

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 11th, 2014
CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX
VICE CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Hotard led the Prayer. Councilman Snyder led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Carl Butler were present.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES

There were no businesses.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Red Cross Month

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Red Cross Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Developmental Disability Awareness Month

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Cullen Curole, South Central Planning Revolving Loan Program

Cullen Curole was present and gave a brief presentation from South Central Planning on the Revolving Loan Program.

Lucien Gauff - Presentation - Tish Parquet - Family Resources of New Orleans

The above item will be carried over to the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes - February 25th, 2014, Regular Meeting

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to ask to suspend the rules to add an item to the consent agenda. I would like to add Appointment

of Rolf Hildebrandt to the Planning and Zoning Board."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to suspend the rules to add to the consent agenda appointment of Rolf Hildebrandt to the Planning and Zoning Board. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - February 25th, 2014, Regular Meeting; Councilwoman Millet appointment of Rolf Hildebrandt to the Planning and Zoning Board. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

14-02 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, Section 14-105(3), as follows: Building code Permit fees. (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-02. The motion passed unanimously.

14-03 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to Re-subdivide Lots 8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16 & a 50' x 100' portion of Square Y, LaPlace Park Unit No. One into a lot herein designated as Lot 8A, Square Y, And LaPlace Park Unit No. One, situated in Section 19, T-11-S, R-7-E, Magnolia Street, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-14-1081) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland, Director of Planning and Zoning, stated, *"This item was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission at its February 17 meeting and administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-03. The motion passed unanimously.

14-04 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Chapter 26 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By amending Section 26-22(a); Section 26-22(b); Section 26-23(a): By deleting the term "12 inches" and replacing with the term "10 inches". (J. Hotard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-04. The motion passed unanimously.

14-05 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Section 40-29(c) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By deleting existing Section 40-29(c) and replacing with: (c) Inspectors; notice; removal (J. Hotard)

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This revision corrects a mistake in the original ordinance and changes the notice term for removal of junked/derelect vehicles on public property from 3 days to 24 hours. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 14-05. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I would like to ask for a motion on my behalf to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Brian Nunes, Director of Roads and Bridges. Mr. Nunes reported on the pumps that were ordered for Redbud and Crevasse has arrived, they are in the yard and plan to be installed by the end of the month.

Virgil Rayneri, Director of Utilities. Mr. Rayneri reported that the number 2 well preventative maintenance went according to plan. He acknowledged the outstanding job that the contractor did for us and to acknowledge and thank the utility department employees for managing the water pressure and flows throughout the process. It was a 14.5 hour process and everyone did a great job. The pump and motor were replaced and the well was videoed it preliminarily looks good however it is not official. A question and answer session ensued regarding the wells Mr. Rayneri commented that he hoped to have the report available for this week. All of the council commented on the great job that was done and that no residents were out of water which was the best thing. All the electrical pumps have been received and they should start the installation tomorrow and should last about ten days and there are some that are priority that will be done accordingly. So in about two weeks we should be out of the diesel pumps. Mr. Babin reported that the manhole infiltration project is nearing completion. Mr. Rayneri commented that there were also some problems that were found on the West Bank that will be addressed also due to some left over funds from the loan. Councilman Madere commented that the new company brought in is doing an excellent job and we are happy that there is money left over.

Councilwoman Hotard asked for an update on the condition of the sunken gardens. She has received calls on the condition of it and it has been talked about at the council meetings for the past two years. What is going to be done and what plan do we have in place to assure that this doesn't happen again?

Mr. Nunes commented that the administration actually spoke about the sunken gardens this week and are scheduled to meet tomorrow. They are looking at a number of options the trustees handle the day to day cutting of the gardens although it has been too wet to cut they do maintain that. The flower beds need to be weeded he is looking at options whether it be community service, the trustees, handled in house or if we can get someone to adopt the area like we had looked at in the past. There are a number of options we are planning on meeting tomorrow morning to try to come up with something. We are aware of it and it has been being discussed.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I guess that is a concern that I have that you say you are looking at options now because I know we have been talking about this since 2012 and in 2013 and now it is 2014 and you are telling me you are looking at options on how we are going to take care of it. At some point we need to have a real plan and let's just stick with it."

Brian Nunes stated, "We had a few plans in the past and we have done it before we had community service go out there and then we had plans for it to be adopted so that people would maintain it. I don't know all the details on what happened or what the agreements were but that was the plan that it would be adopted and maintained and it would be that type of an agreement but it didn't happen that way so it is falling back on us and we are reacting to it and are planning to move forward."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you have someone in your department that follows up on the grass that is cut? I mean I know we do so I guess my question after that is that why didn't we know that this wasn't being maintained?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Well the grass is maintained and we are aware of it. It is something that we need to address and I agree with you."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can you follow up with me on that plan so that I know exactly and I can feel confident that this will be the last time that we have to talk about having it maintained?"

Brian Nunes stated, "After our meeting tomorrow I will send you an email."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Thank you also do you know where we are with the street lights on St. Andrews Blvd and St. Andrews Estates I think there were a couple that were still out we talked about them a few meeting backs do you know?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I thought we had fixed them but if you send me an email with those addresses I will follow up."

Councilman Perrilloux asked for a quick update on the Persimmon Street in regards to the erosion and the leakage.

Brian Nunes commented that the erosion is a problem he thinks the underlying issue is a sewer line that was leaking, utilities had initially put a boot on it but something must have happened to that. We do need to go back out there and take a look at the line and possibly just seal it off again. If that doesn't work then we will need to look at some other options maybe putting a culvert in or something along those lines but either way the sewer line has to be fixed before we can do anything out there.

Councilman Wilson asked if the canal on N.W. 3rd Street has been looked at yet.

Brian Nunes commented that it was looked at no cost estimate has been acquired yet but it was looked at. I still have to size some pipes for it. It is a big project and huge undertaking like we spoke of.

Councilman Wilson stated, *"It is just a dangerous situation and one life isn't worth the money."*

Brian Nunes commented I understand and am working on it.

Councilwoman Hotard asked for a copy of the prioritized street project that we asked for a month ago and I would also like to know where they are now I know I have had one street on the list since I have taken over in 2012 that hasn't been done yet but I would like to see the prioritized list and also find out where they are working now. Is Barrier currently working?

Brian Nunes commented no they are working right now we have finalized the list and sent it to our parish engineers to put the plans together and Barrier plans to start in about two weeks.

Councilwoman asked for a copy of that list also because she knows that she has streets that have been on there for over two years that are really bad.

Natalie Robottom commented that there was a mistake on the list and a change had to be made so there are a couple of estimates still out there. Indigo was on the list but we thought it was from the hurricane and unless you have a specific area I think Mr. Nunes rode that area and there didn't appear to be a problem but there are about 27 roads on the list combined asphalt and bond issue and we should be ready to send that now. The street is Bamboo not Indigo. I don't think anything is off of the list everything from last year was carried over.

Councilman Wright asked that the list be forwarded to the council as soon as possible.

Councilman Madere asked about the streets in District III that were black topped but not all the way of the full street. The roads are in terrible shape from 26th Street to 17th Street and the holes are getting really big. I brought this to your attention over 8 months ago and something was supposed to be done.

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, *"I remember the streets you are talking about but they were never repaired. We spoke about repairing them but we ran out of funding and the program ended so they were going to put it on the list this year to come back and maybe possibly fix the fronts of the street. I need to go back and look at them they are not on the list that you have now but we can talk about that."*

Councilman Madere commented it isn't a question of if it is possible they need to be fixed because those holes are really big now and are getting bigger by the day.

Chuck Savoie stated, *"It was about \$20,000.00 for each street and it was like five streets. I am just going off of memory but they do need to be on the list."*

Councilman Wilson commented on a fire hydrant that has been leaking for well over two years at Hwy 44 and Hotard Drive.

Virgil Rayneri commented that an insertion valve had been installed at

Central and River Road that would allow them to isolate just that particular area and it has taken us a little while to go through the drawings and ensure what we needed to do so that we can minimize the outage. We were going to do that project last week but it should be done by the end of this week or early next week.

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Public Safety reported on the Entergy transmission line that is being run from the St. Charles Parish line into Garyville presently they are running along the Canadian railroad then they jump behind the levee around McReine Road then they are going to jump back by DuPont and go back to the Canadian railroad up to Belle Point to the KC railroad and then go up to Garyville. Presently they are clearing the right of way and then they will be coming back behind it with the transmission line. It will be on metal poles above ground and I do have pictures of what it will look like if any of you are interested.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I have a question for Ms. Sutherland and it is about the grass cutting and it is two parts. One did we ever get the system on line from SCP that will allow us to have all of the information on one so that we can expedite some of that process and then also with grass cutting season really approaching right now you said that last year we had problems just from backlog what are we going to do differently or what is being done so that we don't have the same problems this year?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"We actually started training about two weeks ago on the system and are trying to go live this week. We are still in the process of training the code officers are now using Ipads for the system so that they can actually input their information from the field and pictures and upload it immediately into the system rather than having to wait until they come back to the office. The zoning regulatory administrator and the code enforcement supervisor are doing ride along with the code officers while they are conducting the trainings. We hope that this new system will help to reduce the backlog. We wanted to get it online specifically before grass season started so that they would get used to using the software prior to the big influx of grass violations."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"Okay do you have any backup in case that doesn't work?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"The new system is different in that the code officers have more responsibility of input into the system. So the two secretaries who were responsible primarily for putting everything into the system now the information that they have to put in has been reduced. We also do currently have a temporary worker who is also assisting the secretaries."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"This will help the new system because let's say on the second violation they don't need to go and recreate everything they will be able to search and have the information from the previous violation in the system."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"I would like to know if the Recreation Department has done any work on the baseball field? I think it is starting up now."*

Debra Poche, Acting Recreation Director, stated, "On Saturday March 8th the contractor came out and sprayed for weeds and killed the ants on Monday they came out and marked the field off and due to the rain it has been held up and as soon as that is settled they are going to come and turn the ground over."

Councilman Snyder asked, "They are going to turn it over?"

Debra Poche stated, "Just the infield sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "It is kind of late for that isn't it?"

Debra Poche stated, "No it is not too late because he gave us the break down on the different time that they needed to do it and he said that we are right on schedule."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we are going to turn the sides of the field over? We are going to dig that up and turn that over?"

Debra Poche stated, "Yes the infield and sod the sideline. They are going to do the infield with red clay."

Councilman Madere stated, "The contractor that said that you are right on time as far as turning that field over for baseball he was wrong, very wrong. I did this for years. If I am going to turn a baseball field over to have it ready for my baseball season I am going to turn it over at the close of my previous season that is when you turn the field over to have it ready for the upcoming season. I don't know what his motives are for saying you are right on time apparently he wants the job I am pretty sure but to say it is right on time is wrong. My suggestion is that I wouldn't turn that field over. I would just put some clay on it right now to take care of the holes and level it off. If you want to sod the side that is fine but as far as turning it over that is going to really get down and make that field the way it should be that has to be done at the end of the season. We are too late to turn that thing over and then expect it to be settled down for these kids to start practicing and I know we are concerned about the safety of the kids and I don't think it is a very good idea to turn it over. I think we need to just put a little layer over it, take care of the holes, have it leveled off and the outfield the same way because if you have kids running out there in the outfield and they step in a hole that is going to be a problem. I wouldn't turn it over."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Obviously this took a lot longer than we anticipated but I think what we have is somebody who does fields and safety is a concern. We did work with him on this initial phase what we didn't do previously was allow for maintenance. Not only will they do this initial park for the field but they are going to assist with maintenance. We don't have the staff or the equipment so it will be his responsibility to make sure that it is done. I can't talk to it. I know he does baseball fields. I know Mrs. Poche is handling it. Randy met with them for some time and clearly we are not going to put our youth in danger with anything we do on the field and Mrs. Poche and Randy will continue to work with the contractor but it won't be a onetime thing it is going to be ongoing to make sure that what he is doing is maintained and managed so that it does remain safe."

Councilman Madere asked, "He is going to maintain this field year round?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "And by putting the clay infield is going to be a lot of work because a clay infield is definitely a big job."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We would like it to look like it is a real baseball field so we looked at other fields in the area that he was familiar with doing and part of our problem was that we didn't have the equipment or the manpower to maintain it in the past so each year we were back starting again. What we would like to do is just move into maintenance and not have to do this every year."

Councilman Wright asked, "Who is the contractor on that job?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is Randy Hymel. We received quotes from three contractors and he was the lowest vendor."

Councilman Wright stated, "Okay and if you guys would like to maybe after the meeting one day this week or next week get together with the contractor and the administration and maybe go walk the field and talk about your concerns."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We hired a contractor to take care of the baseball fields because we don't have the staff to do that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We don't have the staff, equipment or the expertise."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Help me to understand this it doesn't take very much to keep a baseball field as long as you have some dirt on it you just need water and a rake. We do have workers."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Our problem is those same people are responsible for cleaning all the parks, bathrooms, grass cutting so that is not their only responsibility so what we have seen in the past is that it hasn't been maintained which is why it ends up being a problem every year. So to prevent that from happening we need to get it in some type of shape now ultimately we need to purchase some equipment but we talked about some specific equipment to do the infield there are certain kinds of mowers that you would cut baseball fields with that we don't have so we are trying to maintain baseball fields with basic grass cutting equipment and we don't have the time to cut the fields the number of time necessary per week to play. So until we get a better handle on that and have better staffing we are not able to do that. We tried that and I was told repeatedly that we could manage the field and we couldn't because of all of the other responsibilities and the three man crew for maintenance that has to go to all of the parks clean all the bathrooms, pick up all the trash every day and it is not working for us so we are attempting to put something in place that eventually over time not that we have some money in the budget we can purchase what we need to maintain the fields and hopefully just adding a new maintenance person to the staff we have advertised but haven't interviewed yet. We have several out. It is just not possible with the

staff that we have and the number of parks that we have and the responsibilities that they have at this time."

Councilman Snyder asked, *"How many people do we have on staff to do that work?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Three."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"What is this contractor costing us?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I don't have it with me but..."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"What a couple of hundred thousand dollars?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"No absolutely not."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I saw that number flying around."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Well that might have been somebodies bid but that wasn't the lowest one. We had some over two hundred thousand but those were not the lowest quotes that we got so we were able to get much better pricing for the initial installation and then working on maintenance so many times a week throughout the year which involved spraying and fertilizing and all of the things that you are supposed to do on the off season that we don't do. First we are not certified to spray and do those kind of things. Our staff members are not trained or certified to do that kind of work and we don't have the equipment or expertise to do it."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I sat in on the recreation board meeting and I was there when their concerns were also that it seemed like we were starting late on maintaining the fields but I think where we are now seems like we are trying to prepare for the future. If you look at our fields they look like a playground field. If we plan on holding tournaments like they talked about at the recreation board meeting saying that we want to hold some regional or state tournaments then we want nicer fields the way to get nicer fields is to have someone that does it for a living to maintain our fields year round not at the end of the season and then right before it starts. Our fields should be manicured right now they should be ready for baseball season now I agree with Mr. Madere on that but where we were and where we are trying to get too are two different things and I think what we are trying to do is to get to the point where our fields are manicured and look like baseball fields year round and the way to get there is to have someone that is a professional not someone like our recreation crew or grass cutters for the most part. They are people that maintain fields. There are experts and there are professionals that do this let's give them a chance to do it. I agree that it does seem late to do this. I agree with Mr. Madere and with the board that it seems like we are late but let's try to work with them and get what is best for the kids and for the parish because I think this will give us the opportunity to host some of these state tournaments that brings kids from all over the state and our area."*

Councilman Wright stated, *"I just want to interject I think maybe it is best that we get out there and meet with the contractors all those that are interested since the contractor isn't here and listen to his plan*

and give your input and then maybe we can get some type of resolution there but I think going back and forth tonight we are not going to get any resolution. The contractor isn't here and obviously it is his expertise so we can get everybody together on this."

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 2-25-14) Water disconnect date

Randy Vincent stated, "Ordinance 09-26, Section 42-49 states that all charges owed by any individual for water services rendered by the utility system shall be billed and collected as a unit. Failure to pay the combined charge within 15 days of the date on which it is due shall cause such charge to become delinquent. Payments are due by the date shown on the bill. The Utility company shall not be responsible for any payments not received by this date. Payments not received in time due to faulty postage are considered late. If such delinquent charge, with interest and penalties accrued thereon, is not paid within thirty (30) days from the date on which it became delinquent, the Parish will shut off water service to the affected premises. Administration proposes to change the wording on the Delinquent Notice from Effective Date to Disconnect Date. The Delinquent Notice would identify the Disconnect Date as 30 days from the Delinquent Date."

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 2-25-14) Water tower altitude valve operation

Randy Vincent stated, "Installation of Altitude Valves in water towers at the Percy Hebert Building, Walnut St., Belle Terre Blvd. and Reserve are underway and will be completed in April, weather permitting. Wireless telemetry is also being installed to allow Parish operators remote access and automatic control of tower functions."

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 2-25-14) Administration's expectation on Bond project input

Councilman Snyder commented that he had gotten with Mr. Vincent in administration and the council is compiling their list of projects and will get that forwarded to the administration.

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 2-25-14) Discussion relative to Convenient Store operations

Councilman Snyder commented that he had spoken with Jamie Bailey with the DHH and Mr. Bailey had even visited a few stores there has been a problem with stores that serve food not having a public restroom and if you serve food you have to have a public restroom. So those establishments have been spoken to and hopefully this can be rectified.

Lennix Madere - Update on the Health Unit and the Homer Joseph Center

Randy Vincent stated, "The interior of the Health unit has been repaired with the exception of the Lab area. This is a sterile environment used daily, therefore work in this area will be done in phases. Installation of a petition in the control room is also planned; the petition is on order. Repair work and upgrades to the Homer Joseph Center are nearly complete and a work order has been submitted to complete internet and computer connectivity. Furniture purchases are being finalized along with programmatic plans for use of

the facility. All should be ready next month."

Councilman Madere stated, "I appreciate Mr. Vincent coming out and touring the facility with myself and Mr. Gauff. I listened to what they had to say about the center. I went home that night and I thought about it and to be honest with you it really bugged me. The building has been bugging me since we started working on it. I would have to say I don't want to say the quality of work but the lack there of as far as what I have seen there are several walls in there that got my attention the first time I walked in there. Mr. Snyder has also seen the walls. My basic concern was I just wanted all the walls to look the same and have a smooth surface every single one of them. If one is sheet rocked than they all should be. It bugged me and it has bugged me for the last four months that we have been talking about it and it bugged me that night when I went home that if I accept this then I am not doing what I was elected to do. They put me in office to be their eyes to see what they don't see and to take care of the things that they need. They can call me at any time and I will answer their questions or try to do the best that I can but when it comes to a building or something that I see that I don't think is right I can't just walk away from it or say well it looks better than it did before or it is good enough. I am not going to settle for good enough or it looks better than what it was. I want it to be right. If we walk in that building and attempt to fix it then fix it all the way and make it look decent. I always said before if it belongs to the parish it should look like it belongs to the parish. If it is the parish property then we should make sure that we cut the grass on time because we are on everybody else's time about doing things right so my concern and I can't in good mind say that I am happy with the center or the way it looks. Tonight I would like to make a motion from the general fund maintenance department that we dedicate six or seven thousand dollars, whatever it takes to get these walls in shape so that when we open this place and people walk in it is St. John the Baptist Parish and that is what is going to make me sleep good because that Friday night I couldn't get it out of my head that if I sign off or agree to this it is not right."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to dedicate funds to get all of the walls fixed at the Homer Joseph Center.

Randy Vincent stated, "Before the council decides to spend additional dollars on this building we need to back up a little bit. The rehab of that building started after Hurricane Isaac at not only the prompting of Councilman Madere but our public works staff because we had a tree that was on the roof, we had to fix some items on the roofing, we had to clean the outside of the building it was actually power washed. We brought in 8 days for hope after it was cleaned and painted the entire exterior of the building and mind you all of this was done without a plan or a budget for dealing with this particular center. So after we completed all the outside we have been discussing different options with Mrs. Robottom with regards to programmatic activity for that particular center for the residents and that plan is being finalized as we speak but on the inside we felt that it also needed some attention now granted I think Mr. Madere pointed out that there are actually several walls that are plaster as opposed to drywall and it is evident when you walk in there but our focus was to clean and sanitize the building, make sure that we took care of any leaks, any issues with the

bathroom and the kitchen areas. We actually ended up replacing doors with public works and with general fund dollars we actually ended up painting and sanitizing the entire interior, painting all the walls and getting the building in shape so that we can start having programmatic activities there. Now our attempt is to maybe get a grant to do the work similar to what we are trying to do with the COA building on the West Bank go after a grant that would allow us to put together a plan, get an architect involved and look at what it is going to take to bring the building up to speed. Now based on the statement that Mr. Madere made if we put aside or dedicate monies to do those walls I don't think six or seven thousand will be enough. Once you start tearing down or looking into plaster or a building that has had a few leaks and has been compromised you are going to find some other problems. So I suggest we move forward with our activity based on the completion of the building the way it is now. We feel that it is nice enough to do that and put together a plan to move forward get an engineer involved let him look at the building and get some estimates on bringing that building up to speed."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I understand what Mr. Madere because I went to tour the building and I had made some suggestions when the workers were in there what they could do to repair the wall. I take his point and I also take Mr. Vincent's point and I think it may cost more than the \$6,000.00 that he is looking for and my suggestion is and I definitely want to fix that building and fix the walls acceptable to the public, to myself and to the rest of the council. I think before we do that we need to go in and get a quote first of how much it is going to cost before we proceed because it could be less or it could be more I don't know but let's get a quote before we proceed and then we can maybe talk about it at the next council meeting but let's get a quote first."

Randy Vincent stated, "Typically we would get three quotes on any of the work that we do. The only thing I am concerned about in this regard with regards to just getting quotes from a contractor I think we actually need someone to professionally inspect the building get an engineer involved and make certain that not only are we checking the integrity of the building but we are also making certain that it makes sense to do the work that we are looking to do."

Councilman Gauff stated, "As Mr. Madere said I walked through the building also and I guess from where it was to where it is I thought we had done a really good job for an old building to renovate and repair the way we did I thought it was acceptable for the programming especially since Mrs. Lemmon was there also and she was saying she is ready to get these programs started. Now Mr. Madere did bring up a wall that was bad and I understand what he is saying as far as sheet rocking it. I guess I looked at it and I thought it brought character to the place in that we restored and maintained some of the old look, we had some of the new look and still we brought it all up. It was all repainted. It all looked like it was new not covering up, not hiding but maintaining a historical look to some of the old and some of the new. Now I think what Mr. Perrilloux says makes a lot of sense in that I think we are going to find a lot more damage if we start to pull the plaster off of the walls I think we will have a lot more money needed to renovate the building so it may be best that we get an inspector to get out there, look at it and then come up with a figure that is

actually going to repair if that is the way we vote to proceed or moving forward then I think it is going to cost us a lot more money to renovate that center."

Councilman Madere stated, "I have a response to each and every one of those statements. First of all we are talking about getting an inspector, you should have had somebody inspect it before we ever went in it and did anything with it that is number one. We should have had an inspector to do that. When 8 days of hope came out here that was not on my agenda that they should be doing work for us they came down here to help the people that had problems with the storms so I never did like the fact that 8 days of hope painted that building. We should have painted it ourselves like we painted the inside we should have painted the outside. As far as the tree being removed, I was the one that said to move the tree it was there for a while. I was also the one that said to get it out of the ditch after they cut it up. I was also the one who said to put glass on that front door so that you could see who was coming into the building. I was also the one that said to replace the plexi-glass and put safety glass up there. I was also the one who said put a window in the office so that she could see what is going on out there and I was also the one at the same time said about the walls. Now you did those things and the walls could have been implemented. Now as far as finding out if there is a leak it is not leaking now so we are not talking about the roof we are talking about the walls. I am not talking about the ceiling. We do not have to touch the ceiling to repair those walls. I have spoken to several people over the weekend because whenever something bugs me I go to professional people and I have been to bricklayers, people who do sheet rock and people who do stucco and they all said that it shouldn't cost much to do the walls without even looking at it that is why I came up with that amount of money. Now I agree with Mr. Perrilloux if you want to send someone in to take a look at it to see how much it would cost before we decide to vote on this money issue I am fine with that but I am not fine with how the walls look. If we are going to do it, do it right and we don't need to inspect it now because that time is over with we are getting ready to move people into this building and if we hadn't inspected it I don't think we should inspect it now we should just move forward, get someone to go and look at those walls, how much it will cost to fix the walls so that they will all look the same, the walls not the ceiling, the ceiling is a simple fix this is about the walls. I cannot in good faith agree that I am satisfied with it."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I understand Councilman Madere's frustration because I have felt it but my suggestion is that we withdraw the motion and send someone out there to look at it and say hey this is what it is going to cost to fix it so that if it is not \$6,000.00 we don't have to come back to the council again and say okay that wasn't enough money or that was too much money. Let's go and find out how much it is going to cost to fix this wall and then for the next council meeting I think we could have a clear idea of how many dollars and cents it will be to repair and we move on from there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Like Mr. Madere said I went and looked at that wall and there seems to be some soft surfaces there and my question is we have carpenters on staff that could do small jobs like that and I can't see why they can't cut that out and see what is underneath there because I went and I actually pressed into the wall

and what he is talking about there are some soft surfaces there and I don't know why we have been having our people work there for the last six months mechanical, electrical and carpenters so why can't we use our own people to look at it and do something with it because that one wall isn't that bad except for the fact that it is just uneven as far as the surface is concerned. It looks like somebody just filled it with something and said that is good. That building was named after one of my best friends and I hate to see somebody say that is good enough and that is my home town so I agree with Mr. Madere let's put up a few dollars, get our people to go and look at it. We have some good carpenters on staff I know that for a fact. Let them look at it and see what they can do with it if they can't then get someone professional to come it but to me these guys are professionals, the ones that we have on staff. So I am going to support you Mr. Madere because I know that the walls need to be taken care of. We are making a mountain out of a molehill if you ask me."

Councilman Madere and Councilman Wilson withdrew their motions.

Councilman Gauff stated, *"My comment goes back to the plaster. I keep hearing one wall, than he was saying that all of the surfaces were bad."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"No there are seven walls. He was just speaking about one particular wall."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I know when I went in it was more than one that was of a different surface or different texture so that is why I was confused."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Each wall has a different problem the main thing is to get them all cohesive."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"To me it brought character now the wall you were talking about had the soft spot on it and as far as plaster I think once you start to pull the plaster off there is no telling what is behind there and that is my point. You don't know if you like Mr. Snyder said just redo that section. It is easy to redo sheetrock as far as cutting it out but I am not sure as far as the texture once you get behind there removing plaster from that if you are not going to have to do the entire wall and then when you get to doing other walls you might find some other damage behind the walls and that is what I was saying as far as the cost that may be incurred when you get to removing the plaster off of the wall."*

Councilman Wright stated, *"Let me interject, I think we first need to look at the stability of the building and get it inspected first and then discuss after plaster, sheetrock so that we can get the building inspected and then move forward but first we need to look at the condition of the building then going back and forth about cosmetics."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Once again we are going back to inspecting the building and this building is getting ready to be put out into the public already without being inspected. I can look at the building the building is a sturdy block building. If there is a hole in that block it will be on the outside. There is no hole behind that plaster. There is no hole behind that stucco. It is a block building just like this"*

brick wall right here if on the other side of that office is the other side of the bricks. If there is no hole on this side there is no hole on the other side. Before that was ever a center it was a bar room, a bar room that I frequented and I know how it looked on the inside. There is no historical thing in there but a block building that had a bar room in it that was turned into a little community center and someone plastered the walls to try to hide the bricks. Now whoever did it didn't do a very good job of smoothing those walls out and that is what you have a poor job of stucco work being done on the block walls and in the office a big piece of the stucco fell off and exposed the block wall behind. The area that you are talking about that is soft there was a big piece of stuck that fell off and instead of putting stucco on it they filled it with silicone and that is why you can peel it off and that is why it is soft, silicone is not hard it is soft. I can go to that building tomorrow and basically peel that wall with one finger and expose the stucco that was filled with silicone that is why you can peel it and that day I took a piece off and that is the second time I did and you can take a piece every day. My thing is I agree with Mr. Perrilloux get someone in there to look at those seven walls, not the roof, not the floors the seven walls that need to be done. I agree get someone in there to go look at it we don't need to waste any money on expecting the building because we didn't do it in the beginning. Get in there get someone to look at the walls, get three quotes on what it takes to fix those seven walls and I think we are done and I am happy, pleased and satisfied. So we can put this on the next agenda."

Councilman Gauff stated, "My point one more time is wouldn't you want to know about anything else since you want to accept the building and you want it to be done correctly wouldn't you want to find out about it before."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think we are going to find out when they go and look at the walls."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we are stuck on the word inspected and I don't think that was what Mr. Perrilloux was suggesting. Obviously there are professionals again just like they do grass and baseball fields there are people who do buildings and before we get into tearing out the walls for this building we need people who know what they are doing. Obviously this building has been renovated I think this is the third time. I don't know if you knew this but I know I have been around for at least two others and they had grand openings and they painted it and this is the third renovation to this facility. Our goal is to have internet connected, provide computers to start working on computer classes for adults, after school programing for children. We may be able to utilize the facility for the tax returns that are being provided and again it is not a new building. We are not saying just anything will do. I think we have spent an enormous amount of time tonight as well as over the last several months trying to make the changes as we went in that were necessary. I don't think what you are asking for is an inspection to just say what does it look like? It is to have someone with the skills necessary to determine. So there are things that are required that obviously our employees have not done so we will take care of moving forward with that and come back with estimates or plans to get the building in shape but our goal is to get programs in it. We have no parking. We have not utilized the building for anything useful in the last couple of years. We want to use the

building. We want it to be productive. We want the people to be able to go into the building access the computers, the internet and the things to help them with pre-employment, with applications, with resumes, with homework with the things that we want to use the building for and allow us to do that to make sure that we are not continuing to hold up what we want the building for and that is used by the residents in the community."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I agree with everything you said except a couple."

Councilman Wright stated, "Mr. Madere we have this on the agenda for the next meeting. If the administration can come back with a plan and some results maybe some quotes to redo the building we can continue this further but I think going back and forth tonight the general consensus is to get the building looked at so I would like to move on to the next item if possible."

Councilman Madere stated, "Just one thing, we are not going back and forth I am just saying we had two grand openings I am not going to have a third one that isn't up to par like it should be. The two previous grand openings whoever was sitting in these seats that was happy to have those grand openings when that building opens up and it is a grand opening and I am sitting here I am going to be pleased with the way it looks on the inside and not have to just accept it. All the programs that we are trying to put in there I am all for that but I am not for putting them in there if I am not satisfied with the way it looks on the inside. I want the building right first then you can triple the amount of programs but when we have this grand opening I am going to be totally satisfied with how it looks because the two previous grand openings weren't good."

Lennix Madere - Update on Grass cutting issues

Carl Butler, Parish attorney, stated, "We discussed this and you and I have agreed that we have a process that we are going to attempt to pursue going forward hopefully we can resolve the issue but if not we will have to consider our other options at that point."

Lennix Madere - Update on abandoned property on E. 30th Street

Jeff Perilloux, Council attorney, stated, "Just a quick reminder when we talk about specific properties in a meeting it should be in executive session. You can talk about the general policy. You can talk about the general area but in an open meeting you cannot talk specifically about a property that is currently involved in a violation."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well let me just talk about the adjudicated properties. Do we have anything on adjudicated properties? It is concerning those houses. Would that be inline? The property is adjudicated to the parish."

Councilman Wright asked, "Are there adjudicated properties on that street?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes that one is do we need to go into

executive session?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "I don't think adjudicated properties tonight would be an executive session item. If there was a specific property that you are trying to talk about I think you would be okay going into executive session to talk about it but you can talk about the general problem in the meeting here without specifically identifying the property but not about the topic of adjudicated properties. It is not on the agenda and it won't be appropriate to discuss without putting it on the agenda."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Can you talk about the adjudicated properties in general just like we have talked about any other items under department reports? We can ask the department that handles that?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Well to be quite honest with you I would rather talk to the council chairperson after the meeting about that general rule there is some dialogue that I want to have regarding that general topic and I am really not prepared to discuss that in an open meeting but I will gladly talk to you about that after the meeting."

Councilman Madere stated, "You can just carry it over to the next meeting."

OLD BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment

Councilman Wilson stated, "A few meetings ago Mrs. Robottom you made the remark that I had 1.7 million dollars coming for drainage and roadwork in the Mt. Airy/Garyville area have we received that or is that in place?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There is a hazard mitigation project that involves drainage in the Mt. Airy area that we are awaiting the final say on that but we are fairly confident that that will be approved with regards to road projects there are quite a bit of road projects that are also in your district there is on the list that I sent you on August 25th the list of the bond issues and the amount of money available and also attached to that all of the projects that are hazard mitigation, FEMA and the amount next to it and where the projects are and the road project list that you are going to get will have all of the roads in your district."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Marigold is on there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Marigold, Chestnut there is a drainage basin in that area."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That was actually from the previous administration on the list."

Natalie Robottom stated, "They are on the list this year to be done but there is also a drainage package in that Mt. Airy area that is in the hazard mitigation/Hurricane Isaac project list."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I would like this to get started. They have

done drainage studies already and nothing has been done to satisfy what the study said. I am not blaming all of that on you it has been a long time like this."

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Parish Buildings - Security

Abandoned Vehicles

Code Enforcement - Personnel matters

Water bill issues

Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc., and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827

St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Roussel Welding and Metal Works, Inc., et al. Case No. 64187 Div. B

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

There were no ordinances introduced at tonight's meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening - First, our condolences go out to the family of Ms. Betty Madere, our long time Registrar of Voters who passed away this Saturday. Her service to the community will be remembered. I hope everyone enjoyed their Mardi Gras holidays! I would like to thank everyone for their work on both Towahpahsah and DuMonde parades and all who participated for making them two great events. Managing both parades required a coordinated effort and many man hours, but they were successful. An after-action meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss issues or concerns from both parades in an effort to make improvements next year. I want to commend the Utilities Department on a successful preventive maintenance project this weekend. This first time on Ruddock Water Well #2 was completed successfully and timely. We applaud all involved for a job well done, included residents for following the conservation measures. We anticipated test results soon that will allow us to better plan for the future. I'm happy to announce that our hard work toward passing the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, which delays implementation of the Biggert-Waters Act, is paying off. The bill was recently approved by the House of Representatives and will be heard by the Senate this week

and approval is expected. Once approved, it will be forwarded to the President for signature. This NFIP victory provides time to revise and craft a long-term solution for flood insurance. Last night my staff and I attended a meeting here on the Westbank to provide updates and information on existing and future projects, as well as proposed projects for the West Bank. Thank you to all who attended and participated in the meeting. The Port of South Louisiana recently hosted the 31st Annual Conference of the Ports Association of Louisiana in New Orleans and I was honored to deliver a brief welcome. This event brought 31 port agencies, state and local representatives together to discuss issues that impact the economy and port functioning. Partnering with the Port of South Louisiana and our neighboring parishes is critical to promoting and enhancing economic development in the region and we will continue to work toward that end. We will be scheduling a brief update from Executive Director Paul Aucoin and Chairman Louis Joseph at an upcoming meeting. The 6th Annual Cancer Survivor's Brunch was held last Saturday, which serves to remind us that the annual Relay for Life event is around the corner. Please join us in supporting this great cause by registering a team for the event which is scheduled March 29 at the Community Center. I want to thank title Sponsor Capital One and all program and table sponsors for the River Parishes Fellowship of Christian Athletes Breakfast held last month. I'd also like to thank the students, coaches and chaperones from East St. John High, West St. John High and Riverside Academy for their attendance. Ben Watson from the New Orleans Saints and retired NBA player James Lee Donaldson were the featured speakers and centered their remarks on hard work, drive and doing the right thing despite peer pressure. In addition to these uplifting and positive messages most students left with signed photos of the athletes. The ribbon cutting and grand opening for Fusion Youth Outreach Center was held on Saturday, February 15. Renita Graber and her twelve leaders will provide local youth with help through mentoring and tutoring and providing opportunities to explore music, arts, fellowship and community service. The center is located at 924 Carrollwood Dr. (above Saints Optical) in LaPlace. Anyone interested in joining the outreach or donating/partnering with the center can contact Renita Graber at (985) 212- 0553. Congratulations to Owner Gemyra (Gem) Rockett on the recent opening of Spillway Safe Driving Academy located at 3025 Highway 51, Ste. C, in LaPlace. The class D & E driving school offers classes five days a week on Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat and Sunday. For more information or to register, please call 504-258-0806. DOTD will close the right/outside lane of I-10, Eastbound at the LaPlace Pit Scale (between Belle Terre Exit 206 and Hwy 51 Exit 209) Wednesday, March 12 from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Thursday, March 13 for repairs to the pre-pass system. One lane will be open at all times during construction. Motorists may take Airline Hwy as an alternate route. Please be on the lookout for work crews and their equipment during this time. The River Parishes Greenwave Fans & Greenie Gals Booster Club will be holding a Spring Pastalaya Social for lady Tulane Greenwave fans this Sunday, March 16 at 2:30 p.m. at Tod's Catering in Lutcher. All women Tulane fans are invited. Pastalaya will be sold for \$10 and fried fish, salad and desserts will also be available. For more information, visit the Parish website of Facebook page. Baseball Registration for youth ages 5-12 is currently taking place now through March 21st. Registration forms are available on the St. John website or for pickup at the Parks and Recreation Office at REGALA Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 per child. Coaches are also needed. All coaches

must be CPR trained and undergo a background check. Special Olympics of St. John Parish will host a sports development clinic on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at REGALA gym. The clinic provides an opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities to learn new sports skills, improve individual sports performance, participate in individual and team sports and build friendships. For more information or to register, call Debra Poche, at 985-652-9569. The registration deadline in March 21. Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day will take place Saturday, March 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Plaza LaPlace Shopping Center located at 1921 W. Airline Hwy. in LaPlace (New Wine Parking Lot) Residents can drop off paint, solvents, auto batteries, used oil, and computers for proper disposal. Visit www.hhmed.com for a complete list of acceptable materials or call the HHMCD hotline 504-465-7444 and leave a message. Also, please mark your calendars for our annual Spring Clean Sweep to take place on Saturday, April 12 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Registration information will be released at a later date."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to congratulate the WSJ girls on their great basketball season. I want to thank the parish for getting the grass cut along the highway in Pleasure Bend and to Mrs. Robottom and her staff for attending our meeting last night. The meeting was very well attended and we received a lot of information from her."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to echo Mr. Smith's comments and I would like to send my condolences to Ms. Betty Madere's family. I have a message from Connie at LaPlace Feed. I stopped by to express my sympathy to her and she was back at the place and asked me to tell the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish that they will remain open. She said that this wasn't going to deter her after all of the hard work that her husband put into the place. She was back at work as of three days ago and she asked me to convey the message that they are open for business. Also I would like to tell the residents of District III and throughout the parish that the people have to take responsibility of things that go on in the parish and the grass cutting season is upon us so all of these individuals especially the repeat offenders please get out there and cut your grass because you shouldn't have to be reminded to cut your own grass."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I want to offer well wishes to our teams playing in the basketball championships this week in Lake Charles. I would also like to send my condolences to Mr. Steve and Mrs. Connie and I am glad that she has come back to the store. Also to keep the family of Betty Madere in your prayers I worked with her while she was here. I am glad she did get to retire and we were able to send her off with a lot of nice words at the time so again continue to keep that family in your prayers. Also the Queen of Hope pageant is this weekend so if there are any young girls it is a really good pageant searching for a cure for cancer one rhinestone at a time so if there are any young girls out there who are interested in participating in the Queen of Hope pageant it is this weekend."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to say continued prayers for Mrs. Madere's family. She was a great public servant. Also Mrs. Connie at the feed store I am glad to hear that she is back. I

would also like to say Mrs. Robottom when you meet with the Sheriff about the grass could you forward us the information on what we are going to do or how we are going to handle that. I want to thank Councilman Wright for filling in for me tonight I wasn't feeling to well and he did a fine job."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I want to thank Mr. Rayneri you all did a great job with the water back there the work went well. I just wanted to say we had our parades this weekend and they all went well, everyone was behaving and everyone was kept safe so we can be proud of that. I would still like to say that some of the port-a-lots need to be better placed."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would also like to send out my prayers to Mrs. Madere's family and my prayers are with Mrs. Connie good luck especially with the reopening of your business. Thanks to the utility department they did an excellent job I did notice the pressure loss but it was minimal so thank you very much. Good luck to Riverside in the state tournament."

Councilman Wright stated, "I also want to extend my condolences to the Madere family. Also to Mr. Steve and Mrs. Connie our thoughts and prayers to you guys. It speaks volumes for everything that Mrs. Connie has gone through to be back in the shop and open the doors. Also to touch on beautification in St. John personal responsibility is not something that should be requested it should be expected of our residents. So please keep St. John beautiful."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:55 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Michael Wright
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary