

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**  
**CHAIRMAN THOMAS MALIK**  
**VICE-CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 6:30 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, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr.

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Natalie Robottom - Recognition - 2018 Southeast Louisiana Football League Super Bowl Champions, St. John Warriors Gold (7-8 yr. olds and 11-12 yr. olds)**

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

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - March as Gambling Prevention Month**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for March as Gambling Prevention Month.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - March as National Kidney Month**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for March as National Kidney Month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Open Meetings Law Training; Approval of Minutes - February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Krewe of Tohwahpahsah - Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 beginning at Noon - Reserve; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church Fun Walk/Run - Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 beginning at 8:00 AM at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - Reserve; Permit Approval - Block Party - Birdies - Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 beginning at 10:00 AM

- 483 Belle Terre Blvd; Permit Approval - Block Party - 1503 Delta Road - Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM; Natalie Robottom - Re-appointment of Mr. Flemon Fletcher to the Fire Civil Service Board; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (January 2019)

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I think there's one flaw in the system. I think I mentioned that last/two weeks ago. And that if I got a question on something, it looks like I am voting for it or I am making a motion to accept it, not all the time it's that that's the case. But, pardon?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I agree with you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah!"

Councilwoman Hotard's statement was INAUDIBLE.

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right. The Monthly Financial Report, that's what I was asking, I have some questions on. Because I get a report in my booklet, and I get a report through the mail and I was wondering, a lot of the items are the same items. I'm just wondering why the different formats that I'm looking at this and then there's some questions I have on some of the things in the report."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir, the Financial Statements that are inside of the booklet, are the actual budget amendments that are associated with Ordinance 19-07. The Financial Report, I'll go back to the budget amendments. So, the budget amendments again, are just amendments that we are requesting to amend the actual 2019 Budget. The Financial Report that I sent to through email, is basically just a year-to-date Financial Report for the month of January. Here are the expenses that occurred during the month of January. The difference in the reports and this time and I kind of said it on my email, so we had to have a customized report, because the report that you got the other day for the Financial Report is actually the standard report that comes out the system. However, and speaking with the Parish President and myself, we realized that you all like that the old format, which has everything broken down, etc., like it's been done in the past. So, what we tried to do is create a custom report to get the data out of the new system that would look a lot more similar to what you all are used to viewing. Unfortunately, when we rolled over fiscal years, we had a glitch in the report and we worked on it over the weekend, we worked on it, we worked on it several hours trying to repair the report, so that's why I didn't have that format this time. Next month you should get that standard report/the standard format that we've sent in the past. But I wanted to I needed to at least get it to you all, because again it was on this agenda and we realized that I needed to get it to you all. But again, what we'll try to do is try to format it to where's it's easier for you all to read, because that's what you were used to, which makes sense. This report that I sent is kind of a little, it is a little more difficult to read but that's the standard report that comes out the system. So again, that's why this format is you know the way it is this time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And the amendments, you know I just had some I tried calling today and to get some clarity on the amendments, and some of the terminology that was used on the new format, and a because they pretty much parallel each other, and a so, there was some things in the amendment that I'd like to talk to you about before we pass this. And is this thing time sensitive?"

Robert Figuero asked, "You're talking about the Consent Agenda item or the Ordinance?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "The Consent Agenda items and the, and this..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "No sir not at all, not at all. The only acknowledgement in the Consent Agenda, is just you're acknowledging you've received the report. Because by-law, by the new standard the State AUP's, we're required to submit that are report to the Council monthly, so it's just you all acknowledging; hey, I received a Monthly Financial Report with the expenses."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's fine, that's fine. As long as that's the case, I don't have a problem you know doing this tonight. But as far as you know approving the amendments that's, I got questions that I'd like to talk to someone in the Finance Department about."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay and if it's possible, I'd like to a/for the Council Members to understand where I'm coming from here, I just got cuz these amendments I got questions on them and I'd like them answered before I even vote on it. So, we can, if we can you know table it, cuz I think we got an Ordinance in here that's asking us to do that, to accept that amendment, amend it to the budget. And a, so, but that's my question, I don't have no problem with this if this all this is."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you mean from the Consent Agenda?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, I don't have no problem with the Consent Agenda if that's all its doing. Letting us know we got this report..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "That's correct! That was just a requirement by the new State AUP's, the Auditors say; hey, we need to acknowledge the fact that you all received it. So that's why we put into Consent Agenda."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah. Alright, thank you sir."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Open Meetings Law Training; Approval of Minutes - February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Krewe of Tohwahpahsah - Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 beginning at Noon - Reserve; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church Fun Walk/Run - Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 beginning at 8:00 AM at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - Reserve; Permit Approval - Block Party - Birdies - Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 beginning at 10:00 AM - 483 Belle Terre Blvd; Permit Approval - Block Party - 1503 Delta Road - Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM; Natalie Robottom - Re-appointment of Mr. Flemon Fletcher to the Fire Civil Service Board; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (January 2019). The motion passed with Councilman Sorapururu absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

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

The above item will remain a carry over until the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting in Edgard.

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

The above item will remain a carry over until the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting in Edgard.

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

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This re-subdivision request was approved unanimously by the Planning Commission at its January 28th meeting. Based on consistency with zoning district requirements and the intent of the Land Development Code, Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-04. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

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

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This re-subdivision request was also approved unanimously by the Planning Commission at its January 28th meeting. Based on consistency with the intent of the Land Development Code and existing neighborhood character, Administration recommends approval."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"It said it was unanimously approved, exactly what it was for? What's the purpose?"*

Rene Pastorek stated, *"The re-subdivision request is shifting a lot line by 3 feet to provide greater access for one property owner to the rear of their property. It needs Council approval because the lot sizes are below the requirements of the Zoning District, even though it is below two acres and only two lots."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Okay, thank you."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-05. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

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

Rene Pastorek stated, *"This ordinance amends the Code of Ordinances to prohibit the carrying or use of firearms and other weapons in all Parish-owned buildings. Exemptions are provided for sheriff deputies, state police, and other law*

enforcement personnel who are qualified and trained to use firearms. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-06. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

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

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think this is the item Mr. Snyder requested be tabled until he could have his answers, questions answered."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Until our next meeting, until I can get some clarification on some of the questions I have. If it's not time sensitive."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to TABLE Ordinance 19-07. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes, I ask that the minutes of the finance meeting be accepted."

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the finance meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-07 - A Resolution authorizing and approving an agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) for administration of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program(LIHEAP) for October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2020, and further authorizing the Parish President to execute all documents related thereto**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is an annual requirement to obtain funding through LIHEAP. The allocation for St. John Parish is \$357,201.00 and Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'd just like to ask and just make it known that Ms. Rhonda is kind of administering that program. Has that/that's an increase from what we got last year, because we done such a good job on administering that program?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Good Evening Council. Mr. Snyder, the program is based on how well we do and it's a formula that calculated by the Federal Government."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So is that an increase? Or is that the same as it was?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "This was an increase."

Councilman Snyder asked, "It was an increase?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, so it means we can help more people now!"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, thank you very much. That's all I needed to know."

Councilman Malik asked, "You're the, you're solely responsible for compliance with this program?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Yes sir I am."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you very much."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "I know we have a lot of residents that appreciate your diligent hard work, so thank you."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Ms. Lemons, I know they got/is this the same one with the light bill, too right?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "That is LIHEAP."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Cuz I know they have a number going out with the phone bank is working, where they're giving out numbers where to call. Is that the same program?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Yes sir and we also, that program also provides gas assistance (ATMOS Gas)."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Do we need to give out a phone number or?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "No, the phone bank was today."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Today, thank you."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "And a one more question for you ma'am. It's already for the/it's for the future, what is the best way for our residents to be able to use this?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "They can contact our office and we'll be happy to provide them with information or the information is also on the website, on our website."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Health and Human Services."

Councilman Malik stated, "I'm sorry ma'am, I didn't mean to cut you off."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "It's also on Health and Human Services website."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "The qualifications and the requirements."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "The qualification period would expire when?"

Rhonda Lemons stated, "The contract is usually for two (2) years, but we try and spend the money in a year, so that we can get a future allocation. So usually we get additional money within the two (2) years."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok. Thank you very much."

Rhonda Lemons stated, "Okay, thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R19-07. A resolution authorizing and approving an agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and the Louisiana Housing Cooperation (LHC) for administration of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2020, and further authorizing the Parish President to execute all documents related thereto. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R19-08 - A Resolution to appoint Raj Pannu to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC)**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Due to the resignation of Mr. Charles Kennedy from the RPC, Mrs. Raj Pannu is recommended as a replacement and she has agreed. Raj Pannu is a business owner and President of the Belle Terre Civic Association. All other appointments remain the same and of course I'd like to thank Mr. Kennedy for his years of service on the commission. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R19-08. A Resolution to appoint Raj Pannu to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

**Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Direct the Administration to do what is necessary so that the courts can include the parish with the Community Service Program by the end of the month**

LaVerne Toombs stated, "The Litter Abatement Program was initiated by and developed with representatives of the Courts, as well as other entities involved with its implementation. A copy of the process was sent to the Council and is on the Parish website. The program began this past Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> with three (3) of the eight (8) offenders scheduled in attendance. And just keep in mind this program is scheduled every other Saturday."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, I put that on there because I hadn't heard anything else about it. I didn't want it to die because it's a good program that we can get some use out of it by using it throughout the parish and I unless I miss this I don't remember getting a copy of the process. When did you sent that to us?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We sent it one day last week. I want to say Thurs,

Wednesday or Thursday of last week. But if you didn't receive it we'll forward it to you again."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that's the only reason why I didn't take it off the agenda, cuz I didn't see didn't hear, but I heard about it, it was going on and it's a good program. Actually, I think yawl did some cleaning up in my District first."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah, and I appreciate that Mr. Verdell, I appreciate that. All of this trash come out my District? But anyhow, thank you and I thank the Administration for getting this thing involved and now we got it going. What we're going to do with those five (5) that didn't show up? We got to report that to the Judges?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes, we submitted the names to the Probation Officer."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright, thank you very much."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "You're very welcome."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I'd like to say that we're glad that the program got started, and the only problem that we had was that we didn't get the notification soon enough before we put this on the agenda like I spoke concerning that, when Ms. Toombs called me concerning the item that was on the agenda. Like I said, the Parish, Ms. Robottom did her part we just didn't get the information in time, because if we had the information, this item probably would never would have been on the agenda for tonight. But it's a good thing, because it also allows everyone in the community to know that we do have this Community Service Program back in affect. In fact, some of the pictures Mr. Snyder is looking at is from the last Community Service Program we had when they actually did some work in District III down East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, where they cleaned up 65 bags of trash, you know and they have the before and after pictures. So, it works out both ways, it helps the Justice System and it also help the Parish itself. So, the program, I'm glad it's back into effect and we will be contacting to have them come in District III and do a little clean up to help the parish. Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Just a quick question. How are the areas that they going to select? How are the selected areas, how is that done? Is that by the Sheriff or?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Mr. Kindrick identifies some of the most again serious areas in the Parish, and they began working. So, they chose Cambridge, and I'm sure Mr. Councilman Snyder as he stated is quite happy. And so, Mr. Kindrick has already identified those areas and I'm sure he'll be eventually getting to everyone's District."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay, thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Like I got to put in a formal request to speak, but I guess I do I'm getting used to it."

Councilman Malik stated, "It take a second to, for the system to catch up when you start hitting buttons."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And just to get used to pressing the button. Um, who took the pictures?"

Councilman Madere stated, "I did!"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You did! Okay, did you help?"

Councilman Madere stated, "That was two (2) years ago."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Oh, this is old."

Councilman Madere stated, "No I didn't help that's old. That's when we had the Community Service Program a while back. But I was just showing the effectiveness of it you know, how good it worked."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I did get a text this weekend from the Sheriff that they were working in Cambridge. So, I'm assuming that we're going to continue the Program? And so, what happens, like you said we had you know so many were scheduled and so many actually showed up. Do we have to report back and do they get on the schedule the next time or how does that work?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes we report them to the Probation Officer and I guess she will get in contact with their offenders and find out if there's any penalties that they have to pay or if they are reassigned."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And then we'll submit those names back to Public Works."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok. Thank you so much."

#### **DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

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

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, again this was on our last agenda and by-law we need to keep this on the agenda for a minimum of 20 days and a maximum of 60 days. And that's what we're doing now, and I'd like to suggest something and I'd like to get the input from some of the Councilmen on this. I have some ideas on the Charter change, some things we might need to do on the Charter to make you know to make it more millennium. So, if we could get maybe a little, a group of people, what you think about that, a couple of three people or so, to form a little committee and look at some things and when the time is up, the time for us to discuss this thing which is sometime next month, we'll have something that we can present and talk about, put it that way. Because I do have some things, you know I don't need a committee but I'm thinking it might be best we can do something like that, get a committee of three (3) or four (4) people. Look at it, discuss it, see some things we could do to make it better, and go from there. Because this Charter was written back in 1982 if I'm not mistaken. It did well for all these years, but I think there's some things that we might be able to do to make it a little bit better, and so I'd like to get your opinion on that, my comrades up here. What yawl think about it? If that, we can have the Chairman appoint some people to come together and look at it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and Councilman Snyder, it's a good idea and it's something that we've talked about in the past. It's just one of those

things that haven't just haven't gotten totally done. I'm not sure if maybe even having a workshop of some sort would be appropriate and getting to familiarize even some of the new Council Members with the actual process of doing a Charter change for some of the new guys, but I do think there are some things that you know can be changed. I mean like any constitutions, it's a living document and so sometimes you do need to make changes just to keep up with the times. So, I do think I think it's a good idea, especially if you know many of us, these'll be end of our terms and so you don't have that um, you know you just don't have that worry. And sometimes when you have obviously new Council Members come in it might not be something you're as familiar with. As whereas you've been here for long enough you have a good feel of what works, what doesn't work, and what are some of the changes that need to be made. So if appropriate, because I believe more than you know three (3) or four (4) of us would like to participate, that's why I recommended a workshop, just so that we could all be included, and I also think that since ultimately we will have to get the vote of the public, I think even you know someone who would want to come and just listen to the discussions and understand why we would like to make a change to any portion of the Charter, you know it would be advantageous for us to get it by end up front and any of the public can understand what it is we're actually trying to do. So maybe that would be appropriate as well to do, to hold a workshop. Those are my thoughts, but I do thank you for bringing this item up, it's something that kind of comes in and out, but I do think we thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Councilman Hotard I appreciate you bringing it up, I had the same thoughts to. This is essentially the document belonging to the residents of St. John the Baptist, and I certainly think that including them and providing them that opportunity to speak is important, so thank you for doing that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, I totally agree with Mr. Snyder and the remarks Ms. Hotard just made. And it was a little different, but she hit exactly on it right. I was also thinking about having a workshop, we do have some existing people that was involved with the original Charter that may be able to come to the workshop and also give they're reasons for certain things and also give us some insight as to what direction we want to go, and also like you said, input from the community itself. Okay would be a totally good impact, you know so I think a workshop would be great."

Councilman Malik stated, "I think we're all in agreement over here, no one's objecting. And we'll get one set-up. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think we still have to do that. Because the 20 days isn't up yet, that's the minimum. By the time, it's only been two (2) weeks since we had this on the agenda if I'm not mistaken. And so, we got time to set it up, so we can make some motions next week to do that officially. Next two (2) weeks, I'm sorry."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes sir thank you."

**Thomas Malik - Discussion regarding having an architect assess the Community Center for cost estimates on proposed upgrades**

Councilman Malik stated, "So Councilman Snyder and Councilman Wright, the three (3) of us spoke about the Community Center, and the intent is to identify those things that we can use that we can do to it to make it better and come up with a very cost-effective program for these things. I think at the end of the day, one

*of the things we have to do though is include the River Parish Tourist Commission in on it. I think that would be a wise thing since they have so much to do with this."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "With what Tom said getting the Tourist Commission involved and maybe Administration can answer that. How much supervision or oversight does the Tourist Commission still have with the bookings, and just oversight of the Community Center?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually they're still there right now. There's a delay in their move, so they're still continuing to assist with that, but the plan is to move that back to a Parish responsibility."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok."*

*Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And that was going be my question. Cuz I thought once they moved they didn't have no more. Right now, they're not doing booking over there, isn't that what Ms. Abadie is doing that now?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually they are still there..."*

*Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "Buddy is about to leave."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Right, when they leave they will discontinue. However, there was a delay in their move, so while they're there they're continuing to assist with the bookings. However, there are a number of things that are managed through Ms. Abadie, as well as Ms. Helm actually assist with the movie production portion of it, but once they leave the premises the building will be managed by our office. Maybe we misunderstood the question, but I think the committee that met maybe Ms. Remonet was on it originally to look at some uses for the Center, there was a layout that was drafted that they thought would provide for better uses for the facility, that layout was provided to the Architecture Firm that actually built the facility. They put together I guess a schematic or conceptual drawing, the cost for adding break-out rooms and additional space for the types of events we thought would be able to utilize the Center, the cost estimate was right at \$3.9 million. So, at that point, not having the funding in place we didn't move that forward. But based on the last meeting of the Committee, there was a redesign of the facility that they thought that would make it more I guess, more easily leased, and based on that information, again a very preliminary conceptual was created, the square footage I think is included in the document where they had general additional, General Meetings Space of about 6,200 square feet; Specialized Meeting Space of 1350 square feet; and additional Support Space of 7,330 square feet, the total cost of a 14,880 square foot addition was right at \$3.9 million. That did not include site improvements such as parking, driveways, and lighting. Again, that was the only I guess conceptual they drew based on the recommendations of the Committee."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "What Committee was that, that did this?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "It was the Community Center Committee that met actually in the Parish President's Conference Room, they did some line drawings suggesting the type of meeting space that was typically requested that our Center did not fulfill..."*

*Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "Who was on that Committee?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, "You, Ms. Remondet..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "Me?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I met in there and came up with that idea? Well anyhow."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Um, I think you were there. Um they talked about, I think Ms. Jo Banner was there and she talked about the request that she received that our facility did not address. So, she talked about the additional meeting space, she provided a layout of typical Community Centers and the types of layouts, again it was just a hand drawing, we took that information and provided to the firm that actually did the original facility and see how they could possibly fit that in with what they originally designed, and that was the results of that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I do remember her making a presentation to us until she found out about it. I didn't know they had a Committee to do that work. Now we have a Committee that was appointed here, and that was one conceptual idea that we/that she had, we got some other ones we'd like to look at."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And then Mr. Malik and I looked, went over there and we looked at a few things that we might be able to do, and still keep what we got there now and that's what we wanted to talk about a little bit. And I don't know about this, do we still/ do you have a copy of that what Ms. Banner gave us?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We might want pass this out to the rest of these Councilmen."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But we'll looking at pulling, looking at he and I had discussed this, looking at putting a building within a building. Because our biggest, our biggest, the issue we have over there is breakout space and breakout rooms. And we looked at maybe we put another floor on that building inside of it, it's just a food for thought right now. Another floor on that inside of it we could still use all the space we got out there with other activities going on at the bottom. But when we do have meetings like that, which probably would, we could have all that upstairs, and breakout rooms and bathrooms can be upstairs and you can put it within one part of that building. And you could still, we looked at that the smaller part of it, I forgot how many thousand square feet that is, but the smaller part of it but just the second floor up there and use escalators or something. That's what we're looking at right now and we could still use the bottom, and if the film people come in they can still use the bottom part of it, the whole space except for the top floor, the second floor. That's what Mr. Malik and I were discussing with one time. So that's just plant that seed, that's what we have right now and I was wondering what our next move on something like that would be, we need to get with some type of Engineer and let them give us some ideas on what it would take to do something like that. And then that way we'll have two (2) conceptual plans, and we can make up our mind

which one we want to go through. So, what you think it would be if we looked, maybe we can get our Parish Engineer to look at that, what yawl think? Just to look at it and make a report back to us on that concept and you know how would it work and can it work you know over there? If it can't then it just can't! But I'd like to get someone to look at it."

Councilman Malik stated, "A couple of things that we considered was simple things, and possibly doing these out over a number of months or years, kind of like phase in. But, the for initially one of the things we thought was adding in the basketball courts, the goals and the portable bleacher systems that are in high schools, things like that. I saw and I couldn't find it, but I know I have the drawings that were submitted that were done a couple of years ago for \$3.9, which was essentially adding an Annex to the building, and what Mr. Snyder and I did was take a look at the building itself, and how can we or what we thought would be relatively easy simple idea to use the existing building instead of adding on to it. So, in one of the rooms there's quite possibly an area that we measured out to be at least 25-30 feet deep I think, something like that, it's a pretty big area, you know possibly putting in a second floor. So, this is really we have a list of items that we'd like to host and use this building for, make it a little bit more user friendly for the high schools and some of the clubs, that have basketball or quite possibly host tournaments. Simple easy things that we thought followed by a little bit more complicated in long-term projects, so that's the extent of it. So more or so a feasibility study of what it would take and if this is cost effective. But we believe that certainly adding in a flooring for the basketball is/would be doable by the Parish."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you. I guess just my question was to Administration, if you could just refresh our memories and resend over that design. You know I do think looking at what we have in place and making modifications is a good idea, you know I would make sure to if we're looking to do some things that are going to cater to the schools, I would make sure we include the school system because each school has their own gymnasium, so we want to make sure what are they leaving the Parish for, and how can we change those accommodations to keep them in St. John, because we do have a lot of gyms in the Parish but we also want to make sure we're accommodating them as our original purpose to make sure they're not leaving. But, if Administration can send that I'd be happy to sit with some council members to revisit."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you Mr. Wright, and I would suggest the Committee to call a meeting and discuss the ideas that they're discussing, and come back to the Council with what concluded, but have another meeting with the committee."

**Thomas Malik - Discussion regarding going out for bids for tree cutting services for the Parish**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Administration I see you have something on here, one of ya'll want to say something. Ms. LaVerne, Mr. Kindrick? Ms. Robottom?"

Robert Figuero stated, "According to the Louisiana Public Bid Law and the Parish's Procurement Policy, a bid is not required for professional services nor public works projects under \$157,700. Parish records indicate that approximately \$80,000 was spent on tree cutting services in 2018. If other companies are interested in providing this service, they can complete a Vendor Registration Form which is available on the Purchasing and Procurement webpage."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you sir. So, this came about through one of our critics. This the original individual had nothing to do with any tree cutting service, it was essentially a question and if you don't listen to your critics, you're missing out on a good education, so to that gentleman I thank you. So, what happened what we found out; is there's essentially one contractor was receiving the at least for the past two years, which was and please correct me if I'm incorrect, but it was roughly for 2017, there was about \$117,000, that were billed through PO's..."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Malik stated, "And the \$80,000 ended..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "That was for 2018."

Councilman Malik stated, "For 2018."

Robert Figuero stated, "Correct."

Councilman Malik asked, "So that was partially through December?"

Robert Figuero stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Malik stated, "So Mr. Figuero and I spoke about it a number of times and we thought that the best thing to do is to be fare about it. There are other tree cutting services in the Parish, and to provide them that opportunity to do some of the work for the Parish as well. Couple of things that we thought about was rotating them."

Robert Figuero stated, "Correct. As we said as long as they were licensed and insured and had the proper licenses and insurance, speaking with Mr. Kindrick as well, we don't have a problem necessarily rotating that company to company. Again, all these were on an as needed basis, so again as we needed it we contacted the company they gave us a quote, we issued the purchase order, they went and did the job. So, this, the same case would apply again as long as they're qualified, licensed and insured. As Mr. Kindrick has stated to me and then in previous conversation, we don't have any problem with rotating the company's assuming again that they can do the work and they can do a quality job." "

Councilman Malik stated, "No I appreciate you gents for helping us out. Like I said, everything was done above board everything was within the confines of the law but, you know we want to be fair and have that opportunity provided to everybody that has a business, licensed business for this particular service within the Parish. So, thank ya'll."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I obviously saw this item on the agenda and I just wanted to bring up a couple things. For some time, and let me backup, tree cutting or the obtaining of an Arbor's License is a very specialized thing. It's a niched field, for a while in St. John we had one licensed Arborist licensed in St. John Parish and you could actually pull up the registry or one of them. You can pull up all of the licensed Arborist in the, in each Parish. They have it broken down by Parish, and for a while there was only one and then for some time there were two (I believe they were actually related in some kind of way), now there are four. The problem that I would see with bidding this, (and I'm all for rotating) because right, if we have four then we can rotate. The

problem that you would have with bidding, if you know you only have one or two licensed in your Parish, once you would put out a bid then you may be cutting out, you know that opens it to anyone. And secondly, there's really not a mechanism for putting out a bid for tree cutting, because how do you know how many trees you need to cut? How big is the tree? What type of tree? And like I said; Arborist, it is so specialized its tree surgery. And actually, if you go out there and cut trees and don't have a license, you will get fined more than you know stealing out of the store or doing some other things, and it's just so highly regulated and highly specialized. But that would not really be a way to put out a bid for tree cutting unless we knew on January 1<sup>st</sup>, all of the trees we wanted to cut, we detailed them in bids back, we gave the individuals, we'd almost have to tie a ribbon around the tree and have those people who were bidding look at all of the trees we're planning on cutting, and that's not the case. Often times what happen is we; respond to a tree that's maybe tearing up a sidewalk, a tree that's falling down on the servitude. Those types of things, there's no predictability in it. So that would be one part of why you could not bid out a service like this. Then of course the second component is; you would potentially push out some of the local vendors who could possibly participate. So, I do agree with you, as far as you know listening to critics and things like that. Sometimes it's just so much more specialized than complicated than what is on the surface. So, I just wanted to share those pieces of information on just tree cutting and a tree surgery as it is for those who didn't know. So, thank you."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes Mr. Malik, I saw you had put that on the agenda and I did call you and I wanted to know what you were looking for, and like I said, I understand rotating and stuff like that, but you got to remember when you say, 'critics' that's what I called you and told you, but I didn't know what you were going to say about critics. Because what I want to say is on the East Bank, me on the East and West Bank, that guy Stanley, he praises and I get calls all the time, people love him he does a great job, he's friendly with the people and he just does good, good work. And Jackie like you say tree surgery, I wish you'd see the surgery he did today, it is amazing! I got five phone calls, so he's very, very, very good! So, but like I said, if you want to give everybody a fair shot, but I just would like to say I haven't got all I got is good response from this guy from the day I took office. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I was, that's a very good idea. But there's a lot of trees being cut in this Parish, I'm sure a lot of people breaking the law I'm sure. But I was thinking about maybe we can go out for an RFP on these things and do like we did with the housing program. You know we get everybody that's qualified to do it and then just bid out the jobs we got. You know that way we can everybody who's qualified to do it can still bid on a job, and that way we might get a better price you know for cutting a tree. If we got two trees to cut or we got a list of trees to cut, we just put that on one bid and these people whoever got the RFP in that we chose or RF qualification (I'm sorry) they can do the tree cutting, whoever win the bid. That's what we did with our housing program. We bid, contractors bid on it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, I just want to say I agree with what Ms. Hotard said, but something else about the tree cutting business that's kind of hard to predict. A lot of time when I call Mr. Verdell it's an emergency. The tree is about ready to fall, it's in the servitude blocking a ditch or something like that. So, most of the time when I'm calling it's something that have to be taken care of almost immediately within 24 hours you know so, that's a situation where you have problem trying you know to put bids out when a tree is about ready to

fall and he has to make a decision. Okay and like I said, he goes to someone that he knows is reliable and going to show up. In fact, had an incident about three (3) months ago, we had a little storm came through and the guy was actually on getting ready to leave to go on a cruise with his wife, and he got the call that they had the emergency, and he rushed over and took care of that before he went on the cruise. Okay and at that time it was a matter of a tree falling on someone home or trying to find someone else. So, you also have to look at the fact of dependability, especially when it comes down to something that's an emergency you know, something that have to happen say within 2-3 hours. So that's some time, that's a big factor. And I know the time I called, it was something that had had come down you know in that timeframe."

Councilman Malik stated, "And that's the, what we came to the conclusion is putting them on rotational basis. It's the easiest way that you know for all these other considerations that you put into it. Now let me say this; if they were not criticizing the gent (and I didn't even know his name until Kurt called Stanley), they weren't criticizing him or his work. Everybody has very, very, wonderful things to say about him. It was criticizing myself and my colleagues up here for not allowing that opportunity to exist for other tree cutters in the Parish. That was the critic, so for that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And I agree, we should have put this on a rotating basis the same way we do with Code Enforcement when they cut blighted property, high grass, we should put it on that system long as they got the proper credentials. So, moving on."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just for future reference for any potential vendors. On the Purchasing and Procurement website, if you have a company or a firm that's interested in doing business with the Parish, there's already a process in place. It's a Vendor Registration Form, that they can submit to the Parish with all the required documentation to show that they are a qualified vendor. So, I fully understand they approach you sometimes individually, but this is not just open to tree cutters, it's open to any potential vendor and that document is on the Parish's website for anyone interested in doing business with the Parish with the guide that directs them on what's necessary in order to do business with the Parish."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you so much."

**Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion regarding going out for qualifications for a Project Manager/Engineer for the West Shore Levee Project**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes Me and Robottom talked about this after the last workshop, and the reason I put that on there because the money has been, we have the money, the Corps has met with landowners in the Parish about alignment and with that process, and I'm sure Mr. Rene might be involved in that. The Letter of Intent was signed last week with the Governor in Litcher, but I'm wondering why and Ms. Robottom and I talked about it. We need an Engineer with ears at the table for the best interest of St. John Parish, for this West Shore Levee Project. Make sure we're getting everything that we need, we are hearing what they're hearing, we're talking the same language because I know right now your hands is full of Directors short, so you got a lot of work here in the Parish that needs to focus daily. So, I'm looking for us to go out and get an Engineer, a Project Manager, to work in our behalf to stay with the Corps to make sure we are getting the proper pumps we need, the levee alignment and everything to benefit St. John Parish and plus contractors."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'll address that. I think we had this conversation before, we're going to continue to work toward that. What was signed this past Friday was a Project Partnership Agreement, which kind of delineated everyone's role in the project. So, prior to knowing what we're responsible for, it was very difficult to put together a scope of work to get somebody to help you if it hasn't been identified with what your role is. The first meeting since that partnership was signed, will be tomorrow, we have spoken with the Corps and Representatives and there appear to be some confusion that money is not in our hands, it was not allocated to St. John the Baptist Parish, I mean it was allocated to the Corps, and the non-federal sponsor which we are sponsors with the Levee District and the CPRA. Now keep in mind, it was an official signing ceremony, lots of people signed a paper on Friday, but there were three (3) people who actually signed the real agreement and it wasn't St. John. So, we have not entered into the agreement with the other non-federal partners on our role just yet, CPRA, the Levee District and the Corps of Engineers actually signed the official agreement, but we are partners with our Levee District and CPRA, and we'll have a role in that. Again, I agree, I think from the time you guys met with me initially, and that was before we lost Directors, that this is not an expertise that we have, nor do we have the time to do it. But it's premature to sign an agreement with someone because they're asking you to and not knowing what you need them to do. And that is why we are proceeding with caution, because I don't need to hire someone to do something that's not even our responsibility. We're going to put an agreement with you to go do something that's part of the Corp's job, or that's part of CPRA's job. I need you to help us with the part that's our job. So again, I am not saying we don't need help, I told yawl from the very beginning we will, but we need to be very cautious about what it is we're signing and agreeing to and paying for, and it is what we need on behalf of our residents. Now one of the major issues and I had a discussion with the Chair CPRA today, we want our folks to have an opportunity to participate. We need a meeting in St. John, there was a meeting that was held in Baton Rouge for all Corps Projects, not West Shore, but any project. What we're asking for is a meeting in St. John, so that people who are interested in working on our project hopefully from here, can come and hear what those different roles will be and how to go about participating. Which is very different from us hiring somebody to help us, that's an addition to that. That person may be able to help us with that in terms of pulling together contractors to be participants in the project. But you guys know by now, that if I'm not comfortable, like I don't know enough to put together the scope yet, okay? And I'm not just going to take the scope from somebody who wants to make money off of us. Okay, we need somebody to do what we need them to do to move our project forward. And I am continuing to work with people who have done this on our end before, to try and get a good scope so we can get the help that we need. But the document wasn't signed until Friday, and I did have some questions about the one, the draft document that I saw that I need clarification on in terms of what our role will be. It's going to be very difficult to hold us to something on a document that we didn't sign. And at this point, I didn't come before you asking to sign a document, so St. John is not part of any document. The people who signed those documents were from those other entities, but I think we're going to have to sign an agreement document with our non-federal partners, and at that point we will need help with our responsibility, and I will definitely put together something and make that request because I am not denying the fact that we can't manage a Levee Project."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And fair enough and that's what I wanted to come out to the public, and this Council to keep us abreast of what's going on with this West Shore Levee Project, make sure St. John is at the table. So, thank you

so much."

Councilman Malik stated, "There's actually two (2) projects that are moving, because there's the Diversion Canal, which is going to run in between Mt. Airy in the MPLX Terminal, so the MPLX Terminal is going to be outside of both the levee and the Diversion Canal. So, I think that also should be included. The Diversion Canal could begin in 2020, this is being run by CPRA, and these are two (2) totally different projects that are going on in the Parish, they're going to crisscross twice, maybe, it's, so there's still a lot of things that are going on. The last plans and I'm sure they've included you in them, they're the Diversion and the Levee would cross twice, there's a couple of different things that they're looking at, whether they're going to use Earth or T-walls, the pumps that you're speaking about which I think are, well you going to have to those are important. I've seen some of the specs for those. I don't know how many meetings I've been to, 8, 9, so there's a lot of things. Now the interesting thing and the very, very good thing that's going on is CPRA had a pump designed just to move water from the Mississippi River into the West Shore of Lake Maurepas. And one of the provisions that they did for Army Corps was to increase the size of the pump what the Army Corps specifications were, which kind of made sense. So, there's a lot of coordination that's going on and there's a lot of really good cooperation between the State, our Levee Board, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. So, for that we thank them."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And just to go back to your Maurepas Project. Again, CPRA is managing that that is being funded through restore dollars, they're also one of the non-federal partners in the Levee Project, I think you attended the meeting where we brought all the sides' together cuz they were right next to each other and they do need to coordinate. But keep in mind they've actually addressed some of the property owners, they're doing title searches, there's a firm that was actually hired by the Levee District to do that. However, the final design is not complete and they are looking at (we'll find out more information about that hopefully this week), additional pumps. So, they were completing a drainage study and I think based on that there were some concerns about the pumping capacity of the pumps in the original design. So those things are changing as we speak, but there is a plan to add additional pumps to what was originally planned, which was four (4) pumping stations and they are looking at capacity. But definitely have to keep everybody working on the same page, there's a timeline for both of these projects, the Levee Project must be completed by 2023 and it's my understanding the Diversion should be done by 2021. So, they're trying to do a lot of work in a short period of time in a very small area, and our goal is to try and keep them on track to get that done."

Councilman Malik stated, "The agency you know, CPRA that's running the Diversion Canal has done a marvelous thing. Now they increased the size of the pumps so that the Army Corps can use it. However, these two (2) projects are totally separate, one can go up and the other one couldn't and they were just totally independent. So please don't misconstrue anything that I said."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ms. Robottom I agree with you 100%. I think we need that, we need to go into this with our eyes open and have some kind of direction before we start spending money. That's an excellent idea you know, getting someone to represent us. I know Mr. Madere had said that a while back that, we need somebody to lookout for us, that's the way he put it. Need somebody to look out for our benefit, benefit the people in our parish, and I think this is the same thing that Mr. Perrilloux is talking about right now. So, and we need to get some direction with that. Now, you know speaking with some people this past week with the Corps, they going to build this project and when they build this project

it's ours. Our big thing is, we need to find out a way to finance this. What our responsibilities going to be. I'm not sure if the (what's this other group name?) the Pontchartrain Levee District? What part they going play in? And if not, in my understanding from what I heard at that meeting up there this past week at the signing, at more than one, talking to more than one person and listening to some of the people speak up there, our challenge is going to be; how we're going finance the up keep. They call it O&A or O&M, I'm sorry, O&M that's what they call it you know as Operate and Maintain or Maintenance I guess and that's going to be some dollars. We need to figure out what/how much that is, what we're going to need you know. And I think that's going to be our next challenge here is that, what that's going to cost us because yeah, we're talking doing it having this thing finished about 2003, 2023 I mean. I think what we got going right now from what I've been hearing is just not enough funding for us to take care of it. And that's where we need to me, there's where we need to be concentrating our efforts at you know, let's talk about that at some point in the future. Thank you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes Mr. Snyder. Our original calculation for the mileage did include Operation and Maintenance. The original feasibility study that was provided, that came up with the \$760 million, it included our mileage calculation included our match for construction, but it also addressed Operation and Maintenance. Now again over time we would expect that when it's fairly new the cost would not be as great to maintain when there's a requirement for levee lifts, and pump maintenance and upgrades, as the system ages that's when our cost we anticipate will increase, but that initial calculation did include O&M. Now I hear that every time at the meeting and I'm a little bit concerned, because I hear it from the Levee District who has a role, they have a role in Operation and Maintenance and we've had discussions with St. Charles Parish, who has an agreement with them and different people do different things. You know somebody does grass, somebody does pumps, there's a cost associated with it. So, we have gotten information on what it's taking to run the or operate and maintain the pumps in St. Charles Parish, but we both have a role in that Operation and Maintenance requirement, and the Levee District actually gets a mileage as well that supports them for their role in Operation and Maintenance. But it worries me a little bit, because that feasibility plan was very specific as to the cost of Operation & Maintenance, so it continues to disturb me that people continue to say they don't know what those cost are going to be. Cuz they were in that document. And that's what helped us to calculate our mileage, was using that information before we went out to the people."

Councilman Snyder's statement was INAUDIBLE.

Natalie Robottom stated, "What we were told was, it's actually on the high-end Mr. Snyder. People who've actually do it before felt that those numbers were on the high end. Which is that's their contingency, they over estimate. That's what we were told, but we still based our request on the high-end that was in the report."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And that's great and I'm glad we did that if that is the case, but I think we, why people still saying this, that we don't have enough money coming in to take care of that? That's what I don't..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "As those are the things to, and I know you guys are looking at it you know, when we get people to come on the tax rolls that's an opportunity to make sure you use that money in a manner that will protect the entire community. So, addition to the mileage that's been approved by our residents and we started to collect and that we accounted for, just keep in

mind the opportunities to supplement those dollars by some of the excess that I anticipate will be coming to the Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok, thank you."

**Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion regarding the Haydel Canal Crossing/LaPlace Park Levee, hiring of an Expropriation Attorney**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you Mr. Malik. Let me see, this item has been really a 'thorn in the side'. That's something I have been working on for 8 years, and we had three (3) Attorneys that handled this project only to come in a stone wall. So, Mrs. Robottom came to me about a month ago or so, or maybe longer, and I agreed and let's expropriate and take the land. And not just taking land but will compensate the people fair market price whatever it surveys at. But we been going around and around on this because LaPlace Park really is one of the most vulnerable neighborhoods on the Northside of the Airline, because of configuration of the levee and the Haydel Canal. So we needs to something and I/we didn't put in a motion or no kind of legislative, she agree with me so I didn't take I'd have to do that, but we are looking to get an Expropriate Attorney, with that concentration of law, to go head and let's move on with this project and get this land going and this project going to protect those residents in LaPlace Park. So, and I see what you have on here if you want to make a reply to it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir. We did talk about his and many of you have been working on this with us forever. We identified the property owners, we actually had them all surveyed, we did meet with an Attorney that specializes in Expropriation that was recommended to us by the Port of South Louisiana, who's working with them on Expropriating property. Because we felt that this was something that was important that we thought that would have to expedited, we did check with some other Attorneys, there are some Attorneys that work with us who've shared with us that that's not their expertise. Although they may be able to do it, they're not going to be able to expedite it. So our conversations were, was it the timeline, what is the requirements to get this done in a timely fashion, which is why we went to a firm that actually does this more frequently in speaking with at least one of the Attorneys that work with us they're very familiar with the company that did submit proposal and suggested that the reason that their cost may have been more than your typical Attorney, is because of their expertise that's required to do the work and to expedite it. Part of what we looked at and of course everything has taken so long, we'll have to get additional appraisals. Because our appraisals are older at the time they were new, now certain amount of times passed we're going to have to do that again. There are also some court appearances, I don't think and this was a conversation Mr. Perrilloux and I had, that anybody going to resist, there are people that actually want to sell their property. However, we were advised by Legal Counsel, until you can get some type of agreement, you can get them all don't purchase one (1) piece, because you may be held up on getting the rest. But you can initiate some purchase agreements but not go through with the process until you're sure you're going to get everything that you need to complete your project. So that's something you know, I do think we'll have to come back before the Council with authorization to move forward, as I said we originally had a firm I spoke to a couple of other local firms that do this work, whose familiar with that firm who suggested that that is their expertise, and you know an Attorney that does that kind of work would probably be better, would better serve us especially since we're trying to expedite this process. So, I'll get additional information to you, hopefully we can address this again, but it we've worked and paid like you

said, three (3) Attorneys, and they've tried their hardest. It's not their fault they can't get in touch with these people who either would donate a property, they don't live here they don't care about the property it's not that expensive that's what we shared with yawl. Once we had them appraised, \$7,000; \$9,000; \$4,000, to buy you know the lots. That is not what's stopping our project, it's actually getting the property purchased, because we budgeted money initially from Public Works, we added money from the Bond issue, but right now we've been spending most of our money on Attorneys, trying to get this done over this amount of time and we have to do something, and that was my recommendation to you all."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And thank you so much Mrs. Robottom, since I'm looking for this project to move forward and as I said before, yes we're looking at the fees because the longer we wait the more expensive it get, and I'm hoping the firm we work on the Attorney General fees, I know you get what you pay for. But we need to move forward with this project and protect the residents of LaPlace Park. So, thank you and come back to the Council so we can give you approval to go ahead and when you have final approval when you talk with the concerning parties."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No problem."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you."

#### **Kurt Becnel - Carla Ceasar - Trailer Placement issues - 243 Pine St., LaPlace**

Councilman Becnel stated, "First of all, we could almost remove this, because you provided some great information for me, and I've spoken with Ms. Ceasar, and she's very pleased, she understands what she has to get. But with you providing information that played a big part. And I also want to thank Councilman Malik, when he saw it that I was bringing it up on the agenda, he asked me what was going on with this, and he also assisted me in getting the information that Ms. Ceasar need for her father. The home is in deplorable condition, everybody knows him as Bobby Joe "Beaver" Collins, and we're almost there. She purchased him a three (3) bedroom handicap trailer, so it's just a matter of getting the title clear, even though all the paperwork he has is showing him rightfully the owner, but I just had to explain that it's just a procedure and when legal recommended it, that they go forward with this it was a no brainer. So, again I want to thank you and Administration for guiding us and she also understand that we have a path forward and we're almost there. Thank you, sir."

Councilman Malik stated, "Hang on a second sir don't go anywhere. First, I'd like to thank you because it wasn't, if you really understood what was going on in this case you'd really appreciate the work that the cooperation that we got with you, because it wasn't well 'can't do it it's up to you'. But he did a little research and he keep in close contact with Mr. Becnel, and you sent me an email, so for that I 'thank you', so that was a wonderful thing. So, it really made things a lot easier here, you know."

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

Verdell Kindrick stated, "LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC, the firm with the concrete contract is working on a cost-estimate."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I appreciate that information and I definitely can understand that they have to look at it and come up with a cost estimate before

anything can be done you know. I know people like for something to move quickly, but you have to take your time and they have to evaluate the whole area. My only concern is; I don't know if it's possible like we put up some signs for high water, if we can put up a sign or something maybe like to try to keep the people from walking in certain areas of those pave walks. Because of especially I think its 708, I think the address. The pave walk is really on a 45-degree angle, towards the ditch you know so I don't think that is very safe for anyone to try to walk on that particular area right there. But that's the only one I know of for sure, in that spot right there."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Okay I'll take care of it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah and see if you can do something with that one. Okay, appreciate it. Thank you."

### **Lennix Madere - Update on abandoned/derelict houses and vehicles Parishwide**

Rene Pastorek stated, "In 2018, Code Enforcement opened 100 new junked vehicle cases and 55 new hazardous and unsafe building cases. The department closed 190 junked vehicle cases and 60 hazardous and unsafe building cases. A code enforcement sweep targeting junked vehicles will be conducted in District III this Spring."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay first thing I want to say is, I didn't put this on the agenda to have a sweep in District III, meaning it should be Parishwide, not just in District III, that's why I had on there, Parishwide. My concern is, the Sheriff Department contacted us I think you may be aware of the house in Cornland, the one that he asked to be demolished?"

Rene Pastorek stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Because it was also involved in an incident where a guy was robbed, and they found some of his belongings and stuff inside of that building. Okay and a, a lot of those buildings are being used by the criminal elements of the Parish, you know for hideouts, stashing different things you know and all types of other activities. I also passed by that house today and I saw that Code Enforcement put a notice on the 2/22/2019, on the building declaring that that it's unsafe and everything. Okay but the building is not boarded up, okay the door was closed but I touched it and the door fell in, okay you know we supposed to do a report and then we supposed to actually go out there and board the facilities up. Okay also, in the Ordinance it says if the building was in danger of collapsing, the Parish could have it torn down within 24 hours of notification of the owner. Now, the response to the Sheriff Department was that that building wasn't in that type of condition. But after I went and looked at that building today, there's a building a structure behind and that building okay, that's almost as big as that house and the whole corner of that building is missing. Okay so it's no way to even board that up, okay a whole section is missing. So, the Code Enforcement Officer, when they go and look at a building, they actually have to go and walk around the premises of the building and see everything. Okay, because I went and walked that property line, when I got to the back that's when I saw that other building. Well a whole corner is missing, okay and there's no way to board that up. The only solution to that building is to tear it down. Okay and it's in indigent danger of falling. Okay and my other concern is, who does the report, okay for us? Is it the Code Enforcement Officer who's riding around and looking for a grass violation, vehicle violation? Are they the ones who are supposed to write that report up? Because I have a report

from 2012, I think it is, where South Central Planning actually did the report, okay and recommended that this house be torn down, and they also did one in 2013, on East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Okay well they recommend that the house be torn down. But those are the only two (2) houses that I know that South Central Planning actually did the report on. So, my question to you is; who is responsible for writing that report? And give it to Ms. Robottom for her to make a determination, especially if it's a building that's deemed. Because the two (2) that South Central Planning did, they recommended that those structures be torn down. Okay and those two structures are still standing."

Rene Pastorek stated, "Sounds like you have several questions. The first in respect to the structure that was presented to the department that has a concern that has been given in inspection for hazardous and unsafe buildings. As a board and secure, we have both board and secure ability when there's open elements, things that can cause people to go and vagrance other types of transients, and then those that are imminent danger of collapse can be issued an order for demolition. So, the Board and Secure Violation has been notified on the property. The reason that it is not boarded up now is because the property owner does have ten (10) days to do that. And if not, another notice that goes out and then in 25 days we actually can go and we'll go in and board up the structure so that's the process for that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I thought of something. Rene you mentioned in part of your comments the funding of the demolition that even if one goes through the process, would you say that funding is the biggest hurdle in getting a house torn down right now at the present moment?"

Rene Pastorek stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Okay, and do you know on an average how much we've spent on demolishing houses?"

Rene Pastorek stated, "I don't have that number off hand but I can absolutely get it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yeah, if you could just maybe email me."

Rene Pastorek stated, "Uhm."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And we did receive a grant this year that allowed us to demolish. It was out of the Hurricane Isaac CDBG Funds, where we demolished quite a few, (was it 50? 20?), we demolished them with those funds. However, on a regular basis if we pay someone to do it it's usually more expensive than if the homeowner did it. Which is why we try and give them the opportunity to demolish it themselves so we don't have to bill them or lien their property. But I know I signed a regular basis, they're demolishing houses because I get the document and sign off on the recommended demolitions through Code Enforcement."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Carmouche v. Shell Oil Company et al. - 18<sup>th</sup> JDC No. 78185. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Carmouche v. Shell Oil Company et al. - 18<sup>th</sup> JDC No. 78185

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**19-08** An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of the Gabriel Webre or Assigns Tract from the Mississippi River to the 40 Arpent Line into Lots 1-GW and Lot 2-GW of the Gabriel Webre Tract, located in the area generally bounded by Hwy. 18, E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., E. 9<sup>th</sup> St., and Hwy. 3127, Edgard, LA, as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. (PZS-19-1206)  
(N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. Thank you to everyone who took time to send birthday wishes via, phone, FB or in person. I had a great birthday weekend and celebration with the Krewe of MAC and I'm looking forward to a great rest of the year. On Friday, we joined the Governor and our state and federal officials for a signing ceremony for the Project Partnership Agreement for the Westshore Lake Pontchartrain Levee Project. This is another huge step in bringing the levee project to construction and providing our residents with the much-needed hurricane protection they deserve. Persistence led to this very important milestone in our four-decade quest and we are pleased that the document is signed, and we can move forward in getting this project done. More information about the ceremony can be found on our website and communication channels. Thank you to Economic Development Department and CAO's office for participating in a successful "Taste of Louisiana" Thursday at the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Convention in Baton Rouge. Local caterer Petra's prepared White Chocolate Bread Pudding and we also served shrimp and andouille egg rolls. It was a nice event and showcased our famous andouille to visitors from across the state. I'd also like to congratulate Miss Andouille Queen Mandi Sweeney on her representation of the Parish. She did an amazing job and we're extremely proud to have her as our queen. Thank you to Teen Queen Jenna Necaïse and Pageant Coordinators for their hard work last weekend. Thank you for the outpouring of support we received at our Animal Shelter Event Saturday and the time since we took in over 100 abused animals at the shelter. The shelter received donations totaling close to \$16,000, \$10,000 of which was from the Greater New Orleans Foundation led by Andy Kopplin. We couldn't have done it without the tremendous support from neighboring animal groups, volunteers and our residents and businesses. Our event Saturday resulted in numerous adoptions and many volunteers showed up despite the rain. Attendees were able to walk dogs and they were socialized for hours which was a huge help. Channel 4 also did a brief news segment for the Saturday evening news which resulted in a few phone calls inquiring about adoption and fostering. As of today, we are down to about 50 dogs in the shelter with the potential for foster or adoptive homes, or rescues.

Racheal Sance, the animal shelter manager, is currently gathering photos and videos of each dog for the Atlanta Humane Society. They also plan to take some of the dogs. We would like to again thank the community and other organizations for their donations and volunteerism and ask you to continue to share our information and spread the word so we can get all of these sweet dogs into homes. Ms. Toombs and I recently attended the Police Jury Association's annual Convention in Lake Charles along with other officials from around the state. We met with other officials and Parish Presidents to lead the effort on protecting our coast for the future of Louisiana. We also discussed a variety of other current issues and the impact to our local governments. It was time well spent. Baseball and softball registration for youth ages 5-14 is open until March 24th. Please register at the Parks & Recreation Office, 200 REGALA Park Rd. in Reserve or by contacting the department at 652-9569. Coaches are needed. Please mark your calendar for the Annual Spring Clean Sweep on Saturday, March 9. We will meet at Thomas F. Daley Memorial Park at 8:00 am to stage a parish wide cleanup until 11am. After the cleanup, everyone is invited back to the park for food and music. To register for Clean Sweep, please visit the Parish website at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) or call Terri Abadie at 652-9569. The local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is offering scholarships to seniors actively involved in community service and those enrolling in college by August of 2019. The application deadline is April 26, 2019 and can be downloaded at [www.rpacdst.com](http://www.rpacdst.com). It's Carnival Time! We would like to congratulate our Kings and Queens reigning over Mardi Gras, including Councilman Wright who will reign as King of DuMonde with his Queen Danielle Brignac. We'd also like to congratulate our school age Kings and Queens and all royalty. St. John's annual Mardi Gras parades are set to roll this weekend with the Towahpahsah at 12:00 p.m. this Saturday, March 2nd in Reserve and the Krewe Du Monde at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, March 3rd in LaPlace with the new Krewe of Dage' to roll immediately following DuMonde. Both parades will follow their traditional routes and streets will be closed approximately fifteen minutes before the parade arrives. We ask that parade goers, visitors and residents be safe during this time, and please pick up behind you before leaving the parade route. Due to the Mardi Gras holiday, there will be no garbage collection on Mardi Gras Day, Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Collection will resume on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 for Tuesday and Wednesday routes. Residents are asked to please put their garbage can out by 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 5. Reminder to residents - All Parish government offices will be closed for the Mardi Gras Holiday Monday, March 4, 2019, and Tuesday, March 5, 2019. We wish everyone a safe and happy Mardi Gras! Thank you."

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:36 PM, Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapururu absent.

/s/Thomas Malik  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
COUNCIL SECRETARY