

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 2018
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE
VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER

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 23rd, 2018, 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

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Wright led the Prayer. Councilman Malik led the Pledge.

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

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 Black History Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - February - Heart Health Month

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

Natalie Robottom - Recognition - Shop Local St. John Trivia Winners - Cheri Williams, Trusie Martin, LaShinta Fisher, Audrey Evans, Hope Snowdy, JaeLasha Julien

Natalie Robottom congratulated the winners for their participation in the Shop Local Shop St. John Trivia, along with Jerry Jones, Economic Director presented the gifts to the winners and thanked them all for participating.

Natalie Robottom - Recognition - 2017 Southeast Louisiana Football League Super Bowl Champions, St. John Warriors (9-10 yr. olds) and Runner-ups (5-6 yr. olds)

Many members of the St. John Warriors team, players, coaches, and parents came out to show their support in recognition of them winning the 2017 Southeast Louisiana Football League Super Bowl Champions. Each council member commented how proud they were of the team and all of their accomplishments. Compliments were also given to the coaches and the parents of all the young gentlemen.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - January 9th, 2018, Regular Meeting; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Lynne Ralph Farlough to the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority; Councilman Madere - Appointment of Eloise Joseph to the Library Board of Control; Permit Approval - Krewe of Tohwahpahsah Parade - Saturday, February 10th, 2018 beginning at Noon; Permit Approval - 45th Annual Krewe of DuMonde Parade - Sunday, February 11th, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM; Permit Approval - Kids of Distinction Daycare Mardi Gras Parade - Monday, February 12th, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM in Cambridge Subdivision.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 9th, 2018, Regular Meeting; Councilman Madere - Re-appointment of Lynne Ralph Farlough to the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority; Councilman Madere - Appointment of Eloise Joseph to the Library Board of Control; Permit Approval - Krewe of Tohwahpahsah Parade - Saturday, February 10th, 2018 beginning at Noon; Permit Approval - 45th Annual Krewe of DuMonde Parade - Sunday, February 11th, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM; Permit Approval - Kids of Distinction Daycare Mardi Gras Parade - Monday, February 12th, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM in Cambridge Subdivision. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

18-01 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing Natalie Robottom, President of St. John the Baptist Parish to execute an Act of Donation accepting a parcel of land containing the "Belle Pointe Lift Station" on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish, under such other terms and conditions deemed fit and proper by the Parish President in her discretion, and upon review by legal counsel (N. Robottom)

Blake Fogleman stated, "*Delta Land Services, L.L.C. desires to donate the tract of land that includes an existing sewer lift station. This donation would permit Utilities staff necessary and legal access to the existing station. The ordinance and supporting documents were reviewed by Legal Counsel and determined to be legally sufficient. Administration recommends approval.*"

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-01. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - February 13th, 2018 Council meeting date change

Councilman Madere stated, "*Okay because the meeting falls on Mardi Gras', that's why we're making the change.*"

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to change the date of the upcoming Council Meeting from Tuesday, February 13th, 2018 at 6:30 PM to Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 at Noon in the Joel McTopy Chambers in LaPlace. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-01 - 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 is an annual request that we require to perform before we can start the audit. The resolution enables the Parish President to complete the Compliance Questionnaire as a required component of the 2017 Financial and Compliance Audit. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R18-01. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-02 - A Resolution requesting and authorizing the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Planning Commission to conduct a study of the text of Chapter 111. - Subdivisions and Chapter 113. - Zoning, as well as the official zoning map of the Parish, specifically those provisions related to subdivision procedures, development and infrastructure standards, supplemental standards, zoning district standards and the locations of zoning districts, with the intent of encouraging rural development and clarifying subdivision procedures, as well to provide for related matters

Alex Carter stated, "This resolution authorizes the department to conduct a study to update subdivision guidelines and to promote construction of cost-efficient housing by encouraging developers to use subdivision design techniques that minimize street, water, sewer and other utility development costs. Proposed amendments will be accompanied by changes to the zoning map to accurately reflect the existing and future development patterns of St. John Parish. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Alex how would this affect existing subdivisions?"

Alex Carter stated, "It wouldn't."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Is this just for new ones?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, it would be put in place in areas, so it would be for new request. And the idea is that right now, we get a lot of request just for simple things like, houses or an addition and the areas, some areas in the parish were never formerly subdivided. And so with these regulations are going to attempt to do is find the middle ground between your full subdivision approval that we have in areas like LaPlace, and then areas that were never subdivided so their standards just don't meet the parish codes. So right now our hands are sort of tied and we have one answer which is; you have to meet these higher standards in LaPlace. So we're going to search for solutions that find the middle ground to that so we can see some improvement that's not out of reach in some of these areas."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok because I just wanted I know we always, subdivisions that hasn't completely developed and we give them extensions up to 12 months, so that won't affect them at all?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, it wouldn't affect that unless they lost that

extension, so unless they expired. So I would say make sure, just like we told all of our developers, if you've got an extension make sure you keep an eye on that, make sure you come in and get extended, any updates would affect any expiration."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes and what Alex is, won't be able to do anything without coming back to you all. I think what we're trying to avoid, is many times we have to bring variances to you because you know roads are substandard, lots are substandard and we can't legally allow them to do things without bringing it before you. So what she wants to do is a study, to look at those types of properties and if adopted by the council, then those people wouldn't have to do an additional step from paying additional fee to come get a variance when you know when their property doesn't meet the depth or the width, because it's located in a rural area and won't meet the subdivision requirements that were set on this side the river."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ms. Alex, how would that affect rural areas of St. John Parish, as far as you know areas in West St. John and on the Eastbank on the Westbank you know, how would that affect that area because I'm not quite visualizing what you'll are trying to do here?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right. And I think that's okay because this is the start. The idea is that we're going to put together a proposal and it's going to be in a very loose format, you know we're not going to put something that a community is not in support of. So we're going to start big picture and then we're going to dwindle down with what is accepted. What people are willing to do, that doesn't compromise the long term integrity of development in the parish. We always have to maintain some sort of standard and I want to make sure the public will understand this isn't, we're not creating a loop hole we're trying to find something that is attainable in areas that have developed without subdivision regulations. Where right now there really is no there's no bar, there's just one standard. So it's an alternative, and so for every set of every rural, if there was a desire to map these subdivisions, this is going to be mapped, right, so that part of this is looking at the same code and a lot of it is going to about areas that aren't already like this. So we'll say, we'll look at the map and say these are areas that weren't formally subdivided, these standards could apply in these places because they are hardships, and we're going to recognize that with this. That's what I think Natalie is getting at, is that it's meant to address existing conditions for the most part. If it's like a green field area, we would not suppose or presume that people would desire it unless it was requested during the course of the study. So if Council members or members of the public said; we would love to see this type of development here in this green field, we would consider it. But it's not something that we're coming out the door assuming."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Well will the public have some input to this..."

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "Oh absolutely."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Or some time when they can come look at and listen to what you're trying to do?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes. This is a yearlong study, we want to start it now right and so, we're looking at multiple meetings with developers with our neighborhood with Community Development, President Advisory Committee, but I would say, if

there are interested people in the community that have an interest in this, feel free to reach out to our office, I would love to know who you are, what your contact information is and have maybe a sub-committee of people who I know are interested particularly in this. So we want to make sure at every level we reach the public with these things because I'm acutely aware I'm not from St. John the Baptist Parish, so we want to treat this with every sensitivity to make we get it right and we don't compromise any long term development in the parish with this proposal, but address the issues we continue to experience when people come in, and want to do something and we really only have one hard answer that doesn't allow any flexibility."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What we did take in consideration green area, water tensions things like that in developing these? All of those things are some of the reasons why we're doing this?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes, so we are on and it's funny that you mentioned that, we are working on the parking study, we're going to try and submit it to Waggoner Ball who are our consultants for LA SAFE to have them look at it to see if we're doing it enough from mortgage management. So every opportunity we're trying to incorporate standards that are manageable for our smaller staff, but also feasible for the public, and we would take that same approach with the subdivision study."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ok."

Councilman Sorapura stated, "Yes Mr. Snyder already addressed the question I had, but I think is really good approach to take. I think it's long overdue, I think it's going to serve a good purpose for the next 20 years, we still have a lot of growth especially on the Westbank of the river for green space that's there to grow and develop. But as Mr. Snyder said, we want to make sure we keep up have public input from each community, get churches involved with whether they're on the committee or not let them have some input, take your time and I think this is a wonderful thing to happen. Thank you for bringing this up."

Alex Carter stated, "Of course thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah thank you. Just real quick, minimize design techniques and minimize street and water, sewer and other utility development cost. Are you talking about the actual construction?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes. So like right now we require like a 40 foot right-a-way in our subdivision standards. On the Westbank you have streets that are just 10 feet wide, and that's the right-a-way. So we have to find a solution that fits the constraints that those areas already exist within, that's manageable. So that's where when I say it's about existing development, it's lowering standards, but it's not going to be pushing those in the green field areas it's going to be trying to find a solution to and a way to improve the areas that were developed without subdivision regulations."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay thanks."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay, have you identified these areas that this will apply to?"

Alex Carter stated, "We have an idea because the public continuously comes in. So we are very data heavy, we like to keep a log of the things and the issues that

we have, we do this with mobile home placements we do this with the request of subdivisions, so we have an idea where we continuously see issues, and I think that's where we'll start. But should there be other issues or other areas that aren't identified, our doors are open."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay because when we had that Drainage Project, Phase III in my District, okay at one time you know they told us that was a rural area. Well I totally disagree, because we were the beginning of St. John Parish before LaPlace developed, you know because this was mustard field and cane field, so this was rural. But the reason why I said that, is when I had concerns about that drainage project and I was telling them about the placement of the drain, they told me they were going by the subdivision. Okay they pulled up a map of that particular area and it had it was designed as a subdivision, I forgot the name of it but there is a subdivision. Okay so, you may have to look in some of these areas some of these locations have already been designated as subdivisions. Okay, with lot sizes and everything."

Alex Carter stated, "Right. And the idea behind the rural statement, is that rural areas typically don't have the same types of subdivision designs as suburban areas. And right now what we have is a suburban subdivision code, right and so there are some areas that may warrant rural type subdivision standards with different types of road surfaces and those types of things, especially within historic districts. This is part of what prompted this discussion, was you know the public wanted to see how these standards would be maintained. So to your question, we'll definitely take into account those existing subdivisions standards in place."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah we have subdivisions in District III. Ok, thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R18-02. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-03 - A Resolution authorizing Parish Administration to apply for designation as a Certified Local Government (CLG) through the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually I'd like to thank Alex and all the committees that she's worked on. We keep bringing several things before you related to Historic Districts and our ability to create a commission and apply for grants, this is just one more step. The Parish's efforts over the last year, such as the establishment of four (4) Historic Districts and a Historic District Commission, have resulted in a qualifying application for CLG status. If approved by the State and Federal Government, the Parish will be eligible for additional main street and economic development grant funding. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Does this tie into Goodwin & Associates, where we're getting the finance? That survey, does that tie it into the same thing or the same?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's not the same thing, but it's all components in the same thing. They're going to surveying all the historic districts, this portion will allow us to be categorized in a manner that will allow us to apply for grant funding that might facilitate some of the improvements to those historic sites."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "So the survey that they will do will help with this, in other words?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes. It'll identify the properties that would be historic and again as property owners, there are grants that are available to help restore properties and if we have this status that puts us in a better position to be able to access those grants."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Ok alright."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The Historic District, there's a Garyville and Reserve Historic District, am I right there? And is there also another historic district in the parish that covers the whole parish? I'm kind of..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "There's four (4) of them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "They got four (4) Historic Districts. Why is just there one commission for all of them? Because I'm wondering what might happen in the future sometime, when we start having to apply for these funds and things of that nature."

Alex Carter stated, "The commission itself does not having anything to do with approval of grants or program management. The only thing they're really doing is deciding on whether or not, like improvements to buildings on those little small main streets..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "But it's just one commission..."

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "Right, it's one commission..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "They only have one commission but four (4) historic districts."

Alex Carter stated, "And the thing about having one commission is that, you really want to have one because it's consistent. Right, so the expectations for people applying on the Westbank and in Garyville and Reserve, the commission will only consistently apply parish wide like those district regulations."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok, one commission. I went to a commission meeting in Hammond not too long ago, and with their job..."

Alex Carter stated, "They do a good job, yeah."

Councilman Snyder stated "Yeah, yeah, yeah, they do a good job. And what I'm concerned about, we got different districts and I think we just organized ours by this latest district but they've been having Garyville Historic District I think and then they and now they got Garyville/Reserve Historic District. How are they coming our umbrella here as far as the commission is concerned? I mean as far as our Government Historic District?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, the district themselves are just sets of boundaries, right so you could or couldn't live in a historic district. We have four (4) in the parish, we have one in Reserve, one in Garyville, one in LaPlace and Westbank. So if you live in a district and you want to demolish your house, you have to go to the Historic Commission and make sure you get a Certificate of

Appropriateness. And they say basically have you considered remodeling it, selling it, do you know if you have tax abatement or you can get you know tax incentives from the state, and they refer you to the state office to sort of encourage you to not demolish it out right, you know or either move it or find some other alternatives so you don't lose that, that structure right, which is the Historic Preservation aspect of this. You really, to coordinate that commission those members have to be trained right, so there's a lot of, we had a commission for each district I think the state sets it up where you can, you don't need one. I think New Orleans they have their HDLC and Gretna has a different one but Gretna's unincorporated. So like because the parish, we don't have towns, like everything falls under our parish government, we only need one commission. So like if Edgard ever wanted to become unincorporated and run itself, they would need their own commission. Does that make sense?"

Councilman Snyder stated "Yeah it makes plenty sense, it really does it really does, it makes plenty sense. And that presents me with another issue. Is there a historic district on the Westbank that's organized, and like the Historic District in Reserve and Garyville?"

Alex Carter stated, "I think the Westbank was more organized..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Oh yeah!"

Alex Carter stated, "Because they already had their survey done, right so we kind of, there they have a lot of historic structures along River Road. And they have..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated "I know that, right."

Alex Carter stated, "Right, so they really have a lot of assets over there and I think they know that, and I think formally in terms of an ordinance in a law, none of these districts were established until 2017. So nobody was like ahead of anyone else, but I think we needed to formalize what we knew to be true, which we have all these properties and houses that we need to find a way to preserve. And that's just recently happened."

Councilman Snyder asked "So each district would actually acquiring and dispense their funds from the state or wherever to go get grants and things like that?"

Alex Carter stated, "So they're not grants just to be clear. Like so the District and the Commission, they're not like a redevelopment authority. They're just there to sort of push the pause button when it comes to demolitions and renovations and making sure buildings that should be preserved or are considered for alternate solutions and that new construction when it's built on the main streets, it's consistent with the look and feel of what we would want to see on our main streets to support those places as you know as places to be. Right and remember, place making essentially. The CLG, which is the resolution that we're talking about right now, that is the funding. That is the main street funding, that's where you have economic development, working with the state, applying for grants, and it's the parish and our development that's going to be disbursing those funds. The Commission is just a reviewing body much like the Planning Commission. It's just sees applications and makes determinations."

Councilman Snyder asked "So when the applicant comes to you to do some work, they automatically send a copy to the commission?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, so we take them in, the surveys that are being done by the company, the contractor that was awarded tonight, also identifies the properties that need to go through the commission."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok alright."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This has been in the works, I know before I got here. But as Alex said, there was some documents, some preliminary work that they never finalized any of it. It's been a long time it takes a lot of work, as I said, Alex's team has done a great job, but we had to go through the official process of acceptance, creating our boundaries, and we're finally on our way in creating our Commission. So although we know there's some great historic structures, we know there was some documents put together identifying certain areas, it never made it to this point, and we're there now. We're there now, we're on our way and each element that we bring to you adds to our ability to continue to move forward."

Alex Carter stated, "And this just to add, the CLG designation basically is the state's way of recognizing that we have committed resources to historic preservation, that we have districts, set-up our commission and we have a status that basically that allows us to apply for grants for main streets that other communities that haven't demonstrated this commitment don't have. Right, so it's a good step."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you Ms. Carter."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R18-03. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Councilman Madere stated, "Ms. Remondet made a request."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I would like to make a motion to allow us to amend the ordinance to move Ms. Demetria Carter, amend the agenda at this time so she could come up. There's several lengthy discussions we have and I hate to make her wait through all of that."

Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to amend the agenda to move item Julia Remondet - Demetria Carter - Utility/Garbage billing issue up on the agenda. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Julia Remondet - Demetria Carter - Utility/Garbage billing issue

Demetria Carter stated, "Good Evening Council. I have three (3) issues with the Public Utility Department, and let me start I guess, by how much time do I have to speak? I'm not sure what the protocol is?"

Councilman Madere stated "Go ahead."

Demetria Carter stated, "Alright. It started back in I guess May 2016, when there was fluctuations with the utility bill with everybody. I went to my Garyville local office I was told I had to go to LaPlace. I went to the LaPlace office I was told I had to go to come to administration. Came to administration, I was told I had to fill out the form to say I was here and set-up and appointment with Curtis Young. Did all of the above, then I was told Curtis Young was at lunch,

then I ran into him outside, he did take time to speak to me, he said they would come back and look at my meter. I did hear back from him but that was fine because two (2) months later my bill was credited and I was fine with that. Okay, fast forward about eleven (11), ten (10) months, my bill at the guest house has always been a flat minimum, always for 9½ years we've been there, except for the spike I previously spoke about in May of 2016. May 2017 same spike no leaks never had a leak never had a repair in 9½ years. Came/called about that, I was told that they would do a manual assessment or something of that nature, I may be paraphrasing what they said, as of January to the day, I have not received credit, the bill that they gave me from May 2017 was more water consumption than we had in totality in 9½ years with no leaks, still not resolved. I emailed my council person, started out with mailing/emailing Councilman Sorapuru and Ms. Remondet, Councilwoman Remondet and still today, no results. Not even a phone call back from the parish about it for the 2017. Okay, that was the first issue. Second issue, there was three (3) garbage cans I've been being charged for, came, called, did the same protocol. Came to see Ms. Norma I think about March 2017, I was told that I had to call, it started out when I called Waste Management who was the previous vendor to no avail, never got it picked up. Then you guys set it up in May, March of 2017 to come and see Ms. Norma. I came, I met with her, got the number from her called Metro, left voice mails no response. Finally continuous calling, spoke with someone name Glenn, he assured me they were to come and pick-up the trash cans. The trash can was my neighbor and their home was foreclosed, so we just used it to keep the trash neat on like Christmas or Thanksgiving. I have three (3) persons in my household we don't consume enough to have three (3) garbage cans of trash every pick-up. Sometimes we don't even have one pick-up. So none the less called, like I said; Glenn assured me he was going to come and take the two (2) garbage cans and pick them up never happened. So I email my council person June 17th, June 16th, she responded back June 17th of 2017. Then she said she sent forwarded it on to the Utility Manager about meeting and talking to me. And again, she told me that the administration suggested I contact Ms. Norma. I informed her that I had been through that process already. To no avail, called Metro to no avail I was still being billed for three (3) garbage cans. Later I wrote her again in June 22nd, she told me she was forwarding it on to Mrs. Robottom's office. July 31st, July 31st a reply back, it's going to be taken care of. September 6th, I contacted her again to say that the same exact thing that I just stated again, still being billed for three (3) garbage cans, still has not been picked up. September 7th, she forwarded and this time she cc'd Ms. Norma, and Curtis Young, I was told that Ms. Remondet said that she was sorry that it hadn't been resolved, she thought it had been. Curtis wrote me an email back, saying that he would call them himself personally and have it taken care of, September 7th, 2017, 9:37 AM. I called back again, still no trash can picked up still being billed for three (3). October, emailed again, again Ms. Remondet forwarded it on, said it would be taken care of, need picked up. November, December, January, and we're here now. January 23rd still not picked up, I'm still being charged for three (3) garbage cans. Third problem, when I ran for Councilman-at-Large, I leased a small office on the Westbank. I had a short-term lease I think it was for a month or something like that and I signed a work order to have the utilities turned on, it was turned on, I was unsuccessful in that effort and so Entergy immediately called them, they was terminated. I have a work order number for St. John Parish, they did not terminate it until 2-3 months later, continued to charge me for those months after the lease had expired and an addition after I had called to have services terminated. And as of January 23rd, at this moment still no response from Administration, no refund, nothing."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok thank you Ms. Carter. Administration, you want to answer those concerns?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think Ms. Saulny, Ms. Toombs has actually been dealing with this case."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And also I think Blake can elaborate on this as well. I informed him of some of the things that he has been doing regarding this particular matter. I have been in communications with the disposal company regarding the pick-up of trash cans and according to them and I spoke with them today, that they have no record of Ms. Carter calling and asking for those trash cans to be picked up. We do know that Ms. Carter has possession of those three (3) trash cans, matter of fact she has two (2) at her larger home and one (1) at her guest house. And so again, as what was communicated to me by Metro, is that Ms. Carter will have to call them and request for those trash cans to be picked up."

Demetria Carter stated, "Ok and I'm stating that I have called and I also have email documentation from Curtis Young saying that he will call, because I told him I was unsuccessful in them coming out to pick it up, so..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And just to confirm I think Megan called as well. So the only case that I was aware of, I know you expressed three (3) was your garbage can issue and I knew Megan was working on it, I know LaVerne was working on it and it is problematic, the fact that all of us have been working on it and you still have three (3) garbage cans."

Demetria Carter stated, "It's problematic that all of you guys were working on it, but no one communicated with me and I have the email from Curtis from your guys system that he sent September 2017 at 9:37 AM that he would call. So if they don't have record of my calling, why don't they have record of Curtis calling at that time?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "With the conversation that I had with Metro on today, they asked that if you would and we'll be more than glad to join you on the call with Metro to make sure that those trash cans are picked up. But according to the individual that I spoke to today, that it's the residents' responsibility to call the disposal company to have those trash cans picked up. And we'll be more than glad to assist you with that."

Demetria Carter stated, "Ok I've called I've emailed, I've emailed my council person, I've called I've emailed Curtis, Curtis said he would take care of it to because he would call. So how many times do I call? I want credit on my bill for this, a refund. This is ridiculous you guys are sending me around a circle. You tell me your protocol is to come talk to Ms. Norma, I do that! You tell me to call Metro, I do that! And I got documentation emails back and forth that I have done that and you guys, your administration said you did also call."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Ms. Carter I'm sorry to interrupt, but also Metro informed us that they have been servicing those trash cans."

Demetria Carter stated, "They have not they have not..."

LaVerne Toombs interrupting stated, "And they also have documentation to show that those trash cans have been serviced."

Demetria Carter stated, "I have a three (3) person household, there's no way I can consume enough trash to consume three (3) garbage cans, large garbage cans. I

have a job that I work out of Dallas, TX that I'm on constant travel. There's no way they have ever serviced three (3) garbage cans except maybe Thanksgiving and maybe Christmas."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Ok well even though if those trash cans were serviced, you still have to pay for the services."

Demetria Carter asked, "But how can I resolve it if I call Metro, like you tell me to do, Metro doesn't come and pick them up, your administration acknowledged in an email that they were going to call since September last year, Metro doesn't pick them up but you're still charging for them and I'm going to continue to be charged until Metro picks them up? I don't understand."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'm listening because I don't know if we're going to be able to solve that here, but..."

Demetria Carter interrupting stated, "Well the only reason I came here Mr. Perrilloux is because I didn't get a response back..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Ms. Carter I going to give you a chance to respond, let him finish and I'll get back to you."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Ms. Toombs, there's a protocol see the billing clerk for garbage cans, that's why I'm not understanding I'm not following that. Why Norma was involved in garbage cans?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Initially she had a water leak."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Right."

Demetria Carter stated, "I've never had a water leak, never had a water leak."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You had a billing issue, I'm sorry. Which was Norma was here dealing with and it's my understanding that there was a credit. But they're still..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "I saw Mr. Fogleman getting up, I guess he's going to have a reply on the billing issue. Because I was looking around for Curtis I didn't see him to see, what is that going on, because, has a meeting been set up, Julia, with Ms. Carter and yourself and Curtis?"

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I thought Ms. Carter visited with Curtis one day..."

Demetria Carter stated, "That was 2016 before I even got you involved in '17."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I thought I thought, I think I happened to be in his office one day when he had just spoke with you."

Demetria Carter stated, "Mr. Curtis has not spoken with me about this."

Councilman Remondet stated, "Just double checking."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ms. Carter as I said, the only problem I was aware of..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Mr. Sorapuru was..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "Let me a..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Wait, wait, wait, wait a minute wait a minute..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "I had the floor"

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No, no, no, no, no, the floor went from you to Ms. Remondet. Okay, now Mr. Sorapuru. I'll come back to you."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mrs. Carter, I did have a conversation with you a couple of times and I wanted to make sure that you were talking with Councilwoman Remondet about this. But what is the total amount that you overpaid that you're being billed for right now?"

Demetria Carter stated, "I'm being billed and let me get out the exact bills, fifty-eight ninety-eight for garbage each month, \$58.98."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "For garbage, and normally garbage is for \$18?"

Demetria Carter stated, "Nineteen ninety-five (\$19.95)."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Nineteen ninety-five (\$19.95). Okay so I mean, it's just a simple matter of making a reimbursement for the payment that you made for the past several months and just bill her for just one garbage can. I don't understand, what's the big headache behind getting that straight with the billing department."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I would suggest that were not going to resolve this tonight, and I apologize upfront, I've been knowing about the garbage can issue since June, and follow-up repeatedly on what is the status. What is the status, what is the status? Which is much shorter than the time period you've been dealing with, the other two (2) issues I'm not that familiar with, I'm out of town through the end of the week, but we will get with you when I return, because this needs to be resolved, it's way too long, again I know where you live I know who lives in your household, there is no need for three (3) garbage cans I know they're still there. I don't understand myself, we've been knowing about your extra garbage cans for months, why they're not picked up."

Demetria Carter stated, "I appreciate it, and I'm going to be out in Dallas tomorrow so I'll be back at the end of the week also."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'd like to say something. The part that I don't understand and it never should happened okay you have documentation and records showing that you contacted Metro and requested those cans to be removed. Okay and I also had an incident with Metro with the parish building, Senior Citizen building, where request was made after request after request, and finally until I got involved with it that they finally came and did what they had to do. So it's extremely possible that Metro, okay not speaking to him have a miscommunication because myself I spoke to several people at Metro and several different answers and still no results for about a two (2) weeks period. Until finally being persistent, I got something done. So I definitely understand where you're coming from and for Metro to say they have no record, when you have emails and everything and phone calls."

Demetria Carter stated, "How would I know who the personnel is if... Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "How would you know a name if you didn't speak to an individual, okay. And I agree with Mr. Sorapuru and I think this can be solved easily as far as reimbursement."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes I commend you on your documentations because I believe in that. But to me with Metro, we have an assigned Rep and I know, it's George Carter and if you call him, he's very efficient and I know he follows up. I don't see how that's so difficult to remove two (2) garbage cans, if you would start with the Rep, you know that's my suggestion."

Demetria Carter stated, "Well I did what I was told. Ms. Norma gave me the number, I called and Glenn answered the phone, finally like I said, I left numerous voice mails and nobody responded. And then finally someone answered and Glenn on a call..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, "This is just my suggestion, I have a 100% success rate with Metro, and I know it all starts with George Carter. And I'm telling you 100% if you, I mean you need to find out if he's the Rep. for this particular situation, call him and I'm serious, he's very good with me. I mean I'm just suggesting, that's all and it worked for me."

Councilman Madere stated, "Because you're extremely right, Mr. Carter really does take care of everything, whenever I have a problem with Metro I go straight to him. But Ms. Carter is not aware of that individual, so that's why she went through this step that she was told to go through. Cause if she was aware of Mr. Carter she would have called him with no problem or Ms. Remondet would've of known to call him or something like that you know, cause he's 100%, okay a 100%, I have had him pick-up garbage cans for individuals you know with the same similar situation that you have. You know, so it's just a matter of you not knowing the right individual to communicate with."

Demetria Carter stated, "Well I called who I was told, the number I was told..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Right, you did exactly what you was told to do. You followed the procedure."

Demetria Carter stated, "And I have a question for the Council. I saw a flyer that goes out about garbage and telling me what days they pick-up and what they pick-up, and on it, it says complaints to call Metro. Well if you have a problem with Metro, who do you complain to? I don't understand, I'm paying my services paying for the services to the parish but you're telling me if I have a complaint call Metro. If I got a problem with Metro, who do I contact? Which is what I did and I now I'm going in the same vicious circle that I've been in for 2 years."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, but that's who you contact."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ms. Carter I sympathize with you, because that's like having a wolf watch the chicken house, and I said that long time ago. These are the people that complain to them, they need keep the record and send the record to us, to the parish Metro not going to do that I don't care what that contract say. First of all, we got three (3) issues here, Parish President she going take care of one week, if you look at all three (3) issues..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "All three (3). Actually, I said I was only aware of

one, but the others are new to me but we can pull that information, the specifics of how long this has been going on. I'm aware of the garbage can issue, which I sit here and admit that it's too long, whether you called, my office called, Curtis called, LaVerne's been on calls, this is ridiculous for the amount of time it's taking not to bring you new garbage cans but to pick-up. So we will get with you and I did ask you to send me the specifics of I think your disconnect request for your lease, and the latest concerns of your water bill."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes thank you Mr. Chair. In regards to contacting Mr. Carter, I did speak with him on today, he was the one that communicated to me about the process of having trash cans picked up and he assured me that if Ms. Carter calls that the matter will be taken care of. In regards to the other two (2) matters, those matters were just brought to our attention I believe on last week, we were not aware of those items and I do know that Mr. Young has looked at Ms. Carter's meter, and I believe that the meter is fairly new and he does, has collected data regarding that and he'll be more than glad to sit down with Ms. Carter to over the data they collected from her meter."

Demetria Carter stated, "I'm sorry Mr. Madere can I speak again? That is not an accurate statement that they are just being notified about the other two (2) instances. I have emails to Ms. Julia Remondet and she can attest to it that it's gone back to administration since June about all three (3) issues."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I'm just saying that I wasn't aware and the Parish President said she wasn't aware either, so it was just brought to our attention. When it was brought to our attention and I met with Mr. Young and I asked him to look into the matter, in which he did. He physically went to Ms. Carter's house and collected data on that particular meter and as I said earlier, he will be more than glad to sit down with her and explain the data that was collected regarding that particular meter."

Demetria Carter stated, "One more comment."

Councilman Madere stated, "Go ahead."

Demetria Carter stated, "I was on the agenda to be here tonight, so I don't understand why Mr. Young is not here tonight with that data."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Ms. Carter for coming to the meeting to relay your concerns. This Council has exhausted themselves and I can assure you you're not the first person and won't be the last with this issue. And the Council has exhausted themselves demanding better, demanding improvement. It's been on the agenda multiple, we discussed this for well over a year. And the fact that it's now getting to the issue of a garbage can is not just unacceptable, but it's embarrassing. So I want to apologize on behalf of St. John Parish. And I want to stress again to administration, I don't want to keep stressing this that we have to do better, we will do better. Because the fact that we have to come, you have to come to the council to get a garbage can removed and then you're told still call again the next day, that's unacceptable and embarrassing. So I want to apologize on behalf of St. John Parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "Alright, any more comments concerning Ms. Carter issue? We do have someone else with concerns with Utilities. Just one comment I'd like to make, like Mr. Wright said. You're not the first one okay, and I spoke I think I talked to Mr. Snyder today on the phone we talked I'm getting tired of this utility and water bill issue. And I told him I'm to the point now, I don't

understand what's going on, who's on first base who's on second, I don't know on third base, I don't know. You know it's been going on for so long, you know and everyone that I speak to have legit concerns and documentation proving the problem. Okay the bill is this level one month, then it's this level one month, then they change the meter, get a new meter, and then it goes back the way it's supposed to be and then a month later it's all over the place again. Okay, so I understand what you're going through, you know it's very confusing to the residents and definitely frustrating to this council you know cause we want to help the people we represent to get this stuff straight because up and down, inconsistency is not the way to go."

Demetria Carter stated, "Well I thank you guys and I appreciate you allowing me to be on the agenda to express my issues and my concerns."

Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 12-12-17) Financial Report and findings on 2017 Andouille Festival

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to remove the item Financial Report and findings on 2017 Andouille Festival from the TABLE. The motion passed Councilwoman Hotard and Remondet absent.

Jerry Jones stated, "Good Evening Council. The actual expenses for the 2017 Andouille Festival were \$309,327, with revenues of \$206,065. The approved festival budget of \$300,000 was exceeded by \$103,262, requiring a budget amendment. Overtime expenditures were \$50,401 which reflects a 40% decrease from 2016. Analysis of these expenditures suggests the festival has outgrown its original intent and feasibility. Administration strongly recommends pursuing non-profit participation in funding and operations of the festival if it is to continue to grow. The budget that you guys have in front of you expresses the updated revenues and the updated expenditures and the profit in loss."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Mr. Sorapuru, you got anything you want to add to these questions."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "No, I just wanted to make sure we get the numbers in on that Jerry. I thank you for bringing this information to us to me."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you. Jerry, I just want to just make a comment. I mean you know, this shows a lot of progress you know when I look at the Andouille Festival, I said it multiple times it's an Economical Development event. And I look at this like a budget line item just like every event on every service that is provided within your department and every department. You know with the breakdown, obviously you can tell there's room for improvement but from an overall perspective as a community event, as a parish event as a whole, just want to commend your department."

Jerry Jones stated, "Thank you. Just want you guys to see that we are seeing an increase in sponsorships, but I do want to point out the fact that and you guys know this, I'm preaching to the choir. If this was operated by a non-profit they would be able to raise way more money than what we're able to raise because of our governmental status, and so I don't know if we need to consider capacity building for community organizations or we can getting them to a point where they can facilitate it, it's not that we're just throw it out of our department that's not the goal, we want this to be successful and have some potential in being successful but it's just that you can raise more money as a non-profit, as you could as a government entity. That's the purpose as to why

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

Verdell Kindrick stated, "A walk-through was conducted with the Assistant PW Director, the Capital Projects Administrator, the Contractor, the Engineer and Councilman Madere, Monday, January 22, 2018. A few driveway edges and the gate are still in need of repair on E. 24th Street. However, the sinkhole fill has been completed. The Capital Projects Administrator is working with the Contractor to complete all the outstanding punch list items. As stated at the January 9th Council Meeting, Public Works has submitted their visual assessments of individual streets for the 2018 Road Improvement Program and it is being finalized in accordance with the funds available."

Larry Snyder - Update/Report on salary/wage study

Stacey Cador stated, "Edits were made to the draft Study based on a review by Administration. Recommendations include, but are not limited to, consolidation of job titles in the clerical job category; creating job titles that are more descriptive of the position (such as with accounts payable and meter service); removal of positions from Pay Scale that have not been in existence for a number of years such as Sanitarian, Kennel Worker, etc. Implementation of other recommendations in the Study will have a fiscal impact that must be compared with the current and projected budgets (i.e., adjusting some rates to the market minimum, accrual of vacation hours within six months of hire, sick time allocations, etc.). Responses to the consultants' recommendations have been submitted to the firm by the Human Resources Department and are under review."

Larry Snyder - Status update on the Community Service Program

"During the winter weather emergency Administrative staff and representatives of the Sheriff's Office working the event developed a tentative plan for further consideration. With no transportation or assigned staff, the recommendation is to establish an annual schedule of events for community service participants, i.e., Mardi Gras parades, Clean Sweep (twice per year), Andouille Festival, and July 4th Celebration. Each of these events typically have ample Parish Staff, Police Officers and Firefighters on duty to assist with supervision. The option of providing time and a half for these large scale events was also discussed, but need to be confirmed as acceptable. Another assignment would be a monthly task of assisting the Fire Department with Fire Hydrant maintenance throughout the Parish. Supervision would fall to the Office of Fire Services. Because there is no Parish transportation available, each individual assigned community service would be responsible for their own transportation. The DA's staff would communicate all assignments and complete associated paperwork. It is not feasible to hire and assign an individual to this task due to the nature of the responsibilities and the inconsistency of the assignments. When the program was previously under the Parish, service requirements were not truly fulfilled as the primary means of service was at the recycle bin in the Parish yard. The program operated as intended when Phil Maples was hired and managed Community Service through the DA's Office."

Larry Snyder - Update on Westbank Waste Water Tank project

Blake Fogleman stated, "The design engineer has completed the preliminary design and a progress meeting is being scheduled. I think we've had two missteps on just connecting as far as scheduling early this month and through the holidays, and one in one instance he wasn't able to meet and another instance we had one of the freeze events here. So we're rescheduling a lot of those meetings right now trying to get them in to continue that project."

Councilman Snyder stated, "What is preliminary design?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "They basically came in and did data gathering, and they put their first round on paper. As far as what they foresee is what they're going to have to design and what they're going to have to reconstruct, or rehab and what they want to include. We sit down to go over that with them, and if it's a clear picture of within the scope of cost and everything fits where we can go we move forward into refining those details into a final design."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok good, good."

Larry Snyder - Presentation of a documented process for Tap water conservation during possible shortages

Blake Fogleman stated, "The Director of Utilities and Fire Chief monitor pressures and tower levels during any event that challenges the reserve capacity for water distribution. Once towers reach a level of 15 ft. or pressure changes by 10-15 lbs., a conservation warning is issued through the Communications Department. The primary means of communication is through emergency alerts (phone, texts, emails, Government access channel, cable over-ride and social media). The Public Safety Director contacts industrial users, medical facilities and facilities for seniors and the Economic Development Department staff contact businesses and high volume commercial users such as laundry mats and car washes. The Emergency Operations manual is being updated to reflect this process."

Lennix Madere - Update on abandoned houses E. 30th St, E. 23rd St. and Homewood

Alex Carter stated, "As stated at the September 12th and November 28th Council meetings and with the advice of Legal Counsel, individual violations will not be discussed at the Council meeting. An update on the properties in question has been provided to Councilman Madere."

Larry Sorapuru/Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion regarding rates/fees for the Community Center

Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously the response is there. We have discussed back in June, the main source of revenue for the Community Center has been and remains the film industry. This revenue is supplemented by the State appropriated hotel/motel tax. Over the last several years it has been fairly steady. There's currently a Netflix production under contract for about \$150,000 for approximately a six (6) month period. Typically the rental fees were reduced, I think in 2014 for non-profits, they were also reduced prior to that and in 2017, we really didn't have any movie rentals, and the Community Center generated about \$38,000. The annual cost to operate the center is about \$275,000, and were continuing to try to balance the two, there was cooperation, we did lock up for several years through the DuMonde Ball but they worked with the company and they negotiated out to allow the Community Center to earn the \$150,000 plus the ancillary revenue that's created by people using gas, eating, and some of our businesses are also supporting the movie. We actually had a Lunch & Learn, trying to get businesses or teach them how to do business with the film industry, so again to support our community. But for the most part, there is a basic baseline for operating the center, is not profitable to do it on rentals, but we have been successful at combining movie and some rentals to keep the center moving forward or keep it operating and not doing so at lost."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I realize that we're talking \$38,000, not, I mean that's total revenue that was taken in?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "But the cost was \$275,000."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Was \$275,000."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "That's utilities and everything? Clean-up and grass cutting and everything?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir. They have their budget. The Community Center has their own budget so all the items insurance, everything goes for that building is included in their line item, in their individual budget. Is there something y'all recommending?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'm recommending that we lower that rental fee, because I'm still getting a lot of people calling saying, the fee is too high to rent this facility. They're going out to St. James using the Boat Club, they're using the Kenner Pavilion and if they rent this place here, they'll have to rent the chairs, they have to set-up for decorations, so it's eating up into the budget. It's just a big space we're renting over there and I'm getting a lot of complaints, I don't know about the other council members, but I was looking to lower that rental fee per individual Hall, Atrium A & B about \$300.00, lower if the council is in favor of it. I'll offer motion to do it, if not we'll move on and let it stay as it is. But as it is right now for the Atrium, I was looking to reduce the fee from \$925 to \$600 from Room A \$1725 to \$1400, and Room B from \$2350 to \$2000. So I'm looking to do that if the Council so willing, I'll wait to hear some more comments from them, if not we'll leave it as is. So I'll just yield it to the Council right now and hear from them."

Jerry Jones stated, "And let me say this. I/we the EDC set-up a committee to review this policy and procedure. We also spoke with our CAO and she had found some more information that was prepared by Jo Banner. One of the things that we thought that we could do was to look at what is the best use of the facility and also identify whether or not the cost was prohibiting use, there's some other things that prohibit use. One of the things that we noticed though is, we have to be a little careful about adjusting the rates anymore due to this continued conversation of what Gratuity's Act/Gratuity's Donations or Gratuity's Fund Giving would give away if we reduced the rates anymore, we're technically doing what we now know what we kind of shouldn't. So the Gratuity's Giving, the fact that we're giving away a public fund at a reduced rate..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "We're not giving it away we're charging a fee."

Jerry Jones stated, "We are, but we were charging..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "I was always told if you charge a \$1.00, you're still charging a fee."

Jerry Jones stated, "Right, but we're charging a fee knowing that we're not taking in enough to carry the operations..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "We never did. Regardless if we rent it or don't rent it, if the movie don't come we still got to pay that fee on there, regardless."

Jerry Jones stated, "I agree I understand that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think what he's attempting to say is; for a rental, we have to supply employees, cleaning service and it's costing us more than we're coming in for individual events. We're not looking at the whole year, cause clearly you know we can't plan an event for everyday that we collect, but for each event that we're hosting, it's costing us more to support the event than we're taking in. So that's I think what Jerry's referencing with regard to, so we're actually spending public funds for a private event."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "We'll I'm looking at if that place is rented 4 or 5 days out the week at a lower rate, it would differ the cost of what we're paying. We're not using that building at all right now, ZERO. We're counting on a movie to come in, I didn't vote for a movie when I voted for that building. I voted for Recreation, and previous council members changed it to a Sound Stage. Never was in favor for that and not in favor of it now. It should be as is for the residents to come and rent that place and use it for parties, for picnics, for whatever it seems that they're fitted to do over there. So I am still looking to lower the rent on that place, but I yield it to my other council members to see what they think about it. Because I know I get calls about it, and I'm sure most of them do. And if they're not in favor of it, we move on. But that's where I am right now."

Jerry Jones stated, "And we do get phone calls and concerns. Well which is why I brought it up to the EDC Committee, because we're getting concerns about it. One of the things that we discussed and I can't recall and I wanted to say a few of us met in regards to this situation is the fact that, the structure the building is so big till the cost to decorate, for even weddings or for any type of planning events, even like Krewe DuMonde for instance, it cost a lot to cover up a lot of concrete and bricks, and to decorate that facility. So a lot of times whenever you do, a lot of reasons why you do get a lot of people to complain about the initial cost to rent the facility, it's because they're having to worry about how to decorate and hide the facility in the decorating and so. One of the things that we had discussed and we had talked about, but there were never any mention of funding's source or where it would come from, is to do an annex to the building to create smaller rooms where community citizens could use, could rent out the facility, could have access to it and it be done in such a way to where it would reduce the burden of having to decorate it, decorating a room that would be sizeable. One of the things that we discussed in our meeting today is, problematic whenever and speech is a huge problem, whenever you're decorating or whenever you're hosting events in a hallway and calling in an atrium, because that's theoretically what it is, it's a hallway and it just speaks to the fact that there's no middle venue to rent between that large humungous room that's still large but smaller than the humungous room and then the hallway. And so, I can see where you're wanting to reduce the rates, that's still going to be something that we're going to have a discussion about, among the committee but we also really would need to look at expanding that facility and then identifying how to pay for the expansion in order for us to be able to really have what I call a true benefit for that facility."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And you said committee, you're talking about EDC?"

Jerry Jones stated, "Yes."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Because we talked about that back in November Mr. Sorapuru?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Correct."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And we were waiting to hear something oh October, haven't heard anything. So now it's time to do something because we didn't hear no reply. We heard it was working on the by-laws and that was going to be included in some of that. Nothing came back. I waited, I've been waiting three (3) months and I still haven't gotten nothing back, so I'm tired waiting. So I say if you didn't act, we will. And I don't have to wait on a committee to tell me what I need to do with that building at all. It's up to the Council what they want to do with it. So if the council feel fit and they say they want to do that and I'm still waiting to hear from them, I heard from Councilman Sorapuru and I know Mr. Madere probably get calls on it. I want to see what they want to do, they want to leave it as is we leave it as is. But if they want to reduce it, let's do it."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you, and Jerry I'm actually glad you brought up that point, because that's kind of the point that I wanted to bring up. I know we've talked about this a lot even going back to the previous term and I did have a lot of conversations with Jo Banner at the time on site and I believe it was at a public meeting. We talked about getting to the root of the problem on why people weren't booking it, and it wasn't the response that I was getting was from Jo was that, it wasn't so much the rates, but it was the cost to retrofit the center and decorate it to what they wanted it to be. And I think that pose to be a greater problem, which is when the council started discussing the possibility of renting out REGALA Gym. Because there was more

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to TABLE Discussion regarding rates/fees for the Community Center. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 against (Sorapuru), and Councilman Wright abstaining.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to be introduced.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening - I'm pleased to see that weather conditions are back to normal after the long week of snow and freezing weather. I'd like to thank those who heeded the warnings and stayed indoors and off the road until it was safe. As weather conditions worsened, essential personnel and

Parish crews braved the harsh conditions to keep our roadways clear and to respond to over 350 calls for water leaks, frozen pipes, no water and broken backflow preventers. Thank to those who cooperated and seemed to understand that this was not an isolated incident but a statewide emergency event with over 800,000 residents and more than 80 public water systems under a confirmed boil water advisory. We were all fighting the same battles, freeze precautions, hundreds of leaks and excessive use exceeding production capacity. Although multiple water conservation messages were sent, water usage was three times higher than normal resulting in reduced water pressure parish wide. Although many of the repairs from the freezing weather have been made, some are still being made, but the worst of the weather appears behind us. We don't anticipate this being the only week of freezing weather and everyone is advised to make weatherize all pipes and backflow preventers as soon as possible to prevent future breaks. A pencil thin trickle of water should only be used as a last resort - it strains the water system. There are other freeze precautions that can be made such as wrapping and insulating pipes, covering backflow preventers and leaving cabinets open to allow heat to reach exposed pipes. If a faucet drip is used, it should only be used with the faucet furthest from the water main. The drip should be turned off when temperatures rise above freezing. These little tips would greatly help us in maintaining our water system. A huge thank you to my staff in the Emergency Operations Center who worked day and night over the course of the week and weekend preparing and responding to calls for assistance. In addition to staff from Public Safety, Utilities, Public Works, Recreation and the Fire Department who were out and about, they were supported by staff answering phones and recording calls, ongoing communications and clerical staff tracking the event. Although all government offices were closed, everyone was not off and many of us worked throughout the event. I'd also like to thank our partners in the Sheriff's Office who worked with us to ensure the safety of residents and all motorists. Please remember to sign up for emergency alerts so you do not have to seek out information when the next emergency occurs. Parish alerts can be sent straight to your phone as text, email and call when you sign up for the notification system. You can do this by visiting the homepage of the website or calling Communications at 652-9569. Please stay connected and remember if it isn't coming from an official St. John source, we can't assure its accurate information. I'd like to thank everyone for helping make our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations successful. This includes Pastor Bering and other local pastors, the West Bank Civic Association, elected officials, community groups, students and staff. Without a coordinated effort this would not be possible. Congratulations to A to Z Wireless on their recent grand opening. The recently renovated store is located at 1036 W Airline Hwy #119 in Cambridge Corner in LaPlace. Rami Odeh and his team offer exceptional deals on phones and equipment as well as phone and screen repairs. Congratulations also to St. Charles Catholic High School on their grand opening and ribbon cutting earlier today for their newly renovated gym and school. The renovations are very nice and I know the students, parents and staff are pleased with the results. Mardi Gras season is here and St. John's annual parades are set to roll. The Tohwahpahsah Parade will roll in Reserve at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 and the Krewe DuMonde Parade will roll in LaPlace at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, February 11. Both parades will follow their traditional routes and streets will be closed approximately fifteen minutes before the parade arrives. The Department of Transportation and Development will be closing Central Avenue @ Airline Highway in Reserve, Tuesday, January 23, beginning at 7:00 AM through Thursday January 25th at 4:00 pm, due to emergency culvert replacement. Motorists will be detoured to West 10th Street. Please proceed with caution. Please continue to be on the lookout for work crews and equipment on Belle Terre Blvd as they work to wrap up the drainage project. The Belle Terre drainage project is scheduled to be complete in early March,

weather permitting. The asphalt overlay project will begin once the drainage project is complete, anticipated in late April. The overlay work will take place at night however will require temperatures to be above 50 degrees at night before the project can begin. Please continue to be on the lookout for work crews and equipment on Belle Terre Blvd. as they make improvements. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT :

At 9:52 PM, Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Lennix Madere
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary