

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
**CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
**VICE CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX**

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<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Marvin Perrilloux and Ranney Wilson

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

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr. was present.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Parish President's Day of Recognition for National Service**

The proclamation for the Parish President's Day of Recognition for National Service was read.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Pastor Donald August - Citizen of the Year**

Natalie Robottom presented Pastor Donald August with the Citizen of the Year Award for his services to the community.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April as Keep St. John Beautiful Month**

The proclamation for April as Keep St. John Beautiful Month was read.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes - March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Councilman Snyder - Permit Approval - Block Party - 4-5-15 from 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Councilwoman Millet - Appointment of Dr. Fred DeFrancesch, Jr. to the Health Care Advisory Board; Councilman Gauff - Appointment of Dr. Reginald Ross to the Health Care Advisory Board; River Region Chamber of Commerce - Appointment of Gail Watts to the Coastal Zone Committee; Councilman Perrilloux - Re-appointment of Rodney Nicholas to the River Parishes Tourist Commission

Councilman Snyder stated, "I did have someone that I wanted to put on the Health Care Advisory Board. If we are going to use these names I don't have a problem with that. If we need to discuss it tonight we can

discuss it and if I can or need to put it on the agenda I can do that tonight also."

Councilman Wright stated, "You can actually just send an email to the Council Secretary and we can put it on the next meeting. What do we have three appointments left?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think and I am not sure if you saw it Mr. Snyder there was some communications going on this was just as I heard about it I sent in an email, I think Mrs. Millet did the same. I think it needs to be ratified among all of us. These may not be the final appointments these are suggestions. I threw that out there as an appointee I think Mrs. Millet did the same. If we all did that we may have too many so what I am saying is that your suggestion is just as good as any of ours and we are going to have to vote on them to get this board together and discuss it and move forward from there. I think the council will welcome any suggestions and then we will come together and make a decision on it."

Councilman Wright stated, "Also for clarity once they are voted on tonight they are ratified so we would only have three appointments left."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I sent one in when we first started talking about the board. I sent a suggestion in so if it is okay fine if you approve it but it is something that we all have an opinion on and we put this board together."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I would like to ask legal counsel if there is any way that we can separate these two items from the consent agenda and put them on the regular agenda so that we can talk about it tonight. I mean as far as taking any action on it rather than making the consent agenda the place to make the appointments and in the email I sent out I said I might have jumped the gun by saying I want to do this we need to all agree on the five appointments but there is strong criteria necessary in the appointments so I want to make sure that we follow the guidelines on this Health Advisory Board and I don't want to take all of the thunder but I would like to have an appointment, one that we can all agree on because I think it is something that St. John really needs and we all should have input on the five that are discussed and my personal opinion would be that I would take these two names and throw them in the pool so that we can come back and name all five at the same time is my suggestion. This would be appointing them to the board. So if we can just pull these two names out and add them to our pool that is what I am talking about however I want to make sure that we put this on the agenda for our next meeting so that we can discuss this in our regular meeting or if there are names that need to be put up so we can come with a consensus for our next meeting so we can get this board operating."

Councilman Wright stated, "So we are removing items 3 and 4 from the consent agenda."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Councilman Snyder - Permit Approval - Block Party - 4-5-15 from 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM; ~~Councilwoman~~

~~Millet - Appointment of Dr. Fred DeFrancesch, Jr. to the Health Care Advisory Board; Councilman Gauff - Appointment of Dr. Reginald Ross to the Health Care Advisory Board;~~ River Region Chamber of Commerce - Appointment of Gail Watts to the Coastal Zone Committee; Councilman Perrilloux - Re-appointment of Rodney Nicholas to the River Parishes Tourist Commission. The motion passed with Councilmen Perrilloux and Wilson absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**15-09** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Ordinance 14-40, by renumbering Section 26-29, as follows: Sec. 26-28.1 Emergency Abatement of Weeds by Parish. (N. Robottom)

Angelic Keller stated, *"This ordinance serves to change the code numbering of an existing ordinance, and administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-09. The motion passed with Councilmen Perrilloux and Wilson absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilmen Perrilloux and Wilson absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 10-13-14) Discussion Lions Water Plant Phase VIII design**

Councilman Snyder stated, *"We are going to carry this one over but since I have the floor at our last meeting we discussed the water rates and the CPI's and I was just wondering did we ever look into it any deeper and does the administration have any thoughts on how we can proceed forward or are you just waiting for us to do something as the council with the water rates that are going up every year by the CPI a month."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I think Ms. Hotard referenced the fact that this was done in 2009 if you wanted to discuss with her Mr. Snyder what went into that however we can also bring it to the water infrastructure meeting we did pull the CPI we have copies of the ordinances that were approved in 2009 instituting CPI's and then we also have the document that specifies CPI for each one of the services which is water, wastewater and garbage. So if you don't mind we will bring all of that with us to the meeting on Thursday where we are discussing water and give it to you then and if Ms. Hotard wants to discuss further with you all since she was here when that ordinance was passed she may have a little bit more information on that because I wasn't here."*

Kerry Watkins, Recreation Director, stated, *"I just want to say*

*congratulations to our 8 year old biddy basketball all-star team on their successful season and our 12 year old all-star warriors for finishing runner up in the international championship recently played at the Smoothie King Center. I want to say good luck to our 9-10 year old all-star team as they travel to Madisonville this weekend to compete in nationals we wish them the best of luck. We also want to acknowledge Kyle Albert, DaJuan Damons, Jr., Jauntrell Williams and the 11-12 year old all-star team for being selected as all Americans. Congratulations to all of our all-star teams and for a wonderful season. Baseball and softball registration for the youth ages 5-14 has been extended until April 10<sup>th</sup>, please register at the parks office 200 REGALA Park Road in Reserve or by contacting the department at 985-652-9569. Coaches are needed. Show your support for the St. John Recreation Department as the St. John Parish Employees take on the St. John Sheriff's office for some friendly basketball competition at the REGALA Gym this Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Cash donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds will go towards youth sponsorships and to help to offset the cost of registration fees. The event will also feature a special appearance by NFL football player Joe Horn please come out to show your support for our Recreation Program."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Are we going to try to start an adult league softball this year?"*

*Kerry Watkins stated, "Yes we will in conjunction with girls' softball."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Girls softball?"*

*Kerry Watkins stated, "Yes as well that is with the softball and baseball registration."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "So the registration is going on right now for that?"*

*Kerry Watkins stated, "We are in the middle of registration now for girls' softball and baseball and with that being said in conjunction with the reduced fees with my continued efforts in getting more participation I just ask that you consider my staff and that coordinator position to be able to help create programs for all of these opportunities. We are going to increase the numbers."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "What age group are the girls?"*

*Kerry Watkins stated, "Ages 5-14 so I will be having the elementary schools as well."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Have we had any communication with the elementary schools and recruits and stuff like that?"*

*Kerry Watkins stated, "Yes they all agree I am talking to the coaches now their season is almost over and they will be transferring in from the elementary schools Garyville Magnet, LaPlace Elementary and ESJ Elementary so we are taking all of those girls in and still partnering with St. James Parish and we are still getting participation and a lot of sign-ups."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Could you be so kind to let the public know via this meeting what registration you mentioned softball for men and women or?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "It is boy's baseball and girls softball."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Boy's baseball and girls softball that is not adults."

Kerry Watkins stated, "No that is not adults. The adult league would be completely separate from this."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "But we are also doing that as well?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "We are in the process of creating that as well."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "We haven't gotten that together yet? We are working on it? What I am trying to ask you is right now we are registering boys' and girls' softball and that is it for right now and we are trying to get more programs to involve the adults in those type of things but we are not there yet?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "Right we are in conversations with a lot of leagues and a lot of programs and we are in the process of putting all of those together."

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 3-10-15) Update on the Homer Joseph Center**

Mike Coburn stated, "The educational programs at the Homer Joseph Center are ongoing and the walls have not been an issue so far. The days of operation are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 2:30 - 7:30 p.m. and daily participation is steady. The schedule is posted on the parish website, the Government Access Channel and is available at the Health and Human Services Office. The various educational opportunities include: General Computer Lab access, Physical Fitness-Healthy Nutrition classes, Etiquette classes, Focus activities, Computer Education, and Homework Assistance. Homework Assistance is also offered on Mondays from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m."

Councilman Madere stated, "All of those things that you mentioned are outstanding and tremendous that we have that in the area and I am 100% behind that but the issue from the very beginning when I started this was concerning the walls some walls still remain an issue with all of these programs and how successful they have been and how well organized it is that is an indication of a good program and something that is going on good in the community and my entire intention still remains that if the building belongs to us I don't want the walls to be sufficient. I want them to be excellent just like the programs that we are putting in there. We passed an ordinance concerning that. We also have a line item as far as money is concerned. Now the only thing I need to know about or am concerned about is when will we see the walls meet the standards of all the programs and comments that you just made that are equal to the outstanding programs that are going on inside that building? We do have an ordinance and a line item for the money to be spent."

Mike Coburn stated, "I will be perfectly honest with you Mr. Madere I

have not seen the walls. I will make a trip out there to look at it myself."

Councilman Madere stated, "When you do I would like to take that trip with you."

Mike Coburn stated, "I would be more than honored to have you with me that isn't a problem at all."

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 3-10-15) Planning and Zoning - Boarding and securing of abandoned houses and vehicles**

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to express some concern about these two items and one is I rode through the parish and one building is really bothering me because this one is located on 236 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street that particular building was written up on the 12/23 and that is the same street that the state is going to be naming after Martin Luther King and the state is in the process now of cleaning both of the canals on both sides that leads up to us naming this street after Martin Luther King in fact I had Mr. Randall Gaines out there last week and he is going to have the state do an assessment of that Highway because he know what is needed and if we are going to name this street after someone that great than it should look nice and pristine. Now this building I know we cannot tear it down yet and that we have to go through all of that process but I think it has been written up since before Christmas and it has not been boarded or secured and that is my concern. I don't know where the hang up is at with the paperwork so if we can maybe find out what is going on with that and also I had two individuals that asked for speed bumps and they turned them into Planning and Zoning and haven't heard anything back concerning the speed bump. I know that wasn't on the agenda but it is something that I want you to look into we don't have to talk about it tonight the resident was told that they lost his paperwork and now they have to go back and do it all over again and the guy is kind of reluctant to go back to the people to ask them to sign it again so that was one of my concerns too but the building what I mean about the boarding and securing process I don't know if you can speak on that it may be Mr. Nunes because I think Public Works actually does the boarding and securing right?"

Angelic Keller stated, "Right but if it didn't go through our process yet possibly that may be the cause we are behind months in code enforcement and that is a result of not having enough staffing at work for whatever reason if it is sick leave or whatever but we have had an issue with staffing. We have had temporary help over the last couple of months but we are in the process of catching up so that may be one of the reasons why it was maybe put in the system but not processed yet through the system by the assistants."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand exactly what you are saying because I am aware of the fact that you had someone that retired and you have someone that is sick but if there is a way possible through yourself or Mr. Nunes that building on E. 22<sup>nd</sup> that we are going to name the street after could we get that building possibly secured so that it won't look like it looks now because all of the windows are gone, all the siding is falling off of it and when I talk about board and secure I had a problem with the way and I don't know if Mr. Nunes or if

anybody goes out there to check I have a problem with just taking a big piece of plywood and slapping it on a window and not cutting it to fit to me that is boarding and securing I took a building that already looks bad and I just slapped a piece of plywood on it or a half a sheet of plywood half across a window I have a problem with that. I know it may take a little more time but it makes the building safe and it makes it look better. It should be cut and measured in there. In Homewood a building was boarded up I think it was done by a bank and it was done perfectly well. I know we have a time factor but I am willing to sacrifice time to make it look well done. I think that is out of your control it is probably Mr. Brian Nunes I am just relating through you that we need to make sure that we board these buildings up inside the windows so it looks good instead of just slapping it on there any kind of way and I have been having a problem with that so I just wanted to say that. The abandoned vehicles I know there was a car that went through the process and has all of the stickers and tags on it it just hasn't been picked up and once again that could be because of what you just mentioned but that vehicle has everything that leads up to the final stage which is to be hauled away so I understand and I will give a little time for that particular vehicle to be towed away."

Angelic Keller asked, "If you could go ahead and send the addresses that you want looked into to the Code Enforcement Supervisor, Beverly Milioto and she can check the system to see exactly where it is as far as the board and secure if they have been noticed then we can make sure that Public Works goes out there and boards and secures but if the property owners have not been noticed we can't board it until they receive a notice."

Councilman Madere stated, "I can tell you one thing about that building because I did some research on it that building is tied up with a finance company in Gramercy and I spoke to them when it first came across and they are telling me that they are having problems with a true title that was a mistake on their part where they issued a loan and didn't have a clear title so that is where they are stuck right now without a clear title but I did the research on it and I expressed to the guy that we needed to do something with it so I don't know exactly where they are at with that you may be able to find it out but we need to try to do something before we name this street and this monstrosity of a building is looking at us at least board it up so I appreciate it and I understand everything that you told me and I appreciate you looking into that for me."

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 3-10-15) Update on house at 205 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street**

Councilman Madere stated, "I think that may be for legal."

Keith Green, Legal Counsel, stated, "It is my understanding that Mr. Perrilloux actually advised administration particularly the Planning and Zoning to go ahead and request an abstract on that property so that we can get down to who actually owns it and who the responsible party is and it is my understanding that an abstract has actually been ordered and so we are in the process of waiting for that to be sent in so that it can be reviewed and that is pretty much where we are with that."

Councilman Madere stated, "I mentioned it before about putting it on the council to get rid of some of these abandoned cars and planning and zoning houses. I just want to read to the council I received a text message last night at 12:56 and this is just a concerned citizen that is fed up it reads: Mr. Madere I am wondering why I must live around all of this trash and garbage and abandoned houses being stripped right next to my residence. Is anyone aware of this? This is his concern and my comment is our jobs as Councilmen and this administration we have the authority to eliminate these houses so I won't be getting emails or texts like that in the middle of the night and I returned his call because I was awake."

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 3-10-15) Update on drainage, leak and road repair on E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Hickory Street**

Mike Coburn stated, "The Utilities department continues to monitor this problem and in the interim will add limestone or crushed asphalt until permanent repairs are made by the contractor. Speaking with the Utilities department they are doing that and bringing the contractor now which is going to cost more money than when he has to come back they want to get him in all at one time to do all of these repairs."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think that the Hickory Street situation might be for Mr. Brian Nunes to answer this question. Hickory Street is something that we discussed over a year ago. I had the discussion with you and Mr. Verdell and he actually went out there with me to Hickory Street and they were told that there is a canal that runs behind their houses that hasn't been dug in years and they now it is basically a flat surface and they were told by me through Public Works that they were going to dig that out and it never happened and we had that big rain storm again and water actually came very close to getting in some of these individuals homes. These are the same people that at one time I told you threatened to go to the news media concerning their water with pictures and everything and that was over a year ago and when we had that little rain episode they came very close to getting water into their house again and my phone started ringing off of the hook. I actually went and met with them and there is a ditch that runs behind and it just hasn't been dug and that would help with a lot of their problems and it leads to the canal on the other side of the Airline which is why that is on there and like I said this was a year ago that we had this discussion."

Brian Nunes stated, "I will look into that. I was aware of the road repairs on Hickory Street."

Councilman Madere stated, "No road repairs. Hickory Street is strictly with the drainage. Their road is okay."

Brian Nunes stated, "I understand that now the way it was written I wasn't sure if it was for road repair or drainage. I am going to have to get with my assistant director in the morning and once we have a discussion on it I will call you first thing about it."

Councilman Madere stated, "We can actually go out there and take a look at it again because like I said they have been very patient and have waited and once again it happened and it caused panic to those people. When we get out there I am going to show you there is an opposite canal

on the other side that is behind them too that is on the other side of the street so whenever you have a chance we can go out there and take a look at it."

Brian Nunes stated, "We can take a look and make sure that we have servitudes and then make sure we are doing everything the right way."

Councilman Madere stated, "I also want to commend you all I passed today on the back end of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street I see they are out there digging that area out again because that was one of the problems back there too so thank you for that."

**Ranney Wilson - Drainage - Toni Dr., Cop Dr., S. Church St., Stout St., Fig St., Historic Main St. and other areas**

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

**Lennix Madere - Sewerage problems in District III - concerning recent sewer repair project**

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Babin make sure you understand that this is not a criticism of the work that was done. I think they did an excellent job. We talked about the lines leading from the homes to our system and it was mentioned some time earlier in the finance meeting about the infiltration of the water getting in there. The reason why I put it on the agenda was because you mentioned something about a grant or that you remember there was a grant for rural areas where they actually get money to help individuals repair lines. I think you had mentioned something like that to me at one time."

Gerald Babin, PEC, stated, "I remember our discussion the problem is that we fix the problem within the right-of-way and in limited areas we didn't do the whole district because we didn't have the funds and you can spend a lot of money and not achieve everything that you want to achieve because a lot of the problems are outside of the right-of-way and in the resident's area of responsibility and what we talked about was the only way you can identify that is to get a good dry day and you smoke test that area and I think we spoke about the possibility there are some opportunities that the rural water association does that type of things for the parishes at no cost you would have to get on their waiting list but they do that at no cost to the client and I think that is where the issue is a lot of those issues come in from outside the public right-of-way and it is an educational process and you are not the only community that has that issue Mr. Madere I can assure you that we work in a lot of communities that have that same issue you do a lot of repairs on your own only to find that you still have a problem a lot of that comes from simple things open clean-outs in the yard when it rains six inches the yard floods and people connect their gutters to the sewerage lines and it is an educational thing. We have to let people know that the sewer line is for sewer and not for draining water. People like to drain their yards with the sewer lines and you just can't do that you don't have enough power in your pumps to pump that water out and that was discussed in the finance committee."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand everything that was said and that the repair would be ongoing and not fix it one time and it won't happen again every time someone builds a new house you could have a

problem. I understand that. The only thing I am looking at is that we need to identify these homes and find the crack lines and I am almost sure that over 65% of these individuals if they know that they have a cracked line will do something about it and the ones that don't do it I don't mind being on that waiting list because it is just like buying a lottery ticket if you don't buy one you will never win but if you buy one at least you have a chance. So get on the list I know we may not be the first one on the list but it may give us a chance so that when our time does come it may be 5-10 years from now but it will help but first we need to identify the houses and let the individuals know that your line is part of your problem and I am more than sure that if they are aware of that they would do something to fix it and I don't think we have done a good job in telling our residents that they have a problem in their connection and I know that it is up to us to do that."

Gerald Babin stated, "I was discussing that same thing with Mr. Reed Alexander and I think we have some limited smoke data on those areas that might help us out but the rest of them we can obtain from smoke testing."

Councilman Madere stated, "Like I said if we can find out I am more than sure that the residents would repair if we could prove to them that their line is a problem and if you don't know a problem exists in your yard then you aren't going to do anything. So that is what I am more concerned about that we let them know that there is a problem."

**Larry Snyder - Update in District VI - Sewer lift stations repair/replace**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I got some good information from Reed and I was just wondering when we are going to start with the priority list and talking with Reed and the contractor I was satisfied with what they told me and I really don't have any more discussion on it."

**Cheryl Millet - Carrollwood**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This is an old item that has been around for a while. Carrollwood is getting worst. I know that we have identified money in the budget to repair Carrollwood however I understand the administration doesn't feel that it needs to be done at this time that it can wait and I just want to make sure that the residents know that I am doing everything in my power to get this street taken care of but it takes administrations agreement to get it done and that is why I put this on the agenda."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment**

This item will be carried over to the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R15-19 - A Resolution requesting the members of the Louisiana Federal Delegation to request President Barack Obama to extend the public comment period on Executive Order 13690 and pass legislation delaying implementation until NACO and State and Local**

**Governments are consulted on the impacts of the Executive Order**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This resolution supports an extended public comment period and a delay in implementation of this Executive Order which would be devastating to our entire state and other coastal areas. A coalition-building effort is underway similar to what occurred for the NFIP. Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-19. A Resolution requesting the members of the Louisiana Federal Delegation to request President Barack Obama to extend the public comment period on Executive Order 13690 and pass legislation delaying implementation until NACO and State and Local Governments are consulted on the impacts of the Executive Order. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson, Perrilloux, Gauff and Snyder absent.

**Larry Snyder - Resolution - R15-20 - A Resolution to amend Resolution R15-04 to add the word "Memorial" to the Reserve Branch Library so it will be named "The Leroy D. Williams Memorial Public Library"**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-20. A Resolution to amend Resolution R15-04 to add the word "Memorial" to the Reserve Branch Library so it will be named "The Leroy D. Williams Memorial Public Library". The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson, Perrilloux, Gauff and Snyder absent.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R15-21 - A Resolution urging State Senators and State Representatives to find alternative measures in balancing the State budget without reducing or repealing the inventory tax that local governments rely on for operations**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This is a critical issue for all taxing bodies in St. John and neighboring parishes. A meeting with the Assessor and our legislative delegation is scheduled for next week to express our concerns and develop a path forward. Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-21. A Resolution urging State Senators and State Representatives to find alternative measures in balancing the State budget without reducing or repealing the inventory tax that local governments rely on for operations. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson, Perrilloux, Gauff and Madere absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss the building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal. The motion passed with Councilmen Gauff, Wilson, Perrilloux and Madere absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson, Perrilloux and Gauff absent.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Legal Options regarding litigation against the Parish President for Charter violation and the hiring of special legal counsel

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

Larry Snyder - Hurricane Preparation plans

Ranney Wilson - Vincent Simon - Water bill issues

Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal

Water bill issues - 133 Beechgrove, Reserve, LA

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

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**15-10** An ordinance granting approval to Re-Zone Lot W-2C of the H. Hunter White property from I-1 to C-3, situated in Section 18, T-11-S, R-8-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-15-1035) (N. Robottom)

**15-11** An ordinance granting approval of a re-subdivision of that part of the Lapeyrolerie Tract situated between Jefferson Highway and the I.C. Railroad and that part of the Reine Tract situated West of Reine Avenue into lots herein designated as Lot 1LR and 2LR of the Lapeyrolerie Tract, situated in Section 30, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-15-1109) (N. Robottom)

**15-12** An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, Section 113-514 by changing the required number of Parking spaces for hotels and motels to one (1) space per guest Room plus four (4) additional spaces (N. Robottom)

**PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Good Evening - First, I'd like to thank the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for hosting a Community Health Fair on Saturday at New Wine Christian Fellowship Center. The Sorority and participating vendors provided a wealth of information to our residents and it was a great event. I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to its success. I'd also like to thank Pastor August and the Rising Star Baptist Church for holding their quarterly Town Hall meeting a couple of weeks ago. The meeting was very informative and we appreciate the opportunity to share Parish updates and progress with*

residents and other elected officials. A groundbreaking ceremony for construction of a Wastewater Collection System along Airport Road will be held on Thursday, March 26, at 9:45 a.m. at the beginning of Airport Rd. Construction of this project is estimated at \$448,000 and it will serve businesses in the industrial park and the Airport by allowing them access to the public wastewater system. This project has been in the making for several years and is being completed with funding through two Delta Regional Authority grants totaling \$290,000 and the Waste Water Operating Fund. Businesses along Airport Rd were notified of the upcoming work and timeline by letter and they will be updated throughout the process. The same day, the River Region Chamber of Commerce is hosting an Education Round Table featuring superintendents from all 3 parishes at Belle Terre Country Club from 11:00 to 1:00. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the Chamber at 985-359-9777. You are invited to kick off Spring with our annual Easter in the Park event this Saturday, March 28. The event will be held at the Hwy 51 Park in LaPlace and at the West Bank Complex in Edgard from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children ages 2-12 are invited to participate in an Easter egg hunt beginning at 11:30 and visit with the Easter bunny. Food, refreshments and prizes will also be provided for participants. The Economic Development Department is partnering with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to offer a free grant writing workshop on Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Regala Park Gymnasium. HUD staff members will be on hand to give attendees the important information needed to prepare a successful grant application, be more competitive for funding, secure a 501c3, and secure public funds. Workbooks and certificates of completion will also be provided. Registration is required and can be completed by contacting the ED office at 652-9569 or Ms. Tia Evans-Allen at 504-671-3749. Congratulations to our 8 year Biddy Basketball All Star Team on their successful season and our 12 year old Warriors for finishing runner up in the International Championship recently played at the Smoothie King Center. Good luck to the 9 and 10 year old teams as they travel to Madisonville this weekend to compete in nationals. We wish them the best of luck. We also want to acknowledge Kyle Albert, DeJaun Daniel, Jr., and Wan'trell Williams of the 11 & 12 year old All Stars for being selected as All Americans. Congratulations to all of our teams on a wonderful season. Baseball and softball registration for youth ages 5-14 has been extended to April 10. Please register at the Parks & Recreation Office, 200 Regala Park Rd. in Reserve or by contacting the department at 652-9569. Coaches are needed. Show your support for the St. John Parks & Recreation Department as St. John Parish employees take on the St. John Sheriff's Office for some friendly basketball competition at Regala Gym, this Friday night, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. Cash donations will be accepted at the door and all proceeds will go toward youth sponsorships and to help offset the cost of registration fees. The event will also feature a special appearance by former NFL football player Joe Horn. Please come out this Friday night at 7 pm to support our recreation program. I would like to thank committee members from the Louisiana Federation of Garden Clubs for touring St. John during the annual the Cleanest City contest last week. I'd also like to thank my staff who coordinated this effort and Councilmembers Gauff and Perrilloux for joining us during lunch. The team appeared genuinely pleased with our community and offered a wealth of knowledge to continue beautifying our Parish. The St. John Clean Sweep is a great way to gain service hours or assist with parish beautification efforts. Our annual Spring Clean Sweep will

be held Saturday April 11. Participants will meet at Highway 51 Park in LaPlace at 8:30 a.m. that day to pick up supplies and then dispatch throughout St. John to clean. Volunteers will meet back at the park at 11:30 a.m. for music by the band Changing Times, food and refreshments. The event will feature a dedication to former District Attorney and Keep St. John Beautiful advocate Thomas F. Daley at noon. Anyone interested in participating is asked to sign-up online at [www.sjbparish.com](http://www.sjbparish.com) or contact Dana Milioto at 652-9569. Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Plaza LaPlace Shopping Center located at 1921 W. Airline Hwy. in LaPlace (New Wine Parking Lot). Residents can drop off paint, solvents, auto batteries, used oil, and computers for proper disposal. Visit [www.hhmed.com](http://www.hhmed.com) for a complete list of acceptable materials. Due to a movie production, traffic on Hwy 18 @ Evergreen Plantation Rd will be stopped intermittently from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. until March 27. Road closures will occur in 5-10 minute periods with expected delays of about 15 minutes. We want to encourage residents and motorists who frequent this area to be on the lookout for traffic crews. Thank you for your patience as we work alongside feature films who continue to exhibit all St. John has to offer on the big screen. Parish Administrative staff is in communications with the United States Corps of Engineers, the Pontchartrain Levee District, and the Lafourche Basin Levee District for updates regarding river levels. Until high water levels subside, it is critical that everyone abide by restrictions in place for the Mississippi River Levees which includes no digging or subsurface work within 1500 of the levee centerline and no driving or parking on the levees. These restrictions also apply to construction projects within 1500 feet of the river and include the Waterline under the MS River Project and LA 637 Waterline Relocation Project. Both are on hold until conditions improve and water levels are below 11 feet at the Carrollton gauge. St. John will continue to monitor Mississippi River Levels and advise residents as conditions warrant. Thank you for complying with these restrictions. Just a reminder - Parish Offices will be closed on Friday, April 3 in observance of Good Friday. Happy Easter and may it be an enjoyable one with your friends and family."

**ADJOURNMENT :**

At 8:40 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilmen Wilson, Perrilloux and Gauff absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary