

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2018
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE
VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER

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 Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 at 12:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII,

ABSENT: Larry Sorapuru, Michael Wright, Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilwoman Remonet led the Pledge.

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

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

Jane Boddie stated, "I'm the Director of Evergreen Plantation, 4677 Highway 18, Edgard, Louisiana. We have been open at Evergreen for 20 years, I was here when the River Parishes Tourism Commission was formed, so this is not a new thing for me, it was formed 17 years ago and many, many have changed since then. I have not been active in it for 10 years. As Business Owners and Stakeholders of St. John the Baptist Parish, we ask you to support us in the proposal to withdraw from the River Parishes Tourist Commission. From 2013 to 2017, we St. John Parish have contributed almost One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to the Tourist Commission. This is four (4) times the amount of the lowest contributing parish, yet that parish has almost all controlled with little or no consideration of us. The Commission has not and this has been repeatedly, has not given requested information and data that's vital to understanding and building a strong Tourism economy in St. John Parish. The Tourism Industry has changed drastically in the 20 years that I have been part of it. It is a red flag that we are one of only two Regional Commissions, now this actually this actually was from the state. We have three (3) members, so does the other two (2) parishes, if you would look at the - we are green. We give the most money, very seldom do we have the biggest boat. Visitors come to our area for businesses, attractions and history, not our participation in the Regional Commission. We should not risk Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) a year and hundreds of thousands of dollars which are quite possible with grants and other things. To belong to an organization that has not proved to benefit, us. We St. John Parish, have over 100 tourism related businesses and attractions, and we have 300,000 visitors each year. We had a little meeting, there were twenty-five (25) of us it was to discuss this: The twenty-five (25) of us almost did not go home, because we set a network to help each other. That is what the Tourist Commission should be doing and it is not what it is doing. We need all of our resources, we need to spend our money in St. John Parish. I can't tell you from my point of view, how many opportunities we have that we should be taking advantage of. It is not going to happen with the River Parish Tourism Commission. That is Plantation Country, they intend for it to remain Plantation Country. There are only a certain amount of dollars in a tourist pocket, and this is discretionary spending, there's not a lot of it out there, so you have to do

one of two things; you have to compete, you can limit...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Excuse me..."

Jane Boddie asked, "We're two (2) minutes? Ok."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I actually gave you three and a half (3½)."

Jane Boddie stated, "You did!"

Councilman Madere stated, "That's okay, but you know we just have to move on but, I definitely understand what you're saying and I'm pretty sure the other council members do."

Jane Boddie stated, "Yes, and it is on the Agenda."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes and you can speak on it again. Okay anyone else come forward. Excuse me you will be able to speak on that item again when it comes up again."

Hello my name is Rae McMurray and "I'd like to speak on behalf of my family, as well as the tax payers and the utility customers who cannot be here today. I'd like to comment on two (2) Agenda items: Resolution R18-04 and the obvious water billing errors by the parish, if that's ok. Is that ok?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah go ahead."

Rae McMurray stated, "Regarding Resolution R18-04, Ms. Robottom's December 27th comment about Six Million Dollar (\$6,000,000) LDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan being tied to smart water meters caught our attention. LDEQ confirmed our confirmed our suspicion that the register replacement was never possibility under this loan program. It appears smart water metering with leak detection software is coming to St. John Parish. Why the secrets, why continue to mislead this Council which creates confusion for everyone? We deserve to know what we are buying, since we the taxpayers, residents and businesses of this will be paying the Six Million Dollar (\$6,000,000) price tag. From our conversation with LDEQ we can only conclude that in addition to the new billing system, the parish is planning to purchase and install a completely, new smart water metering system parish wide. When do you plan to make this information public? Is there an installation plan to minimize interruption of services to the residents and businesses, regarding the obvious water billing errors by the parish? The Utilities created the newest billing issues, customers were never notified their accounts would be repeatedly estimated. An estimate is not a read, it's a guess. Seven to nine months of estimates make estimating an account a wild guess, since the accounts history now includes more than half a year of guesses. If the account is estimated, the customer is unknowingly overcharged, if an account is under estimated, the unsuspecting customer is uncharged and owes money. As usual, there was forethought and no plan in place to assist these customers. Additionally, who knows just how many customers are being doubled charged for water and to a lesser degree sewer. Of course the older more well issues still remain such as spikes and leaks. The Administration and Utilities Department would like to believe there are no spikes, only children running loose with hoses. Spikes and leaks are included in estimated billing and bill averaging, a data log which we believe should be trashed is being used to force payments of outrageous bills. It does not work on older, original registers or registers where the battery is dead. It is also highly unlikely the date log can identify a

malfunctioning register. Fourth for based rates for water and sewer, extended billing for 40-50 plus days increases the price of both water and sewer charges for thousands of minimal water consumers. Of course shorten billing, 15-20 days over charges those same customers. What's being done to both residential and business customers in this parish is disgraceful, and has discredited the Utilities Department. Common sense dictates a return to competent business practices, is necessary to re-establish confidence between the Utilities Department and its customers. Thank you for your attention."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you. I did make a mistake a few minutes ago, after you speak on this item you will not be allowed to speak on it again when it comes up on the agenda. I just want to make sure I correct that, thank you."

Rita Perrilloux stated, "Hello, I would like to speak on item #7 about the Tourist Commission. I was also a part of that focal group and I would like to express to the Council why we'd like to withdraw from the present Tourist Commission. My name is Rita Perrilloux and I support the formation of the new St. John Tourist Commission. I was asked to share my experiences as a stake holder in the New Orleans Plantation Country Tourist Commission. I represent Historic Riverlands, and we first approached the Tourist Commission many, many years ago to inform them about our sight being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places and we were looking for advice, counsel mentorship, and that was many, many years ago when Jesse Lambert was the Executive Director, and was located on Airline Highway. We then went back and shared again when the new Executive Director, Jay Tuozzo was there and then again when Timmy Carlos was there and now under the leadership of Mr. Buddy Boe, we're still introducing our site. For those of you who have no idea of what I'm talking about or what site I'm talking about, this proves my point exactly. I thought the Tourist Commission's primary purpose and reason for the funding was to promote tourism in our area. Historic Riverlands is located in St. John the Baptist Parish and is the proud caretaker of the original Our Lady of Grace Church building. The Archdiocese donated the building to River lands Christian Center in 1991, with one stipulation, that we had to move the building off their property within 2 months' time, by the Grace of God we met their deadline, it took us 18 months to get the building to its present location on the former Cornland Plantation property, where presently it's located. We worked for several years to get this historic structure, Riverlands Christian Center did, to get this historic structure on the National Registry of Historic Places because of its religious, social and ethnic significance in the South. We were granted that, and it was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in Louisiana in 2005. So, the State of Louisiana recognizes this site as important to tourism. Historic Riverlands was added to the African American Heritage Trail, by the Lieutenant Governor in 2012 and began providing Historic Tours to the general public. So, the Lieutenant Governor office recognizes this site as important to tourism. During the Swentennial Celebration of the Town of Reserve, they purchased a time capsule to be opened in 50 years and buried it on our property, so the town's people of Reserve recognize this site as significant and important. I can honestly say, that we have been an active stake holder in the Tourist Commission since 2010, and have had to stand our ground through intimidation, time and time again, to insist on being recognized as a historic site here in the River Parish. Just to get the advertisement we received today on the brochures and the marketing materials. And yes it was Mr. Paul Aucoin, who was the past Chairman of the Tourist Commission that did advise us to pursue a grant that connected us to a Grant Writer that he knew, and she toured the facility and we counseled together and submitted a grant to BP for the establishment of a Music Exhibit that we entitled Soul River. Just for clarification about the grant, we did not receive any of the funding, nor did

we choose the people to facilitate the grant, but praise God we did receive the deliverables, the panels, the music key ost, the interpretive plan, the rack cards. We were also told that there was Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) allocated in the grant to have an opening reception and a public launch of the new exhibit. On one other occasion, we received Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to help with the advertising expenses of our River Parish Festival. The Historic Riverlands will always give credit to where credit is due and remain grateful to Mr. Paul for connecting us with the Grant Writer and to the Board, we appreciate them for approving it, and to the Tourist Commission for help facilitating the grant on our behalf. With that being said, we still support the separation because honestly, it's not a fare partnership or distribution of the resources. The Commission is pretty much controlled by a handful of people through fear and intimidation and I must say, none of these people are a part of St. John the Baptist Parish. I have seen people and businesses come with great ideas, potential products come and go, because the atmosphere does not welcome or support change. So I have a little bit more to say, but I think I got my point across and so I do support the separation. And Ms. Julie Remondet was back in the day when I was going before the Tourist Commission. I'm saying that to say, let me just sum it up this way: Wild Wayne, Radio Personality from Q93 in New Orleans brought his staff and his youth to/or a summer, over the summer he brought his youth camp and his words were, thank you so much, Mr. Perrilloux and we/where have you been? We didn't even know this existed out here, we've been looking for places like this to educate our youth, and they had a wonderful time. And one last comment: Mr. Mark Romig from the New Orleans Tourism, he said after he took the tour, Historic Riverlands is a rare treasure hidden in the River Parishes. Why I support the change, because I think it's time that we come out of hiding."

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES

There was no business to be introduced.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - January 23rd, 2018, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - January 23rd, 2018, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilman Sorapuru and Wright absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Malik stated, "I'd like to make a motion that the council accept the minutes from the finance committee meeting."

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept minutes from the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilman Sorapuru and Wright absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-04 - A Resolution authorizing the filing of the full loan application to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for a loan to finance the replacement of commercial and residential water meters in St. John the Baptist Parish through the State Revolving Loan Fund

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution authorizes the Parish President to file the loan application on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish and to serve as the designated Official Project Representative for the State Revolving Loan Program. This is a requirement to move forward with the project and for informational purposes I think we've been before the Council at least three (3) times with our Bond Attorneys, we could have not gotten this far without your authorization in the first place, this is moving the process forward. Initially we looked at every option with the meters. Whether it's replacing the register or the whole meter, of course after meeting with LDEQ, they gave us some guidance and it is for smart meter technology. In the end, we are putting together an RFP, that will include all of the request and requirements of the loan as well as from the Parish, with regard to leak detection, with regard to a portal for residents, some additional metering capabilities that we don't currently have to determine our water loss and where exactly the water is coming from, to update some of the larger meters which we think are problematic for us, as well as meters throughout the parish. So there was no secret or misinformation, I think you guys actually attended a water meter meeting, where different presentations were made this is one step in the process. Again, your authorization was required before we could move forward with any of the request. This has gone before the Bond Commission, it's come before you on at least three (3) occasions and this is one more step. So we are pursuing new meter technology, again it didn't appear that just replacing the registers would be sufficient. Again, because the life of the register versus the life of the meter would not be/would at least be 10 years apart which we didn't think would be a good use of dollars, so again this is the request, it is a requirement to move the project forward. And again, we're working on the specifications for someone to put together a plan that addresses all the concerns that have been addressed through meetings and concerns expressed through the council and residents."

Councilman Malik asked, "Yes ma'am. How much money are we looking for?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There's a not to exceed amount of Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000) in the approval process. As was stated before, it's a low interest loan under 1%, you only get charged when you complete the project and only on the amount you use, so depending on what the price comes in with regard to bids will determine how much of it we need, but we are doing it competitively and we hope to get, you know, the best price. But we do have a loan approval up to Six Million (6,000,000)."

Councilman Malik asked, "Have, has the administration identified a particular model or company?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No sir."

Councilman Malik asked, "Are you still going through that process?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually it'll be a public process, we're putting together specifications. So anybody who meets those specifications can submit on

it, and again we are looking for newer technology, we are concerned about separate parts, because that's when you run into some problems with maintenance, we are looking for the leak detection, that is a component of the loan and of course, any specifications that we come up with need to be approved by DEQ before we can even advertise. So the firm has been gathering information on the number of meters, the location as we've talked about before, we had to have a plan to address meters that were under concrete do we want that to be part of the process that have them relocated or is that going to be a separate item. There are a lot of things that are under consideration in putting the specs together, I think you guys have talked about wanting it to be somewhat like Entergy, where residents can go online and review their own bills, before they get a high bill to see what their usages are. Again, all things that we think are good were not part of our previous system, everything what we based on available funds so we may have to have some alternates, but we are looking at all the things that have been discussed and requested, going into the specifications so that we can get bids that meet the needs of the parish."

Councilman Snyder asked, "These bids on the meters are going to take care of the installation?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir. Not just the purchase, there are a number of things. One, it's the purchase of the meters, it's the installation it's also to have some type of pricing standard for replacement meters and a timeframe for how quickly you can get those, all the thing that you know were learned to be problematic under the previous system, and of course some of concerns that have been expressed by you guys as well as residents. So you know 10 years ago there's a different technology a different process, it's changing very quickly so we are trying to account for the newer changes and models as we go, but no selection has been made at all, we're just putting down specifications that we would like for a company to meet to be able to do this project."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And again, that Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000) loan, so we get that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We pretty much have that. So this is the process, I think it's gone before the Bond Commission. Again, these are steps, like were in the process of getting them to approve the specifications before we can put them out. Very stringent requirements were following them to the T, not moving without their approval, but this is pretty much a done deal."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So this was coming from one of our constituents about us not being able to get the Smart Meters that this Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000)."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think what she was referencing, we couldn't just get registers to replace on to our existing meters, which could be the case but when we looked at it we didn't think that would be the best idea anyway, because the warranties would be on different timeframes and it would only be a matter of time before the meter went out if we replaced the register. So we did look at a variety of options and as we needed to in trying to get the best product that cost the least for our residents, so we have interviewed a number of companies, we've been working closely with DEQ, which is the funder of these dollars to make sure that anything that anything that we do or would be in line with what their requirements are."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think we all agreed to that back in several meetings

that we needed registers not just registers, meters."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir. Meters yes sir which is why y'all authorized us to move forward with this process, which is where we are now."

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R18-04. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru and Wright absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Sorapuru/Marvin Perrilloux - (Tabled 01-23-18) Discussion regarding rates/fees for the Community Center

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Mr. Madere, I'd like to leave it tabled just review, I'm just getting this report today I've been looking for it all week and all morning and I got it when I came to the council meeting, I saw it. So I just want to leave that tabled till the next meeting."

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

Verdell Kindrick stated, "All work on this project is complete and the Contractor is finalizing quantities to issue a final Change Order. Councilman Madere and the PW Assistant Director conducted a walkthrough Wednesday, February 7th and will compile a list of concerns to present to the Contractor. Public Works has submitted their visual assessments of streets for the 2018 Road Improvement Program and is reviewing prior years' estimates to finalize the list in accordance with the funds available. We do have some information today concerning the road, the streets that were going to overlay."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We'll be sending that out. What I'd ask him to do was, we didn't have official estimates we knew what the budget was. So based on prior years and how much you know the, that linear footage would cost, we just an estimate about how many of those roads we think we can get done out of the Eight Hundred Thousand (\$800,000), obviously once the Parish Engineer does his official does his official estimate, we'll know what exactly how much it cost as we did last year, if there's funds available we can add some more roads, but you guys will get that list. We're pulling out all the roads that we won't be able to fit into this year so we can see the ones that were selected as usual, they're throughout the parish. There is one in Pleasure Bend that we're hoping to use the DOTD dollars to repair, so we're pulling that one out of our parish list, but the rest are throughout the parish. Some of them have been on the list before, we weren't able to get to it some of them are new. But we'll send them out to everybody before moving forward."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, first I'd like to thank Mr. Verdell. Okay I don't think I do it enough because whenever I call him he's there, take care of situations the best that he can you know for our District, so I just want to make sure I thank him for that publicly while now he's up to the mic. Okay, but first thing I want to say is, I don't see the guy, the engineer or the contractor here who did that project. Maybe they're tired of coming to all the council meetings, might feel as though they're a council member but, I feel sorry for them because this is not going to go away easy. I am not pleased at all after we took that walkthrough with Mr. Verdell, he saw some of the problems firsthand. Okay, you know I try not to lie to people I'm going to ever say I never told a lie, but I try very hard not to do that. And I'm extremely upset that this guy told me 7 months ago he was going to take care of certain individual's driveways. Brought

him out there took the pictures, in fact I made point to take him out on a rainy day and he saw the problem he said he was going to take care of it, the problem still exist. Okay still exist. Then they supposed to have painted this individual driveway, they go and get paint that you use to paint a porch or an outside deck and not cement paint. And I have pictures where the rain just beat the paint away you can just rub it off with your feet. Okay, so don't try to con me or the people in my district by throwing some cheap paint on a driveway and expect we're going to approve that or we're going to walk away from that. That's not going to happen. So it's probably a good thing he's not here today, you understand because don't tell me something 7 months ago that you're going to do and then you don't follow through on it and do it. Okay it's not going to happen it's not going to fly with me it's not going to happen, okay now if he have to go back and pick that cement up and slope it the right way or put a drain where a drain should be, okay like I told him before; when you pick up a drain in front of somebody house, you don't take it away the drain was there for a purpose. Okay and two spots, one can easily be solved by putting a drain back where it was instead of removing it cause the lady driveway is sloped to drain where her drain was, they removed the drain. So now she has water sitting on her driveway, the other one the driveway is completely whapped it should be pulled out and that's the one that I spoked to him 8 months ago that he said he was going take care of it. Same thing same thing, all he did was went cut the front of it and squared it off. Okay so, I'm not going to be playing around with this but, they come in and they want changes change orders to get more money, they want this they want that. Okay I want them to just take care of the people in my district and do it right. If you say you're going to do it do it because I'm not going to back off on you one bit until you make sure you do everything that you say you're going to do. And that includes painting that driveway, and don't get some cheap paint and put one coat on that you can actually still see the cement through the driveway. Okay, I'm not going to accept that for the people in my district and it wouldn't happen anywhere else in this parish. So don't think it's going to happen in Reserve in District III, you're going to do it right, okay I remember an old thing Tom Benson had, maybe that's why he's rich. Okay you go in his office got a big sign saying; We Do It Right the First Time So I Don't Have To Come Back a Second Time. Do it right the first time, we wouldn't be having this discussion. Okay but I'm not going to accept anything that the citizens in that district, in that area where that project was supposed to improve situations and not decrease what they have. I also have pictures about an individual called me complaining about the sand versus the dirt she had in front her driveway. I took pictures of it, every time it rains all the sand is going down the drain. And I have those pictures to show him and he told me that sand is better than dirt. I don't know where he come from, but it don't happen. Okay, sand runs away every time it rains, and I'm not going to accept that okay the people want their dirt back, some of the people want their dirt back that what's they should have not sand. We already then settled on the grass issue, we're going to take care of that. Okay but anyone that have a problem, okay and I can tell you he can tell you, okay I was not pleased to go to these driveways that I've told several times that it was going to be taken care of and nothing been done. And then to see that cheap paint they put out there, okay."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we met this morning to discuss your concerns and we had some of the addresses, I just want to make sure that we have them all. So can you make sure we get the exact address is that you are referencing. I know we had two that you appeared to have covered, but it seems like there may be an additional one that we may not have. Please get us the address so we can follow-up on this before our next meeting."

Councilman Madere stated, "And I'd like to thank you for stepping in and getting those addresses, cause it seems as though this guy can't remember addresses. Okay because I mean it's been 6/7 months, okay and I'm getting tired of it, I'm getting tired of receiving the phone calls from the individuals and I'm tired seeing sand run down the drain every time it rain. And everybody yard is up and down."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just want to make sure I get your exact address and complaint for each one so I'll know exactly what the discussion should be."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you."

Lennix Madere - Update on Code Enforcement's role in trash/debris pick up parishwide

Alex Carter stated, "Code Enforcement continues to process both large and small trash and debris violations, recently completing more than \$15,000 in abatement work. Since May 2017, 19 trash and junk violations have been opened and closed. As of February 8th, 3 large trash and debris cases are open."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay, trash right?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, we have two days I think two weekends where we what we call Parish Wide Cleanup, okay and I think the parish is probably doing it as best they can, you know but I know the citizens have to do a better job, okay but I received an email okay Mr. Sorapuru got the email and he sent it to the Sheriff Department and he sent it to us, about the same location I mentioned to you two weeks ago when we was in a meeting about this business that had all that trash outside. Okay and you said you was going to contact the Sheriff Department because he has a department that deals with that? Did you do that?"

Alex Carter stated, "I don't recall specifically that conversation. So I'd have to get a site to check with my Supervisor."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes Ms. Toombs was in that meeting when I made that comment to you and you're the one that mentioned about the Sheriff Department and someone you were going to contact. Okay so either you wrote it down or you..."

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "Right, I honestly just don't recall. So I'd have to look and see, but they do have a Liter abatement Officer for smaller stuff that is in the right-away. Is it in the right-away or is it on their site?"

Councilman Madere stated, "It's, I think it's on his site. Okay it's on his site I think. I believe that portion of property belongs to that individual company..."

Alex Carter interrupting asked, "Do you remember the address?"

Councilman Madere stated, "No it's River Road, its right there in front of East 13th Street. Okay, it's right in front of East 13th Street."

Natalie Robottom asked, "It's the property right behind..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "That's that property to, but the one I'm talking about is visible to the River Road. It's right to the side."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok."

Lennix Madere - Update on abandoned vehicles parish wide

Alex Carter stated, "From May 1, 2017 through February 6, 2018, 128 junked vehicle violations have been opened, 99 violations have been closed and 12 junked vehicles have been towed by the Parish. A sweep in District VI was conducted in June, 2017 and Districts II and III in November, 2017."

Larry Snyder - Update on mills disbursement study

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we had talked this before. And I think Ross had forwarded you guys a list of our troubled funds and exactly where we are, which ones were deficit and we were utilizing that list. And in speaking with Robert, he wants to finalize the 2017 expenditures to compare them with what our revenues have been, to make some recommendations. We also need to meet with the Assessor who's projecting years out in terms of you know what he sees, in terms of collections based of people rolling onto the tax rolls or exemptions being removed. So we want to make sure we have accurate information there, and then to; meeting with our Bond Attorney to make sure that our debt is covered and how much would be needed to cover the debt. We spoke about Trouble Funds, Animal Control, Mosquito Control, the Coroner's Office, which is in General Fund but you know the cost are going up and it's taking money from other things. Our Public Safety Department, all areas that are required but there's not enough funding available in their revenue stream to do what's necessary. We also talked about we thought, because in the upcoming years we're anticipating one of our larger industries coming on to the tax rolls, that we will have additional money available and may be able to roll back mileages in certain areas, maybe able to rededicate for these problem areas, but we definitely want to take into account what the ad valorem is going to be in a couple of years so we're not adding mills and then we're going to get a windfall. So that's kind of what we're working on, but he wanted to wait and see exactly what our 2017 expenditures are going to close out as, to know you know have a better idea if this is what we're getting, this is how much we're spending on an annual basis, so these are the funds that we really need to look and suring up and we are working on that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I hate windfalls I can tell you that right now. I hate windfalls you get in trouble, especially governments they get in trouble with windfalls."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well we can't. By law we can't have windfalls."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well you know what I mean by this. We will have one in 2 more years more or less."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right."

Councilman Snyder stated "And that's my concern, that's part of my concern to you know. Because if everything stays the way it is there's going to be some funds, there will have windfalls you see. And what do we do, we got to make some moves after that. So that's I, what are the timeframes we're looking at here? Why can't we go back over a history of what we've got as far as these fund balances from the last 10 years or so that's make some decisions pertaining to..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We pretty much know our problems."
Councilman Snyder stated "Ma'am!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We know our problems. We just wanted to..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated "I know I know our problems to you know that's why I'm asking this."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok and we know who has the surplus, okay so we just want to get a recommendation is to how much of a change we would recommend to you all, obviously we can't do it ourselves it has to be action by the Council, which ones that we think should be rolled back, which ones might be rededicated again, the people that we spoke about the Assessor, the Bond Attorney, our Auditors, all kind of gives us directions when we make those recommendations to you before we do anything. So we you know get all that data together so that possibly moving into the next mileage adoption you will have something. But historically we kind of know which funds have problems, it's just about how much or what's the number of mills that might be necessary to make this fund solvent, keeping in mind that in 2 years we'll probably get a windfall. As I shared with you guys at the budget meeting, General Fund, we were required to allocate two different departments, people who served more than one department. We used to put employees for example: if we had three accountants we'd put each one in a fund. Well we were advised no that's not that case they work with everybody put them in general funds and allocate the amount of time to those departments. Well general fund has a larger budget, just because we've taken them out of other budgets. What we do know is estimating even if ad valorem for general fund doubles, it will still be insufficient to cover the cost of running general fund. So that makes know we have to do something else. Where's there are other funds, if their ad valorem doubles they would be good. We will not have a problem with them and then there are others if it doubles we'll have way too much funding and that gives us the opportunity to roll them back. But those are the things that we're working on and again without overstepping those three entities to make sure that our debt is covered, that the estimates that we're working off or the projections that we're working off of over the next several years are accurate, and that we have a good handle on or where our expenditures are today. Now we do have some history but we also know that in certain areas we've had some increases in expenditures and some changes that are not within our control. When things go up you know the amount we're spending on them sometimes goes up, but we will have something for you soon."

Councilman Snyder asked "So you're going to meet with these entities that we contacted them, or are they on the same page with us as far as what are we looking at them, what are we trying to do?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I would rather meet with y'all before I met with them, to give you an idea this is what we're looking at. I don't want you to be surprised that we showed up you know in somebody's office saying; hey we're looking at rolling back. I want to make sure you guys want to us to do, so we want to present something to you before actually stepping out to an entity to make sure you're aware, this is what we're looking at. This is what we're recommending that we do. If, you may say well you know what, I say rollback but not that much or you know what I'd rather rededicate from here rather from there. So you know, we'd rather get ourselves on one page before approaching any of the outside entities. But there are some that clearly we need to address, because you're right, I think you're not supposed to collect by law more than you need to operate. And in most cases that holds true, but there a couple of places and

definitely moving into the next 2 years that will be a problem. And it'll give us the opportunity to definitely rollback."

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Is there a revised statute or an ordinance that we have in place that we should look at this 10 years or 15 years or 20 years?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"We look at it annually."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Annually?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Yes sir and we have to bring it back to you guys to approve and we make it..."*

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated *"I'm talking about the disbursements of mileage."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Yes, we look at you know what we collect versus what we spend and then we make a recommendation when y'all adopt them every year, all of those things have been taken into account. We get with the Assessor who gives us those numbers and you know annually we make a recommendation and you do an adoption. But I think it's something we need to look closer at in light of, that we are anticipating some additional funds coming up and here's an opportunity to sure-up some of our weak funds, which you guys have done that. We didn't have any money for animal control we had no money for recreation. We had you know you've done a lot of things to help and some funds are in better shape but, there's others that are still struggling. And they've struggled for years, so we're looking at a good fix that, yes, let's dedicate what we can, rollback where we can because nobody wants to overtax anybody, especially if you're just banking money in a fund balance that is not in the best interest of our residents and business owners."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Right, I agree with you. Thank, you ma'am."*

Larry Snyder - Update on water leaks throughout District VI

Blake Fogleman stated, *"To date, there are three (3) outstanding leaks in District VI. The Utility crews will be working to complete two (2) of the concrete leaks this week and a Contractor is scheduled to repair the fire hydrant on Cambridge Drive. There were six (6) originally I think and some of those have been addressed throughout the last week and a half, two weeks. And it was a lot of the ones that I looked at the dates on a lot of the ones you've discussed previously, you and I as well I think here at this council meeting. I'll say that this much that January was a crazy month for doing anything of normal routine, leak repairs based on the weather events and everything we had going so."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Well that was one of the reasons why I hadn't been to persistent about that."*

Blake Fogleman stated, *"Well I appreciate you understanding, yes sir."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"You know it's getting to the point now where these are getting worse. It's going to cause us some other issues with streets starting to sink and things like that you know. And that's where we got the problem at you know, especially one I think further down on Cambridge Drive, it was in the middle of the road so I know what's going to happen in there. We got to spend money on concrete, there's nothing wrong with it now but in a few years if all of*

this keep eating it out, see that's what I'm concerned about concerned about that."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yeah, we're addressing it. We try to group a lot of those concrete jobs together to. Cause once we start you know it's not just the repair of it, now we got to get a contractor to come in if Public Works is too busy or doesn't have funding to do our concrete or it's not and it's a bigger job, we typically contract that out. But because ours is smaller than what they particularly come to the parish for, once again we group 5 or 6 of those jobs together get them all fixed, get them all prepped and then that contractor will come through and do 5 or 6 at a time because the mobilization just for them to come out for a 4x4 square you know we're trying to save money on that end as well."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But there's a couple that I know you started on, one was by the apartment buildings and then we found out that wasn't ours, but they still got a hole there."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What do we do in cases like that? Do we have any input on do we contact the proprietors and let them know we have an issue over here and it could be a safety issue?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yeah I believe they were spoken to I'll follow up on that. But I believe those were specifically spoken to, I also know we're going to repair I think the one by the carwash, but the one by the carwash we dug up found out it's not a waterline, so..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "What kind of line is it?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "We think it's a drain line actually one of the bays from the carwash that's running under the parking lot. The owner of the business was actually contacted on that one as well."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok."

Blake Fogleman stated, "And we're documenting, we're doing our best to document it thoroughly this time, so when the concern comes back up and we see water on the concrete again, we go back to our work order and say; hey look, last time we dug this up this is actually what we did and who we told and what we found so we're not digging up another patch of concrete to find out once again, 3 years later it's still a drainage issue that someone else isn't addressing."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well they got water coming out of there again. That's why I brought that up."

"So I don't know if it's when it rain or when it's just heavy uses, that's what it looks like. Again I saw a video of that one, they videoed it cleared everything around the waterline and water was coming from like opposite ends of the hole itself."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I see why you're working on it right by the apartment building right now. It hadn't been leaking you know for a while, but I saw some heavy equipment out there. Y'all starting on that?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yeah there's an additional piece of equipment that we need to break-up concrete and we try to do it in the best way we can so that we're not, we don't tear it up with a chute machine to break more things than we need to break, so once we mobilize that equipment to 3 or 4 jobs we try to take care of them all at once. Yeah but I appreciate you understanding cause it is been a trying first couple of months this year with the weather we've been getting."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok well that's good. Yes sir, thank you very much."

Larry Snyder - Report on the number of crews qualified to resolve water issues compared to four years ago and how has it affected productivity

Blake Fogelman stated, "I think this goes hand in hand, Councilman with what we just talked about. But if you don't mind we'll get into it. The number of crews assigned to these tasks has less to do with efficiency than attendance and work production. Since 2012, there are twelve (12) positions in water distribution and one is vacant a waiting to be filled. Half of the current staff and management has over ten (10) years of experience in the department. In fact I went back as far as 2008, and you know at least six (6) of the twelve (12) people in 2008 that were working for this parish doing distribution work, is still working for this parish doing distribution work. To sort of say qualified, I would fully expect that at least half of our crews or you know half of our crews is absolutely qualified with over 10 years' experience to do our job."

Councilman Snyder stated, "If say any given day you have three (3) crews out?"

Blake Fogelman stated, "Yes sir, or typically it's two (2) full crews and a two (2) man crew for my water meter top is broken, I need a replacement meter or I need a you know a meter might be leaking, a smaller job that doesn't require a piece of equipment. We do currently have a crew that that's all they deal with on a given day. But we have two (2) full crews that's Equipment Operators and three (3) man crews and then we have a two (2) man crew that does it and then we have locators as well that does a lot of painting and everything for our one calls."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And that covers both?"

Blake Fogelman stated, "East and West Bank."

Councilman Snyder stated, "East and West Bank, drinking water and throw-away water."

Blake Fogelman stated, "Yes sir, just drinking water. That is only for water repairs."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Oh yeah."

Blake Fogelman stated, "That is only for the list of water repairs that y'all receive every two (2) weeks. That's all they do."

Larry Snyder - Resolution for customers on obvious water billing errors by the Parish

Blake Fogleman stated, "Without additional information, we cannot address your specific request. However, staffing in the department has been adjusted to better address concerns of residents. Customers can either call or visit the Council

Chambers to discuss billing concerns. The Department is continuing to address billing issues in a legal and consistent manner for all customers; however, many of the concerns are not due to billing errors. I know you and I have had specific conversations about that as well. The reference to being a billing error, I will say on my end since I've been involved, I haven't seen an outright error. Meaning a typo or something input wrong, you know we talk about spiked bills, I haven't seen a spiked, so say this malfunction in electronics, I haven't seen it. And I'm not saying nothing. I'm speaking since November/December of my involvement. But we are making changes every day, to try to continue address the ever changing concerns that people call in...

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Address the estimation as a problem, the estimating."

Blake Fogleman stated, "And one of them, that's coming in you know that's a recent one is continued estimation, and then getting an actual read. I know with CFO, as well as one of our fellow council members is not here today but was in the office just last week, questioning how we're going to handle that moving forward. What we're seeing is that if it is over estimated or under estimated, when an actual read is read, it looks to be a spike but it actually it is just the full consumption through that estimation period, what the problem with it is on the over estimates if we estimate someone we can see that and make that adjustment. On an underestimate the unfortunate part is, it's a high bill because it's been underestimated throughout that process. Again, new problems present itself on a day to day basis with every solution we try and create and move forward with. Obviously we're trying to mitigate that moving forward into the new system."

Larry Snyder - Update on Lyons Water plant intake pump project

Blake Fogleman stated, "Councilman Snyder, this project has been bid out two (2) times, first with no contractor bidding and secondly with only one (1). The bid price was more than double the original budget of \$750,000. Over the last few months, contractors have worked with the Design Engineer to value engineer the design and separate it into phases. We are attempting to utilize the existing design as a significant amount of money and time has been invested in this project. A meeting is being scheduled to get a better cost estimate for the reduced scope so we can move forward with the bid in the upcoming months."

Larry Sorapuru - Update from legal on process for withdrawing from the River Parish Tourist Commission

The above item will remain on the agenda.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

18-02 An ordinance to amend St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, Ordinance 17-54 to include Section - Court - Approved Community Service Program Coordinator - to provide a manner in which to carry out the duties

and responsibilities of a Community Service Program Coordinator for the administration of the community service program established in St. John the Baptist Parish

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Mardi Gras. Both parades, DuMonde and Tohwahpahsah still rolled - despite the weather. Thanks to these great organizations and all who helped in providing this fun-filled weekend. I'd also like to congratulate all of our local Krewes, Kings' & Queens' and their courts for their Mardi Gras reigns. This includes our friends at Twin Oaks Nursing Home, the Council on Aging and the War Veterans Home who also had Mardi Gras balls last week. Thank you to communications, public safety & fire department and Sheriff's office and all involved for their hard work and dedication. Making the decision to roll DuMonde later was a result of a coordinated effort and teamwork and managing both parades is a lot of hard work. We look forward to making the parades even better for next year. I along with Council Members Sorapuru and Wright met with members of the Louisiana delegation in Washington D.C. recently to discuss the levee project, flood insurance, railroad issues and other important issues to St. John. We also 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 yet, it was standing room only, and gave us an opportunity to highlight regional economic development and to request help from our federal delegation. Speakers included all members of Louisiana's congressional delegation: except Congressman Steve Scalise, who's still on the road to recovery. It was a very engaging event and it was encouraging to hear that our delegation is working on issues of importance to us. I'd like to congratulate St. Charles Catholic on the dedication of their new Chapel and Bell Tower in honor of graduate Robert Hymel, a military hero and the only victim of the 9-11 terrorist attack at the Pentagon. The renovations and additions to the campus are also a great addition to the Parish. Congratulations. I'd also like to congratulate Fresenius Kidney Care (FKC) on the official opening of their Dialysis Center at 704 Belle Terre Blvd. It is another significant commercial investment in St. John and we look forward to working with your medical staff on preventive efforts in our community. I'd like to remind everyone that February is "Black History Month" and "Heart Health Awareness Month." This month, we especially encourage everyone to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our Parish and Country by participating in events throughout the community. In honor of Black History Month, the local company United Front Transportation Services will be hosting a traveling lunch tour which includes an African American History tour at several plantations in the Parish and lunch at Clay's Café in Cambridge. Tickets can be purchased by calling the company at (877)275-2989. The ladies of United Front Transportation are recent graduates of the FastTrac program and were also guests at a recent council meeting. They will also be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 10 am at Destiny Christian Center on Main Street in LaPlace. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony and learn more about the service. We also encourage everyone to help raise awareness for heart disease and healthy habits to prevent heart disease. The office participated in National Wear Red to Work Day last Friday and we continue to encourage everyone to wear red on Fridays throughout the month of February. Good luck to our Miss Andouille Queen Laeh Alexandar 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 Laeh the best of luck and know she will represent St. John Parish well as she competes against queens from across the state. 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 after high school. Good luck and we will continue rooting for you! Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 4:01 PM, Councilwoman Remondet and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru, Wright and Perrilloux absent.

/s/Lennix Madere
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY