

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 2017
CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER
VICE-CHAIRMAN JACLYN HOTARD

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, February 7th, 2017, 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 Remondet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Raj Pannu, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: None

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Bridgette Dinvaut, District Attorney and Geoffrey Michel were present.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Larry Snyder/Kerry Jones - Entergy - Presentation/Explanation of Entergy bill

Kerry Jones, Customer Service Manager with Entergy Louisiana for St. John and St. James Parishes. Kerry provided a presentation on how to read the Entergy bills and provided the website: entergylouisiana.com. The Council thanked him for coming out and providing the information to the residents.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - February 6-10, 2017 - National School Counseling Week

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for National School Counseling Week - February 6-10, 2017.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - January 24th, 2016, Regular Meeting;
Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Mr. Flemon Fletcher to the Fire Civil Service Board

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Ms. Robottom, tonight is my first time really hearing about the Fire Civil Service Board. Is that a parish board or that's a state board that appoints somebody from the parish to represent us?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually it's your parish's board, it's a 3 member board, typically the council has appointments, they specify just like the Civil Service Board where they come from, certain universities have to make

the recommendation, the parish president has a recommendation. So the Parish President's position has a vacancy, so that's my recommendation."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok because I never had an agenda for attending those meetings Cain. I don't know if that's you who set those meetings up, because I'm just hearing about the board and I was asking Councilman Wright all about the board."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I don't think they have as many hearings as a regular Civil Service Board, it's for firemen to make their appeals, so then if a meeting is necessary they'll call one."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay and Congratulations Mr. Fletcher."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Is Mr. Fletcher here?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes. I'd like for Mr. Fletcher to meet our Fire Chief, Mr. Cain Dufrene."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 24th, 2017, Regular Meeting; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Mr. Flemon Fletcher to the Fire Civil Service Board. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 17-03 from the table. The motion passed unanimously.

17-03 (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 01-24-17) An ordinance amending the text of Chapter 109 - Natural Resource and Environmental Preservation and Protection, Article II. - Coastal Zone Management with the intent of the adoption of the St. John the Baptist Parish Coastal Management Plan (CMP) and the establishment of a local coastal management program in accordance with The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) and The Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978 (SLCRMA) as amended and in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:214.21-214.42 and the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 43, Natural Resources, Part 1, Office of the Secretary, Subpart 1, Chapter 7, Coastal Management (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, "Since this is our ordinance, we didn't get an opportunity to speak last time. Can we address it this time? This plan demonstrates the Parish's commitment to coastal issues and enhances the Parish's ability to compete for coastal resilience grant funding. It was drafted over the last 18 months with input from the Council, Parish Administration, South Central Planning, expert scientists, and members of the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee. The plan was reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources and was on public display for comment for over 60 days. No comments were received. In addition to sending electronic copies of the plan to the Council, hard copies were provided for consideration on January 11, 2017. Adoption of the local program does not prevent the Parish from taking part in future coastal legal action; rather it would direct the use of any recovery funds. Without an approved program, there's no statutory protection for the Parish during enforcement of a Coastal Use Permit (CUP); i.e. St. John's share of penalties imposed (25%) could be absorbed by the State. In accordance with LA R.S. 49:214.36(D), the Secretary, the attorney general, an

appropriate district attorney, or Local Government with an approved program may bring such injunctive, declaratory, or other actions as are necessary to ensure that no uses are made of the coastal zone for which a coastal use permit has not been issued when required or which are not in accordance with the terms and conditions of a coastal use permit. Administration recommends approval of the program so it can be submitted to the state for their approval."

Bridget Dinvaut, District Attorney stated, "As I told you at the last meeting, the adoption of this plan basically changes the posture of the litigation, and the decision is up to you guys who you want sitting at the table. We have been working on this and Ms. Robottom is absolutely right, this plan has been in process. However, I think the Chairman of the council actually went to a meeting and met with the Attorney General's office and the Governor's office because that's when the litigation was brought to our attention. So since that time we have been working with those entities. A lot of stuff happened because the Attorney General's office and the Governor's office got into a somewhat of a dispute, with some court cases. Now as Ms. Robottom said, there are 60 parishes that have this plan an approved plan, there's 4 parishes that do not. Because we are 1 of the 4, we are in a very advantageous litigation posture, because we get to absolutely identify our damages, find out about those coastal permit violations and we get to sue independently of this. Now, let me tell you what's important to know about this, and this anytime there's legal advisor advice, three criteria's of this; First of all, is Compliance with the Law, compliance with the Home Rule Charter; second thing is, my advice is always based upon on how do I minimize risk of liability to exposure, I mean exposure to liability and just to respect you guys and your authority. The third thing is full disclosure, the big question here is; at this particular time because you do not have an approved plan, I am the appropriate person to file the lawsuit. This is why I've been having meetings with some of these law firms. Now, there are only a few law firms that have the expertise, to actually litigate this, so it would be; my office without the plan that would be negotiating, sitting accessing and we've already gotten there. We are just almost there in filing this petition. If you approve this plan, then that means that everything that I've done, pretty much goes away because then the authority is left with Ms. Robottom..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No it's not."

Bridget Dinvaut, stated, "Yes it is. You approve the plan, the council will authorize the administration to select a law firm. So..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No they select a law firm. You know again, just for ratification..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Let her finish."

Bridget Dinvaut, stated, "What I said to you at the last meeting, because we have done extensive research on Title 49, we have been having these meetings. At any time that yawl decide that the information that we're getting about St. John the Baptist Parish, if we have legitimate damages, I want St. John the Baptist Parish to get everything that's coming to. I want the citizens of this parish to be able to be easily compensated for the damages of any Coastal permit violations. I don't want the parish to be worked in with the group of the other 60 parishes. We have an opportunity if there is an assessment of damages, for us to litigate and have our own damages paid to us based on

what's happening in St. John the Baptist Parish, and that's what's so important about this particular posture. Once the lawsuit is filed, it doesn't mean that we can't come back and approve a plan. The plan is ok, the plan only changes what our particular legal posture is, and I think that's the point that's being missed here. We're in a very good legal posture at this time without this approved plan to go forward to access any damages and compensation. I also said to you guys last time, we want sitting at the table because if my office is handling it, it is us, the lawyers for the parish, that will be monitoring, participating in the strategic litigation, also if there are any compensations or settlements that are going to happen. So that's why I asked you guys at this time not to approve this plan because it takes us out of a different posture, but for course of the grants, I will tell you that, I'm a bit confused about what the Parish President said only because, Coastal Resilience Grants, having a plan or not having a plan, it does not prohibit you from getting these grants. Not to mention, Coastal Resilience Grants are not judicial grants. The program that occurs with these types of grants, the only thing that has to be identified is that your state has to be a Coastal State, Louisiana is identified as that state. So we're not prohibited from applying for grants or for competing with grants. So, that is absolutely not true, and also because they're not judicial grants, remember you can get a grant through the Coastal Resilience Program, it's a 50/50 share, so you have put up either 50% of the money or 50% in kind order for you to get the grant. Listen, I am all for what's in the best interest of St. John the Baptist Parish. The reason why I'm here, is because I'm giving you my absolute legal advice on this. It doesn't need, suppose I get through this process and St. John doesn't have any damages. I'm not going to use our resources to fight the lawsuit that doesn't happen. That's not going to be beneficial for us, so at that time I'm happy to come back and say; okay pass your plan, it's not a problem. But because of all that work that we've done, because of the very good posture that we have, in order for us to file this lawsuit. I'm asking this council to make a recommendation that this Coastal Litigation Plan not be passed at this time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you. Ms. Robottom you have the floor."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just for clarification purposes. I am not allowed to select attorneys, so I would not be selecting an attorney, nor I sit at a table with an attorney. This Council, as you've done for every other attorney you've hired, if you choose that it's the District Attorney who actually is our legal advisors now, then that is your choice. But I have no intentions of sitting at a table with lawyers and deciding anything about a lawsuit for which I am not an attorney. However this plan, I'm not sure where the District Attorney is getting her information, but I've attended several meetings with CPRA with judicial requirements that we have an approved plan to receive the dollars that are coming from this direct. If any of our application persons would see money, of course having a plan in place puts us in a better posture to receive it, because there's evidence to show that we have a plan. However, we are protecting our coast and how the money would be used, so in terms of requirement possibly not for additional grants, but it puts us in a better position, but there are grants that this plan is required. That we have an adopted plan in order to receive the dollars that are already allocated to the state and the state is telling us that we have to have a plan, and a plan that corresponds with their state master plan in order for us to receive the money that we're due. But again just for clarification purposes, I would not be selecting an attorney, because I have no authority to do that. The Council actually hires legal counsel if you choose to allow the District Attorney and

whoever she's working with to represent you, then you know that's the Council's choice, which you all make that vote. I don't have a recommendation, I don't know of any attorney's that actually work this, obviously that would be the District Attorney's expertise but this plan, again has been in the works for 18 months. We were behind when we started, when 15 months ago we realized that the Council had never appointed a committee. So the committee members that you appointed had been working on this for 18 months, on regular basis getting assistance from state level personnel as well as the consultant to adopt a plan. So again, most of this I'm hearing for the first time, even though in November I forwarded a copy of the draft plan to the District Attorney, as I informed her we were in the process of adopting this. That it was in the works, that it was almost complete, she asked for a copy it was sent and again, 60 days of public review, no comments and I know Alex reached out to all of you all, you have copies, attempted to provide clarity, we also have our consultant here, who's been working on the plan with us, Mr. Cullen Curole, and you know our recommendations stands! And that is to adopt a plan that we've been working on, that you directed us to work on and get completed in order for us to continue to access the dollars that are coming to us."

Bridget Dinvaut stated, "That is absolutely not true because Ms. Robottom was aware of the litigation that was going to happen when she attended the meetings..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I was aware before that."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Look I tell you what. I tell you what ladies. We're appreciate the input, both inputs. We have a lot of information up here to battle through and I think leave it up to us now, we're going to take care of this thing like we're supposed to. We have the information we need and we have questions to. Mr. Sorapuru first question."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "This committee convened for about 2 years, a Ms. Robottom? So did anybody contact you at any time, did you attend any meetings or any of us that committee at any time?"

Bridget Dinvaut stated, "No we did not. We became aware of the possibility of the litigation when we all sat in the meeting with St. John in the Governor's office, that's when that came to our attention at that point. That's when we began to do the research and understanding that St. John the Baptist Parish was in a very advantageous posture from litigation because we were not 1 of the 4. Subsequently because of a number motions that are filed, initially the first case came through and said that on the 4 parishes that not had approved could file a lawsuit. After the fact, while there was a motion for reconsideration where the Judge said; okay no others could file as well. However, it still left St. John the Baptist Parish to be in the best posture for the litigation and that's what we've been working on. Ms. Robottom and I did have conversation about it and I did tell her that we were working on the litigation so she was very aware of the fact that the District Attorney's office was preparing for litigation on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish. With regards to the Ordinance that came up, I was quite surprised because at no time did any, more was asked about any legal advice, review and any council members have Ordinances, we usually get them and review them and no time I was not aware that it was on the agenda until I saw it the day before, I advised Mr. Green and Mr. Michel that I'd personally come, just to give you an update before disclosure and transparency as to what was going on with this litigation. And it doesn't mean that the plan can't be approved, I'm not going

to, the work that the people have done, I'm sure it's great work, it's just that what I'm asking for is a 60 day window, I want for us to be able to prepare this lawsuit, get it done, we've already been working on it, you understand and it doesn't mean that prepared plan can't move forward. But I don't want to put anybody in a position in thinking that, you're not going to get what money or it's going to be something that's going to be detrimental to St. John the Baptist Parish for assistance because I would not do that."

Councilman Wright stated, "I'm not real comfortable right not with the situation this council is being put in. We have our Executive Branch and our District Attorney's office over some dispute with this Ordinance and we're being asked to vote on it, and this is not a speed bump ordinance. This does have a significant impact to the Parish. So is there some time sensitive with this Ordinance right now where it has to be passed tonight, Ms. Robottom?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually your approval doesn't approve the plan. So if it's 60 days you need, this plan has to go to the state for approval before it is an approved plan. And that could be, and then it has to go onto the Federal Government for approval, as an exceptive plan. So this is just one of the first steps to getting an approved plan, that doesn't make this plan approved. Now keep in mind we paid this Council voted to pay a consultant \$75,000 to put this together with the knowledge that the only department in the state with money is CPRA. And it's the only department in the state that's going to continue to receive money because of laws that passed after going into effect, either through a stored act which actually we received out award there or award letter and then go mercer that kicks in, in 2018. So what we're trying to do is get our plan out of the parish level so it can go to the state, so they can review it and if there any corrections and then forward it on to the Federal Government as an approved plan. So your approval of this plan is not approved, it just you know has the Council authorizing us to forward it on to the state for their approval and then once it's approved they can forward it on to the Federal Government."

Councilman Wright stated, "So real quick. I'm going to hold off, I'll let the rest of the Council speak on making a motion to table it, but I would prefer on moving forward and depending on the sentiments of the Council, having an open workshop with everybody at the table to discuss this, so we're not going back and forth on an open meeting talking about his Ordinance. So I'm going to defer the rest of the council before making it everyone's interest."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I agree with Mr. Wright. I don't want to make a decision on this. I can remember sitting in the Attorney General Landry's office, I think Mr. Sorapuru was with me on this particular item, Ms. Robottom, but I want, when we do it I want it to be done right, as far as legally, all this of us take legal advice because like you said, it's easier to keep me out of trouble than to get in it and get out. So I always take legal advice and I would say I would table this and Mr. Wright said have a workshop, I agree with that."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "My question is: Which are the other 3 parishes that are not on the plan?"

Bridget Dinvaut stated, "I don't have them right now, but because I'm really concentrating on St. John the Baptist Parish. They have their own legal battles that they're fighting with in their parishes. When we received the information from the Governor's office, that's exactly what he said he did not

name the other 3 parishes and I didn't go out to seek, I was just mostly just concerned about legal posture for St. John the Baptist Parish and the citizens."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, *"My next question is: In case you are saying you have been working on this and that you are very close to (quote on quote) filing a lawsuit, how much time do you need?"*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded to table Ordinance 17-03 to have a workshop to make an educated decision before voting. The motion passed unanimously.

17-04 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to rescind Ordinance 15-05 - Health Care Advisory Board (J. Remondet)

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded to approve Ordinance 17-04. The motion passed unanimously.

17-05 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 14 - Fees and Charges, Section 14-105. - Buildings and building regulations, to modify and clarify prices of existing commercial permit subcategories, such as cell towers and solar installation (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

Alexandra Carter stated, *"South Central Regional Construction Code Council proposes measures to clarify and update existing fees for commercial permits. Proposed changes resolve issues with inconsistent permit fee calculations throughout the region by making them simple, straightforward, and cheaper than those charged outside of the Regional Code Council area. Proposed changes will not have a net effect on the budget because existing and amended fees are built into the permit fee structure."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Pannu seconded to approve Ordinance 17-05. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

17-06 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapters 14, 26, and 113 with the intent of: (1) providing a comprehensive approach to sign regulation in the Parish; (2) clarifying standards for interpretation, enforcement, exemption, nonconforming situations, and sign measurement; (3) identifying and reducing the need for sign variances; (4) adapting signage regulations as indicated by best planning practices in the wake of recent legislative precedent; and (5) providing for related matters (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

Alexander Carter stated, *"The ordinance aims to update Parish regulations of sign placement and construction. A summary of the findings and recommendations were presented to the Economic Development Committee, President's Advisory Committee, and Planning Commission; all of which voted unanimously to support the proposed amendments. Electronic and hardcopies of the report, presentation, and draft ordinance were distributed to Councilmembers and two, one-hour meetings were held to discuss proposed amendments. The proposal clarifies interpretation, adapts language to meet new legal precedents set by the Supreme Court, and increases predictability for developers. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded to approve Ordinance 17-06. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There was no committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-05 - A Resolution in support of an application with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Office of Cultural Development for the establishment of Cultural Districts

Natalie Robottom stated, "Cultural Districts aim to revitalize local areas of artistic significance by strengthening and supporting connections between the Parish and its local artists, their institutions, entertainment businesses, and supporters of culturally significant festivals and similar events. They primarily accomplish this goal by making available state historic tax credits and sales tax exemptions that support redevelopment and brand-based cultural activities. On February 6, 2017, both the Economic Development Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee approved a motion to support the resolution to establish four (4) Cultural Districts (Reserve, Garyville, LaPlace and River Road-Edgard) and Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Pannu moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-05. A resolution in support of an application with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Office of Cultural Development for the establishment of Cultural Districts. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Sorapur- (Tabled 01-24-17) Update from Bond attorney on financing for water projects

The above item is to remain tabled.

Lennix Madere - Drainage in District III

Brian Nunes stated, "The Reserve Drainage Project is on schedule and to date 10,424 feet of culverts have been completed. The west side of E. 26th Street is complete and they will begin the east side next. Entergy has relocated six (6) power poles on E. 24th Street and the secondary utilities are being moved to the new poles. Extension of the pipes on E. 24th Street and the west side of Melius is in design."

Lennix Madere - Street/Road repairs in District III

Brian Nunes stated, "A list of asphalt roads was sent to the Parish Engineer for cost estimates. Given the budget reduction for asphalt, the roads will be reevaluated once estimates are received and a plan developed that will best utilize the available funds."

Councilman Perrilloux excused himself from the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Lennix Madere - Update on water billing issues and concerns

Curtis Young stated, "The Utilities Billing Department has implemented the following: As of February 1st, a third truck was outfitted for automatic meter readings; Three teams of two meter readers were assigned two cycles of the parish each per month; This will allow each area to return to an average 30 day billing schedule; One of the smaller billing cycles is being estimated based on the customers' last 18 months of billing history and bills with extreme variations are being manually pulled and adjusted; The CFO and Billing Manager met with Winwater and Master Meter representatives to discuss trouble shooting the problem and pricing reductions on the purchase and installation of new registers."

Councilwoman Hotard excused herself from the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Larry Snyder - Discussion Future Financing for West Shore Lake Levee Project

Natalie Robottom stated, "Inclusion of the West Shore Levee Project in the WIIN Act was a critical step in securing levee protection for St. John and now residents, business owners and parish leaders will be called upon to help secure funding to construct the project. The project is approximately 18 miles of earthen levees and pumps with an estimated cost of \$718,090,000. The Federal share is 65% and the non-federal share is 35%. St. John is responsible for 20% of the non-federal share or \$50 million. Once constructed, an estimated \$5,070,000 will be needed annually for operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation. We are working closely with our Congressional Delegation on appropriations of the federal share, but the only viable option for the parish's share is through an ad valorem tax. This requires an election and approval by the voters. At the December 17th Council meeting, the Council gave notice that they would be considering adopting a resolution calling an election to levee an ad valorem tax at a meeting on February 14th, which is next week. Construction of this levee is long overdue and is needed to protect our residents and businesses, boost economic development, and to help lower or at least maintain reasonable flood insurance premiums. Once approved, an informational campaign will be initiated to inform every one of the proposal."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

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

John Barrett vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket# 68043(Graffiti issue)

Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40th JDC

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There are no ordinances to be introduced.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. First, our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the devastating tornadoes that impacted the state today. From one resilient Parish to those affected, we are with you during this hard time and stand by if you may need our assistance. St. John residents know all too well the perils of Mother Nature and are grateful today that our community was spared from its wrath. I'd like to congratulate Entergy for breaking ground on their new power station in Montz. The new station will address future capacity needs, ensure reliability and provide energy benefits to the region. It will also serve as an economic driver through an investment of more than \$869 million and creation of an estimated 2000 direct and indirect jobs. I'd also like to congratulate Russell Jack on his appointment as Registrar of Voters and remind everyone that the Registrar of Voters LaPlace Branch has reopened. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thank you to Economic Development Director and staff for participating in a successful "Taste of Louisiana" Thursday at the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Convention in Baton Rouge. St. John Parish received honors, winning 2nd place for Dessert and 3rd in the Main Dish category. Local caterer ZoraChristina prepared White Chocolate Bread Pudding and Andouille and Seafood Stuffed Sweet Peppers for the event. Congratulations to ZoraChristina. I'd also like to congratulate Miss Andouille Queen Janet Nelson on her representation of the Parish at the Louisiana Fairs and Festival Convention this weekend. She did an amazing job and we're extremely proud to have her as our queen. Thank you to Teen Queen Kash'mir Foley and Pageant Coordinators for their hard work this weekend. We bid fairwell to our own Queen of Queens Madison King. We thank her for her gracious reign and looking forward to seeing her continue as an ambassador to Louisiana. Administrative staff, OCD representative Pat Forbes and Julie Bordelon, CDBG consultant and representatives of Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. celebrated completion of the Peavine Boat Launch with a ribbon cutting last week. Improvements included lighting, a new dock, dredging and improved parking. The project was completed with primarily grant fund to the tune of \$380,000. Parish officials, staff and representatives of Principal Engineering and Sealevel Construction celebrated completion of the Fairway Dr. Bridge project. The project was an investment of \$541,000 in public safety. This project was completed ahead of schedule, but we thank our residents for their patience. In the upcoming weeks, we look forward to celebrating completion of Phase III of the MS Trail and many more projects. St. John Theatre will present the "Greater Tuna" February 10th, 11th and 12th at the St. John Theatre in Reserve. Come out and see this family friendly comedy! Tickets will be on sale at Allied Express or at the theatre box office one hour before the show at \$12 Adults and \$10 Children. A new session of the FastTrac program for small businesses will commence in the Spring. A certification workshop for the small and emerging business program, which is required to enter the FastTrac program, will be held Thursday, February 9th, 2017 at the River Parishes technical college in Reserve from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Learn more about the program's overview and other program certifications. St. John's Hurricane Isaac Grant and Loan program will reopen the application process for a second round of funding opportunities. The Town Hall meetings are: East Bank: Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John Community Center West Bank: Thursday, February 16th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Edgard Senior Center. **Please RSVP by February 10th to m.alexisv@stjohn-la.gov or 652-9569. Thank you to Edgard residents for your patience during last week's road closure on Hwy. 18 and LA 640 during the filming of TV series "KLAUSE." The company has expressed additional interest in filming the remaining season and we look forward to promoting our Parish through film. West St. John High School students are holding a luncheon fundraiser for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. The Youth Expecting

Success Luncheon will be held Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased by visiting Eventbrite.com/WestStJohn or by calling Trenice Cooper at 504-931-5441. **UPDATE ON STATE PROJECTS:** On Hemlock, crews are pouring the remaining curb and driveway this week and also cleaning up the curbing. The asphalt crew will move in on Monday, February 13th and hopefully finish paving by Friday, February 17th and before Mardi Gras. Regarding West 10th Street, CN railroad will be replacing the crossing Monday, February 13th through Wednesday, February 15th. Final paving will be completed at the end of February, followed by final pavement striping. At this point, the road will be officially opened to through traffic. The remaining work will be dress up and punch list items which will probably continue through March. On Belle Terre, work has stopped due to private utility conflicts. Work will commence in the upcoming weeks once conflicts are resolved. Congratulations to the River Region players who participated in National Signing Day last week. This is a tremendous accomplishment and we look forward to following your bright careers. Good luck! Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:45 PM, Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Pannu seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux and Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Larry Snyder
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY