

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**  
**CHAIRMAN THOMAS MILIK**  
**VICE-CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remondet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII

**ABSENT:** Jaclyn Hotard, Michael Wright

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Jakereyon Perrilloux led the Pledge.

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go back into regular meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Natalie Robottom - Recognition - 2018 Southeast Louisiana Football League Super Bowl Champions, St. John Warriors (9-10 yr. olds and 5-6 yr. olds)**

Natalie Robottom and the Council congratulated the coaches and players for becoming the 2018 Southeast Louisiana Football League Super Bowl Champions. A thank you also went out to the parents for showing their support and recognition to the team and all of their accomplishments.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to take a 5 minute recess. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilman Madere and Wright absent.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Re-Appointment of Brenda Anderson to the Zoning Board of Adjustments; Permit Request - Kids of Distinction Day Care Mardi Gras Parade - Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 beginning at 10:00 AM; Councilwoman Remondet - Re-Appointment of Jacqueline Forest to the Zoning Board of Adjustments; Councilwoman Remondet - Appointment of Blaine Tatje to the Library Board of Control

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Re-Appointment of Brenda Anderson to the Zoning Board of Adjustments; Permit Request - Kids of Distinction Day Care Mardi Gras Parade - Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 beginning at 10:00 AM; Councilwoman Remondet - Re-Appointment of Jacqueline Forest to the Zoning Board of Adjustments; Councilwoman Remondet - Appointment of Blaine Tatje to the Library Board of Control. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

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

The above item will remain a carry over.

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

The above item will remain a carry over.

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

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This ordinance amends the Code of Ordinance to include a prohibition of smoking within 50 feet of all exterior doors of any Parish-owned building. This is an amendment to the previous one where we only addressed the new Government Complex, and we were requested to go back and amend the Ordinance to cover all Parish-owned businesses/buildings, therefore we recommend approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-03. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Becnel stated, *"I ask that the minutes from the finance meeting be accepted."*

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

Councilman Snyder stated, *"We got a committee that was appointed, I think Mr. Madere I think he had appointed a committee to look at the Civic Center of there. Yes, just for information purposes to the Council here and to the public, we did meet over there at the building to look at some ways that we can make some improvements to it. To make it more voluble for activities to come there and we can use it for that, and make it more voluble for/to be used for local businesses and we did meet on there and we came up with some ideas I think sometime in the future we going get with one of a/an Architect or one of the Engineers, and give us let them know what we'd like to do, look at and give us some ideas and we can bring it back to the/we'll be able to bring it back to the Council then. Mr.*

Malik and Ms. Hotard wasn't there, but we went over there and checked on that. That's all, thank you."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-06 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to sign a grant extension with the Southern Rail Commission for the purpose of developing a Feasibility and Conceptual plan to develop a Passenger Rail and Multi-Modal Transit Center in LaPlace**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a follow-up to a previously extended contract with Aecom, who is actually working on this report. The grant extension was requested by the Southern Rail Commission to provide additional time to complete the Federal Rail Administration's (FRA) review and facilitate reimbursements to the Parish for expended funds. This was somewhat affected by the government shutdown, and we're hoping to get back on track. The plan is scheduled to be completed in March of 2019. So we ask for approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R19-06. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

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

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay first of all, I'm going to move at the next Council meeting - Update on drainage in District III on that particular project, will be taken off the agenda. Okay, going to take that one off. And I want to thank Administration and Mr. Verdell in particular, and Daron, okay but Mr. Verdell actually was hands on out there most of the time at the end to make sure that the sinkholes were taken care of. I'd had actually dug it up to check to make sure that some of the concerns was met, and the residents who had any complaint, that was taken care of too. You know, so I think moving forward hopefully we don't have any reoccurrence of sinkholes that now, that falls solely of the responsibility of the Parish on that. So it was a long time coming, but I think we've come to a satisfactory completion on that one. Okay and I think moving forward we just learned that we have to make sure that we check behind these individuals to make sure they're held accountable for everything they do in the parish. And I do not apologize for keeping that on there this long, okay to get the results that we have okay! The other thing that we have - road repair, I don't know if you can answer that maybe Administration as far as, they anticipate a start-up date as far as when we're going start doing the roads for this year?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think the District Attorney is still reviewing the contract, and the one submitted by the design Parish Engineer, they had some concerns about, we still have to discuss that. It's a unit pricing contract, it doesn't include roads, the specs were written for unit prices, we decide which roads, the cost of the roads to be done will determine how many of them can be done. So we don't put the list of roads cuz it's depending on you know the estimates the actual cost to do it and how many we can do. So they're still asking for some information on the contracts, we'll send it back to Savoie to address that and then we'll go from there."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so as far as the listing of the roads, that's not going to be released to the Council..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Oh absolutely..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "I mean beforehand."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Oh yes, yes!"

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay yeah."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's just not in the contract document."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But the Public Works department, they've gone out and reviewed the list from last year that we carried over, some of the new roads that you guys added to it, some of them we actually had estimates, so we have an idea of how much they cost, probably not exactly cuz the contract amounts are slightly different this year, and they've taken photos so we can look at and prioritize based on the condition of those roads. Clearly they are more roads, than there's money."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Actually the DA's office, we actually finished our review of that contract, sent it back to the Administration on February 8<sup>th</sup>, of this year. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The roads that we're doing, I'd like to know how we're determining which roads we do? Are we going by streets in a certain area or we're going by length or feet in a certain area? Because are we splitting the money up equally that we got for this because of, if we got to do a long, long street you know it could take all or half of the money, we get only one street done. I would just like to know how we determine which street we're going do."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually if you look back and I actually calculated, what was done in every District, both concrete and asphalt and other than Mr. Madere last year, who probably has more done in his District than most over the since 2010, it's been fairly equal. However this list for example, there's one of the streets that's in the Industrial Parkway that's that is very costly, that we're looking at possibly doing a portion of it because otherwise it would take up money from your residential roads. But we do try to look at your request, we also look at the quality of the road, which ones are in greater need and then we look at the cost. And we have an amount of money we're trying to fit these roads in and then if you noticed, each one of you kind of get some roads in your District every year, so we can continue to do it that way. But we do have a couple on this list, that if we did those roads it would eat up the majority of your money on two roads. So we're going to have to take a look at that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So again..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We're going to have to take a look at that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay then. Right now we don't have no set process of

doing that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We do. We have a process, and it involves the Public Works department, who goes out. Again, we're looking at the priority in terms of the quality of the road, the safety of the road, the length, how much it cost, and then we take all that and put it together and try to get the most done with the money that we have, that is spread throughout all of your Districts."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay you said Public Works go out and make that analogy. Okay."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I think the process Ms. Robottom is speaking of I think that's the same process we've been using right?"

Natalie Robottom responded by nodding yes.

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and I know each Council member put request in."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and a once again I'm not apologizing if I got a lot of roads done. [LAUGHTER] Thank Administration, okay so I'm not going to apologize for that cuz we need a lot of roads done. But I just want to remind Administration there was definitely three roads last year that was in very strong consideration and they was put off until this following year and two of them were not very long. Okay and one we almost was able to get in but it wasn't enough money. Okay you know definitely those three roads for sure, you know and anything left over I'll take it too. Okay, thank you."

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

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well actually for the public is concerned. Mr. Madere and I, and a couple of other Councilman and I think Mr. Perrilloux went, Mr. Sorapuru went out and we visited some of the Waste Water Plants. And we just visited to see how they were and the conditions of them and there's a lot of things you know and we just visited. And we brought back some things to the Utilities Department, you know some things that we was concerned about, and they were very receptive to this and they made a list, a spreadsheet, on all the things we brought back plus a lot of things they people brought back and they observed for themselves. And we just got an update on a spreadsheet and I know a lot of our concerns have been taken care of. A lot of them have been taken care of, and there were some that they can't do right now some of them cuz we just don't have the money to do some of them. And some of the other ones is like a project type thing and we don't have the money to do it, and some of them take a little bit more time. So I was satisfied with the report I got, because we can always go out there and look at it again. Some of the things that we suggested that need to be looked at, and they did look at them. So that's all I got to say, unless Mr. Madere got something."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes the only thing is I haven't been back to the facilities to see some of the things that was on the spreadsheet. Now, I see on

*the agenda they say that the spreadsheet was sent to our Secretary, our Secretary didn't receive a spreadsheet. The only spreadsheet that we received was that I think four meetings ago, three or four meetings ago, where Blake gave us some spreadsheets at the meeting. Now is there an updated spreadsheet?"*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I got one today, if I'm not mistaken."*

Councilman Madere asked, *"What it came by email?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"They sent it Friday."*

Councilman Madere asked, *"You sent it Friday, email?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Yes sir."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Last Friday, okay."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"Yeah Friday at 10:06 AM."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Ok! So it was sent in..."*

Jackie Landeche interrupting stated, *"And I forwarded it!"*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Ok..."*

Jackie Landeche interrupting stated, *"Yeah, I forwarded it."*

Councilman Madere asked, *"Okay, so that's an updated one from the one that we got before?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"Yes sir, it's an updated, yes sir."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Alright, so one other question. That rake..."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"Screen!"*

Councilman Madere asked, *"That screen."*

Reed Alexander asked, *"That River Road Plant?"*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Yes."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"It is fixed, we had to send the dumpster that collects the debris, we had to get it dumped, somebody had dumped some construction debris in it while the operators were working on another portion of the facility..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting asked, *"So tomorrow morning it's up and rolling?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"Tomorrow morning I'm expecting the dumpster to be back, we had to actually get the dumpster repaired because of the debris that was dumped in there."*

Councilman Madere asked, *"Okay so, what you call that again? The..."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"The mill screen."*

Councilman Madere asked, "The screen?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay and what's the other thing that's next to it, I think it get the lil grains out?"

Reed Alexander stated, "The grate removal?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah. Okay that..."

Reed Alexander stated, "That's a big project."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right cuz that been down for a few years."

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, so that's going be a major project. Something down the line?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, alright thank you."

Reed Alexander asked, "Anything else?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Not on that one!"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes I had a question Mr. Alexander, well Ms. Robottom can probably answer too. I'm pleased we're moving forward with some of these waste facilities, but I talked with Mr. Delaune and Mr. Fogleman before he left. Are we looking to, say a capital project and building one big facility to house our sewage and close these other rinky-dink things we got down, and just build using some of the money we getting on a tax roll, plus get a project together. Are we looking at that? Cuz I have been discussing that a few times with Mr. Delaune, and I don't think I talked with Reed yet, but I know it was Blake."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes, and actually Reed is engaged. Some of those smaller ones, there's a plan to close them and or what do you call it? Decommission, one of them and they have laid out I think between, starting with Blake, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Delaune put out a 10 year plan to try and address the Waste Water situation. We actually have more waste water plants than water, it really it's costly to us it's hard to maintain, ultimately, we'll have to come with an estimate of what that might cost, so that when the tax rolls increase we'll have an idea of what type project we're looking at. Again, keep in mind in addition to building a facility we have to make sure the piping is also altered in order to get the waste to it. But I feel very strongly that we do need to consolidate them on both sides of the river. It doesn't make sense to be attempting to operate and maintain the number of Waste Water Systems that we have for the small groups that they're serving."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you and I just wanted to make sure, and Mr. Alexander I didn't know you was in on it to and I'm sure you were, because you are the Assistant, that we're moving in that direction to have a main facility to house all St. John Parish sewage, have a state of the art place, put it on paper,

get some grant funding and money coming from the tax roll and let's build it."

Reed Alexander stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "At the Lions Plant we have a lot of piping that's been stacked up on there, since I been on the Council when I came on three years ago. I had asked for it to be removed and put at another location, you know it I know we're surrounded by the Grain Elevator and we get a lot of dust hitting us at times, but that pipe it needs to be moved at another location if you could? And on the West Bank, the Water Plant on the West Bank, it needs to be the tanks need to be washed down/pressure washed..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Councilman, we have to we kind of have a narrow scope here, so it's specific to repairs."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Waste water issues."

Councilman Malik stated, "Waste water."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well this is Utilities, it says Utilities also on here."

Councilman Malik stated, "Well."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Is says Waste water."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay let me back up. The Waste Water Tanks in Garyville needs to be painted. Refurbished."

Reed Alexander stated, "It would be a Capital Project to do that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay and as far as the rest of the tanks on the West Bank being worked on, what's the stats of those?"

Reed Alexander stated, "We had a meeting Friday with the Parish Engineer, and the Consulting Engineer, he's going back a fourth time to get a preliminary drawing together, he said probably two weeks."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay, alright thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you sir."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding Utilities/Public Works, breakdown of jobs, details and documented responsibilities**

Verdell Kindrick stated, "The Assistant Directors of Public Works and Utilities have met and are coordinating their jobs through the work order system."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir. Again I don't need much discussion, cuz I have met with the Utility's Managers and the Public Works Managers, on some ideas I had and what prompt that was some breakdowns I thought was some breakdown and work processes. And we looked at them and we talked for about an hour, an hour and a half, and we looked at some of those breakdowns and I think these guys are really, they're coming together they're working, I think they had their Secretary in it also, Office Assistant, and look like they're trying to work those issues out. Because we know that Utilities does work and when they finish

with it they, Public Works need to go in there and do some things and this is just for the public cuz I'm satisfied with what they told me, and you guys. So Utilities/Public Works needs to go in there and do some work and some completion work, but that's where some of the breakdown been. Cuz our streets were, some of them not getting - they getting repaired as far as leaks are concerned but if Public Works don't know what's going on because they can't go repair the streets. And that we don't have our computer system in yet completely whereas, we can get little ticklers and things like that sent to different departments and remind them to do that. And they're even looking at maybe putting somebody in position to be able to look at both sides of it that way or look at all the jobs that they do. But that was just talk, but I was satisfied that these guys are doing what they can to try and close that gap between some of the holes we got between work processes. So I was satisfied with that as far as the public is concerned. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, if I'm straining off of this topic because it's saying - work breakdown of jobs detail, documented responsibility. And this question is: Well it's for both departments, okay, what is our responsibility to the citizens as far as helping them? I know Public Work, I think I worked a lot closer with Verdell, than I did with Utilities as far as different things and Mr. Verdell always was responsive you know to the jobs and details and responsibilities to the citizens you know so commend him on this. My concern is basically with Utilities, okay so Blake I mean this Reed and you're taking over the hot seat. Okay my concerns with Utilities or any department that service the people in our community. I think it's our job and responsibility to do all we can to assist them in anything that they have or concerns that they have. I do remember when we had this project with the drainage, the guy really reminded me that from the middle of the road to either side, it's 40 feet of parish servitude. Okay if that's being the case and there's 40 feet of servitude on both sides, when a resident build a house or put a trailer, okay and there was a structure there before and a fee was paid for a water line and a fee was paid for a tap, and then someone else move in and then we tell them we can't find the tap, you have to pay an additional \$750.00. Okay, where is our responsibility to find that tap? Okay, we know it's there, okay but instead of finding that tap we tell the resident it's easier, and quicker for the parish to get the \$750.00 and run a new tap. My concern is, we should do all we can to assist these residents, especially if we know that a tap was there before, so it's there it didn't disappear, it's there. Okay and when I referred this problem to the water to this same particular property, it was agreed upon that they was going run a new tap because the parish could not explain why the tap was missing. But I found out recently, that the people went back and found the original tap and they tapped to it. But if these people wasn't persistent or I wasn't persistent, that lot would have had a new tap and those people would have been charged \$750.00 for an existing tap that was in the ground but just wasn't found. So where's our responsibility to our citizens to find those taps when we know they was there? Now I'm not talking about a lot that was never developed, but quite natural we got to put in a tap. Got to put a new sewer line got to put new water tap, but if we know there was a structure there and someone else built a house on that lot, or put a trailer on that lot that we know there was a water line, that we know there was a sewer tap, what is our responsibility to find it? That's just to go out there for five, ten minutes and say we can't find it, give me \$750, that's my concern. Okay, what are our responsibilities to help the citizens?"

Reed Alexander stated, "We ran into that problem a number of times, we've actually gone out there and worked with the residents trying to find it, never been able to find them. When they demolish a house, we don't know what they did with the tap. We don't know if they cut it back to the road, we don't know if

they stopped it by the house demolition, we don't know what they do with it. The lateral coming off the main is for the customer."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well let me just say this, I'm more than sure especially in this situation where there was a trailer, they're not cutting anything back to the road. They probably disconnecting at the trailer and moving it. Okay, my thing is just like we went back and found that water line, in fact twice they had went out there and said they couldn't find it, but when they was had to go out there and put it they actually found it. So what I'm saying is, we just need a little more of an effort, not one time not ten minutes, okay we know that sewer tap is there, and we got 30, 40 feet of servitude and that property, I'm going to give an example; if that property run wall to wall, if I go three or four feet from the edge of the road and just dig across, I'm a hit that tap I'm a find that tap! Okay, it's not like we're talking about a country mile, we're talking about in front of a residence property line. Okay, if we start from one end, let's just say I don't know where's it's at, but if I get a block about three feet wide and I go from one end to the other I'm going to run into that tap! Rather than having the residents pay \$750.00 for a new tap. So that piece of property, you understand, it got \$1500.00 worth of tap, okay? So I think we need to find that tap, we know it was there, so we need to find it! And then when we find these taps or whenever you put new taps in you should document exactly where it's at and the location just to keep this type of thing from happening. And I don't think the residents have to burr the burden of another \$750.00, because be honest with you, we didn't stay very long out there looking for that tap."

Reed Alexander stated, "We do document the new taps."

Councilman Madere stated, "The new ones."

Reed Alexander stated, "The new taps are GPS coordinated."

Councilman Madere asked, "Yeah the new ones?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay and when did that start?"

Reed Alexander stated, "In subdivisions it started quite some time ago, we just started it within the last year in Utilities."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'm talking about in District III, in the rural where they like to call the rural area, I don't say rural area, just the District in the Reserve, Garyville, Mt. Airy area. How long have they been documenting taps?"

Reed Alexander stated, "So like new construction which you have on Martin Luther King Drive, those were all documented when the subdivision was put in. As far as the older area..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "And that's the one that needs the help, and it's not documented."

Reed Alexander stated, "That's years..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Yeah, that's what I'm saying, it's not documented. So, but I mean we know for sure there was a sewer tap there. So we should do all what we can, not for this resident who's trying to start a new

family, a new house, trying to get on their feet to take an additional \$750.00 from them. Okay and I think when we talked on the phone you said if you had to hire a contractor, I said we don't need contractors we have our own individuals that can do it. Okay if I working in Utilities or I'm working in Public Works, and I get paid \$10.00 to cut grass or \$10.00 to pick up paper, it's still \$10.00 to me. Okay and that's all the parish is incurring, the amount of money that I'm being paid. So I think we can get out there and find that tap, because we know it was there, we found the water line and when there's a water line there's a sewer tap. Okay, they go together okay, like bread and butter they're two of a kind. So if that water line is out there, that sewer tap is out there. And I don't think that resident or any resident have to pay an additional \$750.00 to run a new one. And then I think in across that tap, you got to cut the road open?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, so why would we want to cut a new road, we just put that street on East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street? So I'm not in favor of cutting a road to put a tap, when we can find an existing tap. Okay, so we're not going to destroy a newly patched road to run a tap. Okay we need to get out there find that tap. That's just my comment concerning that."

Reed Alexander stated, "When do we call it, when do we call it a day when we don't find it? How far do we go?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Well you should find it. Well look!"

Reed Alexander stated, "I'm asking."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'm a put it like this, it shouldn't be that you're not going to find it. Okay, we know there's a tap there, there's a water line there, there's a tap there. Okay, so the excuse seem to be we're going out there to fail already. Okay you should be in the mindset if there's a water line out there, it has a tap out there."

Reed Alexander stated, "The reason why I'm asking is because we've been on many of jobs and we weren't able to find a taps."

Councilman Madere asked, "What happened?"

Reed Alexander stated, "The only reason why I'm asking is cuz we've been on many of jobs and we're not able to find taps."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I'm not talking about many. Okay many, there's many failures and then there's many success. You may find that one, you can't half judge one from another. Okay, you may not been able to find this tap, but that don't mean I'm not going to find this tap. Okay, you have to put an effort in to find it. Okay and I don't think an effort been put in, okay you haven't spent three (3) hours out there, we've haven't spent four (4) hours out there looking for it. I'm not saying two (2) weeks, I don't think we need to find it, that's all I'm saying. I don't expect you to dig up the whole yard, okay? If that's the edge of the road, we should have some idea where that tap already, we should have some idea where that tap came from. We should have an idea where it came from. In what area, we know it didn't come at the very nook of the property, we know it didn't come at the very beginning of the property."

Reed Alexander stated, "It would come either at the end or beginning of the

*property because you share taps with a neighbor."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well then you have a starting point. Okay, then you have a starting point, so you should be able to find it."*

*Reed Alexander stated, "Ok."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Ok!"*

*Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you, and I think I'm kind of glad you said something, responsibilities. Some of our responsibilities to make sure that the residents are taken care of. And I think that at times, and I can understand why, but I think at times there's the employees of the parish fall short on that. For example; and this is just a statement - Residents in District VII, reports a leak and it took from November until January?"*

*Reed Alexander asked, "Country Club?"*

*Councilman Malik stated, "I think no, no, this would have been on Lakewood. This is the one where the excavator came out popped a hole in it and they had the 20 foot gusher and they had ducks sitting in his lawn. Well is should have been an easy way to identify, yes there's a leak! But in just taking two or three minutes and looking at the register, noticing that it wasn't revolving and saying there is a leak, cuz now we're wasting our own water, there's no odor, the waters' clear, it can't be sewage we need to expedite we need to take care of this. You know along with and I know that Mr. Madere is going to chime in on me, but I'm going to cut him off and turn his microphone off. But for example: Removing the top soil and maintaining that turf, instead of just - I don't know what happens to it I don't know why anyone would remove dirt, but it seems like there's this consistent repair to lawns, where they're filled up with sand, and so. So what I'm saying is, I think at the end of the day is; if you keep the dirt there and you keep the turf there, we're going to solve a lot of problems of having to call back two and three and four times. So but anyway, I do thank you for what you do for us sir, thank you."*

*Reed Alexander stated, "No problem."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes thank you. Look Reed those taps, they're what about five (5) or six (6) feet down under the ground?"*

*Reed Alexander stated, "It depends how deep the main is."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that's, they're about five (5) or six (6) feet, trust me I've dug one up. Now, do the old neighborhoods have 'T's on them?"*

*Reed Alexander stated, "Yes."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "The older neighborhoods?"*

*Reed Alexander stated, "Yes."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "And the 'T' actually come up? I mean rise?"*

*Reed Alexander stated, "Yes."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "And you're sure about that? I'm talking about the*

*whole neighborhood."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"I wasn't here in the 50's when they installed it, but they're supposed to have a clean-out."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Okay, you know I mean the newer neighborhoods come all the way out the ground, you know. And a, but I was just wondering cuz I was here when they were doing that. I was living there they were doing that you know and I looked at some of them."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"Yeah cuz we found one on 26<sup>th</sup> Street."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Yes, yeah."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"It had a clean-out."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"It had a clean-out. Exactly right, no, or did yawl put a clean-out in there?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"It had a clean-out, we put one right next to it."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Well anyhow, I just wanted to know because if, with Mr. Madere problem over there, they may not be digging deep enough. How do you guys go look for them? Do you use the rod?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"We have a pipe locator."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"You actually have a pipe locator?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"When I say a pipe locator, it's just an antenna that turns when you come across something in the ground."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"They work pretty good though. I'm telling you because I used it."*

Reed Alexander stated, *"Umm."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Yeah, they work pretty good, thank you."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"I just, one more thing Blake. How many, I know you on an average you don't have this type of problem everyday?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"You'd be surprised."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Surprise me. About how many you have a day?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"I can bring some work orders on how many taps we're asked to look for a day."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Okay now you talking about in LaPlace, the old areas?"*

Reed Alexander stated, *"I'm talking about St. John Parish. East Bank, West Bank..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"Well if, well just slow your roll listening to what I'm saying. Okay you yawl been documenting a lot of them, so*

the ones that are documented you don't really have to look for them? You just got to go and look...that's what you said you document them."

Reed Alexander stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so if it's one that's been documented, they shouldn't have a problem finding them? Right?"

Reed Alexander stated, "Umm, we don't have a problem like in the new areas, the problems that we have..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No that's what I'm saying. We agree on that right?"

Reed Alexander stated, "The problems that we have is like in the Riverlands area, you can't find any of those taps. Those trees have taken them over, you can't even get a machine in there to dig because of the roots."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well, I don't I may be wrong but I sure don't think you get 10 a week. Okay! I sure don't think you get 10..."

Reed Alexander interrupting stated, "I'll show you some work orders."

Councilman Madere stated, "Just show them to me then, cuz I really don't believe you get 10 a week. Okay, and in my District for sure, okay you're not getting 10 a week. Okay the only person that been concerned about a tap is that one location. And I been in that office in this office 7 years, okay and that's the only resident that ever came to me about a tap. Okay, water or sewage, one person. Okay! Now if you getting that many, then the rest of these Council members should be having their phone ring off the hook. Okay, so I'm saying is, it shouldn't be hard to find that tap, that line, and as a Councilman, I shouldn't have to go to meetings to discuss it, to bring photos and everything else. Cuz for that water meter okay, first they documented it say they didn't have a water meter there and the meter was in the ground, had a picture of it. Okay and then they say they couldn't find the tap. So all I'm saying is, when a request come out something like this and we know there was a structure there, okay, before we tell the resident give me \$750 for a water line, give me \$750 for a sewer tap. Our responsible is to do all we can to find it. That's all I'm saying."

#### **Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding possible Charter changes**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to the Public on notice, that in about a month we're going to have some discussion pertaining to the Charter changes, some things on the Charter. I'd like to look at, and by law we need to do this at least at a minimum of 20 days away from tonight, and a maximum of 60 days in the future. So between that 20 and 60 days, we got to discuss we want to discuss the, some Charter considerations. Because I think there were some, our Charter was written back in 1982 I think, and those guys did an excellent job, we've been running with it ever since. But I'd like to look at some things in there that we might be able to improve on if we can, at least discuss it you see, and maybe you may have some things you might want to look at so you can talk to some people in your Districts about it. But there are some things I don't know by law whether I need to, Mr. Green, I don't know if you offhand by law do I need to say exactly what I was thinking about changing or just that we will be discussing it, the Charter changes. Or just need to make

that announcement tonight that we will be making a Charter change, we'll be looking at some Charter changes, not making no changes. We're just going to be looking at, so that mean that you've been informed (the Public), and you can be on board, if you got any questions, my number is on television on Channel 15, you can call me. What I'm looking at, I don't have a problem discussing it with you, and I think that's it. That fulfills what I need to do tonight."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes Mr. Snyder, I think we discussed this previously and you guys had started a list of possible Charter changes. I also think there's a requirement for the Council to appoint a Charter Commission, so I have some of those documents we looked at, and I think that in 2014 at some of the other parishes, I'll be happy to resend that to you. But the Charters specific as to you know the options on how to make those changes, and the one of them was that you would appoint a Charter Commission which actually created the first one I think."

Councilman Snyder asked, "That's what we discussed?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And that's fine, but I just need to make that announcement that we will be looking at it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Cuz I want to discuss it some more. Thank you."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion Code Enforcement daily/long term activity focus and follow up process**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Again, again, again. I've talked to the Director there and we had a long meeting and his Managers on this, and I think we got it out with what my concerns were. As far as the public is concerned, you know I need to just let you know what we were discussing was some of the things I thought we've been lacking in, as far as cars, high grass, many little things, trees that we seeing getting cut down by contractors/big contractors, and they're leaving it there for our people to pick-up, thing like that. And how the Code Enforcement can help us in that area a little bit you know, and I think Mr. Pastorek and I and the Manager had a pretty good discussion on that, and I don't know if he want to say anything, but those are some of the things I was looking at. To me look like Mr. Madere told me he said, you know something - our Director did an excellent job, other Director did an excellent job on certain things. But some of the things that contributed to the beauty of our neighborhoods seem to be lacking a little bit, you know, and that's not lacking, it's just a decrease of what it used to be. You know like cars parking on the sidewalk, kids got to get in the streets to use the bikes and things like that, you know little bitty things like that. Before, you know we had those things was being focused on, but we know there's some big things going on in Planning & Zoning now, whereas those things, if we ask for them it get done, trust me! If we ask Planning & Zoning to check this, they do it. But it's not a focus like we/like I think it should be. And so he and I talked and the Managers, and we came up you know he got some ideas I'm sure, because he took a lot of notes. Mr. Rene, you have anything you want to say, cuz I'm satisfied with our meeting."

Rene Pastorek stated, "No, just like to let the public know that Code Enforcement action is always ongoing, we respond to complaints, prioritize high traffic

areas, make sure that the code is being enforced. And we're looking at outreach provisions to make the public more aware of just on how Code Enforcement works, how to respond to complaints or how to make complaints, and also how to keep your property free of violations, so."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good, good. Thank you, sir. This is all I have."

Councilman Malik stated, "And with residents, sir! And if residents have any concerns, questions on Code Enforcement, you can be reached?"

Rene Pastorek stated, "985-651-5565."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you, sir. Or call your Councilman."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding the work activity process between the Utilities and Public Works Department**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm just wondering what they're doing, I thought we had discussed this already."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding Communications blind spots and the work process**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah all that was discussed."

**Lennix Madere - Update on status of contract negotiations with Star Maintenance Janitorial Services, LLC**

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay we'd like to motion to table this."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to TABLE the update on status of contract negotiations with Star Maintenance Janitorial Services, LLC. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**Lennix Madere - Update on sidewalk issues on W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street - area going towards the River Road**

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Public Works staff are evaluating existing conditions at this location and will provide a report of their findings once completed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay...I talked to Mr. Verdell and like we had a discussion you know his answer to me was sufficient but, it's good that he said this again you know for the people who are concerned about they're sidewalk, and they're actually hear the process that we're going through. Okay and I do believe that when Administration get a look at those sidewalks or I wouldn't tell too many people to walk the sidewalk, I think you know I'm not predicting any conclusion but I think something satisfactory is going to be done about that you know, so I just want to ensure the residents in that area that everything is being taken into consideration. And Mr. Verdell been like I said, been very helpful and the members of his staff. Okay and we'll be looking forward to that update."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Ok."

**Larry Sorapuru - Update on the Adjudicated Property Program**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Mr. Green, could you give us an over view of..."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Sure no problem. On November 16, 2018, the District Attorney's office submitted to the Governing Authority the 2018 Adjudicated Property Program Annual and Supplemental Reports. The reports were submitted via e-mail to all members of the Parish Council as well as the Parish President. Please see the attached cover letter that was attached by the District Attorney as well as the Progress Summary Report, which covered the period May 2, 2016, all the way through November 9, 2018. Now if you have any specific questions regarding I guess maybe number of properties that are sold, or amount of monies that have been collected, we can definitely refer to the Summary Report or I could try and answer any general questions that you may have regarding the program itself."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay as far as the program Keith, the number of properties that we have that have been adjudicated to the Parish, is roughly about 600 pieces?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "We don't know the exact number of properties that have been adjudicated, I think as we spoke earlier the number of adjudicated properties that would probably be a best answer to I guess you could say maybe between like the Assessor's Office, Clerks Office, there's one other thing I can tell you is that we have approximately 200 properties that are online, that are available to be viewed. Again, the DA's Office, we actually deal with the properties that have been adjudicated for a period of at least 5 years."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay and the reason why I put this on the agenda, I've been talking to a number of non-profit entities that are in St. John Parish that would like to possibly have those properties turned over, if the Council would consider that at some point, I would like to introduce an Ordinance of that type, I just want to give you guys some notice and that I am personally looking at in at that direction and ask you guys to look into your District and see some of them have houses on them and some of them don't, but I was kind of alarmed when I saw the cost (the money we're spending) on adjudicated properties, like \$105,000 to maintain adjudicated properties. So keep that in mind and I'll be more than glad to sit down with a committee of not more than four (4) if you want sit down, if it's legal for us to do that at some point to talk about it. That way we can be on the same page and not just keep going around and circles with things, so you know this is just an idea and maybe we can make a change make a difference in the properties that we have. There's a big demand for housing, the City of Houma, they're doing that in Houma right now with a number of properties. So, keep that in mind if you know I do know we have a Historical District that's in place right now, it's not about tourist it's about having/giving a person a place to live, but if we can you know clean up the parish at the same time and then take the burden of the money we're spending to keep this properties up. So thank yawl for yawl consideration. Thank you Mr. Green for your input."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes this is for Mr. Green."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "The adjudicated properties, you say is about 200?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Madere asked, "Are all those properties adjudicated to the Parish?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Yes sir, the properties that are adjudicated are adjudicated to the Parish."

Councilman Madere asked, "And that is because of what?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "That would be because of non-payment of taxes, of property taxes."

Councilman Madere asked, "Property taxes and also liens from cutting the grass and all that kind of stuff?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Well no sir that's not a, that doesn't qualify property as being adjudicated. Properties adjudicated if a property owner is delinquent with their property taxes, the Sheriff places that property a tax sale and the tax sale interest in the property is not purchased by a citizen or a person, then by default the property is then adjudicated to the parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay but I think a couple of years ago or maybe 3 years ago, we know attach the grass cutting lien to the property tax."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Yes sir, but the grass cutting liens being attached to the, being placed on that tax bill, that does not necessarily qualify the property to be adjudicated. Now if the tax bill goes unpaid..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Right, that's what I mean, right."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "If the tax bill is unpaid, the property will go to sale if the property is not until that tax sale, at that point it will then become adjudicated."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right. Maybe you can answer this question. When I first got in office, well I guess the way they do it now they just sell it. Because at one time I was thinking about the fact that, before we start adding the liens to the property tax we had some outstanding liens where people had owed us thousands of dollars, in some case more than what the property value itself was. And at that time I asked, I mean Mr. Perrilloux was it possible for the parish who had that amount of lien on a particular property like let's say, property is valued at \$20,000, and you have \$30,000 of grass cutting liens on it. Was there any way that the parish could take ownership of that property, and sell back to the community you know not necessarily as a profit, but that way of getting that property back into commerce where someone might could build a house or something you know, because that was before we started putting it on the tax roll. Because we had a lot of outstanding bill and we were constantly cutting grass and it wasn't getting any return on it? Is there any possibility that we can do that?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Well we can definitely look into that for you guys. I know that there are some laws that will allow some things or would allow the parish to not necessarily take ownership of the property, but perhaps take possession of the property for purposes of putting it back in the stream of commerce."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Yes sir. Our office would be definitely, we'll definitely be glad to work with you guys and administration and maybe developing

something or trying to figure out exactly you know the best way to move forward with that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, thank you."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "You're welcome."

Councilman Malik stated, "Mr. Green, thank you for your comments sir. Councilman Madere thank you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Mr. Green. If a piece of property have been adjudicated to the parish, and there are liens on it from the parish, then those liens got to be paid if they going buy, if someone want to buy that adjudicated property? Am I right?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Not necessarily. So the way the properties are currently, if there are liens on the property, under Louisiana Law, once a property is adjudicated and if the property is sold in a program that's designed to sell adjudicated properties, then any existing liens are automatically wiped off if you will."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, even if it's our property?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright, thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes, my just comments is Councilman Sorapuru, cuz I didn't know what this item was in detail when you put it on there. Before you introduce an Ordinance or talking about giving the property away, should have a workshop, bring those non-profit and the Council so we all can discuss this (not four (4) at a time), let's do it in a workshop, that way everybody, cuz we all have adjudicated properties in our district, and go from there and have the Attorneys present, and we could talk about it in a workshop. I think that would be better and that would could all hear the same thing instead of four meetings, we just be open meeting law, we don't do that. So that's my comment."

#### **Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding who and why others have access to the Council Office**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I just had the discussion with the Administration, cuz I was just wondering you know it seems like everybody got a key to our office and I know we got a lot of documents in there that we need to protect, although we got a safe in there, but there's some times that you get people coming through there, I was wondering all the public had access to our office and our Chamber here, you know and I was/that concerns me because if the Judges come in here we're going to have they're going to be in here and/but the public had access or the employees had access to this building here. And I've seen people come through our office just showing other people around. How they get in here, you know? They used their little thing to get in here. So I questioned that, and I brought it to the Administration and I think they made some changes, but now we got keys, where the keys at? I mean how many different people need keys? I think the only person to that should have keys to that office besides us is the Parish President. I really do. It's our office, we don't need everybody to have keys to it. If they need to get in there, they can get it through us or get it through the Parish President. I mean that's the way I feel about it. I mean they got at least, what

four (4) or five (5) master keys out there, for our office? Why? I don't agree, I don't agree with that! That's just, I know that right now the only people that can get in there is us with our badge, if I'm not mistaken. But we still got about four (4) or five (5) keys out there some place. You know and anybody can get in there with a master key, so I just don't think that ought to be so. I don't know how you feel about that. Thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I just have a question, and Mr. Snyder put that on there and I wasn't going to ask about it but since he put it on there. I know Ms. Robottom, you should have access to the whole building. Why does not the Council have access to the whole building? Cuz I had a meeting one day in Planning & Zoning, and I had to call somebody from the back to come open the door? So why the Council don't have and I had to go and meet on the second floor, I had to call somebody to open the door. So why does the Council not have access to the whole building?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We can talk about that. We have a system for assigning I guess access, we're still working through that now, we've made some changes, there are people that will have access and it just won't be me to the whole building. We have people who have responsibilities to maintain the building, but it's very restricted to regards to who has access to your offices. With regard to the rest of the building, obviously we have a security system in place that we discussed with our Public Safety Director and those involved, we'll be happy to revisit that again, and we're making changes as they become necessary."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Correct, and I don't want to get into the safety issues of it, I was just concerned about the Council. Nothing else but safety, cuz I know you have the, and they have to the safety of this building. So I'm not going to discuss that, I was just concerned about the Council. That's it, that's all I was concerned about."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes that's the exact same thing with Mr. Perrilloux said that I was going to make a comment about. But I also know that being a new building, it take time to work out some of the, I was going to say bugs to it. Okay, just like the other day I came here after hours and I couldn't enter the building cuz we don't have a pad you know like we have on the backside where you come in at? Okay and I thought for sure we should have one to the front you know, just like yourself, you may want to come in through the front and there was none there. So I talked to Robert, he said that they was looking into a couple of locations you know to do that. You know definitely in the front we need one, and any other location that yawl may come up with. I know you're going to take your time and figure it out, we're not just going starting throwing pads up all over the place but, we definitely should have one in the front and one to the side. And I do agree with Mr. Snyder and Mr. Perrilloux, the Council should have access to the entire building, because we are the Governing Body and I think if you can't trust the Governing Body, I don't know who you could trust. So I think we should be able to access any area of this building. And you know we pretty much was the same way at the other building, we just respected the office and went to the receptionist, and then asked to see you or whoever and then they would make a call/contact and let us in. So I don't think there'll be any problem where if we have these keys, I mean access that anybody would abuse that. I don't think that'll happen, you know so we'll wait for yawl response concerning those issues."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

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

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

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**19-04** An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lot SJ-1, Reine Subdivision and a portion of Reine Subdivision into Lot SJ-1A of Reine Subdivision and a remaining portion of Reine Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Kimball Dr., Jaubert Ln., the St. John the Baptist/St. Charles Parish line, and East Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA containing municipal addresses 287 Jaubert Lane and 290 Jaubert Lane as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. (PZS-18-1202) (N. Robottom)

**19-05** An ordinance approving a re-subdivision of Lots 14 and 15, Square A, Sunny Dale Subdivision into Lots 14A and 15A, Square A, Sunny Dale Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Sweet Lorraine Dr., Hwy. 44, East 24<sup>th</sup> St., and East 23<sup>rd</sup>, St., Reserve, LA, containing municipal addresses 263 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street and 259 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, as shown in a survey prepared by C. Randall Dixon Sr. P.L.S. on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (PZS-18-1203) (N. Robottom)

**19-06** An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 28. - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article II - Offenses Involving Public Safety to prohibit the possession, use, and/or discharge of weapons and/or firearms in Parish-owned buildings, and provide for related matters (N. Robottom)

**19-07** An ordinance amending ordinance 18-43 relative to the annual Operating budgets for St. John the Baptist General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Project Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019 (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. On behalf of everyone here I'd like to express my condolences to Councilwoman Hotard and her family on the untimely death of her sister. We will keep her family in our thoughts and prayers. I'd like to remind everyone that February is "Black History Month" and "Heart Health Awareness Month." This month, we especially encourage everyone to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our Parish and Country by participating in events throughout the community. St. John the Baptist Parish Libraries will host Black History Month celebrations: Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> -

LaPlace Library - 6:00 PM; Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> - Reserve Library - 6:00 PM; Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> - Garyville Library - 5:00 PM; Edgard Library held theirs on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We also encourage everyone to help raise awareness for heart disease and healthy habits to prevent heart disease. The office will participate in National Wear Red to Work Day on Fridays and we ask the community to do the same in addition to getting regular heart checks. I'd like to thank SJA and their principal Mr. Montz for inviting me to address their assembly in celebration of Community Leaders. It was an honor to return to a place where I spent a great deal of time in my former life. I'd also like to congratulate East St. John High School graduate Reneedia Lee-Johnson on the opening of her new salon Conti Hair Lounge on Highway 51 in LaPlace. Reneedia is a third-generation hair stylist, learning from her mother and grandmother, and offers hair styles, shampoos, cuts, colors and more. You can check her out online at [www.conti-hairlounge.com](http://www.conti-hairlounge.com) or contact the salon at (504)475-8819. We recently broke ground on a \$1.2 million safe room which is being constructed next to the EOC. The 4,000 square ft. facility will house critical staff, first responders and other agencies as they work disasters and emergencies. Construction should take around 12-14 months weather permitting, and we are looking forward to its completion. A couple of weeks ago, several of my staff and Council Members Malik and Sorapuru met with members of the Louisiana delegation in Washington D.C. to discuss St. John priorities, the levee project, the National Flood Insurance Program and Railroad Issues. All were receptive and are on board with our requests. We again partnered with the Port of South Louisiana and St. James and St. Charles Parishes to host our annual River Parishes Economic Development Initiative Breakfast. The breakfast was the most attended in all of the years that I have been attending and gave us an opportunity to highlight our region's economic development efforts but to also inform our federal delegation about our priorities and policies that affect our communities. All members of Louisiana's congressional delegation attended and addressed the assembly on national topics of importance to our state. We also attended the Louisiana Economic Development Luncheon sponsored by Chambers across the state. The guest speaker was entrepreneur Chris Meaux, founder of Waitr restaurant delivery service, the \$50 million venture which started in Lake Charles and is now worth more than \$300 million. For those watching at home tonight, we officially moved into the new Council Chambers at the Government Complex. It is much better suited for our meetings as it has more space to accommodate the public. We also improved the voting system but we are still adjusting to the upgrades which should help the meetings run more efficiently and be easier manage for all involved. We also switched to a new advanced government access channel system. St. John TV has improved audio and visual output and more graphic and video capabilities. All public meetings will be filmed and replayed on the channel and council meetings will play live and through rebroadcasts. The three service providers are UVERSE, RTC and Comcast and the Channel is 15 for RTC/COMCAST and 99 for UVERSE. I would like to thank Baileigh, our Communications Director along with the IT department on their work on this transition. As the government access channel and equipment aged, it was time to replace and upgrade this system which was done in the new building. The group is also working on getting the meetings live on the West Bank. As most are aware, we recently took in close to 200 dogs from an animal hoarding and cruelty case at the animal shelter. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated time and supplies, cleaned, washed blankets, etc. The outpouring of community support has been amazing. However, the shelter is very overcrowded, and need to get the dogs, most who are gentle and kind, out for foster or adopt. Rachael and her staff with some of the volunteer groups will be hosting a thank you/ meet and greet event with the dogs next Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 PM - 2:00 PM at the St. John Animal Shelter on West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The public is invited to come out for food and music and walk and meet some of the dogs. It is

also a thank you to all who helped at the shelter. Baileigh will be posting more information on the event however we wanted to announce it tonight. Good luck to our Miss Andouille Queen Mandy Sweeney who will spend next weekend competing at the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Queens of Queens Pageant in Baton Rouge. We want to wish Mandy the best of luck and know she will represent St. John Parish well as she competes against queens from across the state. The Economic Development Department and CAO's office will also be participating in the convention's "Taste of Louisiana" event and will share St. John dishes with other festival groups from around the state. Congratulations to George Becnel with Bec's at the Lake Catering and Restaurant for winning people's choice best dessert at last weekend's United Way of Southeast Louisiana Gumbo Cook-off in New Orleans. The dessert was picked from over 400 entries across the state and we want to commend George and his team for the accolade. 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 and we will continue rooting for you! Thank you."

**ADJOURNMENT :**

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

/s/Thomas Malik  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
COUNCIL SECRETARY