

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 25th, 2014
CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX
VICE CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 25th, 2014, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Gauff led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux, Billy O'Regan and Carl Butler were present.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES

New Business - Hollywood Cinemas in LaPlace - Mr. Vishu

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

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

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Parish President's Day of Recognition of National Service.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Relay for Life

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Relay for Life.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April Child Abuse Prevention Month

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April Keep St. John Beautiful

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April Keep St. John Beautiful.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April 5th DuPont Pontchartrain 50th Anniversary

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April 5th DuPont

Pontchartrain 50th Anniversary.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Riverside Academy Boys Basketball Team Class 2A State Champions

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

Lucien Gauff - Presentation - (Carry Over 3-11-14) Tish Parquet - Family Resources of New Orleans

Mrs. Parquet was present and thanked the council and everyone involved in their recent family resources event in the St. John Civic Center and proudly announced that they have their first qualified candidate but are in need of land if anyone has any land to sell for a cheap price please contact them or the parish to assist these people further with owning their own homes.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes - March 11th, 2014, Regular Meeting; Councilman Gauff - Appointment of Nora Pierre to the EDC Board; Permit Approval - Walk/Run - Rising Star Baptist Church - April 5th, 2014 - beginning at 9:00 AM; Permit Approval - Block Party - Annual Delta Road Block Party - 3/29/14 beginning at 1:00 PM

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - March 11th, 2014, Regular Meeting; Councilman Gauff - Appointment of Nora Pierre to the EDC Board; Permit Approval - Walk/Run - Rising Star Baptist Church - April 5th, 2014 - beginning at 9:00 AM; Permit Approval - Block Party - Saturday, March 29th, 2014 - Delta Road. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

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

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Mr. Rayneri reported on the Utilities Department and the findings on the number two well, a copy of the report was given to the council members. The report explains that the pump itself and the shafts that connect the pumps are all in good shape. Also the motor was sent out and found to be in excellent condition so they were both in really good condition. The well was completely videoed, the well casing and the screen were inspected and both were in very good condition. The last test to be done is the physical well test for the flow right however we have four meters in the system and so far we are meeting all of the

specifications that the pump was designed for but officially we need to have a flow test done by the contractors. A question and answer session ensued regarding the expectancy of years of service for pump #2. Mr. Rayneri commented that the well has been in service for over 20 years and it looks positive. He could assume roughly another 10 years. The question was asked as to how old well #1 was before we dropped well #2. Mr. Rayneri commented around 30 years definitely over 20. Councilman Snyder questioned if we would be alright for the next 20 years. Mr. Rayneri commented that he couldn't give a specific time but does think that we are in pretty good shape. He feels a lot better. Councilman Perrilloux commented that he wants to put this on the next agenda, he understands you say we are good but we still are at the position we are at before we took the well out nothing has changed and we still have the same well. I am not going to get into it tonight, it isn't on the agenda but I just want to say that we are still in the same situation we just now know that the well is in pretty good shape and may last a few more years but it didn't change anything as far as our water concerns for the parish, well it didn't satisfy me. I will put it on the next agenda. Mr. Rayneri asked to please remember that we have added additional contingencies to support our needs whenever we have to which is how we were able to do the preventive maintenance on this well. Councilman Perrilloux commented that he does understand that and it was done in less than 24 hours because had we gone over 24 hours or more we probably would have experienced some water interruption and as we said before it was a fantastic job these are just my concerns moving forward.

Councilman Madere questioned on the infiltration project in District III. Mr. Rayneri commented that Mr. Babin was present at the meeting and they had one more point repair to do that was found during the repairs that were done before. Mr. Babin commented that he spoke with the contractor today and we did find an additional point repair which is at NW 13th which is a pretty substantial repair and as it turns out some of the drainage canal was draining into the sewer system. It is going to be a pretty big repair which they plan on making next week and that will complete all of the repairs and lining and the next item is the patching. He has contacting the engineer to get a price on the paving so that we can make sure it is done the right way. I expect him to have a plan next week to begin patching the 68 asphalt and 3 concrete patches. Councilman Madere questioned the paving to make sure that it is being done correctly. He also questioned the company that would be doing the work because we want good quality work. They need to use dirt and not sand, the sand isn't holding it is going all over the street and getting into our drainage system. Mr. Babin commented that sand normally compacts better than any clay that you may put there. Councilman Madere also commented that they need to make sure to clean up their staging area when they are completed.

Mr. Rayneri commented that the repairs on the water leak at Hotard Drive have been completed.

Councilwoman Hotard commented that there are many violations that aren't on the system from Planning and Zoning and would like to request to coordinate with code enforcement to do a sweep and just sweep through the division and write up everything that they see but more specifically grass violations because we are getting into that season. She commented that they do this very successfully in other parishes

when they make a concentrated effort to get a jump start on it. Ms. Sutherland said that they have been concentrating on that in the last few weeks since grass season has started they have been making an effort to sweep their area but keep in mind that we are still getting complaints and we have to address those in a timely manner as well and we can't just put those on the back burner but they are concentrating on grass. Councilwoman Hotard asked what areas they have been in. Ms. Sutherland commented in their own areas. We have 4 officers and 2 inspectors and they each have their own assigned areas. Councilwoman Hotard asked if there was any time set aside on a daily basis to do this even if it was just an hour and that is why I guess other parishes do it in a sweep form and just say this is what we are doing and going through the neighborhoods to write down the address and violation but I have seen several houses that are definitely violations that haven't been written up and it is difficult because the residents don't know who to call always and this would just help out everyone if we had an effort to do a clean sweep to get the violations in before they get out of hand. We also have weeds that are at least 3 feet in Belle Terre. Councilman Perrilloux commented that he had sent an email to the manager in P&Z with the same concerns about two weeks ago.

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 3-11-14) Update on the Homer Joseph Center

Natalie Robottom stated, "Renovations to the Boogie Center are being finalized and equipment and furniture ordered to begin planned programming. An additional \$3,500 of sheetrock repairs to the roof are slated for completion. Due to the age of the building and the nature of the wall repairs, 3 estimates for additional repairs ranged from \$25,000 to \$35,000. The building and property are assessed at \$10,000. Since 2010, over \$40,000 has been expended on repairs to the building. That amount does not include prior repairs nor costs attributed to man hours for parish employees. The requested repairs are not essential for functionality or safety of the building and would only further delay its opening. The building has not been used since August of 2012."

Councilman Madere stated, "First of all I understand about Mrs. Rhonda's program but we are not here to discuss a program. I am here to discuss that building. The \$40,000.00 that you say was spent on that building before was not well spent. I also saw the report where you talked about the man hours that were used to do the work in the building. These guys work for the parish if they were working in that building or somewhere else they still would get paid the same amount of money so that is not a factor as far as money for that building and those pictures up there I told you in your office when you showed me the same pictures, those pictures do not indicate what the walls really look like. I am not satisfied and I am placed in a position to represent the people of that district. Now I have nothing to do with the \$40,000.00 but I will have something to do with it now. If the building has been closed for two years now it doesn't matter if they wait a little longer to the walls get fixed. If we are going to put these programs in there then I want them to go into a nice building. I want the walls fixed that is what this is about. Now the \$25,000.00 they say it will cost to fix this building that will be money well spent because I am not going to allow something or accept something done bad. I want the walls fixed and looking like they are supposed to look. You can see in the pictures how raggedy and bumpy that looks and that is just a picture, you should see it in person. What I am saying

is put the \$25,000.00 in and get it right and everyone will be happy. I know I will be happy and I know Mrs. Lemmons will be happy to come to us another time and tell us about her program but this is not about her program tonight. It isn't on the agenda. I am asking for \$25,000.00 you went out and got the bid. I am asking that we approve that \$25,000.00 and get it done."

Carl Butler, Parish Attorney, stated, "I am not sure what the council's concern is but I think the administration's concern is that the building is ready to be occupied for the activities to take place. If the council wants to appropriate additional money that is something that the council can decide to do but I think the administration's position is that they are ready to move forward in the building and that it is ready for occupancy. I don't know if that is a legal question but I think that is the position that the administration is taking."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand the administration's position and I hope they understand mine. My position is that I make a motion that we spend \$25,000.00 and fix the Homer Joseph Center."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to authorize administration to pay \$25,000.00 for the repair of the walls to the Homer Joseph Center.

Councilman Gauff asked, "Who did the assessed value? Where did they find \$10,000.00 for that building? Was that before we started putting money into it or where did that assessed value come from because that is really cheap?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It actually was from the assessor's office. The building and grounds were purchased for \$14,000.00. Again we looked at the facility. It has been used before. It is significantly better. We have changed the roof and the doors. We painted the floors, the bathroom the kitchen appliances and again this is for instructional purposes. Most of the wall area will be covered with tables and chairs that computers that have been donated to us will be set up. We think the facility is sufficient and we are ready to move."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Did we get any input from the community on that or what they want the building to be used for or is it just somebodies baby."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "Actually Mr. Snyder we discussed the program structure as well as the activities with my board and they approved."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You said your board. I said community involvement. I mean I know I am on one of those boards but I don't know which one you are talking about."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "You are the president of the board."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am and I am a good one too."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "So everyone that sits on the board represents the community and they had input."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I live in LaPlace."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "The programs are not just limited to Cornland. They are all for St. John Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I understand that is a small building I thought it was for the community. I think the intention when it was first put there was for the community of Cornland."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "That was the intention when it originally opened."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But anyone could use it and there have been occasions where I had a meeting there once and I live in LaPlace. I asked to use it and was able to use it but my thinking was that it was for that community that was why we called it a community center. What I am asking is this I went there a few times and there was a lot of activity going on, the kids were very well behaved and my understanding is that it is not going to be used for things like that anymore like you took the pool tables out and the games have been taken out. I thought that went pretty good at one time but from my understanding it is gone. Everything is going to be structured programs."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "Structured programs can be fun Mr. Snyder if you allow me the opportunity I would be happy to share with you what we are planning to do."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have heard it all before. I know where you are coming from and I know exactly what you are talking about with that. What I am asking is did the community have any input on what they would like to see going on there and the answer is no besides the board."

Rhonda Lemmons stated, "Well two or three of the board members are from the Cornland area and they were happy with these programs."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Of course they were. Now they say that building was assessed for \$10,000.00, is that just the land?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "And the building."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And the building, they have more than \$10,000.00 worth of Air conditioning in that building."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay we purchased this building for \$14,000.00 and lost \$4,000.00 worth of value according to what they are saying now. What I am saying and the last comment you made you said that the building was sufficient. I am not looking for sufficient. I am not looking for good enough I mentioned that at the last meeting. The bottom line is the walls need to be fixed. I am asking for \$25,000.00 to the lowest bidder and let them go in there and fix those walls. You can also see in some of the pictures that the walls are in bad shape. We need to fix it. I am asking to get it fixed that is my motion."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I was on the council when this was purchased and I was representing District IV and building a park at Belle Point the rest of the council allowed me \$30,000.00 a year and I would get a

grant from the state and on two occasions Mr. Wolfe asked if I could help him and I gave him my one year money that went into that center when they first got it to put AC in there and they did have some problems but there was \$60,000.00 that went there way back and at that time the programs being mentioned were mentioned at that time that they were doing the building it wasn't just a pool hall it was some of the programs that they are speaking of now. It was computers and a lot to do with students and learning and I am with you on it. I don't know why it was closed for all those years."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "My comment is this is Mr. Madere's district. He is not satisfied with what administration says is okay. We represent our districts. We are the ones who have to face our constituents. If he wants it I say give it to him."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I guess I wanted to know how old is the building? We are talking about the assessed value. We said we already put an additional \$40,000.00 into it and we are looking to put another \$25,000.00 into it. It would seem for that kind of money for the block building that it is we could have torn it down and built a new one for a building that is between 40-50 years old. It just seems like if Mr. Wilson put \$30,000.00 into it and it has been closed for two years and now we put another \$40,000.00 and we are about to put another \$25,000.00 because I do agree if it is his area and that is my area I want something that is nice. I thought it was acceptable. I am ready to get the programs started but from his stand point he thinks it needs more. I have not had a chance to talk to the people of the community but I think they would be proud with the building that we have there. I could be wrong because I have not spoken with them but my issue is that it is a very old building that we continue to dump money into and the purpose is for the programs for the community and if it is a community center that we are supposed to be putting out programs I would be ready to get it started especially if the director is standing there saying she is ready to get the programs started. Now I know Mr. Madere said he wants something nice in his area I just think it is time to move on with this and get our programs out for the community."

Councilman Madere stated, "I agree with one thing it is time to stop settling for good enough or sufficient and this district is not going to settle for that anymore. Now since somebody dumped 40 and they didn't do a good job then that was good enough back then. If somebody dumped 60 and they didn't do a good job then that was good enough back then but I am not going for good enough. It needs to look better. I don't care about what we spent years ago and you don't judge a building by the age. So we throw old people away when they get old, I know that may sound harsh but some old people are treated badly, some old buildings are treated badly. I am saying you have value no matter how old or young the building is that building stills have value because you have programs that are going to be put into that building. So the building has value and I think \$25,000.00 to spend on that building is enough money to put into that building. We want some value out of it put some money into it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "The only comment I have is will the 25 of sheetrock be enough or equal to the look that you are looking for. You say you want smooth walls and for \$25,000.00 will you be satisfied with that if something else in tearing off the plaster, putting sheetrock

and having smooth walls now you will feel better about the building and will that do anything other than satisfying the need that you want the building to be perfect. Well to be perfect would be to tear it down and build a new one."

Councilman Madere stated, "I didn't say perfect. I said it wasn't good enough."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Well like I am accepting or this council is willing to accept anything I don't think we are willing to accept anything to me that building has been refurbished and I think it looks great especially from where it was when I first walked in. Now I am just not sure that \$25,000.00 is going to be enough to get it to where you even want it to be."

Councilman Madere stated, "The \$25,000.00 is based upon what the contractor said it would take to get the walls there. You hire someone to go there and look at it and he said it is going to take that to get those walls the way we told them we wanted it to look. When he finishes the work I expect it to look like exactly what we contracted him to do. He went in there and looked at it and gave a price of \$25,000.00 saying that he would be able to do that work. No I am not satisfied with it. Yes I want the money to get the walls repaired. Yes I want the programs in there and these programs have been waiting for two years so if we wait another month to get the programs started that is fine with me because I think we need to take the vote and stop this discussion."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Let me make a comment because we are not going to go back and forth with this we are going to have to stop and continue on. Now we have a motion on the floor to accept the lowest bid to repair those walls and we have a second and I know Mrs. Lemmons has been standing there and I want to get clarification from legal our programs are not on this with the renovations is she allowed to talk about her programs I just want to be fair to her. Councilman Madere is not satisfied with the building. I went in and saw the building myself. I saw some of this and I was not satisfied when I spoke to the two workers who were in there and I said man I know y'all could have done a better job but he is representing the people in District III and I can't say well don't give him this if that is what he wants for District III for his people so if anyone has any more discussion let's get that done."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "The \$25,000.00 did we get an estimate from someone to repair the building? Was it one estimate?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We had three proposals and the range is from \$25,000.00 to \$35,000.00. Three contractors went into the building."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Who were the contractors?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Double E, Veterans and Homes by Tommy and Sheila and they put together quotes. Again as some of the council members said once you get in there and you start pulling off plaster then you have to replace things and repair the sockets and things around the hood of the stove so the cost went up because there are additional things once you get into the plaster. So again the lowest estimate was 25 and the highest was 35. There was something related to

the sheetrock in the roof that was \$3,500.00 that we thought needed to be done to finish the building but the rest of it was superficial and most of that would be behind some of the computer stations and would not affect the functionality of the building. So that is where the quotes came from three local contractors."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to see if we could possibly get maybe a couple of quotes from some other contractors also. I believe that we can probably get some lower estimates than where we are now that may come under that threshold."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No we have already discussed this publicly that gives other people an unfair advantage."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "It wasn't a bid though. It was a letter bid. You picked up the phone and call three contractors."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right but the number is out and anyone can come in and beat the 25."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Right and we could actually change our mind and decide to publicly advertise it and get competitive bids instead of three people on the phone and drive a better price. It was only sent to those three contractors whereas when you advertise it and open it to the public you encourage a little bit more competition then sending it to three selected contractors. I am just saying that if we do take this route that we may be able to accomplish this at a lower price then what we got from the three contractors that we went through this letter bid process."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I am thinking if you do that it is already written somebody is going to bid the lowest bid because it is already in black and white here."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You could possibly get a lower price because now it will be open to everybody."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "But you will."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Exactly that is the point. It would be a one time if you do a regular bid."

Councilman Madere called for the question.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to authorize administration to pay \$25,000.00 for the repair of the walls to the Homer Joseph Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Lennix Madere - Update on unsafe/abandoned/blighted homes

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Since January of 2014, 4 judgments have been obtained to demolish hazardous/unsafe properties throughout the parish (1 in Garyville, 1 in Reserve and 2 in LaPlace). There are 4 cases set for trial within the next month and 8 new petitions scheduled to be filed. In addition, 2 structures have been demolished by their owners."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay one of my concerns was the trailer on 27th Street and the last time I spoke with you about you said after the judgment they had 30 days before the parish would demolish the trailer and it is over 30 days and the trailer is still sitting there. I was wondering why we were waiting so long to take it down."

Angelic Sutherland asked, "Are you referring to the one on 28th Street? The status is actually in the work order list that I gave you. It says that it was sent to Public Works two weeks ago so the orders are in public works to demolish and that goes for any of the abandoned hazardous unsafe properties. The work order list that I give you every Tuesday before the council meeting has all of the active violations in your district and there is even a comment section on there where it tells you the status and that one is listed on there."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay maybe Mr. Brian Nunes can answer this question because you said it went to public works."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes we send a work order to public works then it goes through their process."

Councilman Madere asked, "So does that just fall in line behind all of these other work orders?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Mr. Madere it depends on the type of equipment we need, the size of the excavator and demolition there is a lot that goes into it and if I have to pull something off of a drainage job I am not going to do that to demolish a house they get a little more on the back burner because those aren't considered emergencies."

Councilman Madere asked, "It isn't a house did anyone go out and look at it once the work order was placed so that they would know exactly what they are dealing with. It is a trailer that is basically almost 50% torn down already."

Brian Nunes stated, "Nine times out of ten by the time it goes through all of this process and gets to us we already know exactly what you are talking about. We know where it is and how long it has been there but we still have to pull equipment off of another job to get there. We get to them but we have priorities first."

Councilman Madere asked, "Could you check and I will get back with you tomorrow to find out when you might be able to get out there because the residents really want to get rid of it."

Brian Nunes stated, "We can take a look at it but I probably won't be able to give you a hard date because things change every day in public works."

Cheryl Millet - Council notification of new businesses

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This has been a thorn in my side for a long time and I have spoken to a few of you about it when we actually receive notice of a new business that is coming into our areas. I know it goes to P&Z first and they check it out to make sure that all the requirements are necessary in order for them to move on to the next step then the next step is I believe it goes to the parish president at

which time she approves it. We are sent a notification to the council secretary who in turn sends it to the individual council members for that area then the parish president receives it at the same time. We don't always necessarily know what is going on. I have had numerous times when a resident will call me up and say do you know what is coming up in that building and I say no I haven't gotten that notice but yet work is being done. Somebody knows something is being done because work is being done in a particular building. My concern is and it has been an ongoing concern is that the council member of every district should know anytime a new business is coming into that area not after it has been signed off on or not simultaneously when it is being signed off on and I know we have ordinances that it is not supposedly council I am not asking for permission. I am not asking that the council give P&Z or the parish president permission or the sheriff permission. I am asking that we find out before the general public does because it is in my district or in Mr. Perrilloux's district whoever's district it happens to be in why do we have to wait until after the public and the neighbors know about it. I would like at this time to propose a motion or have Mr. Perrilloux get together with administration so that we can come up with something so that we as an individual council member or even as a council on whole is aware of what is coming in prior to it being advertised so to speak and I just have an issue with that and I would like to make a motion that that be taken care of if someone would like to second that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "For the past 16 years that I sat on the council we were given that. We make the rules. You are talking about asking permission for this or that if you want it ahead a time you make a motion to get it ahead of time before they right off and put the business in there because there was a reason for that and the reason is the people in the community might not want that business where they want to put it in the neighborhood and I understand exactly what you are asking because we have done it in the past and stopped some."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One thing and I had sent a communication to follow up with Nathan Stein's office because usually the first step for a business owner is to apply for their Tax ID before they even go to P&Z. So if we could even get notification from them before someone goes to P&Z that may help but I agree it is nice to know before you get stopped in Wal-Mart and they say did you hear about such and such well no we didn't know I think it is good and there is probably more than one way to handle it but I am okay with your motion."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to instruct administration to notify the council prior to the Occupational License being signed off on by the Sheriff or the parish president. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl Millet - Atmos gas hook-up

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I have been having a lot of questions by residents concerning having gas hooked up to their houses and Atmos we do know is our provider, they are unable to be here tonight so I am going to ask that this be carried over to the next meeting and notification given to them but it just has to do with the price and the costs of having gas run to existing homes sometimes where there are already gas lines there and sometimes the gas lines might not be there

and I am trying to get some kind of idea especially with residents looking for energy efficient gas being more energy efficient in my opinion but a lot of times they have gas in the area. I had a resident ask me yesterday there are gas lights on my block how come I can't get gas? So that is why I want Atmos to come in and explain to the residents what the process is for hooking up gas to their homes."

Larry Snyder - Security for the Health and Human Services building

The above item will be discussed in executive session.

Jaclyn Hotard - Update on the Ferry

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to get an update from administration. I believe we received an email from our purchasing director that there were no RFP's submitted for a ferry operator. I just wanted to get some clarity on where that leaves us."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have actually made contact with the three providers that expressed interest in submitting proposals that did not. We also had a meeting scheduled with one of those providers who is also providing transportation services here in St. John. I have met with Walter Brooks who is scheduling a meeting with the Department of Transportation and a representative who actually worked on ferry and our transportation company Viola, they are the company that is actually providing ferry services in New Orleans and just went through a very similar process because they had not gotten proposals. So we are seeking guidance from DOTD and RPC to help facilitate this but we are also continuing to work through our lease agreement. We have the one signed for the West Bank working with the company that has it under lease for the East Bank and we are going to continue to pursue it. We have also met with our legislative delegation understanding this is a short term solution they need to work with us on a long term solution with the funding through DOTD and operations so if you guys could help with that we would appreciate it but in the meantime we are going to meet with the group that is actually providing ferry services in New Orleans."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Did any of those companies who expressed interest in submitting an RFP but didn't? Did they say any reason why they didn't submit on it after they had expressed interest?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "One of them specifically said it was too difficult and he didn't know how to do the pricing to submit a proposal but did not call to ask any questions while it was out which is a concern."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay thank you."

Lennix Madere - Update on adjudicated properties program

Angelic Sutherland stated, "The contract with Broussard Baloney Law Firm for management of the adjudicated properties program expired September 28, 2013. During the term of their contract, \$46,318.00 was expended to develop the program, but less than 10 requests to purchase property were made and no property transfers were completed."

Councilman Madere asked, "So basically as it stands we don't have an adjudicated properties program right now?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Correct. The program is still on the books. The procedure is still in our code of ordinances but it is not being actively managed at this point."

Councilman Madere asked, "It is not funded you mean?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I don't believe it was ever funded."

Councilman Madere stated, "It was never funded. Okay so what has to do with the terms of the contract and the \$46,000.00 what is that?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I mean it was funded to pay those contractors, first it was Choice Title, then it was Broussard-Baloney they were paid for their services and initially their services included developing the ordinances and the procedure. Once that came before the council and they got that passed then after that it was just Broussard-Baloney who actually managed the contract for I think a period of two years which ended in September of 2013."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay so we don't have anyone managing the program right now?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We do not have an outside contractor managing the program currently."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay so where does that leave the program? Is it in limbo?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "If anyone calls with an inquiry as to wanting to purchase some property or is interested in some property it would just take an attorney to file the procedures that is in the code of ordinances and to get the transfer of the property."

Councilman Madere asked, "How are we publishing this so the public is aware that the program still exists?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I believe the lists of adjudicated properties are still on our website, it was never removed."

Councilman Madere asked, "So it is on the website. So anyone can go to the website and pick out a piece of property and go through the procedure in order to purchase it?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "And the procedure is in our code or ordinances."

Councilman Madere asked, "And that would give them free and clear title?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "You would have to ask our attorney, Jeff or Billy."

Jeff Perilloux, Council Attorney, stated, "I believe that is probably part of the issue of why you are not seeing perhaps as much interests

as we had hoped years ago when we started to try to implement and develop policies to implement a program. It is buyer beware basically when a buyer buys an adjudicated property they buy without any warranties what so ever and in fact most title insurance underwriters will not issue title policies on a piece of property purchased at an adjudicated property sale. So it is not without its risk having said that to those who are interested in purchasing property and are willing to take that risk it does afford an opportunity to put property back in the stream of commerce back on the tax rolls in a productive fashion but unfortunately we haven't had a lot of interest, as I understand it, in the program."

Councilman Madere asked, "On those properties that are adjudicated is any property tax being added to those properties?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "St. John does not pay taxes to the assessor's office on property that we actually own which includes adjudicated property to the parish. The property that is adjudicated to private buyers never goes to the parish. In other words if a person buys property at a tax sale that property continues to be taxed that is still on the tax roll."

Councilman Madere stated, "What I am saying is I know we have some properties adjudicated to the parish and if no one purchases it then it is up to the parish to take care and maintain that property."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "For the most part depending on where the property is most of the properties are actually swamp land and areas that are not really maintained to begin with. I will say this as I recall it and I haven't looked at the list in some time there weren't a lot of properties that fit that description."

Councilman Wilson asked, "How hard is it to get clear titles for those properties?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "It may be clear but it would be without warranty so the person buying the property is responsible for doing their own title work and I guess reasonably ensuring that what they are getting is worth the investment from the stand point of whether or not there will be a title problem later because it is not part of the parish. That is the reason that most title insurance underwriters will not offer title policies on those types of properties unfortunately."

Councilman Wilson stated, "It just goes back to what I am saying that we have more money invested in some of the properties than what they are worth."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "These are not our rules they are the state rules so the parish I think has taken advantage of the recent state laws that are available to try to move adjudicated properties. I will tell you it has been sort of a nightmare over the years in attempting to deal with adjudicated properties but we do have a process that is available if people are interested I will certainly get with Angelic and other members of administration as well as Mr. Daley to look into other means of notifying the public and seeing if we can't move some of these properties. I know St. Tammany did something last year. I am not too familiar with the process but I understand it was successful so we

may want to take a look at what they did and see if it is something that may be feasible here in St. John."

Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Weekend drainage issues

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am not sure if anyone else had any problems with this but in my area we had some major ones. We had water going up people's drive ways there was a lot of rainfall and I had some calls and went to see them and it was bad. We have spent a lot of money back there on cleaning out drains these past few months and it just seems like we should be out there on rainy days like that to see what is happening and if our money was spent wisely or what. So what I am asking is this from the drainage people when we know we are going to expect rain on a weekend like this or any day make sure we have some people that can go check the drains out. I know there was some good drainage back there they have some drains back there that are really taking in a lot of water but they are also taking in a lot of trash and that is one problem but there was water going up people's drive ways one guy told me he walked outside to go to church and went back in because he couldn't get out but from my understanding it drained away in about two hours so that tells me that it is draining and we may have some small blockages back there but we have some other issues. We have a big issue on E. Frisco did anyone go and check it out. We may have to spend a lot of money to take care of those people over there. I don't know if anyone went out there to check on it during the storm maybe you can tell me if we had anybody out there. I see you said you didn't get any calls I think people are just accepting it because they think we are not going to do anything."

Brian Nunes stated, "There were a number of issues that you brought up Mr. Snyder first of all what you said about the time between the storms and the water going away that is exactly what we ask. We cannot put people in every location watching drains. We know that they are coming and not every rain storm is the same but if we know there is a storm coming we will spend 2-3 days prior having my crew cleaning drains everywhere now during an actual event I don't have the entire department out there making overtime if it is on a weekend, during the week yes but on a weekend like this issue I don't I have a select few that ride out the storm, they go out to all the pump stations and clean the screens there and make sure everything is operational now after the rain stops I ask the residents and the council to give us two hours from the time it stops if you still have rain in the streets then I have a problem and that is when you call me and we come out and address the problem because if it is a blockage in the line or something my vacuum truck can't do anything until the water goes away anyways so if we wait until the storm stops and wait two hours if we have rain or water everywhere then we know we have a problem and that is when we can address it immediately but during the height of a storm it does us no good because there really isn't anything that we can do besides watch it rain."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I took a ride and I saw these two drains on either side of the street it was full of leaves, bottles, newspapers and water backed up down the street. So I got out and did my little thing and it drained all the water off of the street. I don't know if that is your responsibility or a responsibility to the people in the neighborhood but this one was where nobody lives. Brian I know you are

doing your best don't get me wrong and I know you are responsive and I appreciate that but you and I had talked about something that I would like to try with the pumps to get them leveled down in the canal let's talk about that and not let that drop. You can bring it to Mrs. Robottom and see what she thinks about it just a test run one time. We don't need to talk about this now we can talk about it later but that is what I thought about because that would tell us if we need to spend money or we don't if you see where I am coming from."

Brian Nunes stated, "I know exactly where you are coming from and we can discuss that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to discuss it this week so when you have some time give me a call and I will be at your office."

Councilman Madere stated, "I hear and agree with everything you say which is why I am bringing up Melius Street again because the water is still there and 155 is the area that I marked as being the spot that is plugged. It is 155 Melius but the entire street on both sides is still holding that water and it has been a few days so there is definitely a blockage there."

Brian Nunes asked, "Is that a work order that you already put in?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I put in for the entire street but that is one part that is holding water badly."

Brian Nunes stated, "Okay we will have it evaluated."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Once again what is the number to dial for weekend service?"

Brian Nunes stated, "911."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Okay that is what I did I was out of town and as I came in town Mr. Madere was calling me that he had gotten some calls on Cardinal and I called 911 I'm not sure if that is where you retrieve your calls from or your calls that you said that you didn't get any and I am not sure how far back you went but this was about two weeks ago. It seems like on Cardinal Street that there is a problem going from south to north across Airline Highway the ditches were really full and eventually everything did drain but it just seemed when I went from one side of Airline to the other you could see water you could see it coming in from certain areas and I did call 911 and left a message because he told me some of the constituents in the area were concerned because the water was very high in those ditches. So I am not sure if you had a chance to look at that or not or if anything was done but that is the service that I used and maybe you can check that one out and see where it is on the list of things to do."

Brian Nunes stated, "That would have to be a joint effort between us and the state because it is their highway but we can definitely take a look."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just wanted to remind the residents and I know we have a lot of beautiful Oak trees in St. John and the Oak trees are dropping leaves like crazy so please clean the culverts out

and if your neighbor is not doing it go ahead and be a good neighbor and help them out it is for your benefit if we can get the streets to drain and we have to take some responsibility I know they laugh at me when I get my rake I go and get all four of them on my corner to make sure that they are all draining but the leaves are falling and the Oaks are producing an enormous amount of leaves so just pay attention and if you see it pick it up it won't hurt you."

Larry Snyder - Illegal signs in the overlay district

Investigations of all sign complaints have been completed and numerous sign violations are either being addressed by code enforcement or have been forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for processing. Additionally, a letter was sent to all business owners with permitted electronic reader signs advising them of the Parish's regulations. If there are additional sign complaints, please forward them to Code Enforcement for investigation.

Larry Snyder - Update on the baseball fields

Ball fields at REGALA Park were completed last weekend and fields at the West Bank Complex will be completed next weekend, weather permitting. Photos of parish fields and other fields maintained by the contractor are available for review. Opening Day is scheduled for May 13.

Larry Snyder - Update on the Code Enforcement training

Almost two years ago, the Council directed the Administration to move to an electronic permitting and violation system to expedite the process and allow for cross-referencing. Trainings on the new systems, Inspection Anywhere and My Project Now, were conducted on February 24th by South Central Planning. The Code Enforcement Office began implementing these systems on Monday, March 10th and ongoing assistance continues to be provided by the Zoning Regulatory Administrator. These efforts will continue until proficiency is achieved, but difficulty appears related to basic technology issues rather than the permit system.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment

Councilman Wilson stated, "I am still concerned with the drainage in Garyville because it certainly isn't getting any better. The 1.7 million that is supposed to be for that area do we know when it is coming or when they can start. They have streets and drainage on that thing from the previous administration that missed I just want to know when we are going to have something to work with to get something done."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are a number of projects. The hazard mitigation dollars are one that is set for the Mt. Airy area and I know Mr. Snyder you were talking about Cambridge and some pumps but the bond money there is a portion that was set aside or being recommended for Cambridge and the drainage related to the Vicknair Canal and pumping that water down. The hazard mitigation dollars are tied to the

Garyville/Mt. Airy area. I did receive a report this afternoon and we have a meeting tomorrow to go over the status of all the projects but they are moving through the process Mr. Wilson and we feel confident that we are going to get those dollars in addition to Mt. Airy/Garyville there is also McReine, Airport Road, Belle Point submersible pump station so there are several primary areas that we had a history of flooding and problems that will be covered through the hazard mitigation program but we also have quite a few proposals for drainage in the bond issue."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Again I am not blaming you for all of these problems because they have been there for quite some time now but we have not done anything in the last two years to try to fix any of it and my people are getting a little irritated and they are getting irritated with me. The entire Mt. Airy area needs to be addressed and some of the problem is that you have a 16 inch culvert here and then you get down to the next house and they have a 12 or 8 inch culvert and something has to be done somewhere. We have all of these drainage plans. We just have to go through some of the stuff that we know that we have there."

Brian Nunes stated, "Some of the Mt. Airy areas you are speaking about are the same ones that Mrs. Robottom just spoke about. We have identified those as troubled areas and we have plans to address them but if there are other isolated issues that you are aware of you can call us and we can take them on a case by case issue."

Councilman Wilson stated, "You know I get on my 4-wheeler and I ride on the tracks and you know you can't see things sitting in a vehicle and I haven't been able to do much riding because of my shoulder problems but you have to go over there and look at it if you don't go over there and see the problem there is a culvert under the railroad track and there is so much weeds and they are very thick I know water can't be passing through it and the big pipe is sitting here and everyone is talking about canal problems in LaPlace but the problems I have in Garyville and Mt. Airy is getting water to the canals, it is going from point A to point B that is the biggest problem that we have and if we don't clean the ditches and get the culverts sized right and clean the ditches that haven't been done in 25 years and get the water out and get it to Airline Highway that is what needs to be done. I don't know if they need to start on the north side and work their way down or vice versa but if it doesn't all have that it comes to the same situation that Mr. Snyder said earlier I do understand when you have a heavy rain in a short period of time you are going to have high water for a period of time before it will drain off but these people have problems all the time when it rains in some of those areas. I just want something to get started at some point in time. It is time to get something done."

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R14-06 - A resolution to adopt the St. John the Baptist Parish Section 3 Plan as required under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program

Natalie Robottom stated, "Participation in the Hurricane Isaac CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program requires adoption and implementation of a

Section 3 Plan to provide employment opportunities for community residents for all projects. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R14-06. A resolution to adopt the St. John the Baptist Parish Section 3 Plan as required under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish is a local government jurisdiction and has received an award of CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds to assist in addressing unmet needs resulting from federally designated disasters; and, **WHEREAS**, participation in the Hurricane Isaac Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program requires the adoption and implementation of a Section 3 Plan to meet its obligation to provide employment opportunities, including training positions, for Section 3 residents, as required by Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the implementing regulations, 24 CFR Part 135. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the St. John the Baptist Parish Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Section 3 Plan, attached hereto and made a part hereof, be hereby officially adopted for implementation in the St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery Programs; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council. The motion passed with Councilman Snyder absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R14-07 - A resolution to adopt the St. John the Baptist Citizen Participation Plan as required under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This is also a requirement for CDBG-DR, to address citizen participation. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R14-07. A resolution to adopt the St. John the Baptist Citizen Participation Plan as required under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish is a local government jurisdiction and has received an award of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-Disaster Recovery funds to assist in addressing unmet needs resulting from federally designated disasters; and **WHEREAS**, participation in the CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program requires St. John the Baptist Parish to adopt a policy by which the supplies, equipment, construction services and professional services required in the implementation of the St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program are procured; and **WHEREAS**, this policy must conform to all state and federal guidelines for approval by the State; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the St. John the Baptist Parish Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Procurement Policy, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby officially adopted for use in the procurement of all goods and services required in the implementation of St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery projects. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this

Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council. The motion passed with Councilman Snyder absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R14-08 - A resolution to adopt the St. John the Baptist Parish Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Procurement Policy as required in the procurement of all goods and services required in the implementation of the St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery Programs

Natalie Robottom stated, "The final requirement is for adoption of a procurement policy for supplies, equipment, construction services and professional services. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R14-08. A resolution to adopt the St. John the Baptist Parish Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Procurement Policy as required in the procurement of all goods and services required in the implementation of the St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery Programs. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish is a local government jurisdiction and has received an award of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-Disaster Recovery funds to assist in addressing unmet needs resulting from federally designated disasters; and, **WHEREAS**, participation in the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program requires the adoption and implementation of a Citizen Participation Plan to comply with Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended; and **WHEREAS**, the purpose of this plan is to provide for and encourage citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income who are residents of areas in which funds are proposed to be used. **NOW, THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery Citizen Participation Plan, attached hereto and made a part hereof, be hereby officially adopted for implementation in the St. John the Baptist Parish CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go into executive items to discuss the parish buildings security. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent - 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition

3) Coverage's, any/all material changes

Lennix Madere - 205 E. 30th Street

Parish Buildings - Security

Abandoned Vehicles

Code Enforcement - Personnel matters

Water bill issues

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

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

Any and all pending legal matters

Councilwoman Hotard excused herself from the meeting at 9:30 PM.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

14-06 An ordinance to amend Chapter 14 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By amending Section 14-26(1) as follows: By deleting "12" and replacing with "10" as stated therein. (J. Hotard)

14-07 An ordinance to amend Chapter 26 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: By adding Article III. Graffiti Abatement. (L. Snyder)

14-08 An ordinance granting approval to Re-zone Lot 8A, Square Y, LaPlace Park Unit No. One per a re-subdivision dated January 8th, 2014, by Steven P. Flynn, P.L.S. creating Lot 8A to show the change in zoning from the current zone of C-3 to I-1, situated in Section 19, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-14-1027) (N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Good evening - I am elated to finally announce that the Homeowner Insurance Affordability Act became law with President Obama's signature on Friday. We are one step closer to providing affordable, sustainable flood insurance for our residents and business owners. I want to thank Michael Hecht and Caitlin Berni with GNO, INC., our Federal Delegation and our coalition of Parish Presidents, business leaders and community leaders for their hard work and patience. The Coalition is committed to moving forward as a 501(C)6 entity and establishing a national board of directors to ensure that our mission of guaranteeing affordable flood insurance across the nation is complete. I would like to extend my congratulations to Head Coach Timmy Byrd and the Riverside Boys Basketball Team on winning their second consecutive 2A Basketball State Championship title with a victory over Lakeview recently. Congratulations also to Malik Crowfield for receiving Most Outstanding Player. We understand you couldn't be*

here tonight but we look forward to honoring you at our next council meeting. I and our Public Works Director Brian Nunes attended the State of the Coast Conference in New Orleans last week and received very valuable information on hurricane protection, preservation of our shorelines and wetlands as well as tips on community resiliency. It was a very well attended and informative conference. In preparation for the upcoming Hurricane season, the American Red Cross, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and St. John Parish hosted a shelter training last Friday at the Community Center. Attendees, including our staff from public safety staff and Health Human Services, and staff from St. James Parish were trained on shelter management during emergencies and the fundamentals of operating shelters during crisis. Last week, the St. John Long Term Recovery Group held an appreciation lunch for representatives of business and industry who donated money and supplies toward recovery of the Parish following Hurricane Isaac. Pastor Neil Benard, Chairman of the LTRG will provide an update from the group at the next Council meeting. A ribbon cutting and grand opening were recently held for Box Office Video, a new video and game rental store in LaPlace. The store is located at 1116B W. Airline Highway in the Triche Shopping Center. Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday noon to 10:00 p.m. and Friday through Saturday noon to 11:00 p.m. Relay for Life is this Saturday, March 29 at the Community Center from noon to 3:00 a.m. Please come out and support this great cause, there will be lots of food, music and entertainment for the whole family. Baseball Registration for youth ages 5-12 has been extended through April 4. Registration forms are available on the parish website or at the Parks and Recreation Office Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 per child. Coaches are also needed. The Recreation department is also looking for certified lifeguards. Applications can be found on our Website or at the Parks & Recreation Office. The Rotary Club will be holding Pups in the Park on Saturday, April 5 at the Hwy 51 Park. Proceeds will benefit the St. John Sheriff's Office K-9 unit. Pre-registration forms for the Charity Dog Walk are available at Saints Optical and Subway in LaPlace. Please contact Raj Pannu for more information at 504-417-3282. Special Olympics of St. John Parish will host a sports development clinic on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at REGALA gym. The clinic provides an opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities to learn new sports skills, improve individual sports performance, participate in individual and team sports and build friendships. For more information or to register, call Debra Poche, at 985-652-9569. The registration deadline in March 21. The Recreation Department is again partnering with the 40th Judicial District Children & Youth Services Planning Board & Prevention Committee to host its 2nd annual Free Fishing Camp. The event is Saturday, April 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway. Youth ages 8-15 are invited to attend - fishing poles and bait, as well as lunch and snacks will be provided. Volunteers are needed. To register, volunteer or donate please contact Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. Please mark your calendars for our annual Spring Clean Sweep to take place on Saturday, April 12 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. To register, please contact Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569 or visit our website. I want to remind our residents on the West bank that this week, the Utilities Department and Curtis Environmental Services Inc. will be conducting smoke testing in Edgard, from West 3rd St. to Columbia Rd., to investigate the condition of the wastewater collection system. The smoke is non-toxic, low odor, creates no fire

hazards and leaves no residue. Please dial 911 if you suspect smoke in your home."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, "Just a reminder on Saturday, March 29th come out and support Relay for Life it is a great cause. Saturday, April 5th our rotary club will be hosting Pups in the Park from 11 until 1:30 and also the same day DuPont is having their 50th Anniversary from 10 until 3. I would also like to congratulate RA on another great basketball season and congratulations Maleke on outstanding player."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to congratulate my nephew Maleke for begin MVP. He is a great kid."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would also like to echo everything that Mr. Gauff and Mr. Snyder said and I would like to thank Mrs. Millet for understanding what I was talking about in my district. I would also like to thank Mr. Snyder for seconding my motion and the council for their support and I will be looking forward to this work starting hopefully within the next 30 days so thank you all and good night."

Councilman Wilson stated, "At the Ezekiel Jackson park I think that is the only park that doesn't have a cover over the basketball court and I have been questioned by numerous residents in that area. I got together with Mr. Savoie earlier today to see if he could come up with a rough number. I will be getting back with him but I would like the administration to possibly look into this and see what we can do over there. Also they don't have any lighting over there with that and a cover over the court the kids could play in the rain or at night and I would ask the council's support on this also and God Bless everybody."

Councilman Smith stated, "First I would like to say congratulations and good luck to Drake Joseph with the coming NFL draft and congratulations to RA and all the other river parish teams that made the playoffs and to the St. John Biddy Basketball team and don't forget the Relay for Life."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to echo congratulations to RA and like Mr. Smith said I have a nephew that is going out for the NFL draft so I wish him luck and Happy Birthday to my wife and my son and I would like to say this rail system will be a great boost to St. John Parish and all the River Parishes and as Mrs. Robottom said we will have some people to come out and give us a presentation at the council meeting because I know I am getting calls from people in the parish that have rail experience that want to be on the committee for St. John Parish and I am looking forward to calling them."

ADJOURNMENT :

At 9:45 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Marvin Perrilloux

/s/Jackie Landeche

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Council Secretary