let's try to make something change in this Parish, don't wait for another disaster to help people, build their houses. That's where I'm at. That's all I'm saying."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I gotcha you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Just quickly, and me and Mr. Sorapuru had this conversation. Show me documentation where they're doing it at, cuz I know right now it's an issue in New Orleans with Mayor Cantrelle and the same situation and as in a fight in New Orleans. So we need to see if this is/that we can do this. And you're not talking about a big pot of money cuz there aren't much. But you could take about a City like New Orleans where it's millions of dollars flowing in there, they're fighting over that right now with that issue. And I'm paying close attention to it. But we need to see what parishes are doing this now just to get an idea. Cuz I don't know who you're going to go meet with? You can't meet with nobody if we don't know what we're going to meet for."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "No, no. We're going to meet with the Commission and the Legislative Delegation. There's a Senate Hearing took place in Baton Rouge 2 months ago. So why not try and reroute this money and put it in the community? All I'm saying. They got like \$1.5 Million sitting in the bank! Okay, 1.5 Million Dollars sitting in the bank. Hell we got a Library Board got \$12 Million sitting in the bank."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And 1.5 Million Dollars is not all St. John Parish..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "I understand all that I understand that..."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "That's three parishes"

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "All I'm asking this Council, if you'll want to take a look at some numbers, take a look at some funding, and see what we can do to help get/move this parish in another direction. That's all I'm asking. If ya'll don't want to do it that's fine. That's all I'm asking, just give your name to Ms. Landeche, um I mean, we're here for that."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you Mr. Sorapuru."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm sorry, I wasn't going to just have a comment but, you know often times Mr. Sorapuru and I can you know respect where you're coming from, but you phrase your comments as if we don't want to move in another direction or we don't want to do something for the citizens of St. John, but you might just see it differently. You know, you have had items on the agenda about redirecting money from the Tourist Commission, all of a sudden and I get that, but if someone just doesn't agree with where you want to redirect some money, it doesn't mean that we don't want to move in a positive direction, doesn't mean that we don't want to move forward, and you know I just don't think it's fair to every time address what you're trying to promote as if I don't agree with or other council members don't agree with it, then we don't want to do something for the people. That's your perception of it, that's exactly what you know you want to do. So I would just ask that you take that into consideration, especially as it relates to the Tourist Commission because it is a, all of a sudden kind of thing that's being talked about just pulling money from it, you know if we can't separate let's take the money, which to me just almost seems like - well I couldn't get the commission, St. John to break away from the commission, so now I'm just going to start moving money from it and it's personal. You know so I just don't want to...all I'm saying is just because I don't see the way you see it, that we should take this bit of money and go somehow give it to the 600 adjudicated properties we have, that doesn't mean that I don't want to move the parish in and direction. No matter what it is, that's just not a logical conclusion based on your statement. That's all."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well I'm very so sorry it came across that way. I guess maybe I'm just a lil bit over motivated on how I feel about what we should be doing as a Council, and we can do better, that's all I'm saying. This is not the Board we need to look at, we need to look at the Library Board where we got mileages, okay, that can be redirected. St. James Parish operates their transportation on a millage. These people get \$124,000, and I get calls everyday well I can't get transportation, they don't come when they're supposed to come. If we could just put some more buses out there, increase the buses, not the direct route right now, let some more money go into that operation and put some

more buses on the street. We got a lot of elderly people going to dialysis, they're trying to get to the supermarket, so...

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Mr. Sorapuru, we need to stay on topic. We're strung off this item."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "This topic is if anybody is interested in putting a team together to see how we can redirect some funding from the Tourist Commission, give your name to Ms. Jackie Landeche. And if you don't give Ms. Jackie Landeche your name in a week, I'll know nobody's interested and we move on."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A.B. Houston vs E. J. Turley - Docket# C-72495 - to discuss litigation strategy

Roger Tassin v Matika White, et al, 40th JDC docket 72554, Div. B - to discuss litigation strategy

Kane County, Utah v. United States, Case No. 17-739C and 17-1991C

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

19-03 An ordinance amending the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 20. - Health and Sanitation, to include a restriction on smoking within 50 feet of all Parish-owned buildings (N. Robottom)

Councilwoman Hotard excused herself from the meeting at 9:31 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:40 PM, Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Remondet absent.

/s/Thomas Malik
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY