

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2011
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 25th, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Raydell Morris, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Danny Millet, Councilman District II

ABSENT: Darnel C. Usry

Councilwoman Millet led the Prayer. Councilwoman Hotard led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Judge Tom Daley, William O'Reagan and Kerry Brown were present.

Natalie Robottom – Proclamation – Chuck Wisher – 2009 Louisiana Senior Olympics Award winner

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, stated, "It is my honor to present Mr. Chuck Wisher a proclamation stating 'Whereas, it is an honor and privilege to give special recognition to Mr. Charles "Chuck" Wisher as Louisiana's Senior Olympian of the year 2009; and Whereas, Mr. Wisher, a resident of St. John the Baptist Parish, World War II Veteran and retired Mechanical Engineer has participated in the Senior Olympic games for twenty years and through the years he's averaged six medals a year while participating in twenty-two different events; and Whereas, the Louisiana's Senior Olympics provide a challenge for our citizens to seek excellence in their lives by not only promoting fitness and health, but by inspiring and encouraging the personal commitment of other to long-term goals; and Whereas, no event could be more deserving of our support than one dedicated to the seniors of our community; and Whereas this has been an exiting challenge and we are proud of the record you have earned and the fine publicity you have brought to St. John the Baptist Parish; Now, Therefore, I, Natalie Robottom, Parish President in conjunction with the St. John the Baptist Council Members do hereby congratulate Mr. Charles "Chuck" Wisher as Louisiana's Senior Olympian, for the year 2009.' I would also like to thank Mr. Wisher for all he has done for the parish and bringing Senior Olympics more to the River Parish area."

Charles "Chuck" Wisher commented that he was very thankful and humbled by this proclamation. He briefly explained Senior Olympics throughout the state of Louisiana and invited all Senior's over the age of fifty to come on out and join in on the fun.

**Natalie Robottom – Presentation – Randy Mire – Pharmacist at Gem Drugs
– Meet the Pharmacist Event – January 29th, 2011 – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM –
YMCA LaPlace location**

Natalie Robottom stated, *“Mr. Randy Mire is the new owner of Gem’s Drugs in Reserve. He initiated and is partnering with St. John Parish, Entergy, YMCA and the United Way to sponsor the first annual “Meet the Pharmacist Day” event this Saturday from 10-2 PM at the YMCA in LaPlace. Mr. Mire and his wife held an outreach event during their ribbon cutting and have been reaching out to residents of the Parish ever since. I’d like to welcome Mr. Randy Mire to make a brief presentation on the event.”*

Randy Mire, Pharmacist, commented Mrs. Robottom kind of said everything I was going to say. He invited all to come out this Saturday to promote health and wellness in our community. There will be lunch served, door prizes, blood pressure checks and brief demonstrations. He handed out a folder with some paperwork that would be given to everyone in attendance with a brief medical history form to fill out so that in case of emergency you would have that form with you to assist any medical personal. Sheila Butler, Entergy, was also present and Entergy is partnering with Mr. Mire and the YMCA to try to make this a better and safer community for all.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes January 11th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Approval of Minutes January 13th, 2011, Special Meeting; Parade Permit – Krewe of Tohwahaphash – 3-5-11; Parade Permit – Krewe of DuMonde – 3-6-11; Festival Permit – St. Hubert Catholic Church – 3-26,27-11 – Annual Festival; Councilman Lee – Re-appointment of Daryl Scholz – P&Z Commission; Councilman Smith – Re-appointment of Veron Bailey – P&Z; Councilman Julien – Re-appt. of Faith Farlough – P&Z; Councilman Danny Millet – Re-appt. of Mike Luminais – P&Z Commission

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes January 11th, 2011, Regular Meeting; Approval of Minutes January 13th, 2011, Special Meeting; Parade Permit – Krewe of Tohwahaphash – 3-5-11; Parade Permit – Krewe of DuMonde – 3-6-11; Festival Permit – St. Hubert Catholic Church – 3-26,27-11 – Annual Festival; Councilman Lee – Re-appointment of Daryl Scholz – P&Z Commission; Councilman Smith – Re-appointment of Veron Bailey – P&Z; Councilman Julien – Re-appt. of Faith Farlough – P&Z; Councilman Danny Millet – Re-appt. of Mike Luminais – P&Z Commission. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

11-01 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-zone proposed lots 1A & 2A & a portion of Godchaux Sugars Railroad R.O.W. Sq. C. Cornland Addition A into Lots 1A & 2A rezoning from C-1 to R-1 (PZR-1002) (N. Robottom)

Mike Henderson, Planning & Zoning Director, stated, *“The applicant is requesting to re-zone a couple of existing R-1, C-1 lots into a R-1 to*

place a home. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-01. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

11-02 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Coles Landing Subdivision, Phase IV, Lots 148 through 208, and Parcels D, F, G & H, situated in Section 91, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish for 12 months (M. Henderson)

Mike Henderson stated, *"They are requesting an extended period of time for conditional approval for the referenced property. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-02. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

11-03 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Praise Place Subdivision, Lots 27 through 83 and Parcels V-1, V-2 and V-3, on East 22nd Street, situated in Section 46 and 47, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish. (M. Henderson)

Mike Henderson stated, *"This is an ordinance to extend the period of conditional approval for twelve more months on the above referenced subdivision. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-03. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

11-04 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Heron Bay Subdivision formerly Pleasure Bend Resort Subdivision, Lots 354 through 466, T-13-S, R-18-E, a private development, located on Des Allemands Boulevard, Pleasure Bend, St. John the Baptist Parish. (M. Henderson)

Mike Henderson stated, *"Administration does recommend approval. This ordinance is to extend the period of time for conditional approval for twelve months on the above referenced subdivision."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-04. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

11-05 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) of Certificate of Indebtedness, Series 2011, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Certificates; designating the date, denomination and place of payment thereof in principal and interest; authorizing the

agreement with the Paying Agent; providing for the acceptance of a commitment for the purchase of said Certificates; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (N. Robottom)

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, *"We solicited proposals for the purchase of these certificates of indebtedness from banks in Louisiana that customarily bid on them. You have before you the results. There were four bids received. The best bid was from JP Morgan Chase at an interest rate of 2%. The Sabine State Bank averaged a rate of 2.48%. Iberia Bank averaged a rate of 2.7%, Hancock Bank averaged 3.01% and Capital One averaged 3.61%. We recommend the acceptance of Morgan Chase. In that connection we have the ordinance, which you just read, it would have to have a couple of amendments to it now. One to place the interest in, which is 2% and also that the purchaser be JP Morgan Chase and that they also serve as the Paying Agent. If someone can make that amendment then we can consider the ordinance for adoption."*

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the amendment to Ordinance 11-05. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-05. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to be introduced at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:00 this evening to discuss some eight or nine items that administration presented to us. I would ask at this time that one of my fellow council members make a motion to ratify the actions taken by the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the one bid from Home Depot for Building Materials & Supplies for Weatherization Program related to ARRA & regular Doe Weatherization Programs under advisement, approved to take the bids for Labor/Service & Materials for installation of Insulation related to ARRA & regular Doe Weatherization Programs under advisement, approved to award the bid for Persimmon St./St. Joan of Arc drainage improvements to be awarded to Command Construction of Metairie Project cost \$1,539,190.00 – project funded from the 2009 Bond Issue, approved to grant a Certificate of Substantial Completion to BIP & Sons, LLC for the River Road East lift station at Azalea Gardens Subdivision, LaPlace, approved to grant Change Order #3 from URS for the bidding and construction phase services for construction of the Booster Pump Station at the DuPont Site, approved to grant a change order – Ruddock water tank rehab priority 2 - \$57,100.00, approved to grant change order #1 – Reserve Boat Launch Improvements – replacing of 13 pilings - \$12,350.00, and approved to authorize the West Bank Park Improvements – materials cost - \$5,051.00. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Elois Joseph, Director of Health & Human Services, stated, "The department of Health & Human Services is offering free tax preparation to individuals beginning Tuesday, February 1st, 2011. The taxes are prepared by appointment only, call 985-536-4955 ext. 1234 for an appointment. The items that you will need to bring with you are as follows: Current year's tax package and or label, all forms W-2 and 1099's, information for other income, information for all deductions/credits, a copy of last year's tax return, proof of account for direct deposit of refund (voided check), social security cards or individual taxpayer identification notice/cards for you, your spouse, and/or dependents and proof of identification for yourself and/or your spouse. That is the information that we will need. We will be starting this on Tuesday. The appointments will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday."

Haston Lewis/Cheryl Millet – (Carry Over 1-11-11) Update on West Bank/East Bank Farmer's Market

Marie Brown-Mercadel, CAO, stated, "Since our last meeting administration received a letter of support from the Department of Transportation for the Farmer's Market and we are still waiting to get the joint use agreement for the property that we are going to use. We have also received conceptual approval and letters of support from the public, vendors, our House Representative and our state Senate Representative. We will likely be coming back at the next council meeting and asking for a resolution to support the submission of the grant application."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I can live with that."

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "On the East Bank, we looked back at the resolution that was given back in March at the council meeting and that actually was with the Bayou Land Organization and that grant that was previously referenced was specific to cooler equipment that would be owned by the organization. The grant that they applied for was denied. We haven't looked yet at any funding opportunities for the East Bank. Once we submit the application for the West Bank Farmer's Market grant then we will start looking at the process for the East Bank Farmer's Market."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Have we looked for a site?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "No we haven't. We haven't done any additional work on the East Bank Farmer's Market because we want to get the West Bank Farmer's Market process going and under way and then we will look at the East Bank Farmer's Market."

Haston Lewis – Update on water line crossing the River from Edgard to Reserve – Lions Water Plant

Councilman Lewis asked, "I put this on the agenda so that I could get an update and see where we were at with it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have actually been exploring some design and permitting options and in preparation for moving forward with that we were really concerned about the status of the clarifier. Thanks to

our Utilities Department they analyzed the clarifier, developed a plan that was in phases, completed phase I and are working on phase II in the next week or so that will extend the life of that clarifier. We did have a meeting with both levee boards the Pontchartrain and the LaFourche Basin levee district and the Corps of Engineers. What they did is walk us through some of our neighboring parish's process for completing a line under the river in an attempt to help us avoid some of the pitfalls that they experienced. The engineer assigned to the clarifier was also in attendance with myself, Mr. Rayneri and Mrs. Mercadel. We all attended that meeting with the levee board. So what this has done is by making those repairs it gives us a little more time to explore the design options and work on the permitting which appears to be what takes the longest but what the Corps of Engineers did for us was provide us copies of similar projects that would help us. We would love to meet with you as well as some of the other council members to discuss our options. Obviously there is a slight increase in price compared to strictly repairing our clarifier but we think we can find that funding over the next couple of years either through Utilities or some other source. We think it is important enough and a great enough project to do that. Our primary concern initially was time. We feel that what the Utility Department has done has given us that time to do an adequate design to complete our permitting to work with these agencies who stepped forward to work with us to get this project under way. We would love to sit down with you and let you see what we have conceptually. We have examples of our neighboring parishes and we also have cooperation from both levee boards and the Corps."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Mrs. Robottom what I would like to see you do is put half of the, get a cost on it and put half of the money in the budget this year and maybe the other half in next year since we moved the money out of sewerage in the water department."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually still have our bond issue money. So that is the biggest portion of it and we were planning to budget the remaining based on the cost in our next two budgets. Again we have some conceptual drawings, I think the engineer received some useful information from the Corps and the levee boards on similar projects and has been exploring some additional options but that is definitely still the direction administration would like to go."

Councilman Morris stated, "I think this issue is a big issue. It is a costly issue. I have some concerns. I can go in depth but I think we need to have a work shop just for water throughout the parish because there are some other issues that we need to deal with and we need to know where we are going. We need to find out what administration's concerns are. What the engineer's concerns are and we need to get some type of direction of where we are going because right now we have all these little projects and we are taking them one at a time. We need to pull everything together, get our financing together and give some direction. I have concerns with the cost of the NANO system. I have concerns with the cost of this project because from my understanding we are under a mandate from DHH to deal with the clarifier and stuff. So I would like to make a motion at this time that we have a workshop just on water at the earliest time for the majority of the council."

Councilman Smith stated, "I don't think you need a motion for that. All we have to do is (questioning Mrs. Robottom) administration can we get

that set up by the end of this week, just let us know when the meeting will be."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sure. The meeting probably won't be at the end of this week but we will schedule it. Mr. Morris, we initially talked about possibly water and sewer if we are all going to be together should we prepare to discuss both?"

Councilman Smith stated, "That's fine."

Danny Millet – Update on Grain Elevator

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Administration met with representatives from ADM and the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the complaint from the local resident. According to the representative from DEQ they have made several visits to the grain elevator as part of an ongoing investigation. They haven't made any citations to date but we have not yet received their final report. We are awaiting final resolution for this investigation. In addition we also went over to the site and met with ADM and they have assured us that they are following the guidelines based on their permit and that they are not out of compliance. So we will await further information from DEQ in terms of what their actions are going to be."

Councilman Millet stated, "I appreciate that just keep me informed on it so I can let the public know what is going on."

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Yes we will."

OLD BUSINESS:

Housing Board Appointments

Councilman Lewis stated, "I would like to make a motion to appoint Art Smith of Edgard to the Housing Board."

Councilman Julien stated, "My feelings would be that as we voted to remove the whole board because we wanted to go in another direction. I think it would be unfair to the individuals who were there the same amount of time that we used that report to get rid of. So it is nothing against Mr. Smith. Mr. Lewis you know I respect you but just in principal I think that we should if we are going to remove the whole board, we remove the whole board."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I know it doesn't happen often but Councilman Julien I actually agree with you on this one. I believe the same thing. If we decided that we wanted to move in a new direction and get a new board that is just the reason that I cannot support it. It is not anything against Mr. Art Smith and Councilman Lewis you know I always support anything that you ask me for but my original vote was to remove the board and start fresh and I believe if we are going to go back then we might as well have just stuck with the original board that we had. It isn't anything against you or Mr. Smith but that was my original vote and I am going to stick with that."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to appoint Art Smith to the Housing Board. The motion passed

with 6 yeas, 2 against (Hotard, Julien) and 1 absent (Usry).

Councilman Smith stated, *"The next person, we were given a name by Mr. Wolfe who had consulted with the housing tenant board. The housing tenant appointment nominee is Mr. Clarence Narcisse. Can I get a motion for that please?"*

Cecile Lennix, LaPlace, asked, *"I attended the meeting at HUD and there were only three which were a quorum. My question is if you are appointing two more or one more, would they be considered absent?"*

Councilman Smith stated, *"No because they weren't appointed to the board at the time. The board only consisted of the people that were at the meeting at that time."*

Cecile Lennix asked, *"So whenever they go on they wouldn't be considered absent?"*

Councilman Smith stated, *"Absent from the first meeting when they were not on the board? No ma'am."*

Cecile Lennix stated, *"Okay thank you."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"I wanted to make sure that the nominee, I obviously don't know who Mr. Narcisse is and I hope that he has met all the qualifications that are required for the resident tenant. Is that correct? Mr. Wolfe does he meet all of the qualifications?"*

Dale Wolfe, Housing Director, stated, *"Yes."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to appoint Clarence Narcisse as the tenant appointment to the Housing Board. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marie Brown-Mercadel – Resolution R11-01 – A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish Council to submit an application for a grant from the Office of Community Development

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, *"We are asking for authorization for the council to give us a resolution to apply for the grant of \$142,880.00 from the Community Water Enrichment Fund. We are going to use this money for further improvements to the Lion's Water Treatment Plant."*

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-01. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish Council to submit an application for a grant from the office of Community Development. **WHEREAS**, the Governor's Office of Community Development Local Government Assistance Program provides funds to local governments for needed infrastructures and long-term capital improvements in rural areas; and, **WHEREAS**, St. John Parish Council is seeking funds for the St. John Parish is respectfully requesting funds in the amount of \$142,800 to assist with the Lions Water Plant Phase VII project. Phase VII of the project consist of rehabilitating and upgrading the current infrastructure at Lion's Water Treatment Plant in Reserve, Louisiana. The total cost of the project

is \$4,031,653. **WHEREAS**, the Office of Community Development requires an authorizing resolution as part of its application process, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute any and all documents in connection with an application to the Louisiana Office of Community Development for \$142,800. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

Pat McTopy/Capital Area Legal Services – Report and request for annual funding to provide legal services to low income citizens

Pat McTopy, CFO, stated, *“As in years past we received a request for funding from the Capital Area legal services. We have funds in the general fund budget to accommodate the request. We ask that a representative attend tonight’s meeting to give a report on the services that they offer to the community and tonight I will allow her to speak.”*

Solaria Gomes, Executive Director for Capital Legal Services, stated, *“For those of you that are unfamiliar with us, we are a private non profit cooperation set up to represent lower income and elderly persons in civil matters. We handle twelve parishes including St. John the Baptist Parish. I appeared before this council last year at this time and I think at that time the question was asked why aren’t we advertising in this area, but we come in this area. We have a lady that comes to the library in Garyville. She was going every other Wednesday. We have not started intake as of this point. We stop intake in December every year to close our cases out from the year before and we start up again in the beginning of February so she will advertise and let you know where she will be. She used to go to the library in Reserve but she was told since it was under renovations, it was best to go to Garyville. So she has been going to Garyville. We sent a packet to you with our funding proposal. As you can see the funding that we get from the other parishes that support us in 2010 all of our parishes with the exception of East Feliciano supported us and that is because they just didn’t have the funds but they wanted to. Some of the facts that we have here for you to consider, we don’t represent incarcerated persons, we don’t represent persons in criminal matters, we don’t handle cases where a private attorney would be able to receive a fee on a contingency basis. So it is not in competition with private attorneys. The purpose of legal services, as set up by the legal services corporation act of 1974 is to help those persons who would otherwise not be able to afford an attorney. The four legal services programs in the state with Dr. Richardson to do an economic impact study. We did an economic impact survey and the economic impact of capital area legal services in a three month area for our twelve parishes was over two million dollars that includes the funds we were able to obtain for child support, the funds we were able to obtain for spousal support, the funds we were able to obtain for our clients for social security and SSI, dependent benefits and things of that nature. We have four offices. Our main office is located in Baton Rouge. We have an office in Houma which I manage. We also have an office in Gonzales and Donaldsonville.”*

Councilman Morris stated, *“If she is looking for some space, I would advise her to get with Mr. Wolfe and maybe they can work something out on the East Bank and the West Bank of the River.”*

Councilman Smith asked, "Mr. McTopy, how much are they asking for?"

Pat McTopy stated, "\$10,000.00."

Solaria Gomes stated, "Actually we received \$10,000.00 last year, we are asking this year for \$14,300.00 because of the increase in the cost of gas for the lady traveling back and forth."

Councilman Smith asked, "How many cases were handled in St. John Parish through your office, for residents in St. John Parish?"

Solaria Gomes stated, "We handled 218 cases total."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you I'm voting for it. That is all I needed to hear."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The Reserve library should be opening up soon. The renovations are almost complete."

Pat McTopy stated, "Allow me to clarify something, the request from the letter dated earlier this month requested \$10,000.00. If the request has been altered and the council wants to honor the increase."

Councilman Smith asked, "Ma'am your request was for \$14,300.00 correct?"

Solaria Gomes stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Lee stated, "I am going to honor administration's request. It is \$10,000.00 or administration I would expect you to step up and tell me we have done this and I want to give \$10,000.00. This is what I am being asked for is \$10,000.00. I don't want to change at the snap of a finger and go to \$14,000.00 without administration telling me that that is what they want to do because they are the ones that look into it. It is a very good program but I want to go with administration's recommendation."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously this is a program that we have supported which is why we had the presentation and made the recommendation. The request that we received was for \$10,000.00. Historically that has been the amount awarded to Capital Area Legal and that is the amount that was budgeted for this year. If the council elects to award the \$14,300.00 as this is an amendment to that request, administration will support that but at the time of our recommendation it was based on the information that we received with regards to the request."

Councilman Lee asked, "So Mrs. Robottom is it administration's recommendation that we grant \$14,300.00 or \$10,000.00?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "\$14,300.00."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I was going to make the comment that when I made the motion I thought that when the request was made to administration it was made for the \$14,300.00. I will support whatever administration recommends."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is \$14,300.00 that would be from our Finance Manager."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Morris seconded the motion to grant \$14,300.00 to Capital Area Legal Services to provide legal services to low income citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

Natalie Robottom – Appointment of Mike Tregre as Public Safety Director to take effect on February 4th, 2011 at 4:31 PM

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is somewhat of an unusual request but what we are asking the council to do is accept Mike Tregre as our appointment to replace Mr. Paul Oncale as our Director of Public Safety. Mr. Oncale is scheduled to retire on February 4th and in preparation for that retirement we thank you for allowing us to bring on Mr. Tregre to transition with him for the last several weeks. What we would like for you to approve is appointing Mr. Tregre effective February 4th, at 4:31 PM when Mr. Oncale retires. Mr. Tregre is here tonight if there are any questions I am sure he will be glad to respond."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to authorize the appointment of Mike Tregre as Public Safety Director to take effect on February 4th, 2011 at 4:31 PM. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

Mike Tregre stated, "To this council I would like to say thank you. I plan to represent you guys and this parish to the best of my ability. To parish president, Natalie Robottom thank you for this opportunity to continue to serve the public. I am going to do the best I can. I promise you that. To Paul Oncale thanks for the two week crash course. I know we have some more to go. You know it doesn't matter who you give your cell number to, just make sure you give me your right cell phone number. I've learned a lot. The training has been fast. It has been very good, actually it has been excellent. I have learned a lot in a short period of time but I learned also that I still have a lot to learn. So thank you again."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mr. Oncale will you please show Mr. Tregre how to manage this thermostat so we can get a nice temperature in here?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously this is Mr. Oncale's last meeting, we didn't want him to leave without acknowledging all the hard work and number of years and time that he has put in for the parish, to his office and throughout the parish. We rely very heavily on Mr. Oncale for things other than public safety and emergency and Mike you will be stepping into that role as well. On behalf of myself, who worked with you previously and again and obviously this entire council, all of our staff and the residents of St. John we have a very small token of appreciation for you and it reads 'Presented in recognition to Paul Oncale in grateful appreciation for your exemplary leadership qualities and selfless acts of time and dedication. Your attention to detail and outstanding work ethics has driven the parish to a level that has prospered. You leave a legacy to the people of St. John the Baptist

Parish, one that will be remembered always. Thank you for your many years of service.' Natalie Robottom, administrative staff and the parish council."

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "I really didn't want to come tonight because I knew I would get emotional. Back in January of 2001 in Edgard, when the then sitting council approved my appointment, the first thing I did was come up to the podium and my first statement was I will be brief. Councilman Lee said Mr. Oncale you are off to a good start. I will be brief tonight. From hurricanes to tornadoes to flooding to train derailments, overturned trailers with hazardous materials I have been through it all. Hopefully what I am leaving behind is people that I made friends with and enjoyed working with and hopefully over the last ten years I have made the parish a better place to live in by providing better services to our residents as far as fire protection, we went from a volunteer fire department to a volunteer/paid fire department. We have provided transportation for evacuees. We have had point to point shelters in place. We have generator programs in place now in the event we lose power we can keep the utilities going in the parish. I think my greatest honor and I will always remember this is it is an honor to serve this parish and all of you. Thank you very much."

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "I would like to say congratulations Paul, if that is in order. It has been a pleasure working with you and you have done a great job. Dale would refer to you as 'Pauly' now I guess I understand all the things that we depend upon you for. I would also like to wish Mr. Chester Lee from Garyville, the oldest barber in the parish, I would like to tell him to hurry up and get well."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to thank Mr. Oncale for his services to the parish. I am not going to get emotional also but we have had our moments together. You have always been there. You have always been responsive. I would also like to welcome Mike Tregre. I have a bitter sweet thing with you because you are my Recreation Board appointee so now I have to find a new one unless you decide you don't want to be the Public Safety Director than I won't have to do that but again welcome. I think that was a good choice that the administration made. One of the biggest qualities about Mike is that he is always calm under any situation. Even when he was down the hall and the council office was here I could come into his office with what I thought was the end of the world and in two minutes realize that it really wasn't. So that is what we need in our Civil Defense Department."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I want to thank Paul. Whenever I have a situation he is the first one I call and for some unknown reason he fixes it and it is taken care of and I thank you very much. I am going to miss that. I do want your cell phone number okay. Mike, let me tell you, you are my number one call. Also I want to wish my brother Happy Birthday, today is his birthday and if I don't say it he is going to miss it because he watches this every time it comes on. Also to the residents in District VII, we are going to be having some issues with the Country Club Bridge. It is going to be under repair. The road will be closed. It will take about 120 days. I just want to let you know that we are working on all the logistics of it but just to let you know

that we are going to have to replace that bridge soon and just put you on notice that it is going to be happening."

Councilman Lee stated, "My comments are the same as all the other council members. We've got a good man that has spent over ten years here and I believe the selection of Mr. Tregre is going to be an excellent one and I think he will serve us well also. To elaborate a little more on something I have concerns about, as does Mrs. Millet, this Country Club Drive bridge is being fixed or being repaired because believe me we have no other choice. This is very dangerous. I would ask the residents to keep in touch with Channel 15. I know that the parish will use this to keep the public aware of how we are going to handle the logistics on this because we have looked at it, administration has looked at it, it is a very difficult project because of the nature of the road itself. So bear with us and understand that if there is a better way for us to handle this over 90 and 120 days we will because it is something that the administration and the district Councilwoman and myself are working on constantly. Make no doubt it will be a very serious aggravation at least to the people who live in that general area. Mrs. Robottom may want to elaborate a little more but the bottom line is have patience. Education is the key. Keep in touch with Channel 15 or any other news that the paper may help us with."

Councilman Smith stated, "The only council brief that I have is Paul thank you, thank you, thank you and to Mr. Tregre welcome, welcome, welcome. Paul thank you for the service that you have given to the public, to our community and to our residents. Mike you have done the same through the Sheriff's Department and now you are coming over to work with St. John the Baptist Parish itself and administration and yes I did welcome you. I will probably have something for you to do in the morning. Just joking congratulations on your new position, I wish you luck and if I can help you with anything don't hesitate to call."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening and obviously Paul mine was fairly scripted but you know how much we rely on you for almost everything and Mike has been tagging along so I am sure he will jump right on into it. First I would like to congratulate our own Jordan Dorsey from LaPlace for making it to Hollywood for American Idol. He actually was a COE worker here for the parish previously and we are encouraging all of our residents to tune in on Wednesday's and Thursday's to WVUE Fox to cheer on Jordan Dorsey. Actually, it isn't really a surprise, we are having an all staff meeting and Jordan is going to come and sing the National Anthem for our staff meeting tomorrow. We hope to bring him back before the council to acknowledge his achievements. I would also like to congratulate Ms. Naya Denise Stevens. She is the daughter of Libby Henderson Ducree and Walter Stevens Jr. She is an original Illinois club debutant for 2011 and was absolutely beautiful this weekend for the party in her honor. Just a reminder for those who may not have gotten all of the information from Randy's presentation, our meet the Pharmacist Day is this Saturday from 10 until 2. The YMCA building is actually located in the New Wine Christian parking lot. That is where the facility is and where the event is being held. There is lots of parking and obviously we are very appreciative of the YMCA. We are encouraging registration so that we can have an idea of who all is coming. Randy gave out a number and of

course you are welcome to call the parish here at 985-652-9569. Transportation is being provided through our Senior Citizen's organization for those who may need transportation. I am happy to announce, it is amazing how things slip by, the ferry is operating. I did have the pleasure of riding it last Monday. It opened January 17th, and it is running Monday through Friday from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM. It runs on the 15 and 45 minute hour in Reserve and at the top of the hour and 30 minutes in Edgard. There is additional information on the website. We want to thank our local papers for continuing to put that schedule there. It is something that we are going to have to get used to again and of course we will add the time and information to our website as well but the ferry is up and running. We are encouraging our residents to use the ferry. They are tallying the number of rides. I am sure at some point they will be looking at the usage to determine how long it will stay here. So if we want it here we better use it. So we encourage everyone to do that. I want to touch on just a couple of the things that both Mrs. Millet, and Mr. Lee touched on and that was the Country Club bridge repair and closure. We have been in meetings both with our councilmember's, the school board transportation director, our garbage disposal company and none of those services will be interrupted. We are working on the exact plan for that service and there are five students on Country Club that we have to make sure can get to Fairway to get to school. We are going to ask, as Mr. Lee said, for your patience. This is a project that needs to be completed. We are going to ask that our traffic reroute to Carmel Valley and we are asking that our residents in Live Oak Landing and River Oaks use St. Andrews Boulevard to enter and exit their subdivision to alleviate Carmel Valley for the other traffic. We are trying to put up our best plan. Our goal for communication we are going to do Channel 15, we also plan to do first call to everyone in the area reminding them when that project will start. There will be signage and of course this is our best plan right now. If something should happen that it isn't working we will revisit it immediately and attempt to make the best decisions that we can. I spoke with representatives from SWDI this morning. There is no way for either the garbage truck or a bus to turn around on Country Club. So either bus service will have to move to Fairway and we are working with Councilwoman Millet and some of the residents and Mr. Johnny Owen. However the garbage truck, what we are asking is that they back in and before everybody gets started and remove trash coming forward. The only way for it to get out or in is to back in. So we are asking that they do their backing before traffic is very heavy. They have assured us they have flagmen; they have people there that will help direct them to avoid any safety hazards. It isn't unusual for them they have had to do that on very small streets where they service in other places but it has not happened here and that is a fairly long stretch to back up as far as I am concerned so safety is a major concern. They have agreed to work very closely with us. We will monitor the progress of this and keep everyone posted. Again we are going to put out warnings through the first call system, channel 15, if we need to break through the channel we do that as well. I want to encourage our newspapers to cover this. It is an important project. It is scheduled to start this coming Monday. So we are trying to warn as much as possible. I want to thank everyone who came out for the featured server event at New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood. We raised \$650.00 for the St. John Theatre. It was a wonderful event and I want to thank everyone for their support. What you have had delivered to you council members is a copy of the PAC report. I think we also delivered it to

our two newspapers. It will be online. We are sending copies to all of the libraries as a resource there. We will have some available at the council office on the West Bank as well as the East Bank and of course it will be on our website. So please we are very proud of the results. We encourage you to visit the website and we look forward to using the recommendations to create a strategic plan for the parish. This Saturday, as well as our meet the Pharmacist Day, there is an American Cancer Society brunch. The annual brunch at the VFW Hall at 500 W. 5th Street, there is no charge for cancer survivors but visitors and caregivers will be charged \$10.00. There is a request for everyone to come out and support that event. I am going to split my time between the two openings but I will be at both and we ask all of you to support that as well. Just a reminder, we are doing everything that we can to keep the recycle bin, especially the one on St. Andrews, clean. If you are going to recycle we need you to put those items in the bin. If for some reason it is full please call our office. We will have someone go out and either sometimes move the items around or have it emptied but we would like to continue the program but we can't have items that are not recyclable lining the side of that bin and we are in the process of fencing that in but again we want to encourage recycling but it has to be done in the proper form."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:39 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Usry absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

