

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2015
CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX
VICE CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, January 27th, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Art Smith, Councilman District I, Lucien Gauff, Council-at-Large, Div. A, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard and Marvin Perrilloux

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Keith Green, Jr. were present.

Natalie Robottom - (Tabled 1-13-15) Appointment of Director of Utilities

This item was not removed from the table. It failed for a lack of motion.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - February as Black History Month

The proclamation for Black History Month was read.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - February as Heart Health Month

The proclamation for Heart Health Month was read.

Kevin Belanger/SCP - Presentation - Regional Environmental Division

Kevin Belanger, SCP, stated, "I'm going to try and do some magic here tonight and take what is usually going to be about a 30 minute presentation and put it to 4 minutes. (Slides were shown and are attached to minutes) When we were having Thanksgiving the EPA was issuing this notice to the American people where they were going to start implementing a more restrictive regulation as concerning air quality in the United States. On November 2014 those proposed rules were put out. In June of 2015 is the target date is for EPA to issue the final rule and in June of 2016 all states shall have an implemented plan. What we are talking about is air emissions accordingly right now the air emissions level is 75 parts per billion (ppb) what the EPA is proposing is to lower that level of threshold to 70 or 65. It will either be 70 or 65. This map shows all parishes that are affected by the regulation being lowered to 70. St. John the Baptist Parish and all the southeastern parishes of Louisiana are affected. The next slide shows the southwest being made part of the problem as well if they

lower it to 65 ppb. What are the issues? NOx (nitrogen oxides) versus VOC (volatile organic compounds) equals OZONE. So what is it from? It comes from Internal Combustion Engines, Boilers, Sandblasting and spray painting. In this particular region you are a part of the New Orleans Metropolitan Statistical area (MSA) and as you can see from the slide most people may have assumed that some of the pollution may have come from vehicles that is not the case. As you will see that the on road pollution is only 15% of total emissions for NOx and only 6% when it comes to VOX emissions. The costs of attainment vehicle inspections more frequently, emissions controls and penalties, environmental permitting is more complicated for all of the industries and honestly increased fuel cost. The problem is the EPA doesn't consider economic impacts and their rules and regulations. The limits on economic prospects well when you become non-attainment the new facilities will have to install air pollution equipment existing facilities will reduce excess emissions which means they will have to add more devices to control it often closing all or part of a facility. Regional competitiveness well obviously if we will have to do these things we will lose our competitive edge globally and within the state. Highway and construction will get federal funding only if you can show that there are no negative effects on air quality so that means no more federal funding for highways or other projects regarding federal money if you cannot prove that these projects will show a lowering of emissions. So what do we do? We have conversion of fleet to dual fleet vehicles, vanpooling, compressed natural gas (CNG), use of containment facilities for sandblasting, carpooling and spray booth painting. We have to figure out ways to reduce emissions both publicly and privately. Who is in the advance program? Lafayette Consolidated Government, Cities of Shreveport & Bossier City, Imperial Calcasieu with the exception of Lafayette, all of those have strategy documents that have been accepted by the EPA. So this is the first big step and what does that mean? The Regional Planning Commission of New Orleans is working to establish a coalition as well as Baton Rouge clean air coalition they are active and doing some things. SCP has been promoting looking at this and actually watching this for the last 7 years and what we are talking about tonight is what do we do? Well no doubt we need to create an environmental division to look into this regionally so what we want to look at is education, air quality, permitting, brownfields, environmental assessments, right-of-way acquisition and training, solid waste and mitigation and also affiliations like Coastal Zone Planning of which you guys are embarking upon now in the Southern Brownfields coalition. So the short term estimates of funding and what we are looking for is projected revenues. We want to educate the public and try to figure out things to minimize the impact of this new EPA ruling so we propose and our commission has approved for me to go forward and ask all the varying parishes to participate both publicly and privately we are asking \$90,000.00 from the public and \$90,000.00 from industry so that will provide us with staffing, one regional administrator this person has to be well vetted in all of the new laws, this person has to have a very good knowledge of chemistry and biology so we are going to have to pay a very fair salary. So the short term estimate of funding was for 3 years we believe is \$180,000.00 and of which \$135,000.00 would go to salary and fringe and I am going to go through that really quick and that will get us through 3 years. So what are the long term expectations? We don't want this to be an ongoing burden to this parish or any of the parishes that we represent so we tried to figure out a way to make this thing revenue neutral meaning

that if you don't participate you don't need the services you won't pay for it. So we put together a really ambitious plan so that we can create this division to take care of all of those activities that I had mentioned earlier about educating, training, etc. and we will have a yearly revenue of about \$425,000.00 which will be only provided if those services are granted. Staffing requirements needed we will obviously need a regional administrator, a permitting manager, administrative assistant and an environmental technician. So again that will require on a long term in which we will be revenue neutral where we won't ask this parish to participate whatsoever is \$425,000.00. So this is why I am here tonight. Our commission asked me to present this to be able to show you all that we have joined together this is not something that any one parish can handle on their own so with the VOC and the NOx being added up from all the known emitters in this parish and throughout the region we calculated each of those volumes and added them up and gave a prorata share to each parish. We are asking St. John the Baptist Parish to allow Natalie Robottom to join in a cooperative endeavor agreement with SCP so that we can carry this forward and put some rational behind how we handle future emissions. We are asking you to allow Mrs. Robottom to sign this contract for \$11,520.00 per year for the next 3 years. Any questions?"

Councilwoman Millet asked, "How many people have signed up already?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "I have actually been before Assumption, Terrebonne, St. James and all have agreed that they need to do this. I am on the agenda for St. Charles on March 4th."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This all came out in November you said and our parish has been deemed not in violation not under the 65 or the 70 which one is it?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "Right now you are within the limits at 72 ppb with Convent but the limits are going to go to 70 which will put you above the limit. So if we do nothing the EPA is going to look upon this parish as not concerned about the environmental issues however if you take this pro-active measure and try to create this self-compact so that we try to regulate ourselves they will look more favorably on issuing permits to any of those emitters who are out there today. You have many industry business men who are very concerned about this issue because when this goes into effect it will impact businesses in this area and public and private partnerships need to exist well in advance of this."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So we are being pro-active is what you are recommending us to do?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "This has been going on for several years and I think what they are waiting for is the EPA to impose their regulations. Just to add to what Kevin is saying on our visit to DC our organization of LPACE Parishes against coastal erosion met with all of our delegation and this was one of the main topics asking our delegation to work with whether to delay or deny funding to implement this or to work with them because it will be detrimental not just to St. John but to the entire region and the state of Louisiana because we are heavily reliant on industry. There are some areas that have been working to get out of non-attainment and if the number decreases they

are going to be in trouble again. We have not been out of compliance but the entire region is in jeopardy and it is not just about our industry it is about setting up plans for when you cut your grass and the ozone and the number of trees there is a lot that goes into the decision of how you can reduce the ozone which is why we need environmentalist and a team of people to work on that but it hasn't gone unnoticed, a lot of people are fighting it, our delegation is very much aware of it. Our delegation which is 20 parish president's strong in south Louisiana it was a topic with every single one of our delegation of course with republicans in control they oppose regulation so they are going to be fighting this regulation for us."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am all in favor of protecting the environment. It is the only environment that we have so whatever we have to do to make sure that there is a compromise between industry and the environment and that is what I am hoping this whole process will look to obtain. Am I correct?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "This is a dual motion with public and private participation. If we don't have industry at the table we will not be successful that is why this is so important to have this be an equal share in funding which is what we expect to do."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Is this all part of protecting the Ozone and getting rid of the R-12 and R-22 and why we cost so much these days. In the United States do we still use that stuff? I mean in Louisiana do we still use that?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "The answer is yes. I personally use it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Because I think they are getting away from that and that is why it is so expensive. You know I visited a Western state one time and I was high up in the mountains and when I got up there I couldn't stop crying and people need to know that we get upset with our EPA sometimes with some of the stringent things they put on our plates but if you ever go to some other states and you go in some of these valley you will see why the EPA is so important and the affect it can have on everyone because it will have you burning. I just wasn't used to it being from Louisiana it was really bad on my eyes."

Kevin Belanger stated, "We are only trying to take a pro-active role to minimize this impact and the EPA is saying and they have done this in other areas that if you voluntarily do this kind of things they will look more favorably on industry as they are trying to work to try to reduce the emissions."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know we are doing our part here all over the United States. What about the other countries are they doing their part to protect the ozone?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "Unfortunately the EPA is only with the United States."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I understand that but the ozone problem is all over the world."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I guess my comments were as far as industry

naturally we have to work together and it seems like the tri-parish area is more industry then a lot of the other parishes in the state. Are we affected any more or less than any of the other parishes?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "The reason you are in non-attainment is because the monitors here show a higher level of admission. So yes you are being affected but you have not been in violation. Baton Rouge was in violation or what they call non-attainment. It took them 20 years to get out and by the lowering of these emissions they will likely go back in and they spend millions of dollars in trying to fight this and we are trying to spend a little bit of money to try to put industry at the table to help regulate themselves so that we all can understand and try to work together."

Councilman Gauff stated, "As Mrs. Millet was saying the most important thing is our environment but then again industry does provide a lot of jobs and allows for us to have the lifestyles that we lead so it is very important that we do work with them so that we aren't adversely affected but yet seems like most of the cost should go to them. I hear us saying it is even where we are splitting the cost but it seems like they would put more or we would have to put more pressure on industry to come up with ways to emit less emissions into the air."

Kevin Belanger stated, "Ultimately industry will pay more there is no doubt this is a coordinating collaborative effort between the public and private sector to try to put forth ideas and regulations that they will agree to help reduce the emissions."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We are talking about \$11,000.00 a year industry ought to pick that up here with the grain elevators and the Port with the iron ore and all the other industries. I know the grain elevator is out of whack pretty bad I get complaints on that daily. Who is going to be doing the inspections from your people?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "No sir we are not going to be inspecting any facilities. DEQ currently does that. We will work very closely with DEQ to try to figure out areas of interest where we can reduce some of those emissions. We are not a regulatory agent."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I was just wondering if you were going to check or monitor it. I don't know who is monitoring it now but I don't know how for all of these years that nothing has been done."

Councilman Gauff stated, "If I could I will make a motion to give the parish president the okay to spend \$11,520.00 over the three year period."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mr. Belanger I wanted to thank you for coming to bring this to the council's attention. I know this is something that you have been working on and I just want to make sure that everyone understands that we are being pro-active in this and we are trying to come up with a plan to bring to industry am I correct in that?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "That is absolutely correct."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "That way when we bring it to them we can

let them understand the importance of them following our guidelines prior to or recommendations..

Kevin Belanger stated, *"It is going to be a cooperative effort between industry and government."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"So you are reaching out to government first and who is going to reach out to the industry? So you are coming to us first then you are going to go to the various industries to present to them?"*

Kevin Belanger stated, *"Yes we are going to do it."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Good luck. I understand if they are out of compliance it costs a lot more than it does to be pro-active."*

Kevin Belanger stated, *"They want this to happen trust me they need this to happen."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I would like to continue our support in making sure that this happens because like I said this is the only world we have and we need to keep it."*

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to allow the Parish President to spend \$11,520.00 over three years to assist in the Regional Environmental Division with South Central Planning. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes - January 13th, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Parade Permit - Krewe of Tohwahaphash - 2/14/15 at Noon; Cheryl Millet - Appointment of Brent Hession to the Coastal Zone Management Committee; Larry Snyder - Appointment of Henry Sullivan to the Coastal Zone Management Committee; Michael Wright - Appointment of Jamie LaBranche to the Coast Zone Management Committee; Lucien Gauff - Appointment of Greta Duche to the Coastal Zone Management Committee; Michael Wright - Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder to the Library Board

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 13th, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Parade Permit - Krewe of Tohwahaphash - 2/14/15 at Noon; Cheryl Millet - Appointment of Brent Hession to the Coastal Zone Management Committee; Larry Snyder - Appointment of Henry Sullivan to the Coastal Zone Management Committee; Michael Wright - Appointment of Jamie LaBranche to the Coast Zone Management Committee; Lucien Gauff - Appointment of Greta Duche to the Coastal Zone Management Committee; Michael Wright - Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder to the Library Board. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

15-01 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance at the written request of the Parish President, an ordinance amending ordinance 14-53 relative to the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund

for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015, as follows: By amending Recreation Fund, line 22, Salary Director to the sum of \$65,000.00 (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "Administration recommends minor amendments to this ordinance prior to voting to reflect the salary amendment was made by Michael Wright and funds will be restored to the Recreation Fund rather than the General Fund. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Wright stated, "I would like to make a motion to amend Ordinance 15-01 to reflect the Recreation Fund instead of the General Fund."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to amend Ordinance 15-01 to reflect the Recreation Fund instead of the General Fund. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve amended Ordinance 15-01. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

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

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

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

Councilman Snyder asked that this item be carried over.

Art Smith - Update on new Senior Citizen Center in Edgard

Natalie Robottom stated, "Surveying and geotechnical services are being performed on the property to allow for proper design of a new facility. An estimated timeframe of 12-16 weeks is projected for bidding this project."

Councilman Smith stated, "This is great at least now we have a projected start date for the center to be built and I appreciate that Mrs. Robottom."

Art Smith - Update on the West Bank Boat Launch

Natalie Robottom stated, "Originally probably around 2010 or 2011 we submitted for a grant for The Moll Canal Boat Launch. It is just recent that we found out that the parish doesn't own this boat launch it is located on private property, but a request was made to the property owners to consider engaging in a formal agreement with the parish for

its use. To date, no agreement has been finalized. The owners are not opposed to it being used but they have not agreed to any type of formal agreement with the parish that was being handled by one of our previous attorney's so we will be working with our current attorneys to engage the owners as well to see if there is interest in formalizing the agreement because what we do know is people are using it. I know there are some postings on it. It is not the parish's property but historically they have used it and if we want to continue or use it as parish property we will have to enter into some type of agreement."

Councilman Smith stated, "I have the land owners here tonight."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There is some question about that so you might want to hold off on that and we will give you the documents that we have with regard to who owns the property."

Larry Snyder - Concrete Streets, curbs and sidewalks program

Natalie Robottom stated, "This contract is being finalized with all required signatures by the Parish Engineer. In addition to the sidewalk repairs on the West Bank, a list of street panels, driveways, and sidewalk repairs is being finalized by the Public Works Director in order of importance. All repairs related to utilities work should be directed to Public Works for assignment to in-house cement finishers. We will be working on a work order list so please get all of the information to the utilities department."

Councilman Snyder stated, "My understanding is that we are going to put someone on this to evaluate all the streets and determine what needs to be fixed and then rank them 1 through whatever."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well we actually have some work orders that are in place that have not been done. I don't know if you recall but last year we actually terminated our contract so we had all of last year that we weren't that successful but we have added people and made some headway but we have some work to catch up on there needs to be a priority but again if you know areas that you want us to look at please submit those they may already be on the work order list or they may not but our PW department will have to prioritize those and make sure that when they are assigned to the contractor that they are done in the order correctly."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well my thing is that if it is my responsibility to go and look at streets then I want a pay raise."

Natalie Robottom interrupting - *I didn't say it was your responsibility but frequently you bring up things and if you know of something that is done I am not asking you to go look.*

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think that is the way it should be just like that if I see something or somebody calls me and has a question I will do that but I also think it is the responsibility of the PW department to do some kind of evaluation of our streets."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And they are."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Oh they are?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is just an addition. I think the parish engineer is getting estimates on 13 streets we are going to send that list to you all and let you know this is what we have prioritized and are there any streets in your area that you would like us to consider. It is no different from any other year."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mrs. Robottom in as much as we did not do anything last year we did minimal. We didn't utilize the funds that were in the budget from the prior year to take care of cement repairs that we needed am I correct?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We probably used them on asphalt. We did more roads."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Oh okay so we block out the people that need it in the area that need cement so we can give it to the people that don't need cement."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We had no contract and rather than not using the funds we did additional roads. We have \$200,000.00 in the bond issue for concrete or cement and we have an additional \$200,000.00 in the current budget in public works so we are anticipating about \$400,000.00 in concrete work this year."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Well then maybe we can take care of the areas that needed this work done last year in the cement that we were unable to take care of."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right that is what this item does. Those would be the existing work orders so if you submitted them then yours should already be on the list. If you submit additional ones we will evaluate them."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I need for Mr. Nunes to please send me a copy of the streets I have listed to make sure they haven't gotten lost in the shuffle."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I was just getting my place on the priority list because I think we started on the West Bank. I think we had a problem with the contractor on the West Bank so I just wanted to make sure we pick up on the West Bank."

Larry Snyder - Hurricane preparation plans

Councilman Snyder stated, "I spoke with Mr. Boucvalt on this and I was satisfied with what we were talking about and my understanding is that it is ongoing but I only had one question and that one was the decision making on I don't want to bring it up I am going to save it for executive session. It is pertaining to evaluation of people getting out of the parish. I have it on the agenda but I think we need to talk about this in executive session."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think Jobe' ask that you come in or attended an elected officials briefing where you all received a resource handbook that Ghosep went through the process of who determines what that process is, who is in coordination, what the

conversations are, this is run on the state level and there are many people involved in any decisions regarding emergencies. It is headed through Ghosep and then based on your region there are others on call to provide input. So it is a group decision. What we do is unify command. We also have the sheriff's office, 911, public safety and the parish president all on the same call so it is a joint decision."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You see that is why I wanted to get into it in executive session because I knew some answers that I was going to get I wasn't going to be satisfied with because they screwed up last time and that is all I have to say and that is why I wanted to go into executive session."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "I think anything that relates to a possible litigation should be addressed in executive session."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to carry this over on the agenda and have it placed in executive session."

Larry Snyder - Vicknair Canal Maintenance

Councilman Snyder asked, "I would just like to know if we have any evaluations or audits taken on these canals to see if grass needs to be cut, like maintenance on them to see if we have any problems and do some pro-active work because I did some work on the Vicknair Canal I drove down there and I didn't like the way it was looking because we have trees that are about to fall over because of the sides and I mean big trees. We have branches and trees coming from the west side that is plugging things up because there is just mud build up and the water just cannot get out. Now I have people down there on Frisco who are drowning like when it rained the other day could that be part of that problem because it all goes over and is in that area over there on the south side of Vicknair Canal if you just take a ride there you can see exactly what I am talking about. I brought it up once before in this venue right here and I was wondering if we ever had a chance to go and look at it."

Brian Nunes stated, "We have actually it is a valid point. We have looked at doing a lot of the canals in the residential areas because a lot of them are clogged and we know that it could be 30 or 50 years' worth of things but right now we are not permitted to clean those or to dig them any deeper than they are but we are in the process of applying for new permits that are going to allow us to do that. DNR they seem to be agreeable to letting us do that only in the residential areas not out in the wetlands but in the residential they will let us if we can get some cross sections out there and show them what it looks like now as opposed to what it looked like when it was built as opposed to what it looked like when it was built. We might not have historical records but we could at least shoot the culverts and say look those things are lower than where the dirt is and I think that is all the evidence they need and then they will give us the permits to go ahead and clean them all out."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well Mr. Nunes I sure hope we can get that done because it is going to be 5 years before we get our pumps back there and clean out that area and even with the pumps back there we still might have some flooding unless we do something with those outlet

piping from neighborhoods and I think it would help if we could get those dredged out a little bit and make it deeper."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree it will. We just cleaned out those culverts last year with CES when they came through after Isaac and did it but that does us no good if the bottom of the canal is higher than the culvert they cleaned."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Exactly and that is all I am asking."

Brian Nunes stated, "We actually talked to somebody the other day that has a boat that does survey work."

Councilman Snyder stated, "A month ago you could have walked in it there is no water in the front."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is in the process I am working on it and Mr. Cooper is working on it with me."

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Nunes I know you said you need to get a permit to do those canals. Is there any way or has the state thought about when they give someone a permit to dredge a canal and it is at a certain depth wouldn't they think that we would need a time period maybe 3-5 years that the silt level will build up in the canals because it seems as though when it builds up like you said it may be above the culverts now and then have to go back to them to get a permit to get it put back to where it was originally. Wouldn't they think when they issue a permit to these parishes that we should be just able to show them a visual that this thing is out of whack instead of having to go through this process again of getting a permit again I mean they knew it was a problem before."

Brian Nunes stated, "I see where you are coming from but again I don't make the rules on the state level but what I will do after this one if we get the permit to clean then we are going to get a survey as soon as it is clean to show what is out there so that in three years from now we can get another survey to show before and after because right now we really don't have the before and after so once we get to that point I think the permitting will be a lot easier."

Councilman Madere stated, "So basically like you said we don't have the before and after pictures but I am thinking that is something that we may need to look into for keeping an accurate record of those type of things."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree 100%. The records are going to be huge for getting permits in the future so that is the plan moving forward from here."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That area has had that problem forever I mean it goes back to the same problem and in the last 40 years I don't understand why something hasn't been done it is just an ongoing thing there and something needs to be done sooner or later but I don't know if it is the canal or if it is the culverts. I don't remember any of the engineering that was done but it has been a problem forever since I have been on this council in 1984."

Brian Nunes stated, "I think a lot of it has to do with the title surge coming in to the culverts under the interstate but once we start it is like the permits that we get are just for a one time cleaning it could have a 3 or a 5 year time line but after you clean it once the permit is not good anymore and you have to reapply which is why we are getting the survey after we are done with everything so that we have before and after pictures and when we apply again it will make it easier."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mr. Nunes I know they used to have and maybe things have changed with DNR and all the regulations that we used to have permits that would last us 10 or 15 years and allow us to utilize the area or clean the canals during that time span once those lapsed we have now been doing on an annual or one time cleaning. Is there anyway or maybe we can check with Mr. Savoie on this that at one point in time we had a blanket permit to allow us to do residential cleaning in the canal areas and I am just wondering because by the time we get through the red tape it is time to re-do it and that is my concern. I mean obviously we are not the only parish that has this problem unless people just do it on the sly and don't let people know that they are doing it which I don't want to do but the problem is there has got to be a process to where we have an open end so that we can maintain our canals without having to go through all of this. Is that a possibility?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I think there are two type of permits that we are talking about here a maintenance permit that will allow us to get it more than once but I think that is just to kind of scrape the stuff off of the top which is what we did with 3 deuce when we sent them out there to clean the aquatic vegetation but they couldn't get down and touch the water bottom they weren't allowed to do that and what we want to do here is actually touch those water bottoms to make these things deeper and that is a onetime thing as far as I know. That is the story that DNR gave us. I can follow up again I have a few contacts up there to get some better information."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I know that we used to have a long term blanket so we could continually make sure they were at the level that they needed to be and now with the rising of the lake it is getting worse so I just didn't know if there was an option that DNR would work with us and like I said Mr. Savoie might be able to answer that question since he has been here forever."

C.J. Savoie stated, "Yes we used to get Corp permits like that and they would give you anywhere from a 5-10 year maintenance period and that was back in the 80's and 90's but I know that the difference now they made rule changes depending on if they are navigational to have an open waterway and you keep a machine out there for example at Peavine where you can get a 10 year permit and continue to maintain it as long as you do it on a regular basis in other words you go out there and you do something every year. If you leave it for a long period of time then you will have to go back and get another permit because they figure well you really don't need that program. What you are talking used to happen and we used to get 10 year permits but then they started changing their rules and it is not the same program as it used to be."

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time I would like to go back to an item we had voted on earlier Kevin Belanger with SCP presentation there

was an issue with the mechanics. It wasn't advertised properly for authorization of funds and I just want to get some clarification from legal really quick."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "After reviewing the action that the council took earlier it is my opinion that this matter was advertised as a presentation only not to seek authorization to enter into a contract. As a result of that I think you should resend or I would advise you to rescind your vote authorizing the contract and have your secretary put it on the next council agenda for authorization to move forward with the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement."

Both Councilmen Gauff and Madere rescinded their motions to authorize the funds for South Central Planning.

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to rescind the earlier motion to authorize the Parish President to go into a contract with South Central Planning. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment

This item will be carried over.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere/Larry Snyder - Resolution - R15-04 - A Resolution that the Reserve Branch Library be named "The Leroy D. Williams Public Library"

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-04 - A resolution that the Reserve Branch Library be named "The Leroy D. Williams Public Library". The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss Water bills amoeba update, Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc., and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Gauff left during the executive session.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Gauff and Perrilloux absent.

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent - 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition

3) Coverage's, any/all material changes

Lennix Madere - 205 E. 30th Street

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

Water bill issues - 133 Beechgrove, Reserve, LA

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

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

15-02 An ordinance amending Ordinance 14-53 relative to the annual Operating budget of the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund and Public Works Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 (N. Robottom)

PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Good Evening - 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. Thanks again. Last weekend, the River Region Economic Development Initiative, which includes St. John, St. James, St. Charles Parishes and the Port of South Louisiana, recently sponsored our annual Economic Development Breakfast in Washington D.C. Attendance at the breakfast by far greater than any prior year and featured updates from our Congressional delegation. It also allowed Parish elected officials, such as myself, Sheriff Tregre, Councilman Lucien Gauff and Councilwoman Cheryl Millet, to express our concerns and expectations to our leaders. We also attended the Louisiana Economic Development Luncheon sponsored by Chambers across the state to discuss opportunities and challenges in the upcoming year. Although the outlook for more development is great, we continue to struggle with workforce development and higher education. The organization of Parish Presidents - La Parishes Against Coastal Erosion also attended individual meetings with our delegation to discuss permitting issues through the Corps of Engineers, EPA guidelines affecting ozone levels, and new regulations regarding waters of the US. It was also an opportunity to reinforce the need for levee protection through the West Shore Project. The Department of Health and Human Services will offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program from February 3 through April 14, 2015 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only. The program is designed for low-to-moderate income taxpayers, persons with disabilities, elderly taxpayers, non-English speaking persons, and Native Americans to receive free basic tax services from trained volunteers. Kick off the VITA program with Super Tax Day this Friday, January 30 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Health and Human Service*

Office in Reserve. Staff will provide an overview on tax planning and preparation, earned income credit, the Affordable Health Care Act and more. Students in 3rd through 8th grade can receive homework assistance Monday through Thursday beginning January 20th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Locations include the LaPlace Public Housing Office, Homer Joseph Center and all Parish libraries. For more information contact Eliza Eugene with Blessed to be a Blessing at 985-359-9954. St. John Parish Community Network Early Childhood officials will be hosting informational sessions on services for children up to 5 years in age. Get firsthand information from childcare/education providers, pick up applications, and learn about accommodations for special needs. The first session will be held on Saturday, January 31 from 10am-2pm at the East St. John Elementary cafeteria, 400 Ory Dr., LaPlace. The second session is Saturday, February 7 from 10am-2pm at West St. John Elementary Library in Edgard. More information can be found on the government access channel and website. Good luck to our Miss Andouille Queen Erin Duhe, who will spend the weekend competing at the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Queens of Queens Pageant in Baton Rouge next weekend. We know you will represent St. John with grace and class. We are rooting for you. St. John School officials will be holding a pre-bid conference regarding the demolition of Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School at 10:00 am on Thursday, February 5 in the school's cafeteria. All prime and subcontractors are invited and an electronic versions of the bid documents are available at www.lettermansdigitalvault.com. Marathon Petroleum Company is currently accepting applications for Operator Technicians at its refinery in Garyville. The application process will be open through Sunday, February 15th. Anyone interested in applying must complete an online application and submit a resume at www.joinmpc.com. KCS will be conducting emergency repairs to the railroad crossing on LA 54 in Garyville this Saturday. The crossing, nearest Airline, will be closed from 7 am to 5 pm during repairs. Motorists should detour to West 10th St. The KCS railroad crossing on Central Avenue in Reserve, closest to Airline, will also be closed on Tuesday, February 3rd from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for repairs. Motorists will detour to W. 10th. Please visit the government access channel or the website for more information. Also, please save the date for our annual Spring Clean Sweep to take place on Saturday, April 11 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Registration information will be released at a later date."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:01 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Gauff and Perrilloux absent.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary