

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER**  
**VICE-CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McToby Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VII, Raj Pannu, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Wright led the Prayer. Councilwoman Pannu led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Geoffrey Michel, Kennilyn Schmill were present.

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Pannu, Councilman Becnel and Councilman Madere absent.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Remonet motioned to suspend the rules to move up - Retired Judge Mary Becnel the Recognition item and the 2016 St. John Heat Super Bowl Champions item. The motion passed with Councilwoman Pannu and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

**Michael Wright/Jaclyn Hotard - Recognition - Retired Judge Mary Becnel**

Councilman Wright and Councilwoman Hotard recognized Retired Judge Mary Becnel is a very long time true dedicated public servant in St. John Parish, and upon her retiring to give her a presentation on behalf of the Council for her 23 years of outstanding service and dedication to the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish.

**Natalie Robottom - Recognition - 2016 St. John Heat Super Bowl Champions**

St. John Heat Super Bowl Champions Team were present along with the coaches. The team was recognized for their Team winning the Super Bowl Championship and the entire council congratulated everyone on a job well done.

**Larry Sorapuru - Presentation - (Tabled 03/14/17) "Concerned Citizens of St. John"**

Stephen Perrilloux, Pastor of Riverlands Christian Center, Reserve, Louisiana, along with other members of Concerned Citizens of St. John Parish was present to share their mission statement, which states that the Concerned Citizens of St. John LLC. Mission is to insure the health and safety of all citizens of St. John Parish. Working to hold government officials, industries etc., accountable for the quality of air being polluted by chemical emissions in our parish, ensuring the future health of our families and most of all our future generations.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - March 30<sup>th</sup> as REALTOR Appreciation Day**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for March 30<sup>th</sup> as REALTOR Appreciation Day.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April as Child Abuse Prevention Month**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Sings and Strings Festival" Garyville Timbermill Association - Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church Fun Walk/Run Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, beginning at 8:00 AM starting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Reserve, LA; Permit Approval - Relay for Life Event - Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM - Joe Keller Memorial Stadium; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 beginning at 5:00 PM; Councilwoman Hotard - Appointment of Harold "Bubby" Haydel to the Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Sings and Strings Festival" Garyville Timbermill Association - Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church Fun Walk/Run Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, beginning at 8:00 AM starting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Reserve, LA; Permit Approval - Relay for Life Event - Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM - Joe Keller Memorial Stadium; Permit Approval - St. Joan of Arc Stations of the Cross Procession - Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 beginning at 5:00 PM; Councilwoman Hotard - Appointment of Harold "Bubby" Haydel to the Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**17-03** (Tabled 02/21/17 until 05/09/17) An ordinance amending the text of Chapter 109-Natural Resource and Environmental Preservation and Protection, Article II.-Coastal Zone Management with the intent of the adoption of the St. John the Baptist Parish Coastal Management Plan(CMP)and the establishment of a local coastal management program in accordance with The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972(CZMA)and The Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978(SLCRMA)as amended and in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:214.21-214.42 and the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 43,Natural Resources, Part 1,Office of the Secretary, Subpart 1, Chapter 7, Coastal Management(Parishwide)(N. Robottom)

**17-09** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to create Chapter 8.5 - Compromised Settlements and Judgments, to provide for the manner and method of entering into and satisfying compromised settlements and judgments, and the penalties for non-compliance therewith, to read as follows: Payments of Compromised Settlements and Judgments (L. Snyder)

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we postponed our meeting, we attended our first meeting with the District Attorney's office to discuss this, and they sent out a request for additional information, I think our meeting is scheduled this week to gather information to help us with this, that's my understanding. So I thought we would table it until after our meeting this week."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to table Ordinance 17-09 until the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to gather more information. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Madere stated, "At this time I'd like to ask the council to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - Resolution - R17-08 - A Resolution Dedicating a portion of New US Highway 51 from US Highway 61 to the I-55 interchange to "Veterans Memorial Highway" in memory of our Veterans**

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think this was the one that was brought before us at the last meeting. I think there was pretty much you know unanimous support for it. There was a question at the time on whether we were attempting to rename it or just dedicate it, it's my understanding that it's going to remain with the state's name, but we'll be adding an additional signage as the dedication. So clearly we're in support of that and I think at the last meeting, we were going to follow-up with DOT, I don't think that's necessary, but we'll you know double check just to make sure, once this is approved we can move forward."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Councilman Snyder, I'd like to ask at this time we'll offer a motion to table this item. There's a couple of things that we still need to tweak in the resolution and have legal take one final look at it. And some of it came into play with the dedication verse renaming, so if I can offer a motion to table this, so that we can get all the information corrected in the resolution until the next meeting, and we'll be ready to move forward with it."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to table Resolution R17-08 until the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to have legal counsel

take one final look at it. The motion passed unanimously.

**Lennix Madere - Resolution - R17-09 - A Resolution in support of the AOC, Administrative Order on Consent, signed by LDEQ and Denka to reduce chloroprene emissions at the LaPlace facility**

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Can we get legal to get us a copy of that document that they did sign with the Justice Department, just for our information purposes have a copy?"

Councilman Snyder asked, "Of the resolution?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Of the agreement that they made with DEQ and DENKA. That particular document that we're agreeing with. For information purposes for us."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I think that document was mailed to us by the governor."

Natalie Robottom asked, "The Administrative Order?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes, everybody received a copy of it. So this resolution is in support of holding them to that, which is what was discussed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, right. That was mailed to us."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Mailed to us?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Pannu seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-09. A resolution in support of the AOC, Administrative Order on Consent, signed by LDEQ and Denka to reduce chloroprene emissions at the LaPlace facility. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-10 - A Resolution retaining Government Consultants, Inc. ("GCI") as Municipal Advisor pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and provide for other matters in connection therewith**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution is actually is to retain the company that's referenced here Government Consultants, Inc., usually they're represented by Mr. Namby Thompson who wasn't able to attend tonight, but Mr. Toups is here on his behalf. Based on the Dodd-Toups Act, there was a requirement that our Bond Attorneys and Underwriters also have a Financial Advisor to make sure that we remain on track and that there's not a conflict with the Bond Attorneys having sold recommendations to the parish. We've been working with them probably since 2011, they actually brought to our attention the refinancing opportunities they've been working with us on the ad valorem, calculating the numbers that would be required to support the mileage as well as what how that would impact our homeowners and businesses, as I said, Mr. Thompson was supposed to make it, he sent Mr. Toups if there are any questions, we've had a lot of success working with them, they also attended the Bond Rating Upgrade and assisted us in putting those documents and numbers

*that helped to be successful in our upgrade, and with us moving forward with the election and some of the additional finances and possible bond opportunities, we would like to retain them, they're paid based on their performance. When there's a bond issue or whatever, that's included as is our Bond Attorney, their fees are included in that bond issue. So there's not a payment necessary by doing this. It's only when they work for us."*

Councilman Snyder asked, "You said it's when we need their services, ok?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-10. A resolution retaining Government Consultants, Inc. ("GCI" as Municipal Advisor pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and provide for other matters in connection therewith. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-11 - A Resolution to appoint representatives to the Regional Planning Commission**

*Natalie Robottom stated, "We do have a correction on the appointments for Mr. Michael Wright where he's listed as Council Vice-Chair instead of Finance Vice-Chair, so we'd like to make that correction and we'll make that correction to the actual resolution. But this resolution is in accordance with ORDINANCE 16-52, the following individuals will represent the Parish on the RPC, the actual ordinance did dictated the types of appointments: Natalie Robottom-St. John the Baptist Parish President; Larry Snyder-St. John the Baptist Parish Council Chair; Michael Wright-St. John the Baptist Parish Council Vice-Chair; Charles Kennedy-Owner of Kennedy Financial Group; Mark A. Roussel, Area Manager, Matrix Services, are the names that's being recommended for these positions. Typically this is our first year belonging, it's our first time having these appointments, I do think it's very important for us to be full members, the meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month around 12:00 noon - 2:00. We did receive word from RPC that the other parishes have approved our entrance into the RPC, which it wasn't just a matter of us saying we wanted to belong, we had to have approval by the other members, that's already in place, St. Charles Parish was our partner in this and they started making their appointments and we anticipate being ready for their next meeting if approved tonight."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-11. A resolution to appoint representatives to the Regional Planning Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-12 - A Resolution authorizing the submission of one or more applications under the 2017 Louisiana Safe Routes to Public Places Program**

*Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a new name, I think it used to be; Safe Routes to School. We were actually fortunate to receive two grants, one near LaPlace Elementary, one near East St. John Elementary. We have an opportunity to apply again under this new name for sidewalk and improvements along LA Hwy. 44 near John L. Ory, as with all of the request for funding, there's a resolution of support required by the Governing Authority. This one is specific to this project and we ask for your approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-12. A resolution authorizing the submission of one or more applications under the 2017 Louisiana Safe Routes to Public Places Program. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled until 06/27/17) Update from Bond attorney on financing for water projects**

**Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - Tom F. Daley Memorial Park - Upkeep and maintenance**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I received a call from a resident, maybe last week just about the overall condition of the Tom Daley Park. And so, I went out there and they didn't tell me specifically what they were looking at, but that they had some concerns about the condition of the park. And we've had you know a lot of conversations with the Recreation Department, we've visited the park with the Recreation Department and so, just on an initial inspection, you know you get out to the park, most of the signs were crocket like this first sign here, ok? The 2<sup>nd</sup>, the next two pictures and we addressed this, but if you look just at these garbage cans, now let me remind everybody, this is the Tom F. Daley Park, we named this park after our beloved District Attorney. These garbage cans, Michael and I visited the park over a year ago and specifically said; this looks horrible. This is not becoming of a park of any St. John Parish park. We expect our residents to do better than this, we need to do better, okay? Most of the garbage cans don't even match, much less when they have a crack in them they put a piece of black duct tape across it. The next picture is the drainage grate right here, and if you really look it's hard to tell on the picture but from the top of the grass to the actual drainage grate, it's about a foot and a half of a drop. This should be very obvious to anybody that inspects the park if we have anybody in the department that actually visits the park, this should be just very obvious and it's very low, it is a hazard, ok? The next picture we're going to this little ant pile here, which is just one, but I walked the entire track and it was probably one of about fifty. If anybody is doing any type of upkeep maintenance on that park, this is a problem. The next picture, this is on a sewer manhole cover, I'm saying its sewer looks like electricity. This piece is about 2 feet out of the ground, I'm sure that they used this to lift this cover off, this is a hazard, its sticking right up out of the ground. Anybody who visits the park, if we have somebody in our department actually doing maintenance on this park, they should see these things, this is a hazard, 2 feet out of the ground. The next picture in your packet here and it's kind of dark it's clear on my phone, but what looks like happened is they put these metal stakes in the ground, they come out about a foot and they put a metal cable, I guess to keep the cars off the park, but the cable is hanging down in the grass and when I left the park it was night time you can't see it, I was told that we actually had an accident at another park from something similar, but this is a hazard, why put up a metal wire to keep cars off of the park if the metal wire is just going to be hanging on the ground and now all you've done is create a hazard. I'd rather have people drive on the park than have somebody slip and fall on a metal wire that they can't see hanging on the ground. Again, somebody who's conducting any maintenance at the park should see this. This is the next picture is just from the concrete walking path, it's just broken. You know again, this should not be this way at the Tom F. Daley Park. The last three pictures are the construction that's taking place at the dog park, that when I went there was not finished and the concern I have here is when you walk into

or you attempt to go into the dog park, the lock is very high, it's hard to open and I want to say it was on the inside of the gate, okay then I get into the dog park, I walk all the way to the other side where the small dog park is supposed to be, that gates locked which I didn't know, but that handle was on the outside, so I'm asking somebody to come let me out of the thing, which it was locked so now I walk all the way around to the beginning and I'm looking at all of these things in here and it's just disappointing. I know that you know administration put on there they can provide an accurate response, if anybody in our staff is at the park ever, then that would be the accurate response. The accurate response would be that our park doesn't look like this. I should have to get a phone call, Michael should not have to get a phone call from a constituent to just say; go look, just go look! I'm not going to say anything, just go look. This is embarrassing, this is embarrassing. I don't know if we need to have an employee at, especially our flagship parks, REGALA always busy, Kerry we know you're there, Hwy. 51 is always busy there was not one parish employee anywhere to be seen. If we need to have somebody find retired people, I don't know a park ranger, what they do in parks it works have somebody there, ok! I'd like to see that, but these kinds of things if we have maintenance a maintenance schedule, anybody should be able to walk on the park and know that none of this is acceptable in the Tom F. Daley Park. A person who spent his life beautifying the parish in his side his extra free time. So that's what frustrated me the most about this, is that and I said this; you know what this looks like to me and I said it to Michael, it looks like an elevated water bill, that what this park looks like to me. How you handle anything is how you handle everything. And this, this looks horrible. It looks the perception that people have of St. John that that's just how they do things there, half fill in the blanks. And I know that we're better than that. This park is better than that, and Tom Daley's legacy and memory I know it's better than that. This is horrible, those garbage cans with that black duct tape we talked about that a year ago. Why would we do anything like that? Why would we have these hazards, things for people to trip over? Who's out there looking at the parks and your people should be reporting to you. They should be letting you know, I know you can't be at the park all of the time. But somebody should be letting you know what's going on, this is an embarrassment. This is a reflection of us and this is where the majority of the residents in LaPlace go in the morning to walk around that track and this is what they see, and you know what happens when they get home and they get their vehicles tagged and we tell them their grass is too high, I'd mail a copy of this if I were one of those residents. We have got to do better."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I sit here in amazement and I hear what Ms. Hotard says and I agree a 100%. But I've said this over a year ago over two years ago I've said that about the parks and about various other things. Okay we should take pride and not only in Tom Daley Park but every park that the parish have. And I always said, if it has St. John the Baptist Parish name on it, then we should be proud to say it belongs to St. John the Baptist Parish. That means parks, buildings, anything that belongs to this parish. Okay I had that same conversation when I wanted to talk about the Homer Joseph Center, it belongs to St. John the Baptist Parish and need to make sure it's maintained properly. The parks are the same way, okay and I also mentioned that I think at one time we had 13 parks and 8 employees. That's when you have that type of rational 13 to 8, 13 people beat 8 people all day long. So the maintenance for the park is not going to be up to par like it should, okay if you have 13 parks or 15 parks whatever we have, we should have at least 1 employee per park. And I definitely agree it's obvious that the trash cans are trash, the can needs to be in the can, oaky with the cuts and the tape and everything on

it. Alright, you should get one color, our color is mainly blue look at the screen, we should have blue trash cans out there, and to put someone in the right place, blue trash cans in all the parks. And proper maintenance, grass cutting okay ants, it doesn't take much to spray some stuff down there to keep the ants away and things like that. Ok, but I've been saying this over and over and again since I've been on the council and I'm glad that this is being brought to the attention cause it seems as though when I say things, it seems to come from my mouth, go to the mic and then disappear no one remember. Well when it comes back, okay I remember, I said that before. 13 parks, 15 parks, 8 employees, it's not working."

Councilman Wright stated, "I think you both covered best. I think we should be held to a higher standard than we expect our residents to be at. We're constantly asking more and more from them and we need to be held to a higher standard. These pictures are just a few, but some of us took office in January of 2012, some of us before some of us just recently, and this has been on the agenda multiple times, multiple emails have been sent requesting a change, multiple conversations have been said. At what point are we going to hold ourselves the same standard we're going to ask our residents to be held to. This is unacceptable and it has to be rectified and our parks have to be maintained properly, we can't create our own liabilities."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I just wanted to say; I guess I was missing the ploy I guess Mr. Madere was supposed to bring up more employees since Mr. Watkins smiled and laughed the whole time you talked, so I'm missing that point I guess. I'll just appreciate if somebody complains about you, you take it seriously. Because I'm not impressed, do I think we need 13 people for 13 parks, absolutely not! Because we don't have 13 huge parks. We just need people taking pride in it, that's what they want. By you laughing tells me you take no pride in anything. You've got a big budget, you've got a lot of employees more than it's ever had I cannot see why these things cannot be done. Its people using common sense and guidance with common sense, so any little thing I thought positive of you, you've killed that tonight. You are being reprimanded by the people who can fire you, and you did not even take it seriously. I'm very, very disappointed. I think we need to sit down here and we make these people work, I think they can work and I think you've got enough people to do it. But these are just common sense things, you see an ant pile you don't want a child to just stepping in that ant pile or yourself. These nasty garbage cans, get rid of them get rid of them. Just do something take some pride and when we're adding to that list, let's take the wood chips out the child's playground area and put the little rubber chips. I've brought my granddaughter there and she's gotten stuck and cut and everything with those to do it. But these are just common sense things, you see an ant pile you don't want a child to just stepping in that ant pile or yourself. These nasty garbage cans, get rid of them get rid of them. Just do something take some pride and when we're adding to that list, let's take the wood chips out the child's playground area and put the little rubber chips. I've brought my granddaughter there and she's gotten stuck and cut and everything from those little wood shavings that they put instead of the rubber chips, that needs to be changed, that can be in the aisle or whatever, but I was just very disappointed Mr. Watkins. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I didn't even see any of that and I never you know when I gave my presentation, I never attacked anyone or pointed any fingers so I would say if you found this funny that's disappointing, but we need hold our people accountable. That's your people, like I said when I gave

my presentation, I know you can't be at the parks all the time, you have a job to do, just I don't expect Blake to look over every pump at every given moment. But we have to hold people accountable. What I'd like to do and put this in a form of a motion similar to when we ask for a maintenance schedule in Public Works, we need to see a maintenance schedule for recreation. I want to know that your folks and really all our departments, we should have to put this in a form of a motion, but I want to know your people are going to the parks and they're giving you reports on this type of stuff. They should be letting you know that, because at the end of the day, we're holding the department heads accountable. We can't go to each employee and ask them; what are you doing today? What are you doing today? I don't want to do that, I have a job to do, like a real job before I come here at 6:30/6:00 on Tuesdays. But we need hold people accountable. My motion would be; that we start to receive maintenance schedule from the Recreation Department for all our parks, it should be a checklist, did you check and if you have them already, send them to us. I want to receive them because if we have a maintenance schedule and we have something that's being followed and this is the condition of the park, it just showing up on a Wednesday, there's a serious disconnect there's a serious disconnect. So my motion would be; that we receive reports from the Recreation Department on the maintenance of all the parks on a monthly basis, that would be my motion. I'm not saying we have to end the discussion if someone else has something to say, but that would be my motion that we make it a requirement to have those reports."

Councilman Madere stated, "One thing, a couple of things. One thing I want to correct is; we do not fire directors ok? We don't fire directors, they can only be recommended to us that they be fired and then we would have to vote on that, but we can't just arbitrarily fire the director we can't do that, so I want to correct that statement. Now as far as what he was doing, I don't know I wasn't paying attention, I was listening to what's going on. But I'm pretty sure you do take this seriously, I do think Ms. Robottom take it seriously. But once again we talked about the wood chip, I mentioned that too. Okay I'm glad people finally recognizing the things I used to tell them about, what the problem was. And yes 8 employees for the size of those parks is a very hard thing to do. Now there's no excuse for a busted trash can, there's no excuse for fire ants I'm not making any excuses okay, but that department is under employed with a lot of work to be done. And I've been saying that and it's self-evidence as to what is going on. I'm not going to sit here and say the workers are not doing their job, like I said; people get their butt whipped everyday if you have 14/15 people jumping on them. I don't care how hard you try, you're going to lose. I'm saying and I said it before not just in Recreation, I said it in Public Works and I said it for Recreation, we need some more employees to maintain the park at the level that we deserve for it to be maintained. And I just don't think 8 employees can handle all those parks up to the standard that we want. Now you may have to add 2, 3 or 4, my suggestion is 1 per park, you should be able to get something done and maintain properly."

Councilman Wright stated, "Just one more thing for me in addition to the reports, I would from Administration and Recreation Department to make a recommendation to come to this council on how we can rectify this. Funding is not an excuse anymore, because we asked the voters to dedicate a funding source for this department. It is self-sufficient, so I want a recommendation for this council on how we can rectify these problems and make sure that they will never happen again and how we're going to hold our people accountable."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "I think that's exactly what I was going to suggest also. We definitely need to know what action they're going to be taking because this is something very serious. You know these parks belong to the people and it's the tax money that the people put in into the parish, and they expect to see something better. So maybe we need to get more of the public involved also, because sometimes the public goes there and they see something and say; I'm not going to go back there. Rather than just giving up, this is your parish this is your town, this is where your children and your grandchildren are going to be growing up, so take pride in what we have. And I agree because if our parks are all first class, definitely people would look forward to bringing their children and taking them to the green areas. We can develop more green areas, but if the green areas that we have now are not being taken care of, what's the point of us having 13 or 15 or 20 parks? We might as well shut all the parks and build homes over there, and don't even worry about it, but I love parks and I hope and pray that everybody understands that. You know it's our duty as citizens as well as the parish, of course I'm sure there's lots of things that the parish has to take care of, but be responsible, you need to at least give us maybe at the council meetings, we can put that as one of the agenda items to check and say; hey what have you done, just like the work orders that we get every time, complete or incomplete, okay has this been taken care of? Okay this is what they've done now. So I know that's a siren sound so I better keep quiet. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Councilman Madere, I do agree with you about the additional employees. I'd like to remind the administration when we had the budget workshop, we asked if there were additional people needed in the department, the answer was no. So if that is the problem, if this is the problem on why this park looks this way, let us know what you need and this is where we can make it happen at the council. If it's a you know matter of needing more people, I don't this is you know especially with some of these things we sent in a year ago, I don't know if that's it with this concern, but if you need more people in your department, we're telling you now, let us know it. Put it in writing and send that in a form of communication to the council. Let them know and let us know if that's what it is if we need more people and we'll take care of that. We can't have our parks looking this way."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to instruct the Recreation Department to send monthly reports on the upkeep and maintenance of all Parish Parks. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Lennix Madere - Drainage in District III**

Brian Nunes stated, "A field meeting was held on March 23, 2017 between the Parish President, the Public Works Director, Design Engineer, Contractor and Councilmen Madere, Sorapuru and Snyder. All concerns were visited and are currently being addressed, as a matter of fact Councilman Madere and I met today with the railroad at that same site and DOT to discuss some of those concerns that we met about last week. So if there's anything specific, I'd be happy to address it."

Councilman Madere stated, "The only thing, first of all I want to thank Ms. Robottom and yourself and the Contractor and Engineer for coming out you know to the site and looking at the concerns we had, and working out a plan to correct what I consider to be a safety hazard and a flaw in the design of the drainage system. Now I also heard a couple of solutions as to how to solve the problem, and I think the best the one we agreed upon was the one where they

*make the box and the pipe come out to match the level of the ditch and the water flows through that pipe and goes down into there."*

*Brian Nunes stated, "Actually the Design Engineer sent me 2 drawings, he sent them yesterday afternoon. Still kind of reviewing them and trying to get prices, but that was one of them and the other was a safety end, but both of them look like they're going to be good options."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Ok and that's what I was concerned about. Now I also heard when we were out there, I think you made the comment or he made the comment there was going to be a change order to do that?"*

*Brian Nunes stated, "Yes the additional work that we spoke about going towards Sweet Lorraine."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Right, my issue with the change order on that is, I definitely need the change order because the work definitely need to be done for the safety concern. But my way of saying a change order, we have change orders at no cost to the parish. Because that should have been in the design from the beginning, so there should be a change order, with a change order at no cost to the parish."*

*Brian Nunes stated, "I just want to interject, the change order I was talking about was to extend those pipes all the way to the cross street that you asked about, so that's where I think, I forget the exact budget amount but."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Well I understand that, you talking about extend that to Sweet Lorraine okay and bring her back up again. I understand that, I'm talking about the change order that's going to take place from 26<sup>th</sup>, the design that you're looking at to make sure that safety is taken care of, that hazard I pointed out. And my thing is, that should have already been in the engineer design already. Okay and that shouldn't have been something I found was the problem. So if it's a change order, it's a change order that should not be a burden on the parish to fix that okay, because that's a flow in the design."*

*Brian Nunes stated, "Ok. We're going to look at the prices when I get them. Because I know, no I understand I understand."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Whatever the price is!"*

*Brian Nunes stated, "We are taking a few things out to put those in, some boxes I believe we're just modifying boxes is what we're doing basically."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "What you mean taking boxes out to fix them?"*

*Brian Nunes stated, "Not taking them out, modifying them. Boxes that we were supposed to have that we were going to stub out instead, we'll just, we're going to turn them into those safety ones."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "Right and like I said; that safety issue should have already been in the design. Okay so that's why the change order to me should be not a burden on the parish."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "We'll get back with you Mr. Madere, because obviously we're going to be looking at you know the design changes, but keep*

in mind the contractor is probably not going to do that work for no pay. Okay so, we'll get with you on what we think is engineer design and contractor you know if we have to buy additional equipment, and the other is we approved their design in specs, so without getting into the legality of whose responsible, we want the best project for the best price and we will definitely work with you all and the engineering firm to get those concerns addressed at the level that you requested. Now we ask you to do something too which was identify somebody for us so we could...

Councilman Madere stated, "Well all I need to say about that, I understand the contractor is not the one I'm asking to pay for it. Okay I'm asking the person who designed it to pay for it. Cause the contractor when you bill a house, you give him the blueprint and he builds what you have. The design or the flaw or the problem was in the design, so I'm not asking the contractor to be the one to pay for it, I'm asking the engineer that designed it with that problem to pay for it. Not the council, okay and that's what I'm asking."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have a question. When we have these projects like this come, do we do a review of the area with the right people involved? Or you just grab a person and go out there and look at this thing you know? I mean you know when you do a review process, these little things like this is what you find, you know if you do a good review process, people to know what's going on. And you know 42" lines wide open, 3-4' down in the ground on a main street where children ride their bikes? Jesus Christ I mean you know I mean, if you get a good review process that should have been caught, or as you were saying earlier our engineer, our residential inspector should have caught that. But you have to do a review process, we might need some safety done on some of this, especially this thing. You know I mean I know it's kind of hard to visualize, you that haven't seen this. But this thing is treacherous when you look at it. But anyhow, if we have to do some changes we're going to probably have to pay for it, trust me. But that's just one of those things you know, I understand where you're coming from."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just want to add too, and we'll look at it because obviously the money is our money it's all of our money. Possibly, you know when you talk about design part, remember this project designed to go farther, and we cut it off where we could afford it. It's likely that the final end design where it was going to end was going to be a much different end but we had to cut back on the project because of funding. So again, there's different reasons once you start looking at a project as to why that might have happened but we know that we had a much greater project design than we were able to afford. And it's likely as it got closer to the front those pipes were going to be much smaller and so again, give us a chance to look at it, I think we have some good recommendations, I think the visit was good, hopefully, I haven't spoken to Brian about yawl meeting today, but the fact that both of them came out to look at our concerns is a good thing and we're going to hold them making the corrections to their errors."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think the meeting today with CNN and DOT went well, and they suggested some solutions to the concerns that we have, so I thought that meeting went pretty good so I was pretty pleased with the outcome of that meeting. One other thing before we get off this drainage, on Sweet Lorraine, okay I know you moved some of those telephone poles in order to put those pipes down there, but if you're going all the way to Sweet Lorraine, there's about 5 or 6 more that I've seen visually telephone post that need to be moved to."

Brian Nunes stated, "Ok. We didn't move them okay? I just want that straight."

Councilman Madere stated, "No, no, no I mean we have to move them I said."

Brian Nunes stated, "The utility owner that's right. So we moved the ones that were in the way, how they were extending, we're going to have to move them more."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right. I think we should get on that because it took them a long time to come out there to move the last set."

Brian Nunes stated, "Ok."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah to move the last set."

Merrill Pollack with Buchart-Horn, Design Engineer stated, "Regarding the poles, I've spoken with the contractor and they've looked at, the poles that had to be moved were closer to the street than all the rest of the poles on the street. So those poles have already been moved the remaining poles will not need to be moved. The contractors are already confirmed that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, alright good."

Merrill Pollack stated, "I want to say with regard to the issue with the structures at the end of the pipes, Buchart-Horn is more than happy to complete all the design work that's required to get all those structures designed so the contractor can install them at no cost to the parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Wright stated, "I'll actually wait and ask my question offline, it's more of I guess legalities on design and in review process."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "On the digging going to Airline from Martin Luther King Boulevard, that section of canal, are you going to get that dug out pretty soon?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We'd talk to the state about that. They're going to cut the grass and spray the canal and make sure that it's not a blockage and then they're going to go ahead and dig it out."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "That's going to help that water get out."

Councilman Madere stated, "We also talked about the railroad track and the grass along the track."

#### **Lennix Madere - Update on Reserve walking path**

Daron Cooper stated, "A walk trough of the Mississippi River Trail Phase III was conducted on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. A punch list is being generated by the Project Engineer before final acceptance of the project by LADOTD and the Parish. The Certificate of Substantial Completion will be submitted for execution at the April 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay as far as the walking path is itself, I really

didn't see any problem as far as the design and the workmanship of the walking path. The problem I have, that's why I put this on here is related to what happened in the community when they were fixing walking path. It was the very first week when they started grating that levy, I pulled out of my street and I saw this truck parked over there by this business what is known as DREAMS, and this big dump truck is sitting there, so when I came back the dump truck was gone and I pulled up there and two of my constituents or friends sitting down there and they said,; look what this dump truck did to this blacktop asphalt. So I immediately left like I told you, and when you tell the truth the story comes out I don't know how many times you tell it and when you're lying it comes out different every time you say it. And I immediately went to OLG and got ahold of the guy that was in charge, the mistake I made I didn't get his name, didn't take a picture and he came and told me he looked at it and said; yeah when we start asphaltting that levee, we're going to take care and fix that spot. Now then went on from the beginning of this project to the very end, and on three other occasions I took individuals out there and they all said the same thing. Now when it get down and you were there the last 2 two meetings, and at the last meeting the guy said that they were going to do it and then again he comes back and told you he didn't do it. We had a meeting out there today with the engineer, with the contractor, and contractor in turn told me that they're not responsible for what the truck has done. And I, you were out there, you know what I told him, I told him; well let me explain something to you; you have the contract to fix it, and you subbed it out to these people, so you are responsible for what those people did. Now, you go after those people to get your money back or for the damage that they caused, that's your problem. My problem is, you're the contractor and then the engineer came out there, Mires Engineer, and once again he said; well we have nothing to do with that. I said; yes you do because you designed it, you designed it, okay everybody has something to do with it. And the thing that really made me mad, okay and when you tell me something, I don't forget! So don't tell you're going to fix it three times and then all of a sudden you're getting ready to get out of here, you're saying you're not going to fix it. And I'm going to ask my secretary to get with you to get in contact with the guy that's the big boss, because I told him out there; I don't need to talk to him anymore. Because he told me his guys said; he didn't do it. Well I said; I want to talk to him; well you can't talk to him. Well I'm going to talk to somebody. Your guys not going to just say I'm a lie, when I know what I was told. Okay now if you weren't going to fix it, don't tell me on three separate occasions that you're going to take care of it. Without a doubt, you damaged it. And like the example I gave when I got a crack in my windshield, and then you throw a rock and bust the whole windshield, don't tell me I had a crack already, you're going to fix my windshield. Okay cause your rock destroyed that crack in my windshield. So we're going to have that meeting with him and get this straight because I'm not going to lie on anyone to come in the district and do work and destroy private property. Like parking trucks and heavy equipment on people's property cause you see an open space. That has to stop! Okay, if they see a location, they should simply ask; can I park here? Or can I leave my equipment here? Now I understand about DOT have servitude along the road, but they don't go that far back. So I would, you know I'm going to ask the secretary to get in contact with you to set up that meeting. Thank you."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding Andouille Festival future sponsorship and naming rights**

Jerry Jones stated, "A meeting was held with members of the Council to discuss

possible options for management of the Andouille Festival. An RFP is being developed for consideration and a draft will be provided for review once completed."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good, I appreciate that. I have it because I wanted to discuss it with the Council that was the big thing. Want to get a discussion here with the council to look at it, we may decide we don't want to do that you know, but I'm glad you already have a head start on getting this RFP started. That will fine if we decide we want to do that. But we came here we was losing a lot of money on that money and Mr. Madere came up with some ideas and we kind of supported them and we kind of got it cut back a little bit, but I think we're going, it's getting larger now, so the amount is going to go up on what we have to pay to put this thing on, and this is public money and in talking with the Parish President, she brought up a point that I didn't think of that you know, and it was the fact that: if we would let's someone take this sponsorship, I mean sponsor this thing, that especially if it's an organization that's 501C they call that, you know those kind of people that and they might be able to get more sponsors than we can get, you know that makes sense. You know because right now the parish can get sponsors but they can't use it the income tax, they can't use it for tax purposes. However the sponsors are they have to do it out of the goodness of their heart. But if one of these 501C organizations take it over, then they would have a, whoever donates to them would be a write-off. So I think that kind of sway me over a bit to see maybe we should start looking at that and see if we can get some people to look at doing that. And I asked a questions as far as; naming rights was concerned, I don't want to talk about that now but, and I threw that in there so we can start thinking about that so if we wanted to something like that too. Okay that's just for discussion now, now if you have something you want to say right now that's fine. We don't need to make any broad moves right now, but we at least we can know what each other are thinking, if you have anything you want to say."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Yes I really like this idea, look at what the zoo has done. Okay they have Zoo-to-Do, Whitney Bank is their biggest sponsor and when you go to the zoo you know exactly what they're talking about. I don't know how many of you have been to the Zoo-to-Do, but I advise, I do there every year. Please go and see it. I mean if you get big sponsors first of all, at least you will not have to spend much money as what the sponsors are going to be paying. Don't get one, get many; there's Southwest Airlines, the new British Airways Airline coming to town. I mean catch all these people and that will definitely not only increase the money that is coming, it will increase the amount of people that are coming here, so every year this will be on the tourism, so you know we can invite a lot of people and I love to serve on that committee. Thank you, but I really like that idea."

Councilman Wright stated, "I do like the idea of soliciting proposals, because it does give us the ability to decide if we want to move forward with it or if not we can see who else is out there and what ideas they have. So I think you guys are headed in the right direction."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I'd just like to make sure that we keep the legal aspect of it in the loop. We're talking to legal, that way we won't be going around in circles and having to go back, getting legal opinion for this, legal opinion for that. Just with the conversations to help draft the blueprint of what you're trying to do on those committees."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And just to add from a business perspective, I know you touched on the 501C-3, but as a business owner, when businesses do sponsor a festival that is a write-off, it's an advertising expense for those businesses. So that's often times why they will do those types of advertisements. If I buy an ad and you put my poster up at the Andouille Festival, I write that off that's advertisement for my business. So those big businesses can still contribute to a private organization as long as it's advertising a business, it is a tax deduction. Yes tax write-off."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And that's all I wanted to just kind of let the residents and let's think about it and if you may come up with some other ideas on how we can make this thing work and if we can make it work and I'll have it back on the agenda within the next couple of meetings, but how would you feel if the administration do go out for RFP to get the feel for it?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "It says on the agenda that they're drafting one that the council has to authorize it anyway, so. Thank you Mr. Jones, thank you for your patience."

#### **Marvin Perrilloux - Land acquisition, Update on Haydel Canal crossing**

"This matter is to be discussed during Executive Session."

#### **Marvin Perrilloux - Fence Board pick-up, who is responsible party Metro, Parish or residents**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I put that item on the agenda and I see what administration wrote and I understand that. And maybe we need to pass that out to the residents to understand that too. But the problem I have, when a resident put the fence board out there and they sit on the ground for 3½-4 weeks, that's the problem I have. We have the people that, they've cut the grass 2 or 3 times, now the grass is growing through the fence boards and it's just sitting out there for like I said, I watched this person put the fence board out and watched it sit out there for 3½ weeks. Nobody would pick it up. I talked to Metro, Mr. Carter and I understand 2 cubic foot maybe they don't understand what 2 cubic foot is. But we have to do something because we're coming to the summer where you're going to have a lot of residents changing fence boards and putting fence out and they're staying on the ground too long. Before we didn't have that problem, now all of a sudden it's a big problem to pick-up fence boards. That's the question I have."

Brian Nunes stated, "Metro: responsible for 2 cubic yards of bulky waste once per week on the second collection day. Parish: responsible for the pickup of vegetative debris only. Residents: responsible for separating bulky debris into categories (vegetative, white goods, trash, etc.). Anything besides vegetative is limited to 2 cubic yards per week. Residents have the option of bringing certain items to the recycle yard behind the Administrative building - Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A listing of the items accepted and not accepted at the yard is listed on the Parish website. Residents and Contractors are responsible for securing dumpsters of suitable size for trash and waste material from a construction or demolition site. See attachments."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And that's good because not all residents have a truck where they can haul a fence board and that's good for them to know

that. But when you call and called and called and calling Metro and nobody is picking up the fence boards and it's sitting out there for 3 and 4 weeks, that's a problem. Because if a truck driver pass and picking up garbage and he sees that out there, he can document that on his pad and say at this address we have to pick-up fence boards and do a work order do a work order themselves from the truck, because this is getting ridiculous with the fence boards sitting on the ground. Like I said; the summer is coming we going to have more and more boards out there where people going to be sitting, they going to get frustrated because they're calling me, nobody's coming, nobody's coming, nobody's coming. I had that conversation with Ms. LaVerne and I'm tired of it. I made a call to Metro but we played phone tag because I'm tired of it. We need to pick the fence boards up, don't let them sit on the ground that long."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we passed out a copy of a flyer that was created and distributed. Metro also put out a new flyer when they received the contract. And their contract is very specific, and we want to kind of avoid the situation that you're referencing. But residents can put as many of the fence boards as they want in their garbage can and put some on the side..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "Let me correct you there. Because when they do that, then Metro says it's too much weight they can't move it. Because I have a guy with that right now, the they've passed his garbage can up 4 times, and I told him; the only way they're going to move it, because we got to look, we don't nobody to hurt their back trying to lift that can. So I told him, you're going to have to take some out the garbage can and maybe 2 or 3 pick-ups they'll get it. But you can't just stack them all in the garbage can like that because of weight."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And just, well that's correct and thanks for clearing that up. But they're not going to pick up demolition sites. That's not part of their contract. Now if they do, keep in mind, they'll pick it up and they're going to send us a service ticket, cause we now have to pay for that additional pick-up plus the dump area/landfill. So we do have our, you know this is paid for in our contract like this recycle yard is in the back, which is an opportunity for them. If they want to break up their items and put them 2 cubic yards at a time, that is what Metro is going to pick-up. But at this point we don't have a mechanism for anybody else picking up their whole pile without there being some additional cost. And we have done it, especially if there's a safety issue and but what you don't see is they send us pictures and cost, and additional cost associated with that pick-up. And we do want to remind our residents, and I think Alex's office does a good job of that, if you're demolishing and building, you are required to have a dumpster. So you know there's certain components of this garbage, which is why we have a full flyer that tries to kind of explain what are processes are, but just because you put it on the street, doesn't mean it's our responsibility to pick it up. But it becomes a problem for us when it stays out there too long. Sometimes we make some decisions for safety purposes, but that's not our protocol, that's not what they're supposed to be doing. There's very specific guidelines as to what you put out, who picks it up, how much you can put out and what's available to you outside of the curb pick-up, which is our recycled yard and then Brian's staff actually does the tree branches. We're going to probably run into this too. If you hire a contractor to cut down a tree, part of that contractor's price is to move your tree stumps. You don't pay them, and then put your whole tree on the curb and they've taken your money and didn't pick-up your tree stump. And they you're calling us because it is a problem, you know you have these big tree stumps on the side of the road, blocking people's

view, but we, I think I've talked to Baileigh about this, it might have been a couple of years ago that we did this, and we put them in their water bills. And we send it out you know with a little thicker paper, so they could keep them and know the numbers to call when there are problems, but we will redo this again and try to get it out, just as a reminder as we come up on Spring and Summer, where people are going to be doing this work. We don't want to leave it there either, but there is a process and Metro is going to follow their contract, and it's not a matter of not being responsive, they have some very specific things in their contract that they're going to follow. But they do work with us when we have to send them out on you know additional runs, but there's a cost for that and it's born by the rest of the residents."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I was just going to ask you, can we resend that. Because I think they say so many cubic feet or whatever of garbage. I even had someone dump a household of furniture which was horrible to try and get picked up, so I think the people need to be reminded of that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We'll do that again."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Alright thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes this has no baron on the situation Mr. Perrilloux is talking about, but I do know Public Works and I do agree with Mr. Perrilloux that when Metro pass down the street and they see the boards, that they're responsible for picking up, not the trees, because we pick that up. When that driver passes and see, he picks up that garbage can and he sees all those fence boards there, he should write that address down and give that information to the dispatcher that when that truck goes out to pick-up boards that that is on that list, and that's what not being done. I also was in the office when Mr. Raydell told his tree collectors, if you pass down that area even if it's not on your list but you see it you write it down and when you come to the office you put in a work order for them to go back and get it. Because some of the problems is that the residents just automatically feel if they put something out there that someone knows they have to pick it up. Because I passed it myself, you know they'll put tree branches and never call it in, I called it in sometimes. Someone have to call in if there's tree branches cause not every street they go down every day. So sometimes it sits there 2 or 3 weeks, you know I'll call it in and they'll pick it up. And also the same thing with Metro, and referring to Mr. Perrilloux situation but whenever I have a situation I call George Carter and tell him about it he goes and take care of it. Now I do believe like Mr. Perrilloux said; the drivers pass and see these situations that they should write that up and make sure they come back and pick it up, you know make sure they come back and pick it up. Because that's part of their job too."

Brian Nunes stated, "I just had one thing to add under that. You were talking about people doing a lot of work during the Spring, they're also going to be doing their garages, so we have a Household Hazard Waste Day coming up, it's a the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, I think it's right over here at New Wine, so that's where all your paints, your solvents and that sort of thing to be disposed of, so people are going ahead and cleaning out their garages, it's a perfect time to get rid of that sort of thing."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "I know I'm not going to be here for too long, maybe another few weeks until you find my successor, but I really would like to see recycling. I think it's very important, we want to move into the 21<sup>st</sup>,

22<sup>nd</sup> Century let's do some recycling because if we have curbside recycling, I know it's not in the contract because I remember I had just come aboard when the contract was already signed. But in the future please make sure because our residents especially the Belle Terre Civic Association they're always asking me, when are we going to get curbside recycling? So that should be one of the agenda and I request all my council folks to please press on it, we need recycling. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Brian one quick question. It says that Metro is responsible for 2 cubic yards and how many fence boards or you know someone replaces their whole fence, is that 2 cubic yards, it's more? Will they take 2 cubic yards at a time until it gets picked up?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay so that's why it takes so long to get it picked up."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What is the process now with picking up boards? If I take my fence down and put my boards out there, I don't do anything, what's the process? Is there a process?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's actually only the second collection day that they pick up the additional 2 cubic yards, so you know our day is Tuesday and Friday, so on the Friday we can put out boards. If you put more than the 2 cubic yards, they're going to take 2 cubic yards. So we encourage you to put it out 2 cubic yards and obviously you know you're saying don't fill up the garbage cans, but what they've said; depending on the weight of what you're putting, you can put things in your garbage can and put some on the side. But the process is that's part of what they pick up, but they're only going to pick it up 2 cubic yards at a time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right and that's what I heard Mr. Perrilloux was saying just that I was just wondering. But I've seen some out there that did the same thing and the grass started growing through. So what is the process? Do we have to write a request to get them picked up or what you know?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "They're contract is specific to 2<sup>nd</sup> day pick-up to pick-up the 2 cubic yards. Now again, you know depending on how much you put out there might take a while, if they can we would encourage them you can dump it all at one time if you can come back here. But otherwise it'll be you know once a week actually, because they're not going to pick it up on both collection days so just that itself will extend how long it's out there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay thank you."

#### **Larry Snyder - CDBG intake/application forms**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Now there were so many miss norms going on out there in the streets and people are asking me has this program, I need to get some work done on my house, I see they have started this program again. I said; I really don't know they didn't tell us anything about. But I have a lot of documentation here saying that some of it have started, I don't know how I missed this. But anyhow, can the parish, administration just explain what's going on right now with the CDBG Program in laymen terms so people can understand what they can do right now until the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are quite a few programs moving at the same time. You'll know our Housing Rehab Program has been going on, that's the one that's been having a majority of the applications. So we're in the process of rehabbing homes, but those applications were taken they already have a qualified list, we're working through that list as much as we can afford to do what we were going to do, so those applications were taken and qualified, so that's the list we're working off of for the Home Rehab. We did the Grant Loan Program, we actually got about 14 participants, we didn't utilize all of the monies, but we got permission to do it again. So that is one of the programs were advertising again for businesses that may have had an impact from Hurricane Isaac, if you can go through the process, show your loses, show that you are eligible for these dollars, we're in the process of advertising for that program again. The Homebuyer Assistance Program again is another one, we've been working on this for several years we had to do training for potential buyers we had to meet with realtors we had some time for people to try and prove their credit score, so we're in the process of trying to do that again as well. There is criteria that you have to meet with regard to these first time homebuyers and you have to be credit worthy, so we started that application process we had people helping to get them ready and to help them to get credit worthy, but those processes are still taking place, the application does end this Friday, the process we did extend it, both of these, this is twice, trying to get our residents the opportunity. And all of the money that we have allocated to Housing Rehab, we're going to keep working through that. What we have found and we're hoping that will allow more people to benefit from the program, our original estimates per home were high. We thought they would come in like a hundred, hundred twenty thousand dollars, well they came in at fifty and seventy-five, so we're thinking we're going to get to more people on our list because they're construction cost are coming in less than we originally projected for, but we are working through that process, we are completely rebuilding some of the homes, that was one the options if they were damaged more than a certain percentage, then it wasn't feasible to try and repair that, they just tear it down and they're constructing, that was all part of the process, so they have some of those homes as well. And all of these signs what you're seeing around the Parish or out there that's what we're working on right now those 2 programs, the Small Business Grant & Loan which we did award 14, we're giving people another opportunity and of course, the Homebuyer's Assistance Program, which again we've been working on but we need them to be credit worthy and qualified, and so some people had enough time to try and work on their credit scores, cause they have to be able to afford the house. So in addition to having that money we want you in it, but it won't help you if you get in it and lose it, so you know there's some requirements. We alter them, I know there were some concerns about that, we worked with OCD we worked with realtors trying to make more of our people eligible. So we were able to work through some of the credit scores, the documentation they would need, so we do try to help as many as our residents as possible. This is another opportunity if they hadn't completed the process for these 2 programs, they can apply through Friday."

Councilman Madere asked, "Which assistant programs?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's the Homebuyers Assistance Program and the Small Business Grant & Loan Program, they both go through March 31<sup>st</sup>."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So the Homebuyers Assistance Program, it entails what? The first time home buyers right? Is there another loan where I heard

*something about a forgiveness loan that may a forgiveness loan or that's a grant \$38,000.00 or something like that that we're dealing with? I want to know a little bit more about that."*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "The award is up to \$38,000.00 which is a grant which is forgiving over a 3 year period, within a 3 year period."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "That's part of that other one then the Small Business."*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "It's the same, this Homebuyer's Assistance Program is what the award is a \$38,000.00, you can get up to that. And it is forgiven within the 3 year period."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "And it is for the Homebuyer's Association?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "Homebuyer's Business Assistance Program yes sir. It's considered the language they call it is Soft Second, which is a Soft Second you'll have it for 3 years and then it's forgiven."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "And you see that's exactly what I'm asking and that's for, it doesn't have to be a first time homebuyer?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir it has to be a first time homebuyer. Yes sir."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "You have to have a home already?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "No sir, no sir. It'll be your first home purchase."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "And they'll give you a grant up to \$38,000.00?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir up to."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "To purchase a home?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "As a part of your, to help you with your down payment."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Right. It's just the down payment, but then they'll forgive it."*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "Of course there are qualifications and I think that the Parish President elaborated on that. But yes sir."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "So I can't buy a car with it?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "I'm afraid not. And I think that all of you all have flyers about the programs, so if you know of any residents or constituents in your Districts that may be interested, encourage them to come to 552 Belle Terre Blvd., the hours are Monday-Thursday from 11-6 or Friday, 11-4:30."*

*Councilman Perrilloux stated, "You said the Homebuyer's Assistance Program, because I sent a few people over there before when that was coming and was turned away. Because they told them they had to make a certain amount of income, it was for low income. Is that correct?"*

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir it does. That is correct."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "It should be for anybody. If it's first time homebuyers, it should be for anybody want to buy a home. Now that should be based on your income."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "It is based on your income. It's primarily, that's part of the regulations of HUD sir."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "That's why I was turning around at, so I'm going to look into selling houses in St. John Parish, what we have about 2 or 3 hundred and it was first time homebuyers, then they shouldn't have been turned away. They wanted to be a homebuyer in St. John Parish, we had funding for it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And again, if there's some question about that and they need to go back, please send them. But one, you know they have to be credit worthy, okay you might want to be a homebuyer but you have to you know be able to demonstrate that you can afford to pay for this house. They'll give you the down payment, but somebody has to be able to keep up the notes and pay your utilities and pay for your car and pay all your other bills that you have, so that is part of it. But the other thing is, this is a CDBG program that is directed toward lower moderately income families, that's what CDBG is about. Now we have to do a certain percentage, we were allowed to spend some of that money outside of low to moderate, but this money is for low to moderate income families. And so that's kind of why in this case you know couldn't make more than a certain amount, but they also had to be credit worthy had to afford to keep up with the note, and the insurance and all the other things that go along with it and we brought in banks and some financiers to help them to get where they needed to be to be able to, you know you may come in initially and not be able to meet it, and I'll share with you a story, that is a disappointment, and that is: They came in we worked with them, we got them credit worthy they bought a car. So now you come back you can't get your house, because now you bought a car. Okay and now that's an additional expense that we did not account for in your loan. So those are the kinds of things people aren't aware that happened, but that wasn't point of the program. The program was to get you credit worthy to buy a house, not a car. And that's the kind of stuff that's happened."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What's considered low to moderate income? Low would be like \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00 maybe, moderate would be somewhere around \$45,000.00?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I know there's a guideline."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's a percentage of the main income, it could vary and I don't have it to."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I understand that. I just thought maybe somebody wanted to throw it to staff because staff had it."

LaVerne Toombs stated "The flyer gives you pretty much a detailed regarding the questions that you have."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Legal Presentation and Prospect of Litigation for Haydel Canal Project. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to instruct the administration to retain Geoffrey Michel Law Firm for legal representation and Prospect of Litigation for the Haydel Canal Project. The motion passed unanimously."

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security

Legal Representation and Prospect of Litigation for Haydel Canal Project

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

John Barrett vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket# 68043(Graffiti issue)

Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**17-10** An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of portions of Farm Lot 1, Farm Lot 2, Farm Lot 3, and Lot 6 between the L&A Railroad and US Hwy. 61 - W. Airline Hwy. of Woodland Plantation into Lots WP-1 and WP-2 of Woodland Plantation, located in the area generally Bounded by US Hwy. 61 - W. Airline Hwy., the L&A Railroad, Main St., and Hemlock St., containing municipal addresses 123 W. Airline Hwy., 301 W. Airline Hwy., 104 W. Airline Hwy., 421 W. Airline Hwy., 425 W. Airline Hwy., and 429 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on October 4, 2016 (PZS-17-1157) (N. Robottom)

**17-11** An ordinance approving the requested rezoning of Lot 17, Square 2, Cornland Addition, located in the area generally bounded by the Y&MV/Illinois Central Railroad, LA Hwy. 44, Central Ave., and East 1<sup>st</sup> St., containing municipal address 212 Central Ave., Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana from the Commercial District One (C-1) to the Residential District One (R-1) zoning district, as shown in exhibit 1 attached (PZR-17-1058) (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "*Spring is officially here and we are busier than ever around our Parish. Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, you're invited to attend a public meeting for the LA SAFE adaptation planning process from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Residents will gain information about the parish's changing landscape and the three prong solution to resiliency for the next 50 years. In addition to Restoration and Structural Protection, Adaptation is the third prong and residents will be called upon for input about adaptations to current and future risks related to the environment, the*

economy and the culture. The meeting will take place at the St. John Community Center, located at 2900 U.S. Hwy. 51 in LaPlace. Residents shouldn't miss this opportunity to share ideas on the future of St. John. Transportation and childcare are available. For more information, visit [lasafe.la.gov](http://lasafe.la.gov). To arrange for transportation or childcare, call (225)772-1372. You are also invited to celebrate Easter with our annual Easter in the Park this Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The event will be held at the Highway 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 an Easter egg hunt beginning at 11:30 a.m. and a visit with the Easter bunny. Food, refreshments and prizes will also be provided for participants. The Rotary Club is hosting Pups in the Park on the same day at the Tom Daley Memorial Park on Highway 51. It begins at 10:30 am with funds going to support local animal rescue organizations. Show off your dog, enjoy the company of fellow dog lovers and get some exercise for a good cause. Entry for the event is \$10 per dog. For more information, call (504)610-8487. This Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Garyville Timbermill Association is hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sings and Strings Festival from 11:00 am - 8:00 pm in the Garyville Historic District along Museum St. and Historic Front Street. Great music unplugged, along with crafts and a cook-off will be featured. Team St. John is gearing up for this year's Relay for Life event on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at East St. John's Joe Keller Stadium from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We encourage residents and our employees to participate and help raise money for the American Cancer Society. If you are interested in joining Team St. John, please visit the CAO or Communications office for more information. Rising Star Baptist Church will be conducting a fun walk/run beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Reserve and proceeding to Rising Star church on Cardinal St. For more information, please contact the church at (985)652-3926. The Spring Clean Sweep is Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. To register your organization, please contact Terri Abadie at (985)652-9569 or visit the parish website. Please help us Keep St. John Beautiful and participate in this great event. The Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day will also be April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the New Wine Ministries Parking Lot. This is your chance to safely dispose and recycle unwanted waste, paint, solvents, appliances and more. Visit [hhmcd.com](http://hhmcd.com) for a complete list of what is accepted. Residents are reminded of the April 29<sup>th</sup> election on a 7 mills Ad Valorem tax dedicated to the levee project and flood protection. An additional 7 mils will costs property owners only \$1.50 to \$13.12 more per month for homes valued from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and only \$18.95 to \$53.95 per month for homes valued from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000. Residences valued under \$75,000 and seniors whose taxes are frozen will pay no additional tax. The tax will pay the Parish's portion of the Westshore Levee project which consists of earthen levees, flood walls and pumping stations. This is bigger than just the areas north of Airline Hwy. If this area floods, the business center and a large portion of the parish's tax base will be impacted, thus impacted all areas of the parish and parish services. Additional information has been posted to communication outlets and at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). Information will also be sent through the mail. Town Hall meetings are currently scheduled for: April 4<sup>th</sup> - St. John Community Center, LaPlace - 6:00 p.m.; April 5<sup>th</sup> - REGALA Gym , Reserve, - 6:00 p.m. We are also available to attend meetings of homeowner and community organization meetings, you can schedule by calling Baileigh at (985)652-9569. The April 29<sup>th</sup> ballot also includes the run-off for District 7 to replace Council person Raj Pannu and the Senate District 2 election for the seat held by Senator Troy Brown. Please take advantage of your right to vote. Baseball Registration is open until Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a great way for our Parish youth to stay busy this summer. Visit the Recreation office at REGALA Gym or call (985)652-9569 to register. Applications are also being

*accepted for lifeguards and can be accessed at the office or online at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). Thank you to the large crowd who gave blood and those who offered to give blood last week at the Hemlock Fire Station for Firefighter Devon Johnson's son. It's encouraging watching our community give back to one of our own. We will be conducting the ribbon cutting for the station soon. The anticipated closure of LA 640 in Edgard has been cancelled. More information will be provided once available. Thank you."*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 10:20 PM, Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Larry Snyder  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
COUNCIL SECRETARY