

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**  
**CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE**  
**VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia 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:** None

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

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Larry Sorapuru - Presentation - Evangeline Jackson-Martin - River Parishes Transit Authority**

Evangeline Jackson-Martin was present to give a brief presentation which services St. John, St. James and St. Charles Parishes. A copy of the presentation is attached.

**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 American Red Cross Month**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for March as American Red Cross Month.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - March as National Developmental Disability Awareness Month**

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

Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Frisco Fest Bike Tour and Foot Race - Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 beginning at 8:00 AM on both days; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 beginning at 4:30 PM; Permit Approval - West St. John High School Champions Parade Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM.

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Frisco Fest Bike Tour and Foot Race - Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 beginning at 8:00 AM on both days; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 beginning at 4:30 PM; Permit Approval - West St. John High School Champions Parade Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 beginning at 11:00 AM. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**18-02** (Public Hearing Held) 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, to read as follows (L. Snyder)

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Administration informed Council members that this job title is on the Pay Scale in Grade 5 for classified positions. However, we are awaiting the statute regarding the litter abatement program from the DA's office to review the job description for application to the requirements. A meeting will be scheduled in the next two weeks to discuss implementation of a program."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-02. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Request adoption of the amended CDBG Hurricane Isaac Procurement Policies**

Natalie Robottom stated, "The Procurement Policies have been updated based on

recommendations from OCD & HUD. Administration recommends approval."

A vote was taken but realized accidentally no one had moved to make a motion or a second. This item will be on the next agenda for clarification of vote.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-05 - A Resolution to endorse and support Louisiana Economic Development's (LED's) Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program and its work plan and authorize the Parish President, Director of Economic Development and employees to cooperate with and participate in the community assessment and strategic planning activities, and further, the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish**

Jerry Jones stated, "The Louisiana Development Ready Communities aims to increase Louisiana communities' competitive advantage by positioning parishes like St. John to successfully pursue and capture economic development opportunities. This program provides an opportunity to develop a strategic economic development plan. If selected through the application process, St. John Parish will become the first Parish Government to participate in this program. Administration recommends approval."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And just for information, we were approached to participate in this it is something that is fairly new. I think Hammond or Tangipahoa Parish did some work in this area, they just think it's a lot easier to deal with a parish that doesn't have any incorporated areas so once you make some decisions it's for the entire parish. So we're excited about the opportunity to get some help on this and hopefully this resolution is a requirement for the application and hopefully we're selected to move forward. But it is a process that involves citizens and community and assessing where you currently are in making some plans and how to getting where you'd like to be."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Yeah, how much it's going to cost us to get this?"

Jerry Jones stated, "Actually Louisiana Economic Development foots a great deal of the bill. If we do have anything it's going to end of being like a maybe possibly a facilitator, or like refreshments at the events when people come to it. But they foot a great deal of it through their small business, not small business, a small readiness community program. So we've sat down and met with both the outgoing Director, who's getting ready to retire and the incoming Director as relates to what our expectations would be. So good news is that they're going to foot the vast majority of this. Anything that we do have to fund, it's limited and it's going to be within our budget."

Councilman Snyder asked, "It's going to be within your budget?"

Jerry Jones stated, "The Economic Development budget."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So it will cost us some money then?"

Jerry Jones stated, "Minimum, at best."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What is minimum? I've been wondering."

Jerry Jones stated, "Well that's a good question."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I know it's a good question. What is minimum? A Million and a Half Dollars?"

Jerry Jones stated, "Oh no. No, no, no, no, no, no! I wouldn't even say anything past Two Thousand (\$2,000) to be honest with you. But that facilitator would be responsible for going out and about throughout the community, and documenting all of these assessments."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok, oh okay. Alright, thank you!"

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R18-05. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Discussion regarding rates/fees for the Community Center from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes I did meet with Mr. Figuero on this item and it's still our intention to reduce the rate, and I also talked to Miss Jo Banner on stuff and I know we had a committee at one time formed to address some of the stuff at the Community Center, I think Mr. Snyder might have been part of it, Ms. Remondet, I had pointed a few people maybe we need to look back at that. But according to when I met with Mr. Figuero, some of things that I brought and would like to see change is the contract. As for as needing four and six people over there for an event, which I think is ridiculous, plus with a manager to. I don't think you need six people over there to give paper towel and toiletries and maybe turn the lights on. So I'd like to see redoing that contract to not have four to six people over there for an event, because I know I have rent facilities and maybe you all have, when you go to a place they have one person. One person is there giving out toiletries, one person opening the building, one person closing the building. We don't need four to six for an event over there, that's totally ridiculous. So I think we can look at redoing that contract, and lowering the fees, redoing the contract, and maybe include something like a cleaning fee. If you're going to have an event, okay just for simplicity sake we use One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for clean-up fee. And that's going to be included because you got to have the building clean-up for the next party or whatever. So I'd like to just revisit some of this again before we do anything with it and I just leave it to the rest of the councilman to hear yawl thoughts."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thanks Chairman Madere. And Butch that's a good point, do you think whenever they put in there about the number of employees needed, you know some kind of sliding scale obviously if you're having a small meeting of twenty-five people versus an event with a hundred fifty people. And I'm sure the facility employees are better quipped, to know based on the size of the function how many people you need. But I would agree, you don't need six people if it's a smaller function that would be a help. It seems like, I don't know the rate wasn't ever the issue, it was more the availability of the building, and the fact that you had to bring in you know all these other things, whether it was; there's no kitchen you got to have the catering and all this other stuff. But you're right, we've looked at it in the past but I think that's a good idea, if it is a smaller size event, especially a baby shower, we've had some of that in there you don't need all of those employees. And that may help the ability for someone to rent the building."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Correct and that's the things we we're talking

about and looking at, and need every councilman involved we can call a workshop on it to discuss it, bring Miss Banner in and Mr. Figuero and discuss this further, because we go to look at changing some policies over there, changing rentals and again, over all make it community friendly. That's what my goal is."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah I just want to say, I agree totally with both of you guys, except for one person I think we need to have at least two people there, and we can talk about that in workshop. Mr. Perrilloux I know you met Mr. Robert, but yes, lowering the fees and the number of people at that station needs to be looked at. Do we have a timeframe when this workshop is going to occur? Can we..."

Councilman Madere interrupting asked, "You're finish?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'll get with Jackie to maybe send out some dates for a workshop and other council members' availability for the workshop where we do one. That way we get input from everybody at the table instead of having group meetings, we'll bring everybody in and discuss it."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Correct! I think that's a perfect idea and we can. Definitely want to have the public to come in and have public input into the decisions we have to make as a Council. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, I want to make a comment. I also met with Mr. Figuero and Mr. Snyder and Mr. Sorapuru was there to. And we all pretty much agreed that to have that many individuals that's required to be there, we really don't need all those people. I could agree with Mr. Sorapuru maybe two, a male and a female, cause you know when we have an event, you don't want the male guy having to go into the restroom to check everything out. So a male and a female, so I think you would need two. Okay we also talked about the clean-up of the building, okay instead of having this company charge us a great amount of money and we can get some of our employees you know to go clean that building up, okay like Mr. Snyder always been saying about we needed a crew that just do grass cutting and picking up paper. So those individuals would save the parish a lot of money, because if they're getting paid \$12.00 an hour to cut grass they can get paid them same \$12.00 to clean that building up. Okay and take the fee out of that, that we already have in there. So anything that can lower the fee for the people in the community to use that building, because right now it's a movie theatre, sound stage and everything else you know and very seldom do we have it being used for the people that it was built for. So I'm completely in compliance with them, anything we can do to lower the fee to make it accessible for the people of St. John the Baptist Parish is our goal. Any further comments?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, I got some figures on what it might cost to you know I thought some round figures on our high schools using that thing for graduation and things like that. And I was surprised you know what they pay to go down in Kenner down there and use that and I was, before I, I'm going to talk with you guys about it and maybe we might be able to do something with some numbers, and or we going to have some kind of committee to get together and look at this, along with the administration?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think that's what he said."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah a workshop."

Councilman Snyder stated, "A little workshop, great, great!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "He's just going to have to put some feels out for dates that might work."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right, right, right! Alright, I think we'll bring it up there then. Thank you. I got one other thing. I was told by the Financial Director, previous one, that we got enough money in our treasury over there to take care of what we asked for the bleachers, we asked for the volleyball court thing, get a shut for that that's nothing there, and for the goals over there. We know like I said for last meeting, our kids right now they don't have anywhere to practice. They got just our gym up there and they all can't practice at the same time. So we need to look at those, when we have this meeting that will come up also, as far as that is concerned. Because we've gotten numbers on what it cost to put bleachers over there, I think Mr. Daron Cooper did that for us and we supposed to have and I was told by the Director that we got enough money in our treasurer over there with that thing to take care of everything that we need."

**Larry Sorapuru - (Carry Over 2-14-18) Update from legal on process for withdrawing from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "We had some discussion on this item, I think the number of people that served on that commission have expressed discomfort on serving in that capacity they are serving in. A legislative session is going to go in sometime in March, I think March the 13<sup>th</sup>, it's a state board but as a council, I'm asking us to vote tonight to withdraw from the River Parish Tourist Commission."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm going to ask legal to commend the item on the agenda that say's update, and so you can't offer a motion..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Wait a minute Ms. Hotard. Okay, you have to be recognized and you could have made those comments. Ok, we're willing to do anything. Okay you want to make those comments now legally?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yes, I'd like legal to chime in. The item on the agenda as advertised, says; Update from legal on process for withdrawing from the River Parish Tourist Commission. So the offer of a motion for the Council to actually withdraw from the Tourist Commission would not have given the public due notice that that is what was going to be up on the agenda tonight. And I don't believe it is proper for us to do that in this form the way it's advertised on the agenda. So I'll ask legal that tonight."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Good Evening, Keith Green, Jr. with the District Attorney's Office. Previously our office already advised that any questions with the membership with the respect to the Tourism Commission, those rules as far as those questions should be directed to Legal Counsel for the Tourist Commission because our office and this council doesn't have any direct affiliation with that board. Thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "So I thought that commission appointed people was developed by St. John Parish Council?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "That's thing. The Council may appoint members to that commission, but the commission is its own independent entity."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "So and the Council can't withdraw from it?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "I'm not sure. That would be a question for the commission's council. The commission legal counsel would know how that council, how that board was actually developed, what the requirements would be for withdrawal, sort of like this council, you know someone would ask myself or the District Attorney's Office, how can someone be removed as a council member for St. John the Baptist Parish, because we are your legal counsel so we would be the ones who would be able to answer that as far as, what that commission does, that would be a question for their legal counsel."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And see I've had to sit in on one of the meetings on the Tourist Commission they had here in this council chambers, and I heard the displeasement of the stake holders that involved and representation. And we are the majority of funders in there for the parish but get the least representation. I heard all kind of comments on that I was not pleased with. How it went, who was involved, and maybe our people aren't representing St. John Parish like they should or they're representing individuals. We need to look at that but I was not pleased, I heard from all of them, now I know things are going on to try and pacify St. John Parish because now they heard okay we want to get out! Now they want, everybody want to pacify, pacify me, suck on a sucker for a little while and after it's all over with then I'm going to go back and do the same thing I was doing before. I'm not for that, it's time to stand up, and stand up for St. John Parish residents and stand up because we got tourist things in this parish where I don't need St. James. I don't need St. Charles, we got a lot of tourism here we got all the hotels, and we got a lot of tourists attractions from minorities to plantations and I don't need them. And if that's the kind of representation we've been getting all this time then it's time to move on. And I heard comments from St. James Parish, fine! Take your little couple of hundred thousand dollars do what you want up there with it. Build your own house. But here in St. John Parish I'm going to represent the 46,000 people plus here, and you can take your little money do what you want to do up there and we do something else here. So I can't see why something that was developed and we can't get out of it. That's the thing I want to find out."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Well I'm not saying that, I'm not saying St. John Tourist cannot get out of it, what I am saying is; the method would, the process that needs to be utilized for St. John to withdraw, the Commission's Attorney would actually know that. So now once the Commission's Attorney, once they do their research or let us know what it is that St. John would need to do, then our office can step in and give you all advice on okay, this is how you ought to go about doing this or this is how you should go about doing it. But as far as what is required for withdrawal from the commission that would be a question for their attorney."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "How soon can we get an answer on that, because I think this was put on the agenda over in Edgard and it's been about two meetings now, so you should have an answer."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "Well the way I see it is because it is a state created board, they follow the open meetings law, they follow the same rules and regulations as you all do. So for example: a member of their board should put this item on their agenda. And then once it's on their agenda, that board as a whole will take a vote to have their legal counsel to do the necessary research just like what you guys do with us. You guys want some legal research done, you don't contact another attorney from another board you contact your attorney. And

*it would be the same process I'd presume for that group as well. So that group would need to ask their attorney's to provide them with the methodologies or the requirements for withdrawal."*

Councilman Perrilloux asked, *"So in other words, we'd have to have a drafted letter from the council here?"*

Keith Green, Jr. stated, *"I think I'm not sure, I would think it would just be a member of their board just like a member off this board would request a legal opinion from our office, a member of that board should request an opinion from their attorney."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"I'm going to recognize you, but I have a question I want to ask you. You said someone from the Tourist Commission would have to put it on the agenda?"*

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

Councilman Madere asked, *"Okay and then they would vote on it to authorize their attorney to look into how to get out of it?"*

Keith Green, Jr. stated, *"Whatever their process would be at their meetings for their attorney's to do some research..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"Right, because if it's a vote it may not come out. Cause if they're already out numbering us and okay..."*

Keith Green, Jr. stated, *"But they know it may not be a vote, you know..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"Well that's what I'm saying. Because we need to get the information how to get out."*

Keith Green, Jr. stated, *"Exactly. And it really depends on how that..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"And I understand what Ms. Hotard said about the motion tonight, okay but we need to know the proper procedure how to get out of it. It's not a doubt that I think myself (I can't speak for the rest of the council people) what I feel like Mr. Perrilloux you understand? We have most of the hotels, we have most of the money, they use our building, okay and we get less representation than anybody else. Okay so, how long are you going to be a fool?"*

Keith Green, Jr. stated, *"Honestly I would suggest then would be for this board, this council to invite the members of the Tourist Commission Board that it appointed, invite them to your meeting and ask them and discuss this action with them because they are your, they're your representatives to that commission. So bring them along, and you know ask them or let them know what it is that you guys want. If you guys want to take a vote with them present saying that hey you know we are taking a vote to have our Tourist Commission representatives do X, Y and Z, then I necessarily see a problem with that. But I think having them present to actually have a discussion with you all about this particular situation, I think that would be the first step in trying to figure out or find out exactly what the withdrawal process would be. Because you guys are asking us and we don't, we're not affiliated with the Tourist Commission, but you guys are your representative are. So I think a conversation with your representatives would be Step 1, and then from there kind of see how their meetings are ran, what their particular*

commissions' rules are with respect to request some advice from their legal counsel and then scope from that go to move forward."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I was just going to say, as Keith says, we have no authority over that board. This is a state agency, it was not developed by St. John Parish it was not developed by St. Charles and it was not developed by St. James. It was developed by Representative Bobby Faucheux with several of us who are really advocates of tourism. And the money that's being paid it's not money that you would get anyway, its state taxes paid by people that stay in the hotels. That does not come out of our coffers, it doesn't come out of our pockets it's strictly a tax on people who stay at the different hotels. At the time everyone who was on the board, the only reason why the members come from the various three (3) parishes, we were trying to keep it connected to local government in the sense that we thought if we got representatives from each Economic Development Committee it would help us in working together. Because at one time the Economic Development Department did our tourism, which it seemed the logical step to allow them to participate on that board, that was the only reason that that was done. And I would believe your board is only good as the representatives, they have to have an interest in tourism and have some knowledge of it to be a viable part of that board. So I would look towards the state government on how to, they can withdraw St. John representatives can withdraw it's still a state agency, they can do whatever they want with it it's not our board to dissolve."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah I spoke with the stakeholders and more importantly these are the representatives of the hotels, as well as the hotel owners. They want to stay in the River Parish's Tourist Commission. They're the group that funds it, it's taxed through them they want to stay, I think it's more important that we start focusing on who's representing us and is it representing the best interest of our parish and not dissolving a board that we really don't have any authority over."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, usually when you're in a committee like this or a club that, you don't pay your dues what happen? You get kicked out right? How can we stop paying our dues? I think we need to look at it from the financial part of it. I know, bear with me over here..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Mr. Snyder hold on one minute hold on one minute. Okay Mr. Snyder has the floor, so just like because the people in the audience would tell the council members, hold your comments until you're recognized."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right, you know we pay through hotel taxes I understand that and then say like the metropolitan areas of New Orleans do the same thing. Now, does that fund that we put in to that committee come directly from the School Board and goes over there or does anybody around this board knows what's going on with that or does it go, how's does it get it? Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Through the state. The state collects it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "The state collects that money? And let me ask this question; is this a state agency or is it just sanctioned by the state?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "It's my understanding it is a State Board."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It's a State Board? Now if we decide to out there, we can become part of a State Board to also?"

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "That's a part I don't know."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright, just searching by the state because there are many other parishes that's in there by themselves. And are other metropolitan areas be in there by themselves, they're not concerned with two or three other parishes, for sure."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Listen I agree with Councilman Perrilloux, we are St. John Parish. If we feel we can stand alone by our self, we can do it. I say vote on this and let the River Parish Tourist Commission legal people tell us if we're wrong. So vote on it tonight and get it over and let them deal with it, cause this is just going to stall and delay. You know we're waiting on them to come and it might be three (3) months, if we feel in our hearts we can stand alone, stand alone."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you, I think legal counsel already advised us not to do it is not within our authority as of their knowledge right now. So maybe we probably should get the Tourist Commission to have their legal team research if that's in their best interest. You I have listened to a lot of this back and forth and I've personally talked to stakeholders after the meetings and they feel the best interest is just like this council has before is were strength and numbers. So I think even attempt to withdraw from something that we probably can't withdraw from is not a good idea not in the best interest of the River Parishes or St. John Parish."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you, legal and I had asked the question. The item is advertised on the agenda as an update from legal to vote to take action of that nature. That would be denying the public of due process of knowing what we're actually voting on. So is it even legal to take that type of action on an agenda item that merely says, update from legal."

Keith Green, Jr. stated, "I haven't done any research on the legalities of that but I would just go with my gut instinct, I would suggest that we hold off on any voting. Simply because the item ending of itself does not provide any notice of the public that any action would be taken as far as the public is concerned, legal was just going to come up and give you guys an update on something, so and especially with as sensitive as a topic as this appears to as appears to be, I would just, I suggest you know guys move forward with caution."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So since our legal advisors telling us that we cannot vote on this tonight, we will put it on the next agenda meeting for a vote. We'll call for votes, whether legal come up from the Tourist Commission or not, we call for a vote at the next meeting. And the public can know they can well come in and make any comment they want to make and I'll will contacting our local Legislatures in Baton Rouge, letting them know position that I think we need to go with this. So if yawl can do the same thing or anybody in the public want to call your legislators and let them know we will plan on withdrawing. Give them notice."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay but is there some other step that we can take before that and at least vote on something tonight to direct our representatives on there to present a letter or something to that board, or get on their agenda that we might be able to do if we vote on that tonight and get on their agenda and then find out ourselves exactly what it's going to take from their lawyer? And if they need time to look at it, then it's fine. What we're doing here now,

we're putting this off for another two or three weeks and we may not ever get that. So I'd like to make a motion that we...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Hold on Mr. Snyder before you, I'm going to let you make that motion but I just want to make a comment before you make that motion, I'm going to give the floor right back to you. One thing that was said you know like, it's like we got into something that we can't get out. Okay that's impossible, you can get out of anything. Okay and don't tell me about the state because the state then backed out of so many programs, okay I don't see why we can't back out. Professional Improvement Program for teachers, they backed out of that when they realized it was going to cost them too much money. They backed out Start Program, they backed out of TOPS and everything. So the state can do all this backing up and getting out, and we can't! Okay we're backing out and getting out because we all feel as though this is best serving the people in our community in St. John the Baptist Parish. Not do we think it we know it, because they came over here and presented it to us okay, and told us about it. Okay now when someone come and tell you there's a problem and you do nothing about it, okay then you become part of the problem. You become part of the problem, and we say we're going to protect the people in St. John the Baptist Parish, the stakeholders, the taxpayers, okay and I think that's what we should do. And we should take every step that legal said and the procedures that's needed to get it done and get it done right. But don't tell me you can't get out of it, because the state backs out of anything that get them in trouble. They have great ideas and then when the money start, okay I thank them for one thing, PIP (Professional Improvement Program), that's how I got my Masters' free, they paid for it. But after I got it and every teacher started going to school, they backed out. Money, okay they backed out. So they can back out we can back out. Anymore comments?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I got a motion. I'd like to make a motion that we instruct our administration to direct our Economic Development Director to formulate a letter and present it to the Tourist Commission through our representatives instructing them to outline what it would take for us to leave that organization. That's my motion."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to instruct administration to direct our Economic Development Director to formulate a letter and present it to the Tourist Commission through our representatives, instructing them to outline what it would take for us to leave that organization. The motion passed with 5 yeas (Sorapuru, Becnel, Snyder, Madere, Perrilloux) and 4 nays (Remondet, Wright, Malik, Hotard).

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

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Public Works has submitted its final assessments of streets for the 2018 Road Improvement Program to Administration. Upon approval, the list will be sent to the Parish Engineer for cost estimates. A final inspection of the project will be completed and any unresolved issues will be addressed through the design engineer and the retainage process."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you, you have someone behind you. I think he has some comments."

Mira Para stated, "Good Evening. Mira Para with Buchart Horn and as Councilman Madere mentioned we had a site inspection on yesterday morning, and there was a few minor things are new items that we've asked the contractor to address and I passed those along to the contractor and they're working on those."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay now I disagree with one thing, okay you say minor problems cause if these were minor problems, we wouldn't have taken all this time to get it done. Okay we had some problem with it, okay and I hope this is the last time that we have to go out there for these so called minor problems getting take care of. I'd like to thank Ms. Robottom because I think she had something to do with the fact on Ms. Tuircuit property when she complained about she wanted some dirt, and when we went out there for the inspection the guy was out there putting dirt on it, I don't know who made that call okay and just like I promised you, I have a letter from another constituent (pass that down and give it to them), okay I told you about a Ms. Hamilton, she was the first one that complained about her front yard, okay everything is in that letter and I told you I was going to give you a copy it so you can keep that original cause I already know what's in it. Okay so, I'd like for you to address Ms. Hamilton's situation, and like I told you on this site, anyone that call me and hadn't complained, that's why these items are on the agenda. I don't have anything on these agendas, at these council meetings that's anything for me. When I have something on the agenda, it comes from concerned citizens, or its constituents in my district. So I think Ms. Hamilton is the last one, okay, I think she's the last one."

Mira Para stated, "So to address your concerns, Ms. Hamilton's concerns, I'm not sure what kind of arrangements the contractors made with other residents who requested additional dirt on their property. And I know her grate was, grate on her property was reduced or lowered in order to drain to the end lids and that's the way it's shown on the plans. And so, now if we want to make a change to that the contractor of course would probably be looking to be compensated. I haven't discussed that issue with them, but I believe on these other properties they provided some dirt to some of the property owners in exchange for other consideration which I'm not aware of, so I'll have to talk with the contractor and see what they're willing to do."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well you see okay here's the problem. Okay and Mr. Cooper he was there when we discussed all this yesterday. Now you said some things yesterday that I didn't really like, you said it again tonight. The design on some of the property where you took individual people property and slanted them towards the drain. Okay, if I'm a property owner and I have a nice leveled lawn and then you come slanting my property, I have a problem. Okay and that's where some of the problem came in at. Okay you're not going to slant my property, I'm going to have a nice smooth front yard and all of a sudden you're going to slant one side of my property for it to drain where you should have placed a drain and put my property back the way it was. I think I made that comment several times before. If an individual had two (2) drains in front of their house, when that project was finished that individual should have had two (2) drains in front their house cause that's what they paid for that's what they put there. Okay and I have a problem slanting people property and I made that comment to you, and they were only slanted in certain areas it wasn't slanted anywhere else. Okay so the people who complained have a right to complain, and not everyone have called me and complained. Okay but the ones who do call and complain, I have a bound duty to represent them. Okay and they have the right to have their property placed back as close as possible, and you made a comment again that they gave away or something with the dirt, I don't know what you just said, but to me that shouldn't have happened. Because its parish dirt he made the comment in here it was his dirt, I don't know who sold it to him okay when he made that comment when he came here about it's his dirt, how it become his dirt cause he dug it up. All that dirt should have been kept in a certain location, and that same dirt should have been placed back on those people property. Now you put some sand down to pack it, I understand that. But you when you came for your

last layer it should have been the dirt that was removed. And everybody property should have been placed back the way it was, not slanting and all that kind of stuff you know, so that's the problem with the project and I don't think that's minor, that was some major problems some major concerns, I think moving forward if we do any type of project again like drainage, we don't slant individual people property. Okay, that's all I have to say on that but let Ms. Hamilton have everything in that letter. The only thing I think she's really concerned about is her grass and her dirt. And we already got the grass issue straight and taken care of. Okay, thank you."

Mira Para stated, "Thank you."

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

Alexandra 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 26th, 6 (+3) large trash and junk cases are open."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, okay this is basically the same information you have us at the last meeting, right?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "We updated it. We updated it to include additional trash and junk, that's with the +3 next to the six figure reflects."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well let me just give you some information on a couple of things. First thing I received a phone call from Mr. Sheriff Tregre, asking me to talk to the owner of that property by the store with the car and the trash. And I went over there and I spoke to him and I do see his point, the trash is really not on his property, it's the lot next door. But in talking to him he did say he's going to erect a fence to separate his property from that side over there and also on the backside. Alright, doing that time I was talking to him the owner of the property came by and he hired someone to clean all the trash up and cut the grass. And he's going to put some signs out there, I think I don't know if he will or not but he said he's thinking about putting some signs telling them to keep off you know, but as long as they keep it clean he said he don't have a problem, so I think that's going to work out and it's real clean right now compared to what it was. Also the property behind the store, today I spoke to the owner of that property, and she went out there this morning and jumped all over those guys out there, okay and if you passed over there right now they were all out there busy raking because she gave them 5 days to clean it up. Okay she gave them 5 days to clean it up and they've been out there cleaning up, I was out there watching them clean it up. Also, I found out talking to the store owner there's a situation I'm going to present to him tomorrow that he's going to have to care of, I'm not going to say it in the public but something I'm going to go see him tomorrow about he have to take care of and if he don't take care of it they're going to have some appropriate action taken there. Also, so it's a big improvement over there is you go take a look at it, okay. Now, still concerning these junk vehicles and everything else, my request I made before was for yourself or either anyone of your supervisors to take a tour in that District and print out the areas of concern. Just like it was just like the Sheriff called and gave an area of concern, I don't think it's too much to ask for any department head to take a trip in someone's district and take a look at some of their major concerns. It's not big at all. Okay and I think that need to happen. So, and based upon the numbers and the days and the figures that you gave me, okay we got

to do it better. Okay, how many Code Enforcement Officers do we have?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "We have four (4) part-time and two (2) full-time and in Code Enforcement we have two (2) additional in Planning & Zoning that process violations dealing with land use."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay because the numbers of days that this Ordinance been in effect and the number of violations written up, okay we have to do a lot better, okay?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "I'll just note that the ones that are reflected in the administrative report, are the cases that are open now. They're not the ones that have been processed over the course of the last eleven (11) months, we've done over a thousand (1,000) violations over the course of the last eleven (11) months. We try to open and close cases and we're constantly turning out violations."

Councilman Madere asked, "So that's a thousand (11) parish wide?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Not that's not just junk vehicles, you're talking about all the violations."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay yeah but I just want to focus in on these abandoned vehicles because you might miss some trash on the ground but you're not going to miss a big abandoned vehicle sitting up there and I also want to pass this on, I received a letter from a Realtor (I'm not going to give the name of the Realtor cause I don't want anybody to be blackballing the Realtor. But the Realtor sent me a letter, an email stating they watch the meeting and he said I was 100% right in what I said about junk vehicles. He said, and in the letter he said; if a person have a Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000) home or an individual have a Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$50,000) home, they all work as hard to maintain and pay for their property and they all deserve the same respect to live in a clean environment that don't have junk vehicles around. And I was real glad to get that letter from that realtor because like I said, a home is a person's castle. Now it don't make a difference how big your castle is, but its mines. And I just want to make sure that we do it right and treat everybody right. Okay, thank you."

#### **Iennix Madere - Update on abandoned vehicles parish wide**

Councilman Snyder asked, "Mr. Madere went into his second item down there, do you want to read just so the public can know? Read the response from the administration."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Absolutely, so we're on to the second item. From May 1, 2017 through February 26th, 138 (+10) junked vehicle violations have been opened, 119 (+20) violations have been closed and 13 (+1) junked vehicles have been towed by the Parish, and two vehicles have recently been assigned to a tow company to be towed. A sweep in District VI was conducted in June, 2017 and Districts II and III in November, 2017. Additional sweeps will be conducted in the coming months." Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes Alex, I just want to say Mr. Madere invited me to ride with him in his District with him yesterday for a couple of hours, we

rode around and not only did I see, those vehicles I saw weren't junk vehicles, they had vehicles that were fairly new and drivable with no license plate on them. And they were visible from the highway, and that's one of the things Mr. Madere pointed out to me. And I know he's been tracking this for a while, I know you guys had a sweep that took place a few months ago but the vehicles that he showed me yesterday and I'm not going to even give addresses as he told me not to give addresses, that they can, Stevie Wonder could see them. So I don't how they missed them you know...

Alexandra Carter interrupting stated, "Right and I think this maybe, sorry continue I don't mean to interrupt."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah so, you know I don't know how you motivate the Code Enforcement Officers or what it would take, he's getting a lot of calls on that issue. I'm wanting to assist him with this issue and that's just his district, the other areas that I haven't looked at thoroughly and walking on but Mr. Madere I commend you for taking a lead on this, sure we need to clean our communities up and personally I have an older vehicle in my backyard I got to get out, you can't see if from the highway. But you're right, when you have three (3) or four (4) vehicles in a driveway and they don't have license plate on them, I mean come on, we can do better than that Alex."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Well and I think just to clarify for the public and for the council sake, the new ordinance for junk vehicles doesn't deal with vehicle license plates. What we were processing before we dealt with the license plates being expired and a lot of times, a lot of times we would bring new vehicles to the Administrative hearing and were in perfectly good to condition. The Hearing Officer and everyone in the room was going; why are we towing vehicles that are totally fine but just don't have a license plate? So we moved out of the arena of acting like the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) and making sure people had current plates and into a more blight oriented ordinance. So they didn't miss them, that's actually not part of the criteria anymore. We did take a ride in your district on Monday, if you like to ride with my supervisor, she's more than happy to go out with you and moving forward, we're going to be having our staff meetings, myself and my supervisor in the district. So instead of sitting in the office, we're going to be riding through the district because I think it does help to see on the ground what is improving, what cases are being opened and closed, we looked at the site you mentioned, that violation had been going out. So we're just waiting on the notice to proceed but it's good to see you've been out there and we'll send out an Inspector to do another inspection and maybe close out that case."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, I'm fully aware of the change in the thing. The cars I referred to was the cars Mr. Sorapuru, I showed him about those cars, those cars just recently came up and I think that's another issue separate from what we're dealing with right now, because there's a bunch of them starting to show up like that vehicle with no license plate and no break tag you know, so I don't know if they're buying them, storing them or what. Okay but I know it don't meet the criteria for our Code Enforcement Officers to tag them. The ones I'm talking about is basically on the ground, no wheels on them and wrecked."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Right, we did see more when I was there so they were going to be tagged."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right and that's what I'm saying you understand now. Before they might have been passing with one eye closed and then you got two (2)

open like you're going to see a film. Okay and I made that comment before, Stevie Wonder and Ray Charles I think could see them you know and like I said, the people complain about it and the people who complain about it have a right to complain because they live next door to these things. And their property is nice and neat they're trying to keep it good, you know so we're just trying to get the neighborhood right. Okay, so I appreciate that."

#### **Lennix Madere - Administration supervision of Directors' conduct at Council Meetings**

Councilman Madere stated, "According to what Administration have according to the Home Rule Charter, all employees with the exception of the Council Secretary are subject to the direction and supervision of the Parish President. That is true to, but also in the Charter that the Council have the right to get required periodic and special report and all kind of things and it comes through the Parish President, and I have to submit those things and also in the section of the thing it says, the council have the right to make investigation of parish affairs and make inquiries into the conduct of any department, office, agency, or special district. So we do have the authority to what I put on that paper, we do have the authority to question that. Okay and my concern is and as far as the Chairman of this Council, I'm not going to allow it to happen. Okay it happened a couple of years ago, we had a person in Procurement that basically told this Council it was out of order. Okay and that individual was out of order that individual was never reprimanded that I know of or told anything. But I'm not going to stand as the Chairman of this Council for any Director or anyone to come and disrespect the Council, disrespect the citizens that pay their salary, or anything. I'm not going to stand for that, okay! Everyone get paid to do a job okay, I think this Council get paid the least amount of money, which is about Six Hundred Dollars (\$600) and I think we work way beyond Six Hundred Dollars (\$600). Okay, but for those Six Hundred Dollars (\$600) I'm going to earn them. Okay I'm going to represent the people who put me in office and do it whole heartily 24/7. Okay I expect when anyone, any Director is up there to give the full attention of the Council and be respectful and at any time I'm disrespectful, I have come back and apologized, and I will do that. Okay I remember when I rudely Ms. Cadore I didn't want to hear anything, and then I said if I was rude I'll apologize, then I went to her office the next day apologized to her in her office then I came back to the next council meeting and apologized in the public because I was rude in the public. Okay, so I'm not going to accept that from myself, I'm not going to accept that any Director that work for this parish or any employee to come up there and disrespect the council or representatives because you all are paid by the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish to give your best. Thank you."

#### **Lennix Madere - Utilities Department manpower and equipment issues**

Blake Fogleman stated, "Good Evening Chairman, Council. I know we discussed I think Councilman Snyder's item was in similar nature, and we did have a discussion on that as far as staffing and equipment last meeting. I don't know if there's any follow-up for that what you're looking for."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay the only thing the reason why I put this on here, I think it might have been a year and a half ago, I had a similar item on there and I don't think, some people said we could have talked about it outside the meeting and all that kind of stuff. But you know when I saw what happened the other day, I was on my way back from West St. John and I passed by a leak and I see water coming up on the West Bank, so I get out there and we got a problem finding where to cut the water off at. Okay we got a problem with the pumps, we

got two pumps that's supposed to be pumping water they don't have screens in the pump so you know what happen when you turn the pump on? All the dirt and rocks get in the pump and then in about 5 or 10 minutes the pumps shut down because it's full of trash. Okay so we had two pumps out there that was useless, now the water is draining towards Mr. Coleman's home, his air condition is about ready to be flooded out, his other he have for electricity by his house is about ready to be flooded out, and this thing wasn't fixed until almost 10 o'clock that night. I'm right Mr. Coleman? Almost 10 o'clock, because I told them inform me when it would be completed. And plus some of the equipment they didn't have certain things that they needed, I saw the backhoe that they was driving, the control was hanging off and that's what prompted me a year and a half ago when I was a guy use the backhoe and the whole arm fell off. You know, so we have to make sure that equipment is suitable and in working condition and that the employees have all of the materials and equipment that they need to do their job cause a lot of times the employees get bashed they don't want to work they don't want to do this, but it's a lot harder to do a job if you don't have the right equipment or the right tools to do the job. Okay, now two pumps sitting down there choked out, because we didn't have the screen to keep the dirt out. So we came useless so not able to do the job they needed to do. Okay and I've seen this I saw it, so that's why I put it on the agenda. I don't think that kind of stuff should be going on."

Councilman Becnel stated, "And I also was out there, stayed out there a couple of hours. The main concern for me to, besides the pumps and all that, the most dangerous thing was we had no body out there directing traffic. Nobody, it was completely dark in that area and Mr. Coleman had to grab his flashlight, and there was a couple of close calls because people was coming fast. And we really need to address that to. But like he said, as far as the equipment go, the machine they were using didn't really have a good light on it. They had to actually put a flashlight in the hole and basically I find it took quite a while to when we found the leak or to find it, it was horrible. And I our water was cut off, we understand that but we were given notice but still like you said, they dropped the ball somewhere there. But like I said, I'm very, very, concerned about safety. There should have been a deputy or somebody out there because Mr. Coleman and I were directing traffic, so we need to address that to also."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir. I mean I don't disagree with anything yawl said. We are constantly addressing each of those items, we have weekly safety meetings on how handle those nighttime work, we fully expect, I have six (6) light plants sitting in my yard. If those light plants weren't requested, the assumption was on that job that they were taken care of. And it ran long, it should never lasted into the night in the first place. As in regards to equipment I agree with you, if the exact piece of equipment that they had over there was actually on the tracks, that's one of our newer pieces of equipment and so that the fact the handles falling off, is a problem. Cause when we brought it to buy those parts they said they've never seen that break in the manner that it broke. So I don't know you know it's not always the age of the equipment, we do have some old equipment we're refurbishing, when I got here we had one working piece of equipment, we invested significant dollars into repairing all of that equipment, we're updating lights on that equipment right now we're doing them one by one, we actually just brought one I think back from the West Bank to get that one fully updated and repaired. We're actually investing into the Federal Surplus, there was one that were able to look into another Bobcat, these things go down we get flats, we get hydraulic leaks, it's to keep them on the road and keep them moving and keeping them operating. As far as far as tools on the trucks, those tools on the trucks if you go around the parish and I know our Councilman Snyder will attest to this, it's on the one of the Loops, we had a hydrant sticking out of

the ground for its Chatsworth, at the end of Chatsworth when they had the water crossing. When I showed up 3 years ago there a valve wrench that was sitting there. Everybody that I talked to in the Utility Department always said it was there. That's a problem cause that's a piece of equipment that's supposed to be on the back of somebody's truck, and it was left. And if you drive around the parish right now, I found two of them today, just on valves, just on valves. I can't be everywhere at once neither can our managers, the expectation if that's what's supposed to be on your truck it's supposed to get back on your truck. Now I will say this, things break and we use them in some pretty rough conditions. So I expect to know what's on the truck, I expect to get a list of what is need on the truck, and we'll absolutely support our replacing that. In fact with the warehouse, we're trying to get away from having accessibility to some of these things, what we're finding is if it's a ratchet set, people can just go get the ratchet set without saying what happened to that last one. So there is no accountability if I can just go to the warehouse. That means a lot of dollars and everything, so that expectation is that once you get a fully outfitted truck, a fully outfitted piece of equipment, you know you're held accountable to treat that equipment like it's your own and take care of it. I know over periods of time people have brought stuff from their homes to repair things, you know I expect us to have the right tools too Councilman Madere, I do."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You're right, we need to establish some accountability and I think that's the big problem with what we're having here, accountability. People just don't understand that you know we got to pay for everything we send out in the streets. I don't know if it's the culture that we don't, we have too many trucks out there riding around everyday whether it's Utilities, whether it's Public Works, whatever it is or its boss's running around out there, we have too many trucks out there not to have almost every leak at least recorded, you know on streets and fire hydrants, it's just to me I think it's the culture. And I think the culture needs to be changed a little bit, you know I've said this before, if I was working in a chemical plant and I walked through the unit and saw a leak and somebody else, I'm going to say something because that leak can turn out to be detrimental to a lot of people you see, so but that's just the culture. Now, you know I got an item down here pertaining to leaks on the streets you know what I'm about to get to right now. Now for a fact we're talking about equipment here, and that's what I'm talking about the equipment down here and the equipment down here is the reason why my leak isn't worked on. And I wrote that leak up three weeks ago a month ago almost and why because we don't have the equipment to work on it. Now, I don't know if there is no equipment in the parish that can work on this, but you're telling me that the one is broken the one that I need to break that concrete up is broken. It seems like there ought to be another piece of equipment I can rent or in Public Works or something to take care of that job. You know and I hate to be a pest, but these leaks are getting worse, people trying to get their yard looking nice for the spring and there's just water running down the streets."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir. Yeah one of the pieces of equipment specifically broke on one of the other Cambridge jobs and it's been at the shop. We are coordinating with Public Works, I will say this, as far as priority on what jobs have been worked on recently, obviously we should focus when we organize getting the piece of equipment from Public Works cause obviously they use it as well for concrete jobs on their own. That being said, we worked on a couple of jobs closer to the river because the river stages are changing and if I don't get some of those done and it hits eleven then those are pushed back for you know a month, two (2) months maybe even four (4) months if the river never goes back down. We are coordinating and actually Verdell and I spoke about that this morning on

making sure that this week and it is on that item and Councilman that we intend on completing that job this week, there are six (6) concrete jobs that Public Works is taking care of, you know for us this week as well, so there's a lot that is moving you know."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well you know last week you told me you know this is written down that you bring your equipment to one area and you try and take care of as many jobs as you can in that area. That's what I'm looking at, we got one done here, three (3) blocks down to two (2) blocks down the street they got another one. We could have walked right down and did the same thing to that one, at least get it started you know, if we would have planned it right. That's what I'm talking about."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Well they started to. It had actually broke, that piece of equipment for a concrete breaker broke on the Cambridge job on the previous job they were able to complete that job, they weren't able to start on the last one. So they were in that area and the intention was to go down the street and finish, they had some hydraulic fluid that started leaking out of it and they opted to not..."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So Public Works got some equipment that can do that?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "They do, and we're coordinating with them to take care of it either soft cutting it or breaking it up..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Okay, alright. And that's all I want, that's all I wanted..."

Blake Fogleman interrupting stated, "And you know we discussed the roadway as well. We discussed preplanning some of these things so Verdell and I have had that conversation we're trying to make sure we can get that plan as best as..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Now, now, now. There was damaged they caused to down there. I'll tell you about it later I'm not going to bring it up here right now, but there was some damage and it need to be repaired."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yeah absolutely. Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Some concrete."

Councilman Becnel stated, "One more point Blake..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Excuse me Mr. Becnel I'm sorry. I didn't see Mr. Perrilloux, go ahead Mr. Perrilloux."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Just a quick comment Blake, because prior to this coming on the agenda you and I discussed that. Do you, and I'm sending it out to Verdell to, although Public Works not on here but Directors. Do you all have a check sheet, to check a truck before it goes out in the morning to see if we got the proper tools on that truck and we got what we need to do a basic job? Also, do we have a check sheet to check the equipment before we go out in the morning just to see if the hydraulics work and no leak before it goes out and do a job? Cause it might have a hydraulic leak, you get there (bop) the hose bust, now that's a whole day shot. Do we check that before they leave the yard? If not we need to develop a policy to do that."

Blake Fogleman stated, "We have and absolutely. We absolutely have one for equipment. We absolutely have one for a general vehicle, so a very general one. I have been working to develop one not only for waste water but for water utility trucks, for locator trucks, for our electrician, for our diesel mechanic, all of those, my expectation is that if somebody is not there but the vehicle is there I should be able to put someone in it and know that there is a proper list of equipment in that truck to take care of that issue. I have slowly but surely modifying and working on the existing vehicle list, which would develop into the accountability not only the accountability, but the checklist so I know, I can say this is what's on my list and if you say you can't complete a job without it or you know with what's on this list, then we either need to talk or we need to modify that list to get you the tools you need."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Good."

Blake Fogleman stated, "And actually meter services has just been included in that, so any issues with you know getting to a meter or find a meter or replace a meter, that's going to be a whole other list for their trucks as well."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And good and I'm glad cause when you and I had that that same discussion, I just want it to come out that we was talking about that and what you were developing. Also, as far as man hours on equipment, do we have a policy or procedure that say after X amount of man hours this is equipment comes out and pm change, the oil change, the hydraulic fluid, if not we need to develop that."

Blake Fogleman stated, "I have not seen one officially, then again I haven't been in the shop and I haven't I guess went that far and to discuss them with the mechanics in there and anyone that's in that shop for a number of years..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "There's one, there's an electronic one."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yeah and so I, but I mean as far as internally for the guys that work on the piece of equipment, they walk-um down and again, tracking it and the man hours, there is an odometer reading on every one of them, there is a man hours on the equipment to track. So yes, those are to be submitted through the department, we check them in the department, and then we forward them on to the shop anything that the shop can take care of and then anything that has to go directly to a manufacturer to Bobcat or something like that will go there. And so we submit those, we actually submit those weekly to Ms. LaVerne. I actually have a spreadsheet of every truck that is actually checked, so you don't need the full list to see what they checked but you can see the consistency in which some people check their trucks and the inconsistency which some people don't. So I do get a lot of complaints when my trucks not doing this or I don't have this tool and then I ask them where their checklist is, and a lot of times that's not, it's not it's not..."

Councilman interrupting Perrilloux stated, "And that would be last comment. At the end of the day or prior to that day beginning, they should turn their check sheet in to their manager or you. And then go back and question. Did you check this, don't just pencil whip it."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Correct. And I mean cause and it's for their benefit and ours as well. It's for accountability on ours and if it's a serious issue that they've been complaining or reporting, there's their document to say that they've done it, and they've done it consistently. Not once, six (6) months ago and you

*threw your hands up, but every day when you get in that truck and you report that I don't have x tool or I don't have the proper pump, I don't, we can facilitate providing those items."*

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok, thank you."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir, thank you."

*Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay and one final point on the other disappointing thing we had out there, to me like you said accountability. When they found the leak, it was great. Everybody say well we got it, but guess what? They lacked the clamp to clamp it on the truck and to me that's communication and something like that, so that delayed us another 40 minutes."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "And that's how those processes do get drawn out Councilman. If you can't get and identify the pipe, you can't identify what it is and the size pipe you can't have the proper repair equipment, not necessarily the tools to do the job but the actual clamp. Those clamps don't come in a one size fits all. And sometimes it's not a clamp, sometimes it's other you might have to cut out a piece of, you know so the most important thing is try to pump that hole down and get eyes on that pipe so you can identify, because certainly on the West Bank, you can't stock enough equipment on either side of the river to think that we're going to have it just sitting on the shelf, it's going to be in the warehouse and it should be in the warehouse. But that you know that's the most important thing upfront is to identify that so that we can put all these things in place and not be out there till 10 PM."*

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay, thank you."

#### **Julia Remonet - Update on Phase II Drainage Project District II**

*Daron Cooper stated, "Administration is currently working with representatives from the Canadian National Railroad (CN) and the consulting engineer to address new permitting procedures. A request was made to FEMA for additional funds to comply with the new procedures and approval is anticipated. Based on a revised scope of work submitted for permitting, the work is anticipated to take approximately 60-90 days. Administration is reviewing the proposal and permit requirements to determine if a contract amendment is needed to reflect these conditions."*

*Councilwoman Remonet stated, "Thank you, I had a lot of request from the public as to what happened to their project, from we spent the money to we forgot about it. So I just wanted an update for the general public."*

*Daron Cooper stated, "And again this is FEMA funded project, they tend to take a while to get approval. I can remember I came in 2011 I think the birth of that project started maybe in 2012. So it has been a long outdated process, we're almost there, we just have to meet these requirements from the railroad for their new permitting process, being that we do have to jack and bore underneath the railroad. So I think they're requirements in the permitting process, we have to do geotechnical of the soil, so they can check the density and everything once we place the new culverts underneath the railroads. So we're almost there, the project not..."*

*Councilwoman Remonet interrupting stated, "No idea, a couple of months from now?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we're working on that and we have some help. We did a conference call with Congressman Graves who sits on Transportation with the CN Representative in DC as well as in Mississippi. And the engineer was in the room as well. Because, you know its part of the original scope of that project, some of that work was done. And initial permits were submitted before they changed the process. So we're trying to figure out what part of what we've already done and paid for, will suffice for this new permit and Mr. Dyning would see and actually working with us on that, they've also agreed to waive some of their permit review fees, and things like that. But in addition, we're hoping not to go over too much more than what was proposed but FEMA is looking at a budget amendment to give us additional dollars for the additional work. So there's a lot of moving parts on this, but it is moving but I know Daron spoke to Mr. Dyning, with CN today, I spoke with the Congressman twice last week, we are getting some help trying to get this done. And again, it's just one more hiccup now that we have approval to move forward, now the permit requirements changed. So years of working a project causes problems, it's the same thing I think we just referenced with the fire station, I mean with the safe room. When we designed it in '14 it was great, well it's 2018, so things change. So now they have to go back and revisit their design and make sure it's compliant with 2018 and that's what's happening with this project that's probably been in the works since 2010."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Ok, thank you so much."

#### **Larry Snyder - Status of contracts with Siemens Building Technologies**

Daron Cooper stated, "In November of 2016, it was determined that the contract was not cost effective based on the services received. With the addition of the HVAC Technician position and installation of programmable thermostats, the Parish is able to better manage the HVAC systems."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So that's what year we got that in 2016?"

Daron Cooper stated, "Yes sir 2016."

#### **Larry Snyder - Status of contract with Backflow Prevention Service, L.L.C.**

Blake Fogleman stated, "This contract was renewed in December of 2014, with a five year term to provide the listed scope of services. A representative from Backflow Prevention Services, LLC is available to answer any questions regarding their services."

#### **Larry Snyder - Update on water leak repairs on Cambridge Drive**

Blake Fogleman stated, "Councilman as we discussed, the water leak itself we had one last week as well, kind of dual tasking out there and we're going to try and take care of that as soon as we can. The intent is to do that by the end of this week. Get rocks in the hole and we will schedule to have concrete next available load of concrete that they're working with, we'll try to get ours you know ours on it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And we've contacted Public Works about that other leak right? Get that street repaired?"

Blake Fogleman stated "Yea so there's six (6) addresses including a couple of them came that are being taken care of in the next batch of, and again, we try to

give them a couple at a time, and that's so they can go get a full load and do a good job and not just give them little 2x2 squares."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion on paying overdue water bills**

Blake Fogleman stated, "Written policies are being developed to address this issue."

"Many constituents were present to discuss their concerns. Please see the Council Meeting Video, which is provided on St. John the Baptist Parish's website at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com)."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding reading water meters manually versus electronically**

Blake Fogleman stated, "We are continuing to gather information to review and analyze with our consultants to compare the efficiency and costs between manual and electronic meter reading."

**Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding Sewerage concerns on Cambridge Drive and Parish wide**

Blake Fogleman stated, "Lift station operations are actively monitored via telemetry and site visits to avoid or correct issues throughout the parish. In this case, high water levels were compounded by a mechanical failure to cause the overflow. Crews were immediately dispatched to correct the problem and sanitize the area."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Shawanda McGee, et al v. SJBP, et al; Edward Jackson d/b/a EDR Construction v. St. John the Baptist Parish Police Jury and Royal Engineers, No. 71671. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security

Shawanda McGee, et al v. SJBP, et al

Edward Jackson d/b/a EDR Construction v. St. John the Baptist Parish Police Jury and Royal Engineers, No. 71671

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**18-03** An ordinance approving the re-subdivision and designation of the Leopold Jean Louis Lot per a partition of the Louis Jean Louis Lot COB 43/Folio 245, May 21, 1960 into lots 1-LJL, 2-LJL, and 3-LJL of the Bon Secours Subdivision, located in the area

generally bounded by LA Hwy. 18, the Union Pacific/T&P railroad, Central Ave., Edgard, LA as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on January 15, 2018 (PZS-18-1184) (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

There was no report at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 11:10 PM, Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilman Wright and Perrilloux absent.

/s/Lennix Madere  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary