

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2012
CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF
VICE CHAIR 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 14th, 2012, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Lucien Gauff, III, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B, Art Smith, Councilman District I, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI

ABSENT: Cheryl Millet

Councilman Perrilloux led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Billy O'Regan was present.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Black History Month

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, read a proclamation for black history month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Heart Health Awareness Month

Natalie Robottom read a proclamation for Heart Health Awareness Month.

Art Smith - Acknowledgement - Rue des Jardin Civic Association (Milesville)

Councilman Smith commented on the Rue des Jardin Civic Association in Milesville. He complimented them and wanted to acknowledge them on the wonderful job that they are doing to bring awareness to their community and the entire parish. He introduced the members instrumental in getting the Association together. He also commented on a meeting that he attended for the association with some major historical facts coming to light one being the first black sheriff in St. John Parish was from Milesville. He hopes to bring more information to the council in the future.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes January 24th, 2012, Regular Meeting; Parade Permit Approval - Krewe DuMonde - 2/19/12; Parade Permit Approval - Krewe Tohwahapash - 2/18/12; Councilman Wilson - Appointment of Sandra Remondet to the Recreation Advisory Board; Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Mike Luminais to the Planning & Zoning Board; Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Sybil Pellissier to the Economic Development

Committee; Councilman Gauff - Appointment of Elmira Duhé to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Wright - Re-appointment of Judy Songy to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Wright - Re-appointment of Mark Chapman to the Planning & Zoning Board; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Janice Mitchell to the River Parishes Tourist Commission

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes January 24th, 2012, Regular Meeting; Parade Permit Approval - Krewe DuMonde - 2/19/12; Parade Permit Approval - Krewe Tohwahapash - 2/18/12; Councilman Wilson - Appointment of Sandra Remondet to the Recreation Advisory Board; Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Mike Luminais to the Planning & Zoning Board; Councilman Wilson - Re-appointment of Sybil Pellissier to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Gauff - Appointment of Elmira Duhé to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Wright - Re-appointment of Judy Songy to the Economic Development Committee; Councilman Wright - Re-appointment of Mark Chapman to the Planning & Zoning Board; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Janice Mitchell to the River Parishes Tourist Commission; added Councilwoman Hotard - Appointment of Eliza Eugene to the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

12-02 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Four Million Eight Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$4,870,000) of Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2012, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the rights of the owners thereof; providing for the payment of said bonds and the application of the proceeds thereof to the refunding of certain bonds of said Parish; awarding said bonds to the purchaser thereof; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"This ordinance reflects a plan to consolidate and refinance three water revenue bonds to reduce interest by an estimated \$842,561.00 over the life of the bonds. Administration recommends approval and Mr. Hugh Martin is here to discuss this item further and answer any of your questions."*

Hugh Martin, Bond Attorney, stated, *"We have been for some time working on the procedure to refinance three bond issues which were issued in the past to make improvements to the water system of the parish. Those bonds were issued in 1997, 1998 and 1999. You might think of a bond refunding very similar to refinancing a mortgage on your home. Where you have a mortgage rate that is years old at a higher rate than the market is now, you can come in and get a new mortgage at a lower rate and pay off the old mortgage and end up with a reduced monthly payment on your home. The same thing is true for this kind of refunding for bonds. Bonds sold years ago bore higher interest rates than are available now because we have historically lower interest rates now. So you can go on the market and sell them at today's interest rates and pay off the old bonds and achieve a savings. In this case we were also able to do something else which we think is of equal significance to*

the parish and that is to restructure the way the debt is repaid in order to assist the cash flow. In recent years cash flow for the waterworks system has been very tight. The revenues coming in were just enough really to operate and maintain and meet all the obligations of the water system but if you had a real emergency we would have had to find money some other place. This rearranging of the repayment schedule will give you some breathing room and a lot more cash flow. Mr. Jason Ackers will give you more of the details and any questions that you have we will be happy to try and answer."

Jason Ackers, Bond Attorney, stated, "At the prior council's suggestion and resolution we went and solicited purchase offers for the purchase of the bond. We received two offers, one from Regions Bank and one from Iberia Bank. The interest rates on the bonds that are being refunded range from 5.125 to 5.75%, the interest rates being offered by Iberia bank go from 1.2 to 2.95% a significant decrease in the interest rates as Mr. Martin said. We have mentioned some of the benefits. Mrs. Rodgers mentioned the \$842,561.00 savings over the life of the bonds. We were also able to take roughly \$785,000.00 that was sitting in a reserve fund that could not be used for any purpose other than to secure the holders of the bonds and by refunding all of these we were able to take that money, pay down on the debt such that the outstanding principal amount was formally for all three series roughly \$5,750,000.00. The outstanding principal amount after the issuance of the refunding bonds is going to be \$4,870,000.00. There are a number of ways to look at a refunding but I think the most accurate way for you to look at it with a revenue bond issue is that you have to make monthly payments, your monthly payments for the three outstanding issues is currently \$65,000.00 a month that you have to deposit into a sinking fund. After this refunding for the remaining life of the bonds that monthly payment is going to be roughly \$30,000.00 and for the remainder of this year that payment is actually going to be only \$17,600.00. So there is a very big dollar for dollar benefit that will be actual savings that you will realize over the remaining terms of the bonds. The other benefit is that we were able to rewrite an old ordinance that was written in the mid 80's to put into much more user friendly language that would benefit you when you go out for additional bonds in the future secured by water revenues to the extent that it becomes necessary. As we said we will be glad to answer any questions that you have."

Councilman Snyder asked, "The \$700,000.00 was that part of the contract to refinance to pay that down by that much?"

Jason Ackers stated, "The \$700,000.00 was old bond proceeds from the '97, '98 and '99 bonds that you have to use for some purpose and when you are doing a refinancing the easiest and safest way from a tax perspective is to use them to pay down the debt. In other words it is like you have this big pot of money sitting over there that is very restricted so you are going to use it just to pay down principal that decreases your borrowing cost going forward."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we don't have any real money but we are saving money?"

Jason Ackers stated, "Yes you are saving a lot of money."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-02. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

12-03 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to purchase immovable property and improvements described as 161 Belle Grove Drive, LaPlace, LA 70068 by Act of Cash Sale from Melissa Guillory, funded by the FEMA Severe Repetitive Loss Program, and to execute the Act of Cash Sale and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Acquisition of the property at 161 Belle Grove Drive is the result of a Severe Repetitive Loss Mitigation Grant from FEMA (90% FEMA and 10% homeowner). Upon acquisition of the property, all structures will be demolished and removed and the Parish will maintain the use of the property as open space in perpetuity. Except for in-kind administrative work, there is no cost to the parish. Administration recommends approval."*

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"Is that a house on Belle Grove? I went looked at it because I wanted to see it. Is someone living there?"*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"No sir not right now. She has moved everything out. You probably saw that it looks like a nice home. I know that she moved out everything that she wanted moved out. There might be curtains on the windows but she has moved out. She is actually living out of state I believe."*

Councilman Perrilloux asked, *"And we are going to demolish that property?"*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Yes sir and actually FEMA requires that it be demolished including the slab, everything and the foundation because it is in a repetitive flood zone. They would rather purchase it and demolish it then keep paying them every time it floods."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-03. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to be introduced at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Tonight the St. John the Baptist Parish Council Finance Committee met. We had three items on the agenda and I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The committee approved to grant administration authorization to award the contracts for grass cutting services to Cypress Land Contractors, LLC, Corporate Green, LLC, St. John Grass Cutting & Maintenance, B&D Tractor

Services, Inc., Hymel's Turf & Landscape, LLC, and Pac's General Contractors, LLC, approved to grant administration authorization to award the contracts for janitorial services to Sparkling Touch, LLC of Pauline for \$73,680.00 per year and Enmon Enterprises, LLC of Metairie d/b/a Jani King for \$71,676.00 per year, and approved to to grant administration authorization to execute Revision #1 to work authorization No. 15 with Shread-Kuyrkendall & Associates, Inc. for the Persimmon Street Drainage Improvements Project. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Art Smith - Discussion Persimmon Pumps - Auxiliary power

Councilman Smith stated, *"My concern with this is during a Hurricane or any emergency, the power is going to go out. I just don't have a good understanding of the back up power for that. I understand we can bring generators in but I guess I am looking for something a little more permanent. The pumps are large pumps and they have to be maintained. If they are not used for a period of nine months or so, barons start to dry up, seals start to dry up and I am afraid that those pumps may not work during the time that we really need them. So that is why I asked the question. I am just trying to get a good clear understanding and also let the people know because a couple of residents did ask me and I understand that we can do this from a different setting."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"All of our pumps require preventive maintenance and testing through out the period that they are not being used. However there is an annual contract that the parish enters into for generators and at the time of the pre-construction meeting discussion and sizing for generators required for these pumps was also discussed. Our contract is generally during the four heaviest months of Hurricane Season and we have generators under contract for all of our major pumps and they will be under contract for these two as well. Understanding your concern and we would rather it not rain and flood but clearly there needs to be preventive maintenance and routine maintenance for all of our pumps to make sure that when we need them they will be operational. So that will be something that our public works department will handle however generators will be available for these pumps during Hurricane Season."*

Councilman Smith asked, *"Is there any money left over so that we could get a permanent generator there?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"These are extremely large generators and we were fortunate enough through the state to be able to access funds for generators and will continue to pursue that but for this time for the amount of usage it is probably more cost efficient to have them under contract and rent as needed. We are going to stay on top of it as we try to with all of our large pumps and these are large pumps. So our goal is to have them working when we need them working and fortunately we do have a relationship with one of our local contractors that does have the sizes that we need. We have been very fortunate over time to add permanent generators to some of our sites like our water plants and wells out in Ruddock but there are some that we are obviously not able to and clearly not out of this project to be able to funds permanent generators at this time. The Persimmon Street project is 95% complete,*

with the final walk through and testing scheduled for Friday. At that time, a punch list will be generated and substantial completion recommended as appropriate. Captain Bourgeois St. is scheduled to reopen once the final walk through has been completed."

Councilman Gauff stated, "The road is open."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was concerned because of the safety aspect of it. I passed there the other day. You are looking at a ten foot hole there and they had about four feet of water in it and the only barrier that they had around it was some tape and they have little kids that play in that area. I think that if we can speak to the contractors and have them do a little something better than just a piece of yellow tape to prevent a child from playing in there and slipping into that hole. It is a deep hole and no one would probably see a child in there. I passed over there myself."

Councilman Gauff stated, "It has been put up. The tape has been removed and a permanent structure barricade has been put up."

Art Smith - Update on the West Bank Farmer's Market

Councilman Smith stated, "This is a previous council project. I want to get this thing ready for garden season so our vendors on the West Bank can start selling produce out there. I am just trying to figure out when we can tell them hey this will be ready in either May or June or whenever. I know we are putting up a fence around there and that has to be done."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is the requirement through our Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with DOTD that the fencing is erected before we can continue to do the work. The contractor is scheduled to begin that next week. The site preparation is complete and we are working on plans for lighting the area. We are going to work with Entergy to possibly use their poles and add some additional lighting for the area. Policies and Procedures, Tori Buckles, who is our new EDC Director will continue to work with the team that was drafting policies and procedures and include discussion of our economic development committee, as well as our vendors in determining how the entire system will be run. Part of our hold up is that we anticipated funding and we understand that by the end of February our grant through USDA should be available but the parish is also providing some funding for the restrooms and the foundation and some of the other aspects so we are going to get started on that, simultaneously work on our policies and procedures so when it is completed we will be ready to roll it out."

Councilman Smith asked, "Any idea when you will be able to start accepting applications for vendors?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is also going to be included in the policies and procedures and of course we want them involved. We have been evaluating and accessing how other farmer's markets have been operating and we have people working with us to try and help us not to have to recreate the wheel. So we will have their involvement during that process."

Art Smith - Establishing DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for

doing business in the parish

Councilman Smith stated, "This is something that I read in the report was started by Councilman Julien. I would like to see us establish a program where our local disadvantaged businesses could share into our contracts at a rate of 35%. Of course they would have to become certified and everything to show that they are DBE if we do it through the SBA or through government but there has to be some mechanism that assures us that these are DBE's and I think it is incumbent upon us to be sure that these people get a part of the money that we in St. John Parish are spending. I don't think 35% is too much for us to keep that part of the money within the parish. I would like to see us as a council establish a DBE for the parish. I know we try our best to make sure that vendors hire our people but if we establish our own DBE program then it makes it mandatory that it happen."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This too Mr. Smith was an item that was briefly discussed under the last administration. We received a presentation by Mr. Davilier with his law group and the council at that time recommended establishing a committee to meet with and discuss what the options were, what the plans were and what it requires to actually develop a program and provide input. I encourage this council to select a small committee so that we can meet on behalf of everyone, administration as well, to have the discussions so that we are clear on what it requires because what Mr. Davilier indicated was it is not about just passing something. There is a lot of work that goes into establishing the requirements, the policies and procedures and then making sure that our residents are eligible to participate, that has been a concern I think of some of our council members that locally we don't have a lot of DBE certified businesses and if the parish elects to do that and then none of our people are qualified to participate then we have just excluded the locals you intended to help. So there is a little more thought that needs to go into it and I encourage you to please select a committee. We will be happy to set up those meetings, look at some of the existing programs that are in other parishes and work to develop a recommendation or program to benefit St. John Parish but that I think should be done on a committee basis. So I am going to ask that you please select a committee to do that."

Councilman Smith asked, "Chairman would it be out of line to ask us to do that now?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think that is something that we should wait to do. I don't think we should do that right now. I agree with selecting the committee just not right now. I have also made some calls and have some numbers that I can share with you some people out of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. So I will work well with you and I am sure there will be others that will want to be on that committee."

Councilman Smith stated, "I am a DBE myself."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Let me just make a comment on it, I think in New Orleans Mayor Landrieu just signed something into law a few days ago concerning DBE's so we could probably get some information from his administration to see how it was developed and probably do something here with that. So we could look into that."

Art Smith - Update on the Water Treatment Plant clarifiers

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am not sure if you had a specific question but this is our update. The repairs to the clarifier at the Edgard Water Plant were made to the manufacturer's specifications that extended its life by approximately 5 years. Administration is investigating use of a low interest loan through DEQ (less than 1%) to supplement bond funds for the waterline under the river. This appears to be a viable option to hasten completion of this project. It is critical that we take care of that. The options are very limited on the West Bank and the original plan of just doing another clarifier would not have resolved the problem should something happen there. There is not an alternate water source. So we want to connect the Edgard Plant to the Lions Plant as is being done on both sides of us in St. James and St. Charles. So this is a new option that we will be pursuing. We are currently using a low interest loan for some of our waste water projects and we think this is a great opportunity."

Councilman Smith stated, "I do have one thing that I would like to ask just for investigative purposes. Soft water on the West Bank, what would it take, what would it cost that type of thing. Soft water interest me because it has so many up sides to it. I know it leaves sodium in the water but sodium can be removed through reverse osmosis and it would soften your skin."

Natalie Robottom asked, "So just the West Bank?"

Councilman Smith stated, "We have to start somewhere."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay we will have our Utilities Department and our Parish Engineer take a look into that."

Art Smith - Update on the Airnasium

Natalie Robottom stated, "The project is on budget. There are no foreseen change orders. Foundations for both the building and restrooms have been poured and masonry work is scheduled to begin by the end of the week, pending adequate weather. Cylinder tests were performed and were acceptable. The restrooms are scheduled to be completed by the end of February and the entire project is scheduled for completion by the end of March. We did want to add walking path lights but wanted to wait until the Airnasium was completed and then we will add the lights as we have to other parks to the walking path."

Councilman Smith asked, "Can you get with me on the walking path? I am speaking to the residents and they may want to do something different. Also on the Airnasium on my way over here I had a gentleman call me, he was at the park and he said there were only two basketball goals. Is it possible to put four under there? I don't know because I didn't even think about that and if that is a possibility and it falls within the budget can we do it? It is just a question that came up late this afternoon."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The building should be arriving March 12th."

Councilman Smith asked, "Will the Airnasium be available for rentals?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think the ones on this side are as well. When you rent the park and the park area there is a process for renting those."

Art Smith - Discussion relative to Pleasure Bend - Fire Department, Recreation, Emergency Response, Ambulance Services, RTA Transportation, Evacuation Routes

Councilman Smith stated, "Councilman Snyder, Councilman Madere, Mike Tregre and myself met with the residents in Pleasure Bend. Out of that meeting these were some of their concerns. The Emergency Director and I met on a couple of these issues and I know you have some answers but we had a meeting again last night and I don't know if you were brought up to date on that. If so it is all yours."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The information provided in the report is a combination primarily from public safety but we also included information to address all of your concerns. With regards to the fire department, St. John the Baptist Parish has a Mutual Aid Agreement with the South Vacherie Fire Department to provide fire protection to Pleasure Bend. Calls to St. John 911 are forwarded to St. James 911 for dispatch of the South Vacherie Fire Department and St. John Westside Fire Department simultaneously. Over the last 5 years, 9 fires were reported with an average response time of less than 10 minutes. Although the West side fire truck may not arrive first the agreement is with St. James because of their proximity and the location to Pleasure Bend being you have to go through St. James to get through it and that is the best source of fire protection and the quickest way to have it provided to the residents of Pleasure Bend. The Recreation Pleasure Bend is a recreational paradise, characterized by beautiful waters, tours and recreational fishing. Although proposed by Mrs. Schons, the property owner submitted an appraisal valued at \$73,000 for 2 lots in Pleasure Bend for the purpose of a public park. However, no funds are available at this time. Obviously as we proceed over the next few years and this council elects to decide on some projects if that is one that you would be interested in we would be glad to take a look at that with you but at this point there is no funding available for purchase of that property. Emergency response again Because of Pleasure Bend's proximity to St. James Parish, emergency response is handled by Acadian Ambulance and the South Vacherie Fire Department. Back-up services are provided by the St. John Westside Fire Department. Two fire trucks are housed at the Pleasure Bend Fire Station and a volunteer has a key to the station. Additional volunteers from Pleasure Bend are welcome to join the St. John Parish Volunteer Fire Department and will be trained by the St. John Westside Fire Department. It is an unusual situation at Pleasure Bend. As most of you know their students go to school in St. James Parish because of that proximity. They provide water to Pleasure Bend. Ambulance Service Pleasure Bend is served under the Parish contract with Acadian Ambulance Service. Acadian's standby location for Pleasure Bend is at the intersection of Hwy. 20 and Hwy. 3127 in Vacherie with a response time of less than 15 minutes 90% of the time. RPTA is a limited service that provides a general public demand response service in St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes from parish line to parish line. The service is curb to curb and riders are required to call the day before to schedule their trip. St. James Parish has its own transportation system that avails itself to residents of Pleasure Bend at the St.

James Parish Line. Pleasure Bend is not in RPTA system at this time, but should a resident need a ride, RPTA will pick them up at the St. James/St. John Parish line. I know there are some concerns about that but it is limited access. We only have a few vans and if they are spending their time on that distance it cuts down on the number of people in the closer proximity that they can serve. I am not clear on that I know we have been working on it but if the residents can make it to the St. James line they can ride St. James transportation to St. John and be picked up there. So it is really a very small area to be transported from Pleasure Bend to the St. James Parish line where they do have public transportation. Evacuation Routes, Evacuation routes for Pleasure Bend are consistent with those identified by the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place for notification. Should there be a need to evacuate we tend to send our fire trucks there with bull horns to notify the residents when it is time to leave."

Councilman Smith stated, "Thank you. That was very good. Like I said Mr. Boucvalt and I had a meeting with the fire station last night and if he wants to elaborate on it a little he can. It was a very good meeting."

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Public Safety, stated, "I think Mrs. Robottom wrapped it up, pretty precise and to the point. The only additional thing that we talked about was they are going to have training at Station 91 in Edgard on Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM if any of the volunteers from Pleasure Bend would like to go there and take the training and all that training will be done by Mr. Lumar's people."

Councilman Smith stated, "The only other thing that I wanted to add was the CPR classes. I forgot what date they were."

Natalie Robottom stated, "March 3rd."

Councilman Smith stated, "That is for the people, especially the people from Pleasure Bend that was one of their concerns CPR training so it is available March 3rd at 8:00 AM at Station 91, 3347 Hwy 18 in Reserve. Class fee is \$10.00 per person and space is limited so they are asking that you call to reserve your space. That is for CPR training."

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "The only thing in addition to that is that Mr. Lumar did say that if anybody couldn't make this one he will have additional classes in the future."

Councilman Smith stated, "The only other thing is there was a question about a defibrillator. There is one back there but until someone gets trained to use it they can't so it is imperative that the people that want to volunteer back there come up to Edgard, get the training, it is available, Mr. Lumar is open at 6:30 on Tuesday so anyone that wants to join the fire station as a volunteer fireman at Pleasure Bend needs to be available at that training."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Also the trucks that respond from Vacherie have defibrillators on them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was under the impression that there was some land that was going to get donated to the parish if we wanted to

put a little small center back there, like a playground for little children and a walk way."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We didn't get the donation part. We received an appraisal for \$73,000.00."

Councilman Smith stated, "That was Mr. Falgoust, he said when we get ready come talk to him. He may donate some land for that. Mr. JB Falgoust."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I hear we have some training going on. Is this training leading toward opening that fire station or is it just training for CPR?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The training is to become a volunteer fire fighter. There is one and there have been others on Pleasure Bend and at that point as throughout other areas of the parish, as a volunteer in the fire department you have access to the fire department with a key when the need arises. So we are encouraging them to go back to the volunteer status and have some of the residents on Pleasure Bend trained for that. There are two different trainings. There is a regular training through the West side fire department if you would like to become a volunteer fire fighter that the department is offering but there is also CPR training. So it is two separate trainings."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So the training the West side wants to give them is CPR and firefighting?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes but two different dates. I think the training for volunteers is ongoing. It is not a one time thing. There is a requirement to continue to train and keep your certification up and your skills current."

Councilman Madere stated, "The only thing I am concerned with because I was at that meeting. We are at the fire station. On the outside there are two fire engines, well equipped to put out a fire. I heard you say that when a fire happens it takes ten minutes for the other ones to respond or to get back there. My concern is if we have a station back there with two engines the only thing that is keeping it from being opened is the fact that we don't have enough volunteers? So to solve that problem if we get say ten or twelve volunteers from Pleasure Bend that are trained in fire fighting then the response time would be immediately almost and we could open that fire station. To me when we built that station we should have made sure we had some fire fighters."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think they did. Mr. Madere we will be happy to discuss this off line with you. This was a judgment based on a suit. There were lots of volunteer fire fighters and it surrounds the building that was funded by a grant. The fire trucks were provided by grants also but there are a few more issues involved in that but there used to be a large number of volunteers and what we are asking is that they step back up and join the volunteers to protect their neighborhood."

Larry Snyder - Financial update on the completed drainage projects

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think an attachment was provided to you. Of

course when you look at the bond projects it is more than just drainage. So we are focusing specifically on the drainage projects. Most drainage projects are nearing completion and have remained fairly consistent with budget estimates. However, two projects are still in the design phase and any unused dollars may be needed to complete these projects. The Foxwood Levee project will require property acquisitions and wetlands mitigation costs that may cost additional dollars, depending on the permitting requirements. The Redbud project has not been finalized either; therefore, we are proceeding with caution before reallocating funds to projects not included in the current bond issue. Should funds be available after completion of all existing projects, we will work to complete projects submitted by the council. All of the projects are coming in right at about budget. We are doing well on our projects. The funding that is available now is for two approved projects or projects that were approved in the existing bond issue. So we are a little hesitant to say totally how much is going to be left until we can complete those two projects or have a better idea of what the estimated cost will be. We won't know that until we get the permit back and we know how much property we may have to purchase or how many acres we may have to mitigate to build that levee although the majority of funds come through a grant there is a million dollars for the Foxwood project but there is going to be a parish portion for that. The bond money that is set aside for Redbud we are not sure we are going to have to use it all but we know we are going to have to use some of it and before committing that to another project we want to make sure that we take care of the projects that are in the current bond issue that were slated by the council and the voters to be fixed with this bond money. Clearly anything left we will be happy to divert and move according to the wishes of the council."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is there anyway we can the developers of Foxwood back there, it is a relatively new community. Shouldn't those people have some liability in there, the developers of that community, with the way it is flooding and we have to build a levee? Have we looked into that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think probably because it was approved and accepted by the council over that period of time. As I said we were very fortunate to get a grant following Gustav and Ike because normally we wouldn't have had that investment for the type of work that is needed but because we do we think it is an opportunity to rectify the problem in that area, as part of this bond issue, which is what it was stated for. Foxwood was all included in this project as well as Redbud. So it is not to say we won't be developing projects in other areas, as Mr. Hugh just mentioned, by us freeing up and reducing debt that will allow us to go back out for additional bond issues and to borrow money to do additional projects. I advised and I am going to continue to advise that this council start to review their districts and start looking at the kinds of projects that are done by bond issues. We can do some things in house but once we get to a million those are the types of projects that we usually group together and the council comes together and decides well these are priorities for us. Obviously we are never able to do everything we want all at the same time but I think this council needs to start looking at some of the problem areas that they want to address in the next bond issue and clearly we have some funds to do investigative work and some studies but I would hate to commit these dollars that were designated for these projects before

these projects were completed. Clearly after they are done then we can decide how to use any surplus dollars."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Well the Lasseigne Canal. Is that on that project on the 2009 bond issue?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can't tell. I will look at it and see. I know we have a list of 23. Some of them are funded through the bond issue and some were funded through FEMA. So we have different funding sources but I can't tell you off hand where that one fell."

Councilman Snyder stated, "There were a lot of canals that were added after that in addendum to that bond issue."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes but they are not all paid for through the bond issue. Some of them are FEMA and Gustav money that is outside of the bond issue. For example the permitting for the West Bank Canals, the Lafourche Basin Levee district is going to clean those. We are just paying for the permits. So that was seven added after the bond issue but that was just for permitting purposes."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am really concerned about the Lasseigne Canal. I think that would help Cambridge out a lot, the cleaning of that particular canal. I think it is in the original bond issue of 2009."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay I will verify that and get back with you. I just don't have that list with me."

Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to garbage cans and large garbage items pick up at apartment complexes

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was wondering if there was something maybe that Code Enforcement could help me out with or whoever could help me out here even the Sheriff Office actually. There are garbage cans all along the apartments up front and on Penn Street I think it is. I am not sure. They have been out there since Monday. They are in the street. They are blocking the paved walk. So I know that is a violation right there. If you go there you will see what I am talking about and if you go down Penn, I think the first street on the left all around that cul-de-sac back there they are all in the street or on the paved walk. Now there has got to be something that we can do. I would like to compliment Mrs. Natalie Tatje. I don't know what she told her residents but the apartments that she has back there are really neat and clean. There are not garbage cans and no trash in the yards and two are three up from her looks like a war zone back there. If there is anything that we can do with Code Enforcement, especially since they are blocking that sidewalk and they are in the street and that is a safety hazard. Contact those owners, they are easy to find right there on the website who owns those apartments and get a letter to them and ask their tenants to get their garbage cans up. Pick them up and put them in the backyard but get them off of the sidewalks and out of the streets. They have been out there since Monday and they will probably be there Thursday."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That isn't the only place Mr. Snyder."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am just worried about Cambridge."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I don't have that luxury. Elm Street is horrible, Belle Terre is bad. I assure you I will do my job. However there are ordinances on the book right now. There is an ordinance that requires 4-plexes to have a dumpster that is obviously not in place. The other problem and that is with enforcement of the garbage cans. Prior to Municode update there was some language in the ordinance regarding garbage cans that said the cans had to be removed from curb side promptly after the contents have been collected, on one of the updates it was removed. So there is no language in the law right now to enforce them not picking up or removing their garbage cans. Now safety is an issue and that is what we look at especially in the corridors where sometimes if you leave them out they are in the streets. If you are saying they are on the sidewalks again that is a safety issue but we can't resolve it tonight but we do need to take a look at the language in the existing ordinances relative to what our expectations of removing garbage cans after they have been emptied. Also what are the requirements and expectations with regards to 4-plexes, duplexes and dumpsters rather than individual garbage cans? We will pull the ordinances that are on the books and have you take a look at them in the event that you would like to have your council make some amendments. We will be happy to work with you on that."

Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to the Cambridge Playground activity after 9:00 PM

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay that has been taken care of because some of the residents back there were concerned with the activity going on after 9:00 PM. I have seen since it was put on the agenda, it looks like it has been doing pretty good."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There is a request from the Sheriff elect for you guys to alter the curfew."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The Recreation Department has 9:00 PM that the park has to be closed down."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But the curfew is 10:00 PM everywhere in the parish."

Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to the street marker on Airline Highway

Councilman Snyder stated, "Somebody must have seen me coming with that one. My understanding is that it has been handled. Coming down Airline Highway, especially in this part of LaPlace, if there are some people coming that aren't used to it and don't know where the streets are they really can't see the name of the streets on Airline Highway. There are some markers there and some that are not. My understanding in talking to administration is that we had some bracket problems and that is why they are not there, but the brackets are on back order, so I am okay with that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No they came in on the 10th. It was a project that Mrs. Millet initiated and of course it required permitting through DOTD because we were putting the signs on their poles. So we had to go

through that and match their specifications. It is my understanding that some of them were installed and the others came in on the 10th and they will start putting them back up on the 22nd."

Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to litter, law and enforcement

Councilman Snyder stated, "I received some paperwork here from Mr. Za Maurin. I got a report on some of the activity they have had on not issuing citations when they catch someone doing littering. I think there is a project whereas we pay them so much money to enforce our litter laws or do what they can. Now obviously they are not getting paid enough money because there is too much litter. I know some of these officers see what is going on but that is a little thing to them I guess because they have so many other real big problems but there is something on the book and according to Mr. Maurin that they are trying to enforce that litter law and I thank him for the report that he gave me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is a concern for us and throughout our land use meetings and our meetings throughout the parish the appearance of our community is a concern for a lot of residents and some of that is personal responsibility. That litter is not just falling there people are throwing it and we need to take responsibility for our own actions. There is also a number if you see people litter that you can call 1-888-548-7284 or 1-888-LITRBUG. That is something that we are looking at and we have had some conversations with you but just to all the residents and business owners we have gotten a lot of information about the appearance of our major corridors and our neighborhoods and code enforcement will be renewing their vigilance in the overlay district with signage and litter and flags and all of the things that are not allowed in the overlay district. We are going to ask that you participate with us and voluntarily remove those signs. We want to work with you. We don't want to take your things. We want you to be aware that there are ordinances. Our code enforcement officers will be distributing part of the ordinance that discusses what is allowed when they go out to visit with you. It is not punitive. We would like you to remove it on your own however if it is not done then we will continue to pursue that. We have lots of traffic. In addition to the litter all the signs, flags and all the things that are in violation of the overlay district, it is time to get that cleaned up. So we are going to continue to promote. Our clean sweep is coming up. We do have volunteers that want to help us block by block to do that but it is going to take all of us and part of it is to start by not throwing anything on the ground. We don't have to pick it up if you don't throw it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "There is a little city. A little fishing village somewhere on the West Bank, I have never been there but if you pass through there doing 26 mph you will get a ticket. I have never been there in my life but I know about it. You know why because they enforce the law. It is Golden Meadows. If you pass there and everybody knows about Golden Meadows and I respect them for that because you are supposed to do 25 mph. Hey if we start seeing people put trash on the ground stop them, give them a citation and let them pay that \$25.00 like the seatbelt, that is what I would like to see, not just don't do that anymore, that isn't going to work. They have people that just don't care and you have to force them to do things."

Councilman Wright stated, "So I think basically we have a challenge to our residents from the council and administration. Take pride in your community and pick up your trash. Don't be afraid to pick up someone else's trash. I do it all the time and so can the residents. So a challenge you guys."

Lennix Madere - Update on Homewood drainage project

Natalie Robottom stated, "That project is moving along fairly well. The new drainage pump has been installed and an acceptable test run completed last Monday. The original pump is being dismantled and relocated to the new foundation. The project is expected to be completed by the end of February. That has been a long time coming and clearly that is going to be another one that we are going to have to monitor and make sure that we keep it running and we are also looking forward to the construction area being removed because we did have some plans to do some landscaping at the boat launch but didn't want to do that while construction was going on."

Councilman Madere stated, "I was very pleased with what I saw as far as the completion and the fact that it is going to be finished by the end of February. I think all the residents in that area and in District III are going to be happy to see that. Not saying anything negative but when we have the first big rain, then we will have the first big test. After that rain comes and it is in full operation I will be out there to make sure it is doing what it is supposed to do and I am glad to report that to them that it is almost completed, hopefully no rain."

Lennix Madere - Discussion relative to Planning & Zoning procedures pertaining to adjudicated and abandoned properties and trailer placement issues

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ordinance 11-52 provides for the sale of properties adjudicated to the parish for over 5 years and the Broussard Baloney Law Firm is under contract to manage this program. A database of all adjudicated properties is being compiled and uploaded to the parish website by the GIS coordinator. It will take approximately four more weeks to complete this process; but the system should be live on the Parish website in two weeks. A public awareness/marketing campaign is being developed to advise residents and interested parties about the process. Abandoned properties that are hazardous or unsafe are addressed in Section 105-40, et seq. of the Code of Ordinances. Following an investigation, completion of a report, and verification that a violation exists, a recommendation is made by code enforcement officers to either board and secure, or demolish the structure. All demolition requests are submitted to legal to obtain a court order. Trailer/Mobile Home permits are obtained through an application process in the Department of Planning and Zoning. If a trailer or mobile home is placed on a lot without an approved permit, a violation notice is issued by a code enforcement officer. If the resident does not comply with recommended corrective measures, the violation is submitted to legal to secure a court order to have the trailer removed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you. I am concerned about the adjudicated properties. I spoke with Ms. Sutherland and I think she is doing a really good job and has been helpful and I think the

communication part of that as far as the adjudicated properties and the residents that may be able to take advantage of that. With the abandoned houses issues, I know we have a couple of houses that are in the last stage where they may be demolished and I think that process may be moving along because I noticed Orleans and St. Bernard Parish over the weekend are pushing really hard to get rid of these type of properties in their areas. I think we need to do the same thing. Some of the properties that I have come across have been abandoned for over ten years and it is time to remove some of them and it isn't the fact that the process wasn't handled correctly or no one really pushed them and I am not saying I am pushing anyone I am just trying to make sure that each process is being followed properly and Ms. Angelic has done a wonderful job with keeping me up to date on the procedure and how it is going. I know you can't rush everything. It takes time to get through this process. I just don't want the process to get caught up for ten years or a long period of time, so some of these things need to get through. As far as the trailer issue, the reason I brought that up is because I came across a situation that we have right now and I just wanted to be aware as a councilman in that district exactly what it is that is going to be done to protect the citizens that are already in that district. They are not against someone moving in. They want it to be done properly and handled the right way. When I received the phone call it was my job to check and answer all questions that they have and these are some of the questions that they wanted to know. Like what are the repercussions of someone refusing to following policy? So I have been keeping on top of that one."

Lennix Madere - Clarification on height standards for speed bumps or speed humps

Natalie Robottom stated, "Parish Ordinance 40-27, relative to speed bumps, does not necessarily specify the height requirements for speed bumps. However DOTD does recommend speed bumps as a traffic calming measure. Speed humps are typically 12-14 feet in length with hump heights ranging between 3-4 inches trending towards 3-3½ inches maximum. Mr. Gauff was on top of it for you. He actually talked to someone from the president's transportation office with regards to procedures and recommendations for speed bumps. This has been a problem for us. We did receive some information from DOTD regarding traffic calming devices. A lot of that involves signage, some of it involved enforcement. I think we are trying to deal with procedures to help slow down speeding, which speeding is an enforcement issue and so again we want to work with our Sheriff Department to enforce some of the things that are already on the books but clearly if there are options to assist with that we want to pursue them. We did install at least one if not more of the speed humps. It is more pleasing, it is less destructive to automobiles and I think that is why DOTD recommends those rather than the high humps that might damage vehicles but we will have to figure out if it actually received the results that we expected of them. However that is the recommendation of DOTD and we probably just need to find a standardized way of doing that, marking them, putting up signage, striping that is required to let the drivers know that something is coming up."

Councilman Madere stated, "The only reason I brought up the issue is the fact that the first time someone in my district asked for speed bumps Mr. Kendrick responded real quickly and they received the speed

bump and as fast as he responded I received the phone calls counter responding. I informed them and I will do it again. I am not going to play checkers with speed bumps. I am not going to play checkers with this department. If we put speed bumps down and we follow all the procedures and the speed bump goes down, they are going to stay down in my district. I am not going to play up and down. They are going to stay down. Like I said Mr. Kendrick did do one thing and it really helped me out, he went back and cut down the speed bump a little bit because some of the people were complaining it was a little high, that is why the height issue came up because we had a standard requirement. Now everyone on the street is happy about it, but that is the reason why I brought it up."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R12-05 - A Resolution adopting a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as a required part of St. John the Baptist Parish's annual financial and compliance audit

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution enables the Parish President to complete the Compliance Questionnaire as a required component of St. John Parish's annual financial and compliance audit. So we ask that you approve the resolution."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-05 - A Resolution adopting a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as a required part of St. John the Baptist Parish's annual financial and compliance audit. **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Auditor requires that a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire be completed by the Parish and adopted by the Parish Council; and, **WHEREAS**, the questionnaire must be presented to the auditor at the beginning of the annual audit; and, **WHEREAS**, the auditor will test the accuracy of the response to the questionnaire during the course of his audit; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council do hereby resolve that the attached Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for St. John the Baptist Parish be and is hereby adopted. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

Art Smith/Lucien Gauff - Resolution - R12-06 - A Resolution in support of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board

Councilman Smith stated, "This resolution I asked for because the School Board is trying to pass a mileage. It is not an increase in tax, just a renewal. We have Mr. Bowden here."

Felix Bowden, CFO for the School district, stated, "I do speak for our board thanking you if you do support our proposition. It is very similar to what you are doing in April. We are going after some needed capital improvement money for the schools. There will be no tax increase and we appreciate your support. I think our board two weeks ago adopted a resolution very similar to what you are doing. So they fully support what you guys are doing."

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-06 - A Resolution in support of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board. **WHEREAS**, the St. John Parish Council recognizes the need to partner with and support the St. John Parish School Board's efforts; and, **WHEREAS**, the St. John Parish Council also recognizes that the St. John Parish School Board depends on Ad Valorem taxes as a revenue source for successful operation of the Parish's activities; and, **WHEREAS**, the St. John Parish Council is aware that any additional taxes would negatively impact the local economy, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby declare our support for the following St. John School Board's Proposition in a special election to be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012 and that said proposition will not increase taxes. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

Angelic Sutherland - Resolution - R12-07 - A Resolution adopting a new official zoning map as the official zoning map signed by President Labat cannot be located

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This resolution provides for adoption of an updated official zoning map by the council and enables the Parish President to sign the updated map. I actually have the updated map on the table. It is numerous pages. Once the Parish President, myself as the Planning Director and the Planning & Zoning Commissioner sign it we will have copies made and distribute it to the different locations where it needs to be housed. A copy will need to be filed in the Clerk of Courts Office, as well as the Council will need one but we will reproduce them after they are signed."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"I just want a point of clarification. Where there any significant changes to the zoning map that had to be made?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"Yes. We still do have the original maps. We don't have any signed copies, so we still have the original ones. When we recreated these we actually updated them so all the zoning changes that have occurred, all the ordinance changes for zoning and re-sub and that sort of thing have all been updated on this map."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"That is including all the re-zonings of properties?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"Yes."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-07 - A Resolution adopting a new official zoning map as the official zoning map signed by President Labat cannot be located. **WHEREAS**, if the official zoning map, or any portion thereof, becomes damaged, lost, destroyed or difficult to interpret by reason of the nature or number of changes, the parish council may, by resolution, adopt a new official zoning map which may correct drafting errors or omissions, but shall not amend the original official zoning map; and, **WHEREAS**, the prior maps remaining shall be preserved as a public record together with all available records pertaining to the adoption or amendment; and, **WHEREAS**, the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Director have signed attesting to the fact that the replacement map is an up to date representation of current zoning categories and boundaries. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council do hereby resolve that the Parish President sign the official zoning map making it the new official zoning map for the parish of St. John the Baptist. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "First I want to thank Ms. Sutherland for allowing Mr. Kendrick to work with me on the West Bank. There are some things that we are doing, in conjunction with what Councilman Snyder was saying, that we have a lot of problems with abandoned properties on the West Bank in District I on both sides and we need to get that cleaned up. Milesville has started and I just want to continue that and let the residents know that the inspectors in the Code Enforcement Office are not there initially to site you. They are there to talk to you and try to get you interested in cleaning that up so that we can move this parish forward. The next thing I want to do is thank Mrs. Robottom for all of the answers she gave me. I know it was a lot of questions but it is information that was needed at this time. People ask a lot of questions because we are new. Everybody bombards you daily with issues, questions and concerns and we want to respond to them and let them know that they can start trusting this council to do the right thing. We want to create some integrity amongst ourselves with them. Some time pass that seems to have been lost and we are here to recreate the integrity that they can trust us to do the right thing. It may seem hard at times. It may seem like Mrs. Robottom that we are asking some hard questions and you may not know where they are coming from and other councilmen may not know where they are coming from but we all have the same goal in mind and that is moving the parish forward. Sometimes I ask some questions that seem out of the box, I am asking you guys to bear with me because I operate under different scenarios sometimes. I mean well. I just want to move everything forward. I wish everyone and all the ladies Happy Valentine's Day. I am sorry my wife couldn't be here but I will bring her roses home."

Councilman Madere stated, "Once again I want to thank everyone for all of the answers that they gave us tonight. Like Mr. Smith said I am one of those full speed ahead since the day I got inaugurated. In fact so much full speed ahead that some people say I may be pushing them to hard or I am there every day but I promised a lot of things to the people in District III and I intend to do it as far as cleaning up, abandoned houses, cars, drainage and water. I made a lot of promises. So when you have a lot of promises it means a lot of time has to be spent trying to get these things accomplished and I'm retired and you will see me every morning. I work 9-5 in District III pushing hard. I have my secretary answering my phone. Back to that I was almost without my secretary, she was in the hospital. She had a heart attack in 2007 and we had just left from the office and I looked to my right and she was in a lot of pain holding her chest and she couldn't even talk so I asked her was it like when you had that heart attack and she told me yes so I spun the car around and headed to the hospital and before I could get to the hospital the pain stopped and she wanted to go and get something to eat. So I called the doctor and the doctor said get her to the hospital. She ended up staying in the hospital that night. They ran several test and everything came back negative. It just shows you how fragile life is. We are here celebrating Valentine's Day but I could have easily not been here celebrating. So you have to take every day

and appreciate everyone that is around you and everyone that you love because you never know. This could be the last day. So that is a lesson learned and I am glad that she is here for my Valentine. I told her Happy Valentine this morning and she said she didn't hear me. So I am telling you again, Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Valentine's Day to all of the females in St. John the Baptist Parish."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to thank God that Lisa is doing fine. I want to thank the administration we got clarity on the speed bumps and Mr. Kendrick I will be getting with you all week now. I would like to say District IV, I am having four town hall meetings. The first one is Thursday for LaPlace Park and I will be passing out the information for further town hall meetings and I would like to say Happy Valentine's Day to my wife and my two girls."

Councilman Wright stated, "I want to keep this short and sweet. I know we are all ready to go home. I just want to wish a Happy Valentine's Day to all of my constituents, my girlfriend Rachel. It was a very successful meeting. We all got a lot of information in and we all have one goal to move St. John forward. As I said along the campaign trail, St. John Parish has a lot of problems and a lot of them that can't be addressed in these four years but I think we have a council and an administration that is ready to move forward and fix those problems. So just work with us, be patient and we are going to get the job done."

Councilman Snyder stated, "This past weekend Cambridge and The Colony Association had their rally against crime. I would like to thank the fire chief for coming out, Mr. John Schneider, Rev. Frank from the Milesville Memorial Church, also our director of Recreation, Mr. Terrence Jones and the Bell Choir from the Milesville Church. It was a nice day. It was a little chilly out there and also the young marines were there and the guy who is leading them gave a good speech to the kids. I think that is it. If I forgot anybody I am sorry but we had a nice turn out and we had a lot of kids out there and I think they were impressed with some of the things that were going on. Happy Valentine's Day to all the ladies in my life and I hope you see many more."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Again I tell everyone Happy Valentine's Day. Also I would like to congratulate LaPlace Elementary School. I attended their ribbon cutting this afternoon, the school is beautiful. It was very well attended. Also the Krewe of Tohwahapash is Saturday, Krewe DuMonde is Sunday and Tuesday is Mardi Gras so I wish everyone a happy and safe Mardi Gras."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Once again congratulations to Ryan Perrilloux and the New York Giants for their championship but most importantly for St. John Parish because that is one of our own. Good luck to all the high school teams entering into the playoffs and Happy Valentine's Day to all the ladies of the parish, especially my wife and daughters and have a happy and safe Mardi Gras."

PRESIDENT' S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening, Happy Valentine's Day!
I would like to thank all council members and residents who attended the Comprehensive Land Use Meetings over the past two weeks. All of the

meetings were well attended with high participation. UNO will review and compile all comments and ideas to assist in developing a plan for St. John Parish. Once all the information is compiled, it will be placed on St. John Parish's website. Please visit sjbparish.com for more information on the St. John Parish Comprehensive Land Use Plan or email sjbparishplan@gmail.com for questions or information. I would like to wish special congratulations to the St. John Parish School Board, Superintendent Courtney Millet, and the LaPlace Elementary Teachers, Staff, and students on the opening of their new school. LaPlace Elementary held its grand opening tonight on their beautiful new building with many new tools for learning. A town hall meeting for residents in LaPlace Park is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John Parish Central Library in LaPlace. Residents from the LaPlace Park subdivision are invited to attend to meet with Councilman Marvin Perrilloux and Parish President Natalie Robottom. Please take this opportunity to receive information and updates in your area. "DJANGO UNCHAINED" starring Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Samuel L. Jackson, and Christoph Waltz, directed by Quentin Tarantino is hosting a casting call for African American men, women and children ages 6 to 65 on Wednesday, February 15 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus located on Fir Street in LaPlace. For more information, please call 504-224-2212 or email ducasting2012@gmail.com. Beginning Monday, February 27 through Thursday, March 8, 2012, the Tarantino film will require intermittent road closures between Hwy 670 and the Veterans Memorial Bridge to film sets of the movie. Notifications will be sent out and signs will be placed to alert motorists and direct to an alternate route. Per DOTD, traffic will be diverted to Hwy 3127. The ferry and the courthouse will be accessible during this time. There will be no through traffic at the Evergreen Plantation. The road will re-open in the evenings. The St. John the Baptist Parish Health and Human Services Department will begin distributing USDA commodities to all pre-registered applicants on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at Edgard Oaks located on East 6th Street in Edgard from 10:00 a.m. until noon and at the Beech Grove Multi-Purpose Bldg. located on N.W. 1st Street in Reserve from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Left over commodities will be distributed on Friday, February 17 at 9:00 a.m. at the Beech Groove Multi-Purpose Building only. Distribution of the left-overs will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Mississippi River level rose to 12.10 (Tuesday reading - 3:00 p.m.) feet at the Carrollton Gage. The levee boards have initiated restrictions and residents are instructed to refrain from digging and completing subsurface work including pile driving, excavation, and trenching within 1500 feet of the levee center line. Driving on the levee is also prohibited. St. John the Baptist Parish is encouraging all residents to please stay off the levees until further notice including four wheelers, fishermen, and bikes. REMINDER: Garbage will not be collected on Mardi Gras Day, Tuesday, February 21, 2012. Collection both Tuesday and Wednesday routes will begin at 3:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Please place your cans near the road

Tuesday night. This schedule is posted on Channel 15, and the Parish calendar on St. John Parish's website, sjbparish.com. For questions or concerns please call IESI at 985-536-2750. Local parades will take place this weekend. Beginning Saturday, February 18, 2012 the Tohwahapash Parade will be held in Reserve at 1:00 p.m. The Krewe DuMonde Parade will begin rolling on Sunday, February 19 in LaPlace at 12:00 p.m. Due to Mardi Gras Holidays, St. John Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2012 and Tuesday, February 21, 2012. The St. John Westside Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a CPR Certification Class on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. The class will be \$10 per person. Space is limited. Please call 985-497-3441 by February 23 to register. We wish everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras!"

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:42 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Council Secretary