

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Dale Wolfe, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A

ABSENT: None

Councilman Julien led the Prayer. Councilman Millet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsels Barry Landry and Jeff Perilloux were present.

President's Remarks

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "*I want to congratulate the West Bank Fire Department. They maintained their Class 4 rating for insurance purposes. That is a great achievement so congratulations to all of those who participated in them getting that Class 4 rating. Also, just to let the public know, Mitch Landrieu will be in town this Friday at 10:00 AM at the St. John Civic Center. That will be Friday, March 13th. I just wanted to make sure that everybody knew that they were welcome to come to that town meeting.*"

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes February 26, 2009, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - AOL - Bike-a-thon - Sunday, March 29, 2009 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes February 26, 2009, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - AOL - Bike-a-thon - Sunday, March 29, 2009 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM; Permit Approval - St. John the Baptist Catholic Church - Mini Food Festival - Saturday, April 18, 2009 - WSJ - Edgard. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

09-04 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a Re-zone of Lots A-1

& A-2 of River Glen Subdivision from R-1 to C-3 for a proposed strip shopping Center. (River Glenn Investments PZR-09-003) (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-04. The motion passed unanimously.

09-05 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance requesting a Re-subdivision of a portion of Reine Subdivision into a lot herein designated as Lot SJ-1. (Wayne Kimball PZS-09-001) (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-05. The motion passed unanimously.

09-06 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to request a re-zone of Lot SJ-1 from R-1 to I-1 and re-zone Lots 26, 27 & 28 from C-3 to I-1 of Reine Subdivision(Wayne Kimball PZS-09-001) (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-06. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to introduce.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:15 we had our finance meeting and I ask for a motion to approve the meeting."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to give administration authorization to renew four code enforcement contracts and the Intergovernmental agreements with the Sheriff's Office pertaining to the officers, tabled administration's authorization to advertise for the lease of excess property at the West Bank recreation park for agricultural purposes, granted administration authorization to execute task order # 2009-1 with Meyer Engineers for design and supplemental services in connection with the Mississippi River Trail - Phase I, accepted Resolution R09-02 **WHEREAS**, under the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) The Louisiana Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) expects to receive approximately \$43 million for the improvement of wastewater infrastructure and other water quality improvement projects. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters.

Dale Wolfe - Update on Marathon meeting

Councilman Wolfe stated, *"We had a meeting with Marathon this week. We ask them a question about hiring local people and of course they said*

in a sense that it was out of their hands. They said the contractors were doing the hiring. We save Marathon Oil millions and millions of dollars. Each and every time we help Marathon they give us the boot. We got the boot this week. I just left there feeling empty, not accomplishing anything. I just feel personally when Marathon or any other industry that is located in St. John or businesses come to this council for assistance, we should sit down and negotiate some terms. The only thing we do is approve the pollution patrol bond sale. That means that we the parish co-sign for Marathon Oil so that they can get a discount and again we have saved Marathon millions and millions and there is a big expansion going on at Marathon Oil. It took me fifteen minutes from Garyville to the light in Gramercy to get there. On the River Road in St. John, on the Airline Hwy in St. John it is bumper to bumper and bumper to bumper with people who are not from this parish, I guarantee you that. I asked some questions about hot lunches. They said they weren't delivering hot lunches. I got the scoop that they are and there are some people in there delivering lunches and there is enough for a lot of folks to go and cook and deliver lunches to make a living. But again we don't take industry serious. Not only Marathon, I am talking about any other industry that is in St. John Parish. If you stand at River Road or Airline Hwy and see all the cars passing through our parish, it would give you the sickest of stomachs. Again if we want to be nice guys when they come just let them have it again, without any strings attached. I am going to ask that or I am going to recommend that we ask our council chairman to contact Marathon's Corporate Office and ask to have a meeting with them. I don't think these folks know what is going on down south. They are taking our money. They are sending our money out of the parish, many times out of state when you have turn arounds and expansions. They claim that they are doing business locally and maybe they are, a little bit but we should be getting a share of Marathon's spending and jobs. Now again I tried to get in touch with some folks at Marathon to no avail, but when they want to come to this council and ask us to help they will answer their phone right quick like and I am not saying this to get along with Marathon or any other industry. They aren't going to stop me from living, but they are stopping other folks from having a comfortable living with them and their families. I understand how the system works. When they apply for jobs they give a local address and I guarantee you if you go by the social security numbers of some of those employees they aren't from St. John. Again, we are mister and missus Goody Two Shoes in this parish when it comes to industry. We are letting the folks down that we represent. I have been saying it for years and years to no avail and I am not trying to take credit for anything. I am here to serve the people that put me in office and to serve the people of St. John Parish. Surely we shouldn't be sitting around letting industry come here and pollute us and have cars bumper to bumper in this parish for months and months to come and sit by and not ask them any questions or ask them something about hiring locally in terms of the contract. They said they have some fire-watch jobs. I asked a young lady to call Mrs. Remondet for her to try and get in touch with someone at Marathon to get this young lady a job. She is losing her car, her home and has just about lost everything. At this time if you can't give someone like that a job than shame on us. I take my job seriously. I am no bigger or badder than anyone up here tonight. I am no more than anyone. I am no less than anyone. Surely all nine of us should try and help the people of St. John Parish."

Councilman Julien stated, "I want to echo what Mr. Wolfe is saying. I think it is important that we as council members consider everybody in the parish. I think that if we pull together they would give us jobs. They would do better for our tax paying people. It took me twenty-five minutes trying to get to the meeting. All the money, not all of the money, but a lot of the money is leaving the parish. We owe it to our tax payers, as Mr. Wolfe said, to do the best we can do to get our people jobs. If we train here, if we hire here, then St. John is going to flourish. They talk about all over the country people are losing their jobs. Well Louisiana is hiring. We have one of the largest expansions in the country and it might sound crazy but if we do not hire when the layoffs start coming people are going to come from all over to get jobs, just as they are coming now. They are going to come from everywhere to get our jobs. Then we are not going to have jobs. Our people are not going to have jobs. The people who have been here forever, the people who made their lives here. It is a no brainer. They are supposed to hire from within. Mr. Wolfe said polluting. We are the ones breathing this. Believe it or not LaPlace is breathing this stuff too. People right there in our backyard, they are supposed to do better for us. We shouldn't have to knock the doors down. We shouldn't have to beg for jobs. Every morning the cars are leaving here. In the evening they are going the other way. I think that as a board, as Mr. Wolfe said, if we would all stand together they would do better for our constituents and our community."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to request Council Chairman Ronnie Smith to contact Marathon Corporate office to set up a meeting in St. John Parish. The motion passed unanimously.

Dale Wolfe - Update on Overlay for E. 23rd, 26th & 28th Streets in Reserve

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I was riding around the other day, of course I have spoken to Mr. Hubbard in terms of 28th Street, 26th Street, E. 23rd Street. Those streets were scheduled to be overlaid last year. As I was riding around this week I saw some streets that weren't even mentioned. You see we had a priority list that we submitted to administration and last year those three streets were on the priority list. Now the reason we have priority list is because we want to have the council members to have input. Any expansion that goes on in turn of finance I think we should know about it. I think administration should be courteous enough to let us know what is going on. My division consists of those streets that are being overlaid as we speak. I didn't know anything about it other than seeing those contractors doing those streets. So I would like an update from administration hopefully we can justify what is going on."

Councilman Julien asked, "I was wondering how long it was going to take or maybe get a projection in terms of having the streets that we do have on the list completed?"

Bill Hubbard, stated, "Well I have a list here that has twenty-seven streets on it. Now as far as a priority list from last year if they were on the list or weren't on the list I couldn't really respond to that because I didn't see a list last year, but we did the best we could. This year we are going to do the best that we can. Out of the twenty-seven streets, twenty-one are in Division A. We have six streets

in Division B. As far as when some of the streets are going to be done Mr. Julien, the contractor does one or two roads at a time. So if I sat here and gave the council an update on when each street would be done, I would just be pulling it out of mid air. I think it would be safe to say that first off all twenty-seven streets will not be done due to budget constraints. The ones that are in the most need, if I say within two months than some of the streets in LaPlace and on the West Bank, it is where the contractor is mobilized. Right now they are in Reserve. The streets that are on my priority list, that are in need of repairs, I am going to say within two to three months. That is my rough guess. I am not going to ask the contractor to give me a definite date because with rain, scheduling and hurricanes he is not going to be able to give a definite answer either. All I can say is that we are doing the best we can and I hope that is good enough."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "First of all let me explain something, to this council, to this public. I have sat here for the last three months hopefully in trying to work along with administration. Now Bill if you are going to stand up there and tell me that you have a priority list and you don't respect my district and my division and the streets that need overlaying were the streets that I named. Now the streets that you all are doing now, other than the one at Leon Godchaux Jr. High, are fairly decent streets. I take offense to you coming up here saying your priority list. It should be our at all times our priority list, not yours. I am serving the public. You are serving the public. We are all serving the public. I am not going to sit by anymore and keep my mouth closed because that is not my character to sit here and just take anything. I am not going to do that. I want those streets overlaid. When you talk about Division A has the most on the list, Division A is from old St. John Parish. Division B is from the newer part of St. John the Baptist Parish. So we aren't going to play that Division A and Division B stuff. We are going to do Division A work. You are going to respect me. I am going to respect you or all hell is going to break out. I am not here to pacify. I am here to satisfy. I am tired people. I am tired administration. Now you are going to do right or I am going to expose the whole thing. Now every meeting we have I am going to say what I have to say and do what I have to do and expose who I have to expose. I am tired man. I represent a division with unemployed people. I represent a district that needs their council member and council member at large to represent them. I am not here to come and drink water or cold drinks or get a snack after the meeting. I am here to take care of business. As long as I am here I am going to take care of business. I am not here to show off. This is the real deal you are looking at here and now. I am here to work with you Bill. I am not here to be taken advantage of. I will not be taken advantage of. You are going to do the work in my division or everybody in this parish will know. If we don't do our job as council members or elected officials we won't be around to smell the roses anymore. If I am still here I will make sure people know what is going on. I will make sure people know who needs to smell the roses. I may not run again but I will talk again. If I am in a wheelchair I am going to ask somebody to get me one of those self deals and I am going to be around telling it like it is. It is a shame. The tax payers in St. John Parish are paying for services not politics, services. I am going to rest my case for a little while because I want to talk about our employees too. There is some wrong stuff going on again we are going to smell the roses."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I am not going to respond to all of that rhetoric and nonsense but what I am going to say is there are twenty-seven streets. This list was generated by the council. I added one street to this list. It was requested by the school board, which was W. 13th also in your district Mr. Wolfe. So this is the council's list. The administration really didn't do anything with this."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Bill I have done lost all respect for you. You just said what I said was nonsense..."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Well you attacked me Mr. Wolfe..."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "You are right, you are the Parish President..."

Bill Hubbard stated, "You think I am going to sit here and take it..."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "You dog gone right you are the Parish President. You are getting paid to do the everyday duties of the parish. You all can take a recess I am going to say what I want to say when we come back."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to take a recess. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Mr. Smith I just want to sum it up by saying that the reason we have a priority list is to locate and define the bad streets. It is not a priority list to have someone just overlay a street because their daughter or cousin is on a street. It is there because who knows better than a street in his district or his division than those council members or that council member at large. I am not sitting up here saying things to be saying things. I take offense to some of the things that were said. I was disrespected. Maybe I was disrespectful too, but anyway I intend to see E. 26th Street, E. 28th Street and E. 23rd Street done within the next six months. I am throwing out the olive branch. If they want to take it good. If they don't I could care less. My attitude is that I am going to do what I have to do. I am going to serve the people of Division A and I will serve them to my fullest. No nonsense if someone is going to say I am not going to respond to that nonsense and we are talking about people. People that put us in office, all I can say is shame on you."

Councilman Julien stated, "Again my district is in Division A. I encourage all of us as elected officials to ride different districts. If you come across here to the West Bank or go through the District II or III area than you would understand why Mr. Wolfe is so enraged and that is because some of the streets are dilapidated. I am assuming that administration is trying to work on it but I understand what Mr. Wolfe is trying to say in that a priority list when you look at the streets, if you ride the different areas then you will see how bad the streets are and how bad they are in need to be overlaid."

Councilman Smith asked, "You said between E. 28th and E. 23rd, are those streets on that list that you have Mr. Hubbard and are those streets coming up any time soon to be overlaid?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "Yes they are. If I had to guess within two months they will be done. I rode the streets myself this morning. I saw it on the agenda. I wanted to be able to respond to Mr. Wolfe's questions and concerns about those three streets. Also like I said I want to clarify something and talking about being disrespected and disrespectful. Maybe I am guilty of that too Mr. Wolfe. If I am I do apologize. I do want to clarify to everyone that this list was generated by the council except for one street which the school board asked me to do, which is W. 13th. It is a publicly owned street but they use it and it is probably in the worst condition as any of them. Little by little we are getting it done. I will forward this list to you that way Mr. Wolfe can see what Mr. Lewis has on the list and Julien and Danny and everyone else will see what this list entails. I personally have ridden most of these streets because I take a high interest in everything that goes on in Public Works. It is what the people see. It is what the people want to see."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I made a statement in terms of our employees. I have some problems in some areas. I want to be fair and give Mr. Hubbard an opportunity to respond and to confirm some of the issues. I think we need to get down to the matter at hand as far as our employees. Some of our employees have been unfairly treated, in my opinion. Until I get with Mr. Hubbard and we sit down and talk about it genuinely and honestly and hopefully we can resolve this matter before the next meeting."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I have a problem on 640 with the railroad track. About a month and a half ago we passed a resolution and I am going to ask Mr. McTopy to bring everybody up to date on what is going on."

Pat McTopy stated, "At Councilman Lewis's request the council adopted a resolution requesting administration to contact the Union Pacific Railroad concerning the condition of their railroad crossing at LA 640 and 3127. Based on that resolution we had our code enforcement people go out and take photographs of the crossing and you can see it is in bad shape. We contacted the railroad shortly there after verbally, the local office here in the state and the main office in Nebraska. We sent them a letter under Mr. Hubbard's signature. We contacted the railroad today verbally. They advised us that they are going to begin temporary repairs now and complete reconstruction of the crossing in the very near future and that a temporary fix will be done this week."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I just wanted to make sure that everybody knew that we are trying to do something and make something happen and if that doesn't work we may have to talk to our state representative

because it is a state highway instead of a parish road. Secondly, I noticed on our agenda for the meeting on the West Bank it says Edgard Courthouse. To me I think it should be Rudolph Soraparu Chambers instead of having Edgard Courthouse on it."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Mr. Smith can you find out what happened to Mr. Soraparu's picture it was up there and now it is down there?"

Councilman Smith stated, "Yes sir I will find out."

Councilman Julien stated, "We are having a community outreach March 26th for District III. Any other board members or elected officials that would like to come so that the people in District III can voice their concerns and opinions you are welcome. I want to extend an invitation to the Parish President and Mr. Wolfe since he is the Division Councilman. It will be at the Reserve Library for 6:30 PM."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just wanted to extend my condolences to the family of Delton Arceneaux. He was a fellow Rotarian with me. He started the LaPlace Rotary Club, which is true to my heart. He did pass away. The services were today. My heart goes out to his family."

Councilman Smith stated, "I want to congratulate the St. John Parish 9 year old Warriors basketball team and 10 year old team for winning state. They are going to the national tournament I think in Indiana. So congratulations for a job well done."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Cheryl Millet - Council matters

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Negotiations

Jaclyn Hotard/Ronnie Smith/Montgomery Watson/GE - Report on the NANO filtration project

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:20 PM, Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary