

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH, 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 Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 13th, 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: Jaclyn Hotard

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

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

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

Good Evening. "My name is Joy Banner and I'm the Director of Communications at Whitney Plantation, and Whitney been getting over 70,000 visitors per year on the West Bank and then in St. John the Baptist Parish. And I'm speaking today to express my support for St. John Parish to pursue its own Tourism Commission. As stated before in some of these meetings, St. John the Baptist Parish is putting over approximately Two-Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000) into the Tourism Commission. And our businesses and our attractions, and my opinion in what I experienced over the last 2 years, are not being given the attention that they deserve. I've been on variable locals in the last 2 years and I started at Whitney, and like I said, we have 70,000 people that are coming in and telling us what they want to see from us, there telling us how they want to spend money in our community, I've brought that to the Tourist Commission and unfortunately those concerns those issues that request for data and research, has essentially ignored. But as far as, giving attention to our businesses, a case I pointed in our last Commission meeting, Executive Director Buddy Boe pointed to a statute that prohibits the Commission from competing against local area businesses. Unfortunately, the Commission has had a separate and exclusive agreement with an attraction that lies outside of the River Parishes. The Commission has held major events at this attraction, including a Tourism Event where Tourism Professionals Media Visitors were bussed through St. John the Baptist Parish to attend this event in Ascension Parish. The Commission has also marketed their convention group space and cost with a group of Plantations including the one outside the parish where other stakeholders were not offered the same opportunity. This is indicative of what we felt in St. John the Baptist Parish attractions and businesses. We've had to beg for equity and fairness from our own commission that has happily and heavily marketing our competition. We have been made to feel like troublemakers, just because we have asked for information about our visitors' data research and our markets. Whatever happens to that, I at least wanted you all to be aware of what we are experiencing, tourism is our livelihood. It's

heartbreaking to hear that our businesses are struggling, despite the fact that we are putting in the most money into the River Parishes Tourist Commission. Thank you."

Good Evening. "My name is Dana I am one of the owners of United Front Transportation. And I just wanted to come and express subconsciously what we have experienced and it's been a dream since starting in August, and this business is our baby. And in the parish in a new business feel like we have to fight for people to recognize us. And it's disappointing to us, because it's where we were born and raised, we live in St. John Parish but to know what's going on or to fight to, and we you know United Front feels that we should be on somebody's mind for them to call us. Like we can we do for you guys? What can we do to help you increase to grow, to employ people? This we thought, that was going to happen with our Parish and it's not but, this is how we feel. This is our livelihood and somebody needs to check on us and not always us checking on everybody else. And it's a fight it's a fight to get what we need to make our business grow. And we just wanted to share that and express that with you guys. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Lennix Madere/Patricia Triche - Presentation - St. John the Baptist Parish Early Childhood Community Network

The above item will be placed on the March 27th, 2018 agenda.

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes Council Chair, I'm not sure if it belongs here or not, but I think there was a request to amend the agenda."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, yes that's right."

Natalie Robottom stated, "To amend one of the items that's on the agenda. It's actually an item on the regular agenda. The Council voted on it at the last meeting, but it's my understanding the official motion and second we're not recorded. And so we added that to the agenda to ratify that decision. In the meantime, looking back at some of the other documents we thought it would be more official if we utilized a Resolution, that was specific to the actually policies, so we're asking to amend the item to approve Resolution R18-06. Which again, amends the CDBG Hurricane Isaac Procurement Policies. Copies of those policies were provided to the Council in the last booklet, one other changes we added specific federal language just referencing those were the guidelines that we were using. So the request is to amend this item, and replace it with Resolution R18-06, which accomplishes the same thing which is approving of the amended policies that you approved last, at the last meeting."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution R18-06. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Natalie Robottom asked, "Do you want to add it now?"

Jackie Landeche stated, "We can add it now, we can take it off of the old business or we can take it up now."

Natalie Robottom - Resolution R18-06 - A Resolution to adopt the CDBG Hurricane Isaac Procurement Policies

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is the same policies that you guys approved at the last meeting, there technical error with regard to the motion we're going to have to send a certified motion with the Policies and realized at the time that there wasn't an official motion and a second. However, in the meantime we took the same language put it in a Resolution, which is an official action by the council and we're asking that you again approve the policy, the amended policies for the public."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution R18-06. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - March as Art of Respect Month

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for March as Art of Respect Month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - February 27th, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 5th Annual "Sings and Strings Festival" - Garyville Timbermill Association - April 8th, 2018 - beginning at 11:00 AM and closing at 7:00 PM; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Mr. Bryan A. Castillo, CPIA, CWCP to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Mr. Russell Bologna to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - February 27th, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 5th Annual "Sings and Strings Festival" - Garyville Timbermill Association - April 8th, 2018 - beginning at 11:00 AM and closing at 7:00 PM; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Mr. Bryan A. Castillo, CPIA, CWCP to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee; Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Mr. Russell Bologna to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

18-03 (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Alex Carter stated, "On February 19, 2018, the Planning Commission recommended approval of this request with a vote of eight in favor and one absent. This request is consistent with the existing neighborhood character, the surrounding land uses, and the intent of the Land Development Code. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapura seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-03. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Please see beginning of meeting minutes - Resolution R18-06.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - Announcement of Public Meeting - Announcement is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Joel McTopy Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Hwy, LaPlace, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Mosquito Abatement District of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax

Council Secretary Jackie Landeche stated, "Announcement is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Joel McTopy Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Hwy, LaPlace, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Mosquito Abatement District of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax."

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

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

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Mira Para with Bucharth Horn, Inc. will be in attendance to address concerns regarding the Reserve Drainage Project Phase III. But from Eunice, that's one of the areas that we have that the roads, some areas that's on our road list will be taken care. Also, the administration is re-evaluating the road list recommended by the Public Works Department due to conflicts with Phase II of the Reserve Drainage Project. The final list will be sent to the Council and Parish Engineer for cost estimates in accordance with the funds available."

Mira Para, Bucharth Horn stated, "I'm here to answer any questions that you have. We did meet out on site this morning with the contractor to address a couple of items that still the contractor is working on to resolve, and so."

Council Madere stated, "Yeah, yeah. Well basically when I met with yawl this morning and Mr. Cooper we met, and we talked over several things and came to some agreement okay, are you aware of everything?"

Natalie Robottom responded by nodding her head.

Council Madere stated, "Okay I just want to make sure administration is aware of everything that yawl agreed upon, cause you know when we go back we want to make sure everything is taken care of you know, we've been over this list many, many times and still going over and correcting things you know, and I hope this time

we get it all right."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just wanted to inform Mr. Mira we talked about riding through your District, Melius is one of those streets, it's a long street. Unfortunately there a lot of patches because of the work as well as some problematic parts of the road, so that is one of our priority roads on our road list. We will definitely get with the contractor because we don't want them going fix something, and then we're going tear it up. So you know, we will be addressing that road way and all the half-way patches along the way, so we'll coordinate with them but that's one of them, our priority roads. I would like to address the rest of you; Mrs. Remondet, I'd like to talk to you about it. Some of the roads that were originally submitted were actually in a base through drainage project area, so we're going to have to remove those and possibly replace it with something else. I want to thank the Assistant Director, Travis Perrilloux with Public Safety, who actually took me through the neighborhoods. Again, our priorities are to try and get the roads that are in the worst condition. Whichever ones we're not able to get to with the Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) that's budgeted, we already putting them on the 2018 list. I think Perrilloux Drive has been on our list for a while, but we didn't want to do it because of the construction, well obviously this year we'll be moving on that. So, we'll put together the list we have some what we think are cost estimates, we'll get it out to you before sending it to the parish engineer to go and actually assess and come up with the engineering as well as construction cost. So you should be receiving that within the next week."

Councilman Madere stated, "I actually have another question Ms. Robottom. I know you said you got Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) and we're going to try and do the roads, that's okay and Perrilloux Drive been on that list for about 4 years..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And East 6th..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah well that's her District."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No, no, that's Mr. Becnel. That's East 6th on the West Bank. It's been on for a couple of years to, so that one's on there as well."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh yeah and I know Mr. Becnel is going to fight for his but I'm talking about my end now."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's on there."

Councilman Madere stated, "So when he get the mic he can talk about his."

Councilman Becnel stated, "That's alright."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right he can talk about his then, I'm talking about my District okay?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'll be happy to get with you because there's a few that we really need to look at. Okay?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, right, especially the ones that they did that drainage project on."

Natalie Robottom stated "And there's a couple others I'll get with you, we took

some good notes and again, we have to have a plan to deal with the ones that are definitely problematic first, but we need not besides the ones that needs the next year."

Lennix Madere - District Attorney's Office report on the 2001 Development Agreement between the Parish and Belle Terre Land, L.L.C. - Woodland Drive Extension) construction project

Keith Green, Jr., District Attorney's Office stated, "Good Evening again Council Members. I will try to be brief. This issue, an issue that came aboard the District Attorney's Office with respect to this, was the return of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of an initial deposit that was made by Belle Terre Landing, L.L.C. into an escrow account that was jointly owned by the Parish and by Belle Terre at the First National Bank in Boutte, Louisiana. This is done in accordance with the terms of a Development Agreement that was executed by the Parish and by Belle Terre back in December 17th of 2001. Now generally speaking the Development Agreement outlines specific obligations and responsibilities of the Parish and Belle Terre. Now this was in furtherance of a contemplated design, engineering and construction of an 885 linear feet extension of St. Andrews Boulevard to its, back then the post intersection with Woodland Drive. Specific to these funds, the Section 7 of the agreement provided that all the funds that were deposited or escrowed rather have been returned to Belle Terre Land. If the parish would not issue approvals, licenses and permits to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources and some other governmental entities. The purpose for those permits was the proof of having these obviously throughout the project to move forward. Now that had to be completed by the third anniversary, which would have been December 17th, 2004. And now Section 8 was actually a companion, I think it was Section 2.

Kurt Becnel - Devrin & Danielle Harper - Update on 548 Castle Drive, Edgard - lift station situation discussed at December 12th, 2017 Council Meeting

Blake Fogleman stated, "Since that meeting, obviously there was some concerns about the residents, we do have supervisors that have been checking that, they have been spot checking it here and there all along, but they're trying to get out there twice a week to address any of the concerns that were expressed by the residents that day. Since that time in fact in 2015 other than the situation discussed on December 12th, the Utilities Department still hasn't recalled or received any calls concerning that station."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Ms. Harper/Mrs. Harper is here right now. I think they have some other concerns."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Ok, absolutely."

Danielle Harper stated, "Our other issue was there on our property, so that was never addressed. Last meeting, Blake said he was going to, we were going to have a meeting we're still waiting. And the Council said they were going to TABLE it till a later date, and he was going to meet us and we're still waiting. So nothing was resolved. And we're still waiting."

Blake Fogleman stated, "I believe the discussion was to involve the Council as well. I do recall that I met with Councilman Art Smith as well as the residents as well as their resident's mother on the situation out there. And some of those things issues were addressed at that point. Councilman Smith actually left us there that day to try to continue that resolution. I think the legally opinion

has been forwarded to I think you as well as legal when it came to the property issue. To be honest with you Councilman, I was waiting on a phone call, cause I know you were working, I'm here 40 hours a week for this parish and I know you're a busy man and I don't know that it gets anywhere if we continue to discuss the same things that we have met without any outside, whether that'll be legal or yourself involved in that."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Like I said, I want..."

Blake Fogleman interrupting stated, "Get some resolution."

Councilman Becnel stated, "So I don't know how far I have to go and just have a meeting and brief..."

Blake Fogleman interrupting stated, "Yeah I can tell you as much and it's all due respect to them. At least we've had this discussion many times between us and from staff and from the resident's stand point. I don't know whether it's yourself or current legal cause the, I do know the legal opinions that was presented back in fact you know when this originally started was from a different legal counsel you know you had different people sitting in these chairs than we do now. That was I think at the initiation of your request on this, it was presented to you as well as legal. For some of the issues I already knew that I think they had concerns on but they had those concerns similar concerns in the past."

Councilman Becnel asked, "What's legal opinion on this issue? Danielle I think they really need to bring out. Yawl had problems with the station?"

Danielle Harper stated, "Yes we're having problems, exactly. It's the main issue is it's, stated that it's supposed to be fifteen feet from the middle of the road, it's thirty plus. So please let me know what's the issue Blake."

Blake Fogleman stated, "And maybe I think it's a misunderstanding of the legal description. I agree with you in some stances they say fifteen feet from the middle of the road, that's not the way this is measured, I just measure it from the edge of the road and I do believe and it's even in the legal of opinion that, though it is slightly, it maybe I think it's five to seven feet off of what was written officially, but as legal at the time they said that's an apparent right-of-way and acknowledging it at the time, no we can't infringe which is why the discussion and why we went out to the site and took care of the issue and the telemetry. We know we can't infringe anymore but anything on that foot print from the public right-of-way to that point is access for us to be able maintain that station. And once again Councilman, I you know, I understand they're here and I understand their concern, I'd gladly present the information and I'll the policy be on legal standpoint to handle that. Obviously we want it to run properly we don't want them to have issues on that station, it is where it is. And for really of that being gone, I think that's a lot more conversation..."

Kurt Becnel - Ingrid & Christina Barnes - 158 E. 14th St. - Edgard - Discussion regarding disappointment with Royal Engineering and the Administration's handling of the Hurricane Isaac CDBG Program

Councilman Becnel stated, "Well I spoke to Barnes today and so did Ms. Toombs and we're going to remove this for right now, because things seem to be okay for now."

Larry Sorapuru - Council's possible withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I'm going to table this item at this time."

Jackie Landeche, Council Secretary asked, "You need a motion to table?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah, can I get a motion on the table?"

Councilman Becnel asked, "Can I have a discussion after we table this?"

Jackie Landeche stated, "No you can't discuss after it's tabled."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I yield my motion to Mr. Becnel."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay listen and I want a motion to table this, and I always respect legal's opinion always did and always will. But I feel I got a gut feeling, that we should vote on this and I know we probably won't tonight, but I'm all for voting to withdraw from this River Parish Tourism. Because I believe in St. John and if our people say they can do it, we can do it. And all we're going to do is take this legal opinion, stall and delay stall and delay it, then drop it, June or July, we're going to vote to get out. But I'll respect that today, to table it but I'm going to vote against tabling it cause I really feel, I got a gut feeling like I said, and I believe in St. John. And if we feel we can make it on our own, we can make it. So I just wanted to say that before we vote."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay we got a motion to table it, need a second."

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to TABLE item Council's possible withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 against, and Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Larry Sorapuru - Update on clearing and snagging of canals parish wide

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Administration was notified by the Parish Engineer that Army Corps of Engineers approved the permit application for "snagging and grabbing" of 36 canals. Access issues near the Milesville Canal have delayed approval by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Parish Engineer is working with a property owner to potentially resolve these issues but if unresolved, the canal may need to be removed from the list in order to expedite approval by DNR and issuance of the Coastal Use Permit. The Parish Engineer also applied for six (6) dredging canal maintenance permits and the Corps and LADNR have requested that the spoils be hauled off from the following canal sites; Vicknair, Woodland and Moll canal. Godchaux, Haydel, and Reserve Canal spoils are not required to be hauled off. The Parish Engineer is working with Parish staff to identify loading sites and hauling routes for the designated canals. Once the agencies are satisfied with the requested information, we expect the permits to be issued. And so Mr. Savoie is here to answer any other questions that you may have."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "This is on the canals particular that's permitted already. Can we possibly work something with the Levee Board to join force in helping us get those canals cleaned?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Any canals that are currently on the permit, you're free to do you know, you're free to move on. Cleaning or clearing and snagging is the

current permit on the previously old permits. The permits that we're talking about here tonight, we're actually consolidating all of those existing permits including canals that didn't have permits and we're issuing having the Corps of Engineers as well as the Department of Natural Resources issue two (2) permits to replace what was previously approximately thirty (30) permits. Simply because you know some that are coming up for renewal at different times and it gets rather irritating that the parish to determine on whether I go clean this one.

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "That's pretty much what I was looking to into that direction."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Sorapuru, we actually do have a relationship with the Lafourche Levee District, because within their scope they can help us with canals and they have. The permit issue stopped them and I think a couple of times the size of the equipment, however, the Pontchartrain Levee District does not participate in canal cleaning. But on the West Bank the Lafourche Basin that's within their charge and it helped, we've had Cooperative Endeavor Agreements in the past, and permits were issued and I think once these are done, you know they're always willing to help again, but what we're waiting on these final permits. I discussed with Ms. Saulny, Mr. Verdell Kindrick, Joseph, that we had permits we typically hauled to the work site, so that's the tree branch site typically once the canals are clean the spoilers are allowed to dry so they're not you know it's lighter and then they move into the tree branch sites. So if you can get with I think Mr. Kindrick was with us this morning that is our typical site through the spoils."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Mr. Sorapuru for putting this on the agenda. I just got a quick question for administration. I did have the opportunity, I think it was a couple of months ago we did some drone survey of the areas of the parish wide drain systems. I want to know if we have any plan or to move forward on North of Interstate, I know that's very problematic for all of Airline Highway, but we made any sort of headway?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's my understanding to that was part of some of permitting because that does require a permit. We did reassess that but that again is going to be used with Levee District, as well as St. Charles Parish, so kind of putting together a conceptual plan to deal with that. However, there's still a problem with it getting to those canals. We had some meetings with the Department of Transportation, initially we were going to attempt to sonar them which we did not have permission. So they are looking to do that themselves, they acknowledged there's some problems under those thirty-three in those thirty-three culverts between Exit 206 and 209, so that's part of it as well. But we do have that drone footage that shows what took place north of the interstate, but we also did some cleanings since the drone footage was taken."

Councilman Wright stated, "So from north of interstate, do you see any sort of timeline, I'm not looking for something set in stone, but I know hurricane season is going to be coming this summer."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can't verify. The permits that you're working on, on your working on them across the interstate as well, correct?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Correct."

Natalie Robottom stated, "So he's still working on those, those were permitted the entire canal. So that would be something helpful, again you know those are a little more difficult because you have to barge out the spoil, but we know how to do that because we've done it before. We had a plan to do it and again we worked with the contractor to haul them off their barge onto the roadside, so again it's helpful we can possibly pull some of the previous permits to see how they were granted or some of the information in them that would maybe expedite this."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you and I just want to make sure the general public is aware to, because the start for this has never been done. So it's you know, there's no finger to point to blame, but obviously there's been a problem historically and you know we can clean as much as we want on our end but north of interstate those channels aren't clear, we're spinning our wheels. So, thank you."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Mr. Savoie stated that, some of the permits are still in effect. Are any of the permits still in effect that we can do work in canals now? Or all of them expired or?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "There are, I'll have to get them. I will have to get you a list of the, all the canals that are currently on active permits, some are expired, not all of them are up to date, but I will have to get you that list."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "So some of them are not expired, we can work on them correct?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Kindrick in Public Works, they have been cleaning the canals I think they cleaned Vicknair. The problem was they were only allowing them to snag and grab, and what we thought was these canals needed to be dredged. And then they were silted in I think Brian worked on, some sonar shows was the original depth of the canal this is where it is now, and I think that's kind of what we used to justify dredging. They don't typically give us dredging permits at all but we need to do more than snag and grab, and that's why we're waiting on these additional permits. But you know they do have plans to clean all of the canals, the ones that they have access to and are permitted, yes they can clean. But we need to do more than snag and grab."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Yes Mr. Savoie. These permits last how long, how long two (2) or three (3) years?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Typical, typical amount of 5 years."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Five (5) years?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So the one we have on the Vicknair Canal is good for another 3 years or so?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Typically yes."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually budgeted through a larger one and it was successfully used, a marsh buggy and the marsh buddy that we purchased. So in the right size canal it works fine, but I think the request was to purchase and budget for a larger one because it did work well. Now granted, one marsh buggy can't do the entire parish. But in the past, there were contractors that did

large portions of it. They were done in 2011 and 12, all the canals North of Airline Highway, as well as maybe South, they were done with Gustave/Ike Grant for canal clearing, so those canals have been cleaned lately. Now the problem is you have to do it routinely, and that's what we're lacking. So there's been years when they contracted out that service, and sometimes we're more successful than others. When we received the grant we had to follow their process of procurement, and those cleanings were successful and obviously we were reimbursed for all those dollars. However we probably do need to come up with a plan for addressing them systematically and I don't think that's possible with the equipment and the personnel we have."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So in other words if we get the permits tomorrow..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We can do some of it, but we're not going to be able to do..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "A little and I just don't think what we got can help us clean the canal."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That's correct. But I'll double check but I know we budgeted for an additional piece of equipment and that it was a much larger marsh buggy because the one they have they were pleased with, all though initially they were opposed to getting it, it does work well, they just need a larger one for the larger canals."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Just really quick Mr. Savoie. Could you send me a list, I just want to make sure Plantation Canal is on there. That's the canal over by going along Belle Terre on Foxwood/Sugar Ridge side."

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes sir. I'll send you a list."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes, I'd like to get a copy also Joseph. And could you give us an update as the canal is when work starting?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "I'll update you when the actual permits are received. As far as that's concerned."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Correct."

Larry Sorapuru - Discussion Employee pay raise

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes our employees have been through ice storm, rain storm, tornados, floods, lighting storms and everything. These are the people that go out in these weather conditions and then some of them don't go out in weather conditions. These are the people that work for us. And I just couldn't believe we didn't have money in the budget to get these people a raise this year. I'm not totally familiar with the budget, I'm not going to sit here and tell you that I've examined the budget thoroughly, but I'm asking you Mr. Chairman and my fellow Councilmen and women, to let us get a four (4) man committee/team, let's go back and look/research, where can we make some cuts, how can we approach this. We had five (5) Directors got raises at the end of last year everybody remember that, and I got a lot of phone calls about that. Everybody deserves to make a decent living and good pay."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Everybody?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Not everybody."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Ok cause that's what I thought, I didn't think everybody."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I didn't say everybody."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "But I want to, I would like to see us put something in plan for long range as we go. People need to be rewarded for the work they do. I see people working until 11-12 o'clock at night, working on some jobs and these guys work. People in the office work to, but I'm asking this council to take a look at it, let's re-examine this data, let's bring the necessary resources we need to the table, and I just cannot believe I was at a conference a couple of weeks ago and I was not aware that with some employees that don't pay insurance at all, and we got some employees that's paying insurance. We got to re-saddle this horse and ride the sunset together cause we're not together. I heard Administration talk a number of times about employees, what they don't do. If you don't treat employees' right and motivate them the right and pay well, you're not going to get a whole lot of work out of them. You're only going to get so much work out of a person on an eight (8) hour and a twelve (12) hour shift. But I have gotten some phone calls since before I got on the council some people were talking about it. But the number of people that have approached me and asked me about it, this is why, this is not a Larry just thinking this needs to happen. These are people that came to me, so I'm asking us to get together within the next 30 days to get together with Mr. Madere, you and myself, and two (2) other councilmen and you can choose them Mr. Madere and then we can sit down with administration and go through some processes, look where we can make cuts, look at some things, shift some things around, but we need to get this we need to be a one team. Okay, I mean we preach to the gospel every week about what's not done. And these people work but they need to get a decent pay. Look all these plants around us, look at the chemical industry look at the pay they get. So I was lucky to retire, I was working the industry for 36 years and I was paid well. I think our employees need to be paid well, if we expect them to work well and put out. But I can't see this division keep going, some people paying for insurance and some people not. I could not believe that when I found that out."

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Sorapuru, that's two (2) separate items right there."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I know its two (2) separate items but I'm talking about money Mr. Madere."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand that, but stay on the pay raises..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "Don't worry we going to stay on the pay raises."

Councilman Madere stated, "The other one will be a topic on the insurance."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well we're going to tackle that one to. The whole nine (9) yards. We need to be one St. John Parish, okay? One St. John Parish, that's what I'm looking for."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay, any comments from Administration?"

Stacey Cador stated, "We'll schedule a meeting or we'll wait for the appointment of the committee or."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just in preparation before we have I think you all met with Robert, obviously he wasn't he wasn't here during the budget preparation process, so we do have some additional documents. I think the raise issue was proceeded by notification by Charter that we were force to provide to y'all that Ad Valorem taxes over the last 2 years were decreasing. Which caused us to have to amend the 2017 budget to reduce it to where it actually worked, which therefore affected our 2018 budget so we had to reduce that. So we'll be happy to sit with you, obviously all of us think we deserve a raise, some people get them, some don't. But if you have a chance to review the documents we sent you, which is part of the budge process. I do recall meeting with you all, we did talk about it. Two years ago we had to have employees participate in the insurance because of the cost of continued to increase and we always knew we could never continue to pay 100% of employees and their families insurance. So that was a big step, however, we did talk about the current finances, what we anticipated will be moving forward. We just talked about problem funds, which we now addressed, I think Mr. Snyder requested some information on you know a plan to comprehensively address that, but we have problem funds. And by law, we are not allowed to introduce or you guys are not allowed to approve a deficit budget. But obviously we can't go through the whole budget process again tonight, but will meet with you guys to go through all the documents we have, and at that point you want to talk insurance and raises, we'll be glad to talk about it."

Councilman Malik asked, "Yeah and a lot of things Madam President that you said, I was going to bring up. We need to discuss in the budget meetings the not hitting the deficit, we did discuss that not the entire workforce in the parish, would not be able to get to a pay raises, we also discussed the pay raises to some of the department heads. So all of those things were actually discussed during budget meetings. Reworking the budget when we're already in it, really doesn't make a lot of sense to me, I would say rewarding the good employees of the parish by pay raises is a necessity. Ample aboard for excellent job. Okay, so I do agree with you there. I think until were working on the budgets for 2019, would probably be the best time to do it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Which will be coming soon."

Councilman Malik asked, "Which will be coming soon exactly, but you know to look at the budget that we already worked on and already approved, yeah I don't really see that yeah. You know we don't want to slash on other things, there's a lot of departments that's slashed that had stopped programs, travel training etc. So I think were checking forward for 2019, is the time put this into the works."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I agree with what everybody said, because I've been getting the same calls about a raise and even stopped me about it I agree, everybody deserves a raise. Sometimes if you don't have the money to do it you can't do it. I have talked to, I think I talked to Ms. Songy about the Ad Valorem tax to see what we had and if we're can go on a raise what it's about Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000) I think and that's not with the benefits. But as a council we can't just vote and amend the budget and say that's what I'm going to do. Administration is going to have to come back for us to amend the budget before we can make moves in it, but I would say you can set up a

meeting as I did when I talked on the phone with Songy and I think we need to set up a meeting and look at some numbers in there and if they come back with and amend it if we need to move some dollars, something that's healthy, the tax came back in projected differently we can do something at that time. And definitely Mr. Malik we can discuss the 2019, cause I think that's what we going to do. I also talked to Ms. Cadot to about I think we had merit raises in those, each job performance, correctly? We do have that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "They do not."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "They do not."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Everybody get a raise. There's no merit based system."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Nothing in between by that one raise a year?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok, then maybe we need to look at some policy changes or something on that to."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well all the Civil Service."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "All the Civil Service?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just get that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yeah Civil Service, civil service workers. We need to look at civil service workers see what we can do, because I know the ordinance says 3% and I'm not for automatic raises with the 3% like that. Because sometimes it all depends on how the money fall I might say 3%, but you know what, I could have gave you 10. We could have gave you a 10% raise, it depends how the money comes in when you look at it. Cause 3% on a lower level employees, really is about .30 or .40¢ sometimes, it's not much. But if we look at the money coming in and forget about the ordinance or reword the ordinance to say something else than what it says right now, change that and maybe I can say, I'm going to give them an 8-10% raise, we need to look at these options to. Because we're going to have some healthy funds coming up in the next couple of years for sure. And maybe we can change our pay structure then and do something better for our civil service workers."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And we actually again have the study that's supposed to be coming that made some recommendations, you'll have them on paper for comparison between the rates that we turned in, and I think you guys looked at it. Minimum in other parishes, the maximum in where St. John falls for all of the positions, part of that was to reduce some of the positions that were duplicative, again we'll be calculating what the value would need to be to either bring everybody to a certain level or do it over time, but we anticipate there need to be some moves based on the study that's been completed."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just wanted to make a comment you know I have had a lot of employees come to me about the raises and I've told them the same thing. And something we need to remember that, when our employees aren't able to get a raise because of the budget deficiency, they're not the only ones suffering, our residents are as well, because they're also having their basic ones services being cut back, as well as extra services such as; drainage issues, water meter issues. So

the employees aren't the only ones suffering at times like this, it is the residents so we need to make sure we remember that also when we talk about that moving forward and giving raises due to budget deficiencies."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I agree with Mr. Wright. We got a responsibility to the people that elected us, but we also have responsibilities to those same people that the money needs to be spent wisely, I'm not saying that employees doesn't deserve a raise, I really believe in merit raises and that's something we can do something about, because we got an ordinance in place where as we guarantee 3 to 3½% depending on the CPI, and we can do something about that. And then we may be might be able to kill two birds with one stone if we go to maybe looking at merit raises. Cause I really think there are some people that deserve raises, the guy that cuts Vicknair Canal I think he deserves a raise. You no but then I see some other guys cutting it didn't look like much, you see. So, but you know and I also look at the budget at the end of the year and I think Ms. Robottom went over it with me and I was shocked at the numbers I saw that we just couldn't you just couldn't do it this year you know. I think the prognosis was bad as far as this year's concern, with the Ad Valorem so the Ad Valorem going down so chances are the sales tax is going to be going down also. So you know, I hated not to vote against to not give a raise this year with that budget, but there was nothing else you could do and I've worked some place and you have to, we didn't get raises some years you know, and when they gave us a raise they gave us a good raise. And I think this new money coming in we better not play no raises with that, I'm sorry. You know that's a way to get in trouble. You start giving raises and then with this windfall money I don't like that."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Just one more thing to add, I agree with merit raises. There's people that work very, very hard and would deserve a raise, but it also give those that don't work quite being centered to work harder. To realize you show me work you get a raise, so I agree with that. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to make a last comment on this topic. I have a couple of comments, I talked to a few employees you know I saw and I explained to them about the raise this year. Like you said, plants don't guarantee a raise every year, the raise is based only if they're making a profit then they'll give a raise maybe. And we are not a plant, we are a parish okay and I our money is based on tax dollars and inventory tax and everything, and I explained it to them, the tax dollars wasn't as they thought it was going to be this year. So that's why you couldn't get a raise. Now if you force the issue and give a raise that means you have to cut other services. You may have to cut employees, okay. I remember when that happened with the school board, okay they wanted to give us a raise, we wanted a raise but they say okay you can have it but x number of teachers have to be laid off. So we decided not to take the raise and keep our fellow teachers employed. Now we could have been greedy and took the raise and some people would have been laid off. And what had happened, if you give and you can't afford it like Mr. Wright said and Mr. Snyder, you'd be cutting services off to the people who you actually represent. No one at this council have a problem giving a raise, I really don't. I would like to see everybody make as much money as they can, okay, because they have a family they have to take care of. But also be very strongly with what Mr. Snyder, Ms. Remondet and everyone else who said about merit raises cause every job I say before, you have some people that just don't want to not do the right thing and then they still get rewarded at the end of the year, with a raise. Okay and I'm all for a merit pay and anything else okay, but if the money is not there I'd rather them not give a raise and keep everyone working that they give a raise and have to lay off some individuals."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just one last thing. I think it was Mr. Sorapuru if you identify the people you want us to meet with, give to Jackie, she'll contact Megan and we'll set up a team, Julie will be there, Robert, Stacey and I, and we can go over some of the decision making process. But I can assure you, we went through all this, if we could have we would have. We tried to reduce it, we looked at other things, but you know it's all based on the amount of money we receive and at the time in looking back 2 years it wasn't good. So you can't continue to increase your spending if you know your revenues are decreasing."

Councilman Wright stated, "Just one more comment. You know I do want our employees to know that we appreciate all that they do and hang in there and better days are ahead."

Larry Sorapuru - Update on suction line and pumps intake for the Lions water treatment plant

Blake Fogleman stated, "The Loan Program Manager, Utilities Director and Design Engineer have a plan to rework the bid package to fit the budget for this project. Modifications to the scope of work will be required to reduce construction costs in accordance with available funds."

Lennix Madere - Update on listing of water leaks and water leak repairs in District III

Verdell Kindrick stated, "As discussed with the Assistant Director of Utilities last Tuesday, there is only one outstanding leak in District III. The E. 23rd Street leak was completed on Monday, March 5, 2018. The hydrant on Melius is currently not leaking and Utilities is working with Public Works to investigate drainage in that area. The E. 26th Street leak in the open lot will be monitored as it is holding water."

Councilwoman Remondet excused herself from the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Julia Remondet - Engineer update on drainage canal permits for District II

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Larry Snyder - Update on Reverse Osmosis pilot program in Water District #1

Blake Fogleman stated, "On February 22, 2018, Utilities staff and CDM Smith consultants met with the LDH Engineering Staff to discuss the proposed pilot study. LDH is currently reviewing the written protocol and will provide a written response about the plan. Once the plan is approved, implementation of the study will be initiated."

Larry Snyder - Update on pending, planning and zoning litigations

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to TABLE item Update on pending, planning and zoning litigations. The motion passed with Councilwoman Remondet and Hotard absent.

There is no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

18-04 An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Parcel B, Sugar Ridge Subdivision into Parcels B-1 and B-2, Sugar Ridge Subdivision, located in the area generally bounded by Cinclair Lp., West Airline Hwy., Belle Terre Blvd., and N. Sugar Ridge Rd., and containing municipal addresses 1830 and 1840 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on August 31, 2017 (PZS-17-1176) (N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. I would like to thank the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute for inviting me to speak on a panel last week in recognition of International Women's Day. I joined Helena Moreno from the Louisiana House of Representatives and St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister to discuss the process of shaping policy and driving progress towards gender equity and female empowerment. It was a well-attended event and one that served as an inspiration on International Women's Day. Thanks again for including me. Thank you to Pastor Donald August and his congregation for hosting a recent town hall meeting at his church. It was a productive meeting and allowed the community to receive updates from their parish leaders. Congratulations to the 8 year old St. John Warriors who recently wrapped up their Bidy Basketball season as the International Bidy Basketball Champions! We are proud of this feat and encourage you to continue working hard. Baseball and softball registration is ongoing through the end of March so we do want to encourage our ball players to switch sports and register to stay busy this summer. Registration is \$15.00 and you can register by visiting the Parks & Recreation Office at 200 REGALA Park Rd in Reserve or online at sjbparish.com. We recently received notification that our acceptance as a Certified Local Government is pending approval from the state Office of Cultural Development and Historic Preservation. This is great news as it will give us the opportunity to access historic preservation grants, funding and special programs from the National Park Society. This recognition is offered to local governments who meet and demonstrate historic preservation requirements and initiatives. Grambling State University President Rick Gallot and his team will be in town visiting our high schools on Thursday to inform students about possibly attending Grambling upon graduation and let them know about some of the programs and scholarships Grambling offers. We will also sit down for lunch along with the Superintendent to discuss current matters and opportunities for St. John. The public is invited to attend the grand opening and ribbon cutting this Saturday, March 17 for the new indoor playground, Buttons and Bows, located in the Old Fred's in the New Wine Shopping Center at 2021 W. Airline Hwy in LaPlace. The grand opening event starts at 9 am with the ribbon cutting taking place at 11 am. Please save the date for the annual Easter in the Park Celebrations next weekend, Saturday, March 24. This year, we are teaming up with Celebration Church and their egg extravaganza on the Eastbank. This will be held on their site at 3400 Hwy. 51, LaPlace in LaPlace from 10 am to 1 pm. The Westbank event, in coordination with the West Bank Civic Association, will be held at the West Bank Complex in Edgard from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children are invited for Easter fun, an egg hunt, visit with the Easter Bunny, food and more at no cost. Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 7 in the New Wine Ministries Parking Lot in LaPlace. This is a much anticipated event and allows residents to clean out their garages and houses and get rid of paints, solvents, tires, batteries, oils and more that can't just be thrown

out to garbage. To view more information on what will and won't be accepted, visit hhmd.com. In the spirit of beautification, the Keep St. John Beautiful Committee with the Lt. Governor's Office will be hosting a Leaders Against Litter Golden Litter Grab Friday March 23 morning. The event kicks off our Spring Beautification efforts. All community leaders and officials should meet at the River Region Chamber of Commerce by 8:30 am on Friday to pick up litter on Belle Terre Boulevard beginning at the River Region Chamber of Commerce and ending at the Post Office. Please also mark your calendar for the Annual Spring Clean Sweep that will take place Saturday, April 21, 2018. We will meet at Thomas F. Daley Memorial Park at 8:30 a.m. on April 21st and clean the Parish until around 11am in which then we will gather back at the Park for food and music. To register, please visit the Parish website at sjbparish.com or call Terri Abadie at 652-9569. We would like to remind the public of restrictions regarding the river levees in St. John Parish in connection with ongoing high water conditions. The River has now reached higher than 11 feet which means: No digging activity and/or subsurface work of any kind is allowed within 1,500 feet of the levee centerline. This includes, but is not limited to pile driving, excavation and trenching. Driving and soliciting on the river levees is prohibited. Inspection teams from the Army Corps of Engineers, Levee Districts and EOC are monitoring the levee system throughout the day, seven days a week. In order to carry out the necessary assessments and operations, there will be zero tolerance for unauthorized parking and driving on the levees. Thank you. The DOTD drainage project on Belle Terre is substantially complete and contractors are working to clean and dress the road for overlay. The asphalt overlay is scheduled to begin next week and should be complete within two months, weather permitting. The I-10 ramp overlay project is also ongoing through May. DOTD will be implementing I-10 Ramp closures this upcoming weekend into next week at Belle Terre. The schedule is as follows: **Sunday March 18 through Monday March 19, 8 pm to 4:30 am**, I-10 west bound off ramp to Belle Terre West bound on ramp from Belle Terre to I-10 west bound **Tuesday March 20 through Thursday March 22, 8 pm to 4:30 am**, I-10 east bound off ramp to Belle Terre East bound on ramp from Belle Terre to I-10 east bound. Please use caution and be on the lookout for signage and detour information. Thank you."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to applaud Rev. August for his town hall meeting it was very informative. I also want to make a comment about our official journal, the L'Observatuer, I mean they put an article in the paper on March 3rd that I was not pleased with and the article, we were talking about the tourist commission, and I think it is poor journalism because in the article they said that the five African American's voted against to take the parish out and the 4 white voted other. This is not a black/white situation. This is about the residents of St. John Parish. It isn't black/white. It is poor journalism. I think it is poor taste and I think they should interview people and follow up and report it but like I have said there are a lot of things that aren't put in the paper, like because of who it is they won't put it in the paper, so I can say a lot of things but I am not going to go there but I even want to contact the owners of the L'Observatuer because it is ridiculous to put stuff like that in the paper and make this parish or council like it is a black/white situation, like if we are doing things for blacks or we are doing things for whites. They have more than that in this parish. We have Hispanics, Asians, Vietnamese and everybody and we I am working as a Councilman I am working for every single individual not just one people."

Councilman Malik stated, "I was very disappointed with that story. I didn't think or at least I hope it wasn't their intent. The conversation that I had with my friend Mr. Snyder and what I said was that we have some serious problems to contend with and I did not agree with them insinuating that we voted on racial lines. First of all this was financial, I think if we pull out we are going to lose all of the money we have in the account. A couple of other reasons, they certainly didn't ask me. There is no racial divide in this. This is economics. There are how many creeds or religions that are on both sides of the fence. I thought it very poorly worried. I don't think it was their intent but they certainly should have reviewed and they sure could have spoken to some of us on this matter. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "First of all I want to thank Rev. August for his town hall meeting and I first brought it up at that meeting and I am glad I had a chance to speak about it and I am very pleased that my fellow councilmen black and white feel the same way. I did speak to the reporter and he told me that was good journalism because he was supposed to report it the way it went down well to me that isn't good because I am pretty sure when they take a vote up in Washington there are a lot more different people that vote there so how many people read these votes went this way and these votes went that way. It doesn't make any sense what he told me and I didn't agree with it and I will be calling the owner of the paper and voice my displeasure with that. There is no place for that in St. John Parish. We are not going to tolerate it. We don't support it and definitely I am glad to see that my fellow council members are on board with this because we are going to take steps to correct this and he might call it good journalism but I am not going to say what I call it because it just isn't good. I also want to give my sympathy to Carol Lennix's family, she passed away."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:34 PM, Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed Councilwoman Remondet and Hotard absent.

/s/Lennix Madere
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary