

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Julien led the Prayer. Sean McGraw, Boy Scout Troop 312, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsels Barry Landry, Kerry Brown and Jeff Perilloux were present.

Bill Hubbard - Proclamation - "National Community Development Week" - April 12-18, 2009

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "I would like to read this into the record. **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has operated since 1982 to provide local governments with the resources required to meet the needs of persons of low-and-moderate-income; and **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has had a significant impact on our local economy through either job creation and retention, public infrastructure improvements and/or improved housing; and **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish and other local governments have clearly demonstrated the capacity to administer the CDBG program to identify, prioritize and resolve pressing local problems, such as housing rehabilitation and relocation, neighborhood centers, job creation and retention, and public infrastructure; **NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL HUBBARD, PARISH PRESIDENT** in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby proclaim the week of April 12 through April 18, 2009 as "**NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK**" in St. John the Baptist Parish and urge all citizens to join us in recognizing the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant program and the important role it plays in our community. I will accept this on their behalf."

Bill Hubbard - Proclamation - "Keep St. John Beautiful Month" - April 2009

Bill Hubbard stated, "This is the next proclamation. **WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana and St. John the Baptist Parish are rich in natural resources and beauty; and **WHEREAS**, we are fortunate to live in a State and Parish so bountifully endowed with natural assets and feel a natural, continuing responsibility for preserving our environment by keeping it clean, healthy, and beautiful; and **WHEREAS**, I believe that every citizen should contribute to keeping his or her environment clean and beautiful, and should work together to preserve the natural beauty of his or her surroundings; and **WHEREAS**, Keep St. John Beautiful is asking all citizens to become involved in the Parishwide anti-litter efforts through their participation in the local clean up event Saturday, April 25, 2009; **NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL HUBBARD, PARISH PRESIDENT** in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2009 as "Keep St. John Beautiful Month and ask all citizens, civic organizations, schools, government agencies and other organizations to do their share not only during Keep St. John Beautiful Month but, throughout the year. That concludes my proclamations."

President's Remarks

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "I would like to remind everybody that Saturday, April 4th is Election Day. Not only do we have a judge's election on the ballot, we also have five (5) propositions. I just want to remind all the people to go out and vote. Also at the last council meeting we had a little discussion on the railroad crossing in Edgard. I want to let everybody know that it has been taken care of on Hwy. 640 in Edgard. We have some photographs to show everybody. The railroad did take care of that and we are very thankful to the railroad company."

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes March 10, 2009, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes March 10, 2009, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

09-07 An ordinance requesting a re-subdivision of Lot Q along W. 13th Street into Lots 1 thru 21, located in Section 25, T-12-S, R-18-E, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (Leo Robinson - PZS-09-002) (B. Hubbard)

09-08 An ordinance requesting the re-zoning of Parcel D-5 of The Glade Subdivision from the current zone of R-1 to C-3 situated in Section 27, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-09-004) (B. Hubbard)

- 09-09** An ordinance amending ordinance 08-65 relative to the annual operating budgets of the St. John the Baptist Sales Tax District, Public Works, Wastewater, LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department, Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, West bank Volunteer Fire Department, Communications District, Airport, and Public Safety for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (B. Hubbard)
- 09-10** An ordinance amending ordinance 08-66 relative to the annual operating budget of the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (B. Hubbard)
- 09-11** An ordinance amending ordinance 08-64 relative to the annual operating budget of the St. John the Baptist Economic Development for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (B. Hubbard)
- 09-12** An ordinance amending ordinance 08-63 relative to the annual operating budget of the St. John the Baptist Parish Water Distribution System, Recreation, Health Unit, Solid Waste, Ambulance, ARC Maintenance, Juvenile Detention, Criminal Court, Convention Center, Council on Aging, Road Lighting, Mosquito Control, Parishwide Sewerage Construction, Garyville Volunteer Fire Department and Office of Fire Services for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008. (B. Hubbard)
- 09-13** An ordinance to amend Exhibit "B" of Ordinance MM-67 to replace: **10 years of service to 15 years, 15 days** with: **7 years of service to 15 years, 15 days** in accordance with the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana eligibility provisions. (B. Hubbard)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:00 we had our finance meeting and I ask for a motion to approve the meeting."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the one proposal received from Riverlands Insurance Agency in the amount of \$821,929.00 for the parish's property, general liability and casualty insurance under advisement, approved to remove from the agenda (advertise for the lease of excess property at the West Bank Recreation Park for agricultural purposes), granted change order #3 in the amount of \$14,987.50 for metal roof on new Animal Shelter, granted administration authorization to advertise for bids for entire airfield lighting system replacement at Airport, granted administration authorization to seek requests for qualifications for runway extension, widening, and safety improvements at Airport, granted change order #1 in the amount of \$104,832.00 for the Ruddock Well treatment system, granted a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Ruddock Well treatment system, and granted administration authorization to amend the Generator Contract to add more generators. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters.

Dale Wolfe - Overlay of streets

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I need an update from administration."

Chuck Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, "I have been selected to start taking a look at all the roads that they have been overlaying and such. You know this Mr. Wolfe because I did contact you during the week. The present streets that have been completed right now are W. 13th Street, E. 7th Street, E. 9th Street. E. 26th is not complete at this time because they are doing the back half of it and I am going to do the entire street. We are only on the back half of that particular street. I went over there and looked at it. I think that it needed to be soil cemented so I am correcting the base on that and then we are going to grind up the front half of that street and overlay the entire street. In LaPlace we have Burt Street, LaPlace Park Roads, E. & W. Maple Loops and Lilac Street. Those are the streets that have been done up to including those right now, but there are other streets of course on the entire list."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Chuck can you answer me what is taking so long? It has been two (2) weeks since E. 26th Street was started up until this point it is still as it was the first day. Could you explain to me why?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "E. 26th Street was actually ground up last week that is when they brought the pulverization.."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "No tomorrow will make two (2) weeks."

Chuck Savoie stated, "It might be two (2) weeks since they have gone out there. I know that when I went out there they were doing the pulverization last week. That is what I saw when I went out there. Then they came back and I requested that they soil cement that back portion and they didn't know that they were going to have to pulverize the front half of the street. Remember that is when I called you last week and I talked to you about it and I said oh no. I went look at it and went back to the contractor and told him that he will have to pulverize the front half of the street because it is going to put it too high. So I am asking him to pulverize the front half of the street and bring it back down so it will be more in line with all the drive-ways."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Chuck I am so sorry that you have to be the scape-goat. I want to know again and maybe I need someone from administration to answer my question, because I don't want to put you in this position. I don't want you to have to defend administration. It has been two (2) weeks tomorrow that they started on the street, pulled the equipment off and went somewhere else. We have what we call retaliation as far as I am concerned."

Bill Hubbard asked, "So specifically Mr. Wolfe would you like me to address that?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Yes indeed I would love for you to. That is who I wanted up here at first."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I disagree that it is retaliation for anything. Soil cement is part of a base process. E. 26th Street the back part needs a firmer base than just milling the asphalt and then overlaying it. It takes more work. They are actually going to put cement into the existing soil. Why it is taking two (2) weeks. I couldn't answer that question. Is that part of the process?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "Yes that is part of the process. The way they are working is that they are coming in and pulverizing all of the streets and some of them required some asphalt and some of them they had to bring in a soil cement crew to come back in and do the base work."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Chuck, I have been here a long time. This is the first time I ever saw where it takes two (2) weeks to do what you say they are doing. I don't appreciate it. You cannot cover it up. It doesn't take two (2) weeks. You can laugh Bill..."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I am laughing Mr. Wolfe because to say that it is retaliation is untrue. Mr. Savoie has been out there. He is very close with the asphalt crew. I don't go out there everyday to see what they are doing but I do know a little bit about construction. When you place cement in the soil that is a longer process..."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "How long? You can't answer that."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I can't answer that."

Chuck Savoie stated, "I can answer that. It takes normally if you come in and you incorporate the cement it takes, they have got to wait a certain amount of time after they incorporate the cement. You have to wait 24 hours before you can come back. You will have to cut it again. Then they wet it down and they cut it again. They do this twice. Then they come back again. I would say normally it would take about 4-5 days to soil cement the back half of that street. Though they may go do something else and then come back to it."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "What would you call two (2) weeks?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "Well if they were continually working on it. They are not continually working on that street. I think that is where you are headed. You want to know why they are not continually working on that street. I can't answer that question because I don't know. The contractor comes in and does a certain section then he brings this crew out and comes back with another crew. I don't know if I am answering what you..."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Nope and I am really getting upset with all the stuff that is going on. Chuck it doesn't take two weeks."

Chuck Savoie stated, "I agree with you that it doesn't take two weeks, but he is not working..."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "All of the streets that have been overlaid

didn't take four (4) days. All of the streets, so it doesn't make sense to try and get up here and sugar coat it because there is no such thing as sugar coating it. Who is the inspector on the job?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "I check the job two (2) days a week. I am not the daily inspector on the project."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "Who is the inspector?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "I think Mr. Howard is doing some inspections, making trips out there, but to say that he is out there all the time with them I don't know."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Nope. I don't see anybody out there. How thick is the asphalt they are putting down?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "Two (2) inches."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Well I want that tested and come back to this council and tell exactly how thick it is because I don't think it is two (2) inches. How thick it is..."

Chuck Savoie stated, "We can run core samples and check it to see the depth."

Bill Hubbard asked, "Would the council like to have full time inspection on the street overlays?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I don't expect anybody to answer. I want it in my division. I could care less what the other council feels. They aren't going to say anything. Do you ever remember them saying anything or helping division A? I want an inspector. I could care less whoever doesn't want it. I want it. It is my division. It is Charles's district. I want it. Don't play that game with me, if the council wants. I want it. It is my division and I expect to have it."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I am just trying to do the best we can..."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "No you aren't trying to do the best when you ask what the council wants. I want it in my division."

Bill Hubbard stated, "In years pass before I was even here..."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I want it in my division. Today, not years pass, today."

Bill Hubbard asked, "Can you provide that for us Chuck? Just get an inspector that would be fine. We will do what we have to do to make that happen. That is not a big deal and I think it is justified and warranted, but we can go back and core it after, just to make sure that we have the two (2) inches that is standard."

Councilman Julien stated, "I have some constituents that asked how far down are they milling?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "We are generally milling down whatever we need. Some of those streets are too high. They have been asphalted and

overlaid over the years and they are way above some of the driveways. I go out there and I look at it and try to bring it down to remove some of that and bring it to a level that is equal to the driveways and such. So when you say how low it can be anywhere from two (2) to a maximum of four (4) inches."

Councilman Julien stated, "Because I saw some, I had a chance to speak to one of the guys that was out there. He said that they were going down two (2) inches and it was still going to create a situation where the water would run on the resident's property. So I was wondering if we could maybe cut down a little lower to see if we can alleviate that so that it wouldn't run onto their property."

Chuck Savoie stated, "The key is that you don't want to get down so low that we start tearing up a good base. If it has a good base, I don't want to tear up a good base if I don't have to."

Councilman Julien asked, "So can you look into it?"

Chuck Savoie stated, "Yes sir I can."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Mr. Smith, I don't want anybody to feel as though I am knocking having their streets overlaid. I understand and respect each and every council member that needs overlaying in their districts. We have a priority list. I called the media today and asked them to go down the streets that I am talking about and to compare them with the streets that have been overlaid and you will see whereby we did not use priority. Those three (3) streets were supposed to be overlaid last year, last year. When I spoke to some of the workers on the job, they said they were going to do half of E. 26th Street. They said the parish really doesn't have any money. Those three (3) streets had money dedicated and earmarked to do those three (3) streets to do the complete street, not half of the street, the complete street. What makes me very upset is that we don't have communication. If you go against administration you don't hear from them. That is good too. They don't make me live and they don't stop me from living and they surely aren't going to make me live bad. Charles Julien that is his district, I yield to him. I want every person in Division A to stand up for their district and to fight for it. To fight for the people of Division A. If we don't, shame on us and if we don't I am not perfect but I am going to pull some cover off of some folks. I am tired of playing games."

Dale Wolfe - Discussion concerning the Utility Board

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I understand that Bill you attended the last Utility Board meeting. I understand that there was good communication between administration and the board members. So I have nothing to say and I feel like that was needed and accomplished. Thank you."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Bill Hubbard - R09-03 - A Resolution declaring April 12-18, 2009
"National Community Development Week"**

Pat McTopy stated, *"This resolution has been requested by the Community Development Block Grant Organization, essentially to assist them in their efforts to obtain funds at the federal level which ultimately filter down to the local level. Mr. Hubbard earlier introduced a proclamation and we are also going to get with the media and establish press releases. We are going to contact our congressional delegation to explain the importance of the program to the community."*

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R09-03 - **WHEREAS**, the week of April 12 - April 18, 2009 has been designated as National Community Development Week. St. John the Baptist Parish is and has been a participant in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which funds public infrastructure, economic development, and housing programs in this community, and; **WHEREAS**, in this community and communities throughout the nation, thirty five years of Community Development Block Grant Program funding has developed a strong relationship between this local government and its residents, principally those of low-to-moderate income, and; **WHEREAS**, this community recognizes that the Community Development Block Grant Program is a partnership of federal, state, and local government and community and business efforts, and that the services funded by the CDBG Program relies heavily on the dedication and good will of our combined efforts, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that during *National Community Development Week 2009*, this community will give special thanks and recognition to all participants whose hard work and devotion to the neighborhoods and their low- and moderate-income residents help ensure the quality and effectiveness of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this community, along with the service providers and others whose names are appended to this resolution, hereby petition the U.S. Congress and Administration to recognize the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the Community Development Block Grant Program, and of its vital importance to the community and to the people who live in its lower income neighborhoods, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the appropriate elected and appointed officials of the federal government and that this community's name be added to the roll of those committed to the preservation and full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program and maintenance of its essential features over the course of the next session of Congress. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat McTopy - R09-04 - A Resolution authorizing an application for a grant from the Delta Regional Authority (carry over from prior Finance meeting)

Pat McTopy stated, *"This would authorize the parish to submit a pre-application and application for grants with the Delta Regional Authority for sewer improvements along Airport Road, which we hope would ultimately allow the businesses along the road the Airport, the National Guard Readiness Center and the War of Veteran's Home all to tie into the parish sewer system."*

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve R09-04 - A resolution authorizing an application for a grant from the Delta Regional Authority **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish needs to improve sewerage treatment in the Airport Road area to serve a growing number of public facilities and private industries, and; **WHEREAS**, the Delta Regional Authority provides funding assistance for projects that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate economic growth, and; **WHEREAS**, Delta Regional Authority requires an authorizing resolution as part of its pre-application process, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute any and all documents in connection with a pre-application and application to the Delta Regional Authority for construction of wastewater treatment improvements to serve the Airport Road area. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Wolfe you have an item you need to be added to the agenda for new business. I think we need to vote to put it on the agenda."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Yes. I just want to put the public and administration on notice that I intend to override Planning and Zoning. I want that on the agenda for the next meeting."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to place on the agenda for this meeting and to be voted on at the next meeting to - Override the decision of Planning and Zoning and grant a trailer placement to Mr. Dwayne Stemley - 347 Fir Street - LaPlace, LA. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Cheryl Millet).

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Yesterday evening we were invited to a meeting with the West Bank Civic Association to take about the upcoming millage tax. The Association and their members feel as though we aren't getting very much on the West Bank in terms of those revenues if it were to pass. We had a lengthy discussion and a good discussion. I would like to go on record saying that I am going to be opposing that millage openly. I will get on the phone and call and make sure that the people of Division A know what is going on. I feel as though when we are talking about a tax or a millage, we as a council should be together. We as a council should meet in our districts and divisions with the people to explain to them exactly what is taking place. On a piece of literature I received, it said that the council endorsed the upcoming millage tax. The council endorsed. I don't know what they are talking about. I don't know who put it in the paper. It is not so. No one has ever asked me if I endorsed it or if I am in favor or against it. I don't appreciate my name being used. When you say the council, you are saying all nine (9) members of the council. I am only one (1) member and this one (1) member is not a part of the council approving that. I am opposed to it. I will get out and let folks know exactly what is going on, where the money is going to be spent. It is such a gray area. It is such a broad area that most of those monies can be spent however, whenever it deem necessary. It gives the parish president full authority, blank check, to spend the money however. For example, recreation, they are talking about x number of dollars for Division A & B. If all the money is spent in Division A, then what is going to happen to Division B? The article says that we are out of

funds and that we don't have any money. I think if you are going to put something on the ballot, you should specify what you are going to do with it and where it is going to be spent exactly. So that if it passes that money can't go anywhere else. It has to be spent on that particular project. You are talking about a million to build the recreation gymnasium; it has to go on that, nothing else. But again I am going to ask the people of Division A and the people that believe in me to come out in full force against it. Thank you."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I have a problem with what this says. I don't know if you all have a booklet like this. I got one last night at the same meeting Dale and I were at. It mentions about the gyms and how much we are going to be spending on the gyms. It doesn't say exactly what is going to be spent for recreation over here or over there. I think they need to divide these two things. Secondly, when I saw the deal for administration, they call it the judicial building in this book, I don't know if you have seen the complete picture of this thing, upstairs and downstairs, just that there can eat up that amount of money. They talk about renovation for the Edgard Courthouse too, but when you look at the building upstairs, there are three (3) courtrooms, what are we up to? Somebody tell me what we are up to. Three (3) courtrooms tell me, if you build it they will come. Well I am looking at if you build it you are going to try and move the parish seat. I am serious about that. Every indication of this building leads to that. They have things in this building that are not in the parish seat that you all need to look. I cannot support this. Let me tell you there is no way in the world that a sub-office is supposed to be bigger than a main office. They have space in here that we don't have over the river. If you check the records, everybody in government should be in the parish seat and I will leave it like that."

Councilman Julien stated, "I am going on record tonight going against the bond. Initially I had spoken to administration and thought that I could support it. After having heard from some of my constituents, I cannot support the bond. It has to do with contracts. The way the money is spent in certain areas. So I too cannot go in support of the bond."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I would like to welcome Troop 312 to your citizenship merit badge that you are working on. You have seen council in action. How business and government operates in the parish at a local level. I am glad you are here to witness as part of your requirements. I would also like to congratulate Zachary Revol; he was the young man who notified the family in River Forest that their house was on fire. He was one of 250 young Louisiana hero's nominated and he has been chosen one of eight by LPB.com to receive that award so I would like to congratulate him on that honor."

Councilman Lee stated, "In ending, hopefully this will end the endorsements. I totally respect my fellow council members for taking their position and I am sure they will grant me the same request. I think that this administration and council members and governing body did a good job of putting together what I call a laundry list. It is five (5) different bond resolutions. I plan to support all five (5) of them, including those that will benefit the West Bank. It will benefit Garyville, Reserve, LaPlace and the entire parish, but what I really want to do here is I am going to vote for them all. I support them all. I ask the constituency to read them, make up your mind because there

are five individual bond resolutions. If you are against one of them, vote against it. If you are truly against all five once you have read them and tried to understand them or understood them, then vote against all five, but this councilman will be voting in favor of all five of the resolutions. I think they are well thought out. I think that it is an issue that we do not have a dedicated funding source for some of these items. This is our opportunity to renew a bond issue without any additional taxes on the people and to provide some services for the parish."

Councilman Smith stated, "First of all I would like to apologize to the West Bank Civic Association because I was invited to your meeting but I had a prior engagement and I just couldn't break that prior engagement. I did get some feed back and phone calls from some of you constituents today that I spoke to. I want to say this. I have to kind of hit on what Mr. Lee said. There are five proposals. Again if you don't want to vote for recreation, don't vote for it. There are some things in there that have to do with levees and streets and sewerage and water that we need that money for. So some of those issues I have already cast my vote. I will tell you I voted already for all five of them before we got here, because I will be out of town on the weekend when it is voting time. It is truly up to you. It is your decision. I wish that I would have been contacted earlier or prior to a couple of days ago so that maybe I could have understood or heard your concerns or complaints and either found a way to work through them or get more clarity to you on the bond issues. If there is anything that I can do to clear it up, everybody should have my phone number, feel free to call me. I just wanted to let you know where I stand. I don't stand behind a curtain or anything. I am going to tell you where I am at on things and on issues. Again I want to thank you for inviting me to your meeting."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I am a little disappointed that some of the council members are going against this proposition or all five of the propositions from what it sounds like. Whenever the administration puts together a package and we say that we have the endorsements, back when this came to a vote of the council, it was a unanimous vote. Maybe I misunderstood a vote yes for an endorsement. I will take full responsibility for that. To the West Bank Civic Association, I wish I would have been invited to that meeting last night. Last week I was invited and I thought we had good dialogue. It is straight talk. That is the way I am. You all know I don't sugar coat anything and sometimes the truth is hard to take, but whatever comes out of my mouth is always the truth. We had some good straight talk. I understand that some council members feel different ways. I do understand the sentiments of the West Bank just like Reserve and Garyville when I go out there for different town meetings. It seems that they feel like they have always been left out. I want to change that. I want to change that to the best of my ability. To say that there is too much money being spent on the East Bank versus the West Bank, I don't buy into that. That just isn't true. Proposition one for example is all about water quantity and quality for our parish that includes an expansion to the Edgard Water Treatment Plant. We need that. Dale and Haston you know we need that. We have been having a pump in the Mississippi River ever since I have been in office because of the Corp. of Engineers. Chuck Savoie can tell you that. We have been working to get this done. We need the money to help the people out on the West Bank and the entire parish really. The courthouse expansion, you know the courthouse on the West Bank has not

been touched since 1967 or 1968 when it was built. We need a renovation. I understand the passion of Judge Jasmine not wanting to move the parish seat. I have no intention, if this council decides that they want to move the county seat from Edgard to LaPlace or Reserve, I am going to veto that. That will be my first veto. I have no intention of doing that, but the East Bank if you come to visit my administration we have recreation in trailers. We have public works, Clifford Bailey's Department, in trailers. We have a little courthouse over here in Cambridge that used to be a Lion's Hall. The criminals walk in and sit side by side with the deputies. It is sort of embarrassing to have that. We do need a new administration/government building on the East Bank. I understand that some people on the West Bank don't want it. Well guess what? We have grown. We are not a 15,000 population anymore. We are pretty close to 50,000 people. We need that. Levees and drainage, that proposition, proposition three, do we have canals on the West Bank? Last time I checked we had spent about \$700,000.00 in the last six months digging ditches over there. I can look at those numbers. I can show you that. Yes the West Bank needs drainage work. It is not just an East Bank proposition or division A. If we want to call it division A or division B, division A has canals and ditches in it that need to be dug. I mean to vote against this specific tax, it is not right for the people that you represent. Just remember these are not new taxes. A vote yes doesn't mean you pay more taxes. It's just means a renewal. We rolled back taxes last August. So it is really a good deal for the parish. We need it. Now look proposition four is all about Airline Hwy traffic. Maybe some people from the West Bank or other parts of the community don't travel Airline Hwy, but guess what? I do and I would say that 90% of the citizens of St. John Parish travel Airline Hwy and they know we have traffic problems. That is an East Bank deal, unless you are coming from the West Bank to go to Wal-Mart, then it is a West Bank deal. Proposition five, recreation, you want to talk about a gymnasium, it doesn't matter if it is on the East Bank or the West Bank. Our kids need a gymnasium. I would like to finish the renovations, Phase 1 for the West Bank Recreation Complex. That is something that we need. Help me to help the people. You want to go against this? Man that is on you, but I am going to tell you what, when these propositions pass, it is going to be good for the community. No matter where you live. It is going to be good for the parish. I want what is good for the parish. Division A or Division B. I represent all of the people, not just some of the people."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Yes, I don't have a problem with office buildings over here or to build a courtroom for civil matters, but three courtrooms, all that extra space? Tell me what that leads to? Why did they put them on there? They didn't tell me nothing about this. I done told them this since the beginning. I sure wouldn't be doing this in a meeting two weeks before an election. I wouldn't do that type of thing. I done told them that at the beginning I didn't go with it. I just saw this. I don't know if you all saw it. I didn't know anything about three courtrooms, maybe you all knew something about it. I don't know about it. If anybody in here knew about it, I would like to know about it and why the three courtrooms. It has to be to try to move the parish seat. We have a problem with that over there. I am going to tell you, the people fought hard for that to stay over there. I have no regret's because there are people that I represent on this side of the river. I would love to see office space on this side. I am not knocking the people that. There are a lot of offices here now some people should

be working on the other side. You don't hear us knocking or hollering about that. We try and work together as a whole unit, but we are not going to get stripped. We are not going to stand by and let you run an election and strip us and say it isn't going to happen. Like I said before, they say build it and they will come. You have got all the votes that you need. You can veto. This council can override any veto. Six votes will override you any day of the week."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I said that because I have no interest in moving the county seat. I want to let you all know right now, every now and then Dale and I, or you and I will have a disagreement or Charles and I but I respect you guys. The plans have not even been designed. For people to run around the community and say there are three courtrooms that are going to be there. It is conceptual plan. The new drawings have a council chambers and one courtroom. That is the new drawings. I can't spend half a million dollars on designing a set of plans when I don't know if we are going to get the money or not. It is all conceptual. As far as moving the county seat, it isn't going to happen."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Bill when I said that, I do believe what you say when I am talking to you. I had no trouble when we first talked about the tax. I have a problem with it now. I didn't have a problem with it then. I would have told you at the beginning if I had a problem with it."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Yes but you know, I think there has been some information out there that just hasn't been proper."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Well the only information that I got was this."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I am sorry that you feel that way. It is not my intention to move the county seat, even though a lot of people would like to see that happen. I am not in favor of that."

Councilman Lewis stated, "No, I don't think a lot of people would like to see that happen."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Oh on the East Bank they would Mr. Haston."

Councilman Julien stated, "We talk about and I am saying right now Bill as you are leaving, Dale said it earlier, sometimes when we bump heads that is what you do. You hit the door. You leave. So it is hard to have open dialogue and discussion."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I am not walking away. I am just walking by the door. We are not bumping heads. I mean look it is okay for all of us to have different opinions. This is democracy. This is democracy at work. It truly is. It is okay that you don't want to get your ditches dug in your area and you don't want a gymnasium for the kids in the parish. I do and it is okay that we have different opinions."

Councilman Julien stated, "I want my ditches dug. I want to have recreation. We said that we have a civic center when they said they would build it so that we could use it. Basically, we paid for something that we really don't get to use. As far as the ditches being

dug, of course we want our ditches dug, but who is going to dig our ditches? Of course we want the traffic alleviated on Airline Hwy from all the people that are coming into our communities taking our jobs. Our people don't even get the jobs. Of course we want that alleviation but we also want what they are talking about is fairness. That is the bottom line. In these particular areas Reserve, Garyville and the West Bank, as you said earlier. These people, our people feel like they have been left out and the bottom line is that I could take you today to look at some areas that are falling down with trash all over. We have talked about it and you say well look we can't deal with that but these are where people live. Dale is always saying these are people and that is what we have to take into consideration, be it business or whatever is going on, we have to take that into consideration."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I feel you Charles. I really do. You know you said earlier about contracts and who gets this and who gets that. You know once an architect or engineer designs it, it is really public bid when you are dealing with these kinds of dollars. It really is public bid. I feel you."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "You know what really upsets me about this whole ordeal. We talk about taxes. We talk about what we are going to do. I am going to just give one simple example when we talk about contractors. We are all sitting up here. Bill has the right, we give him that right and we shouldn't. According to the charter, the home rule charter, we are supposed to approve all contracts. You know what and we have brought this up before, no one said a thing. It is not right that Bill or Hill or anybody else that is parish president has the right to say you, you or you I am going to give you a 300 million dollar contract. That is not right. This council is supposed to approve all contracts. So when you tell me about what we are going to vote on and what we are going to do and how we are going to do it, I can't believe it. There is living proof that we sit here and allow administration to do whatever he deems necessary to do when it comes to contracts. Some contracts they bring before this council. The majority of the contracts, Bill chooses whoever he wants to, whoever he wants to and I dare anybody here tonight to stand up and defend that."

Bill Hubbard stated, "I will stand up and defend that."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Right is right and wrong is wrong. He doesn't have the authority to give contracts. This council and only this council has the authority to give contracts. We sit there like we don't understand what is going on, like we are in space. It is alright. He gives it to whoever he wants to. We don't say a thing."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I would like to go into executive session before we close the meeting. It is concerning something that we have in court. It has to do with the ferry."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Cheryl Millet - Council matters

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Negotiations

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

Any and all pending legal matters.

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:25 PM, Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary