

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF**  
**VICE CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

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, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Billy O'Regan was present.

**Michael Wright/Larry Snyder/Antoine Jasmine - Presentation - Gumbo Cook-Off Festival 2012**

Rev. Antoine Jasmine was present and commented on the first annual Gumbo Cook-Off Festival on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 beginning at Noon at Choice the Event Place in LaPlace. There will be food, games, vendor booths and many more exciting things for the community. Please come out and support the River Parishes. Anyone needing more information can call 985-651-7844.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Fair Housing Month**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Fair Housing Month.

**Art Smith - Introduction of Strategic Impact Planning - contract grant writer**

Madea Jones, Strategic Impact Planning, was present and commented on her contract with the parish and what it entitles her to do. She also commented that some grants come up more frequently than others but that if she knows in advance to be on the lookout for certain grants it would benefit all of us in the long run. She commented that she has been working a lot with the new directors, especially Mr. Jones and looks forward to working with this council and to be as much a help to the parish of St. John the Baptist as possible.

**Art Smith - Introduction of South Central Planning and Development Commission - informational purposes**

Kevin Belanger, Director of SCPDC, was present. Kevin gave a brief but

informational presentation to the council explaining what South Central Planning and Development Commission does for the Parish and for the state as a whole. He also commented on their assistance with grants, mapping, home inspection, River Parish Transit Authority and the broad range of things that they do for St. John the Baptist. He left a booklet with information and contact information for all of the council to call them whenever they have any questions pertaining to the Parish.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Annual Block Party - 100 Timbermill Loop - 4/21/12; Permit Approval - 5K Run - Riverside Academy - 4/21/12; Permit Approval - 5K Run - St. Joan of Arc - 4/28/12

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Annual Block Party - 100 Timbermill Loop - 4/21/12; Permit Approval - 5K Run - Riverside Academy - 4/21/12; Permit Approval - 5K Run - St. Joan of Arc - 4/28/12. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**12-07** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Section 26-23 - Notice to remove Grass, Weeds, etc.; fees; abatement charge; penalties, to read and change the ordinance as indicated below: Grass cutting (J. Hotard)

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This ordinance is proposed by Councilwoman Hotard. It changes the notice requirements to property owners who have already received one grass violation in a calendar year, reducing the amount of time between repeat violation cuts. Administration recommends approval."*

Councilman Smith asked, *"Now when you reduce that time, how much time are we reducing, from where to where?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"As it stands currently when you first notify someone it has to be sent through certified mail, return receipt requested and you have to wait until the green card comes back to see if they were actually served with it so sometimes it can take probably about thirty days for that to come back and you to actually be able to send a contractor out to cut the lot. However what is being added is that if you have already been noticed one time in a year, the next time all we have to do is send it out regular mail and if you live in the state of Louisiana after five days it is deemed that you have received it. If it is outside of the state of Louisiana it is deemed received after ten days. So that is a significant reduction in the amount of time."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"As the author of the motion I will just share the same comments. I know as we are approaching the busy season of grass cutting with the summer months we have seen this as a problem in a lot of areas. So I asked the administration, along with our legal counsel to work with us to develop a way to be able to site the*

*properties and get them cut a little bit faster and hopefully the owners of these properties, a lot of time it is a bank out of town or a foreclosed property or family members that live far away but hopefully they will just be a little be more aware of it and when they are not it will allow us to cut it more quickly so it can be less of a nuisance to the public. So I want to thank Ms. Sutherland and Mr. Fiffie for helping to put this ordinance together."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-07. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-08** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 11-40 relative to the Annual Operating budget for the St. John the Baptist Parish Land Escrow Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"This ordinance, as well as the next four, address year-end changes to the 2011 budget based on actual revenue and expenditures. These budget amendments are completed annually and administration recommends approval."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Just for the public's sake what we are doing here is amending the budget just to reflect the 2011 spending amount. There may be some people listening or looking that really may not understand and may take it another way but it is just amending the budget this year on the spending from 2011. Am I right?"*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"That is exactly correct. Now that we have all the actual numbers that is exactly what we are doing is reconciling what was projected for the 2011 budget."*

Councilman Wilson stated, *"I would like in the future that we get the actual figures and money amounts that we are discussing. So the public can know exactly what is going on."*

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Attached to each of the ordinances dealing with the budget amendments there was an attachment with the actual numbers."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Just for clarification on that the ordinances were introduced the previous meeting with all of the budgets and amounts. What we did was kind of go through those amendments and identify to you what those changes were but you had already received the actual amended budgets. So the little notice that we forwarded to you was just a brief explanation of what some of the major items were."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-08. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-09** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 11-41 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John the Baptist Parish Health and Human Services Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Administration recommends approval of this ordinance amending the 2011 Health and Human Services Department budget."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-09. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-10** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 11-42 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Utility System Fund and Sales Tax District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"Administration recommends approval of this ordinance which amends the utility system fund in the sales tax district to provide the proper adjustment for actual revenues and expenses based on year-end accruals."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-10. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-11** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 11-43 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist General Fund, Juvenile Detention, Recreation, Economic Development, Public Works, Communication District, Airport, Public Safety, Criminal Court and Garyville Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year Beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"This is the fourth of five ordinances that reflect year-end changes to the 2011 budget and administration recommends approval."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"You know I am famous for asking these questions and I did get some of the answers today and I was unavailable to speak regarding the final answer. Under the executive and administrative portion of the general fund I noticed that there is an increase in the parish president salary and I just want to make sure that this is an adjustment of some sort and not a new increase?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"It was an adjustment based on council actions previously for 2011. There is not an increase. Obviously the council is responsible for approving all increases."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"If we approve this budget, we are approving an increase."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Actually you are not. That was for 2011. That is done. That was the amendment to a previous budget."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"So the salary is still the same as we approved in our original budget? This is a line item adjustment of some sort?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"You approve the salary, the 2012 budget reflected that and there is no change."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Cause this figure is just higher, is there something that needs to be pulled out of this or something? Because this indicates salary for parish president and that is what this number is."*

Natalie Robottom stated, "You are right that is correct."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "That is the new salary?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No that is what the salary was and it is still the same in 2012."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "The actual number you have here is not the same number as what it was."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is the same as what the council approved and it did not change for 2012."

Councilman Gauff asked, "So it is the same for 2011 and 2012?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is correct."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Because this is \$14,000.00 more than what the salary is supposed to be."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It does include which probably wasn't in the initial, the car allowance."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Thank you because I am looking at this number saying \$14,000.00 more."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well the car allowance will be included in the salaries because it has to be reported as such. It has to be reported as income so it is included with the salaries."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-11. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-12** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 11-44 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Ambulance Fund, ARC Maintenance Fund, Community Center, Health Unit, Mosquito Control, Solid Waste, Wastewater, Road Lighting, Senior Citizens, Parishwide Sewerage, Office of Fire Services, LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department, Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, and Westbank Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011. (N. Robottom)

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration recommends approval of this ordinance amending the 2011 budget to reflect actual year-end accruals."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-12. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-13** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-subdivide Parcel A-1A of Bienvenue Estates & Parcel B of the Jules Martin Tract into a Parcel herein designated as Parcel A-2A, situated in Section 46, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-12-1030) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland stated, "The Planning Commission unanimously approved this re-subdivision at their March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning

*Commission and administration recommends approval. If you look on the page after page 113 in your book there is a color coded map so you can actually locate the location."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-13. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-14** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to re-zone Parcel A-2A of Bienvenue Estates and the Jules Martin Tract to show the change in the current zone of zone R-1 to C-1, situated in Section 46, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-12-1014) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"This is actually the same property. Administration recommends approval of this re-zoning which was unanimously approved at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Commission."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 12-14. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to be introduced at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I would like to make a motion to separate item #8 and as much as there are some questions that haven't been answered from the council members and remove that from the report so that we can address that separately. I would like that motion made."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to separate and remove # 8 - Award of the property, casualty and liability insurance from the finance committee recommendations for approval. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"At this time I would like that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee as amended with the removal of that item."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the amended recommendations of the finance committee with the removal of item #8 - Award of property, casualty and liability insurance. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I would like to now make a motion that we table item #8 regarding the award of the property, casualty and liability insurance and put it on the next meeting's agenda."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to table #8 from the finance agenda - award of the property, casualty and liability insurance and to have it placed on the next

agenda. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Torri Buckles, Director of Economic Development, stated, "The office of economic development has several projects that are currently in development. We were asked to provide an update on the status of the farmer's market this evening. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the administration signed a letter of conditions with the USDA and we anticipate the release of the funding which was \$99,999.00 later this month. To date the following pre-construction activities have been completed for the farmer's market they include fencing that has been installed around the perimeter of the site, that was a requirement by the DOTD. The lighting has been installed. The limestone driveway has been completed. The culvert system has been completed. Field material has been added where needed to the property and the USDA has also completed an inspection of the current site to ensure compliance. Once the funding has been released administration will follow all procurement guidelines as outlined by the parish and the USDA. In the meantime the office of EDC has developed the farmer's market policies and procedures, as well as the vendor application. We anticipate that this draft will be submitted for administrative review by the end of this week. We will present the policies and procedures as well as the vendor application to the EDC council for review during next week's Monday EDC meeting. In addition there are several important dates that we would like to announce. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, with the location to be determined, we will have an informational meeting with potential farmer's market vendors, representatives from the Department of Agricultural, the LSU Ag Center, the Department of Health and the Planning and Zoning Department will be available to answer any technical requirements that vendors may have. Both the policies and procedures guidelines, as well as the vendor applications will be distributed at that time and for those vendors that are unable to attend the information will also be published online on the parish website. May 25<sup>th</sup>, will be the deadline to submit the farmer's market application to the office of Economic Development. On June 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 and 7:30 PM at a location to be determined, we will offer two farmer's market technical assistance training opportunities. During these TA sessions representatives will review the market rules again and also discuss product quality and safety. In addition we will provide additional information about the farmer's market nutrition program, which is an important program to benefit seniors, those that are receiving Medicaid or SSI, through this particular program those that qualify will receive a book of six \$4.00 coupons which is valued at \$24.00. The coupons may only be used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs and honey approved products from our farmer's market. Once construction begins on the site our project managers will provide an estimated project completion date and we look forward to announcing the grand opening of the farmer's market after that time. In conclusion our volunteers will serve an intricate role in the development of not only the farmer's market but for all of our festivals and events that we are going to have throughout the year. So the administration is currently in the process of developing a volunteers program where our community can get involved, our local schools, our council on aging just to name a few and we anticipate announcing the details of that program very shortly. Thank you."

Councilman Smith asked, "Is it possible that when you get these applications ready that can I get some of those applications? I just want to pass out in my area and so that we can get the word around and so that people are aware of the farmer's market."

Torri Buckles stated, "Yes sir we certainly will do and in addition our allies that we are working with including the USDA and the LSU Ag Center have asked and volunteered to help in terms of the heavy lifting and getting the word out to additional farmers that may be interested in participating."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "At this time I would actually like to take the time to notify the council as well as the public. Since the last meeting we, through the department of Planning and Zoning, sent out letters to the businesses in the overlay district, which would be all businesses located on Hwy. 51 and that would be new Hwy. 51, Airline Hwy. from the St. Charles Parish line to the St. James Parish line as well as Belle Terre Boulevard and Woodland Drive. We sent this out in an effort to continue our beautification efforts in the parish preparing for clean sweep this Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. What we have found is that some of the common violations were that we have these banner signs, flags that are containing advertisements which are all considered violations. There are signs that are placed on state or parish servitudes and also actually the displaying of more than one on premise detached sign. With the letters we also actually sent out a list of definitions, as well as pictures that illustrated the types of permitted signs as well as the signs that are not permitted. These letters went out to all the businesses. The letter was not an indication that you were in violation it was simply an effort to educate our businesses on the actual ordinance and regulations. After April 14<sup>th</sup>, if you have not complied with the ordinances that are contained section 113:445 - code enforcement will start issuing violation letters to those that are not in compliance. Once you are issued a violation notice you will still have a few days to correct your violation before a misdemeanor summons will be issued. Again our efforts are to have people comply rather than have to issue violations but again we thought it was important a lot of people what we have found are calling into our office simply because they are not aware of what the requirements are. Also it is very important that you do receive a sign permit before you erect a sign at all. All of these applications can be obtained through the P&Z Office as well as on our website [www.sjbparish.com](http://www.sjbparish.com)."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Is this something a little different? It seems like we are doing a more enforcement of?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is something that previous council members passed. I think it was enforced a little bit more and has kind of falling off with regards to enforcement however as we go around to meetings we get complaints about non-compliance or about people being held to a standard and others are not. So again understanding that when a business changes hands sometimes they may not know what those requirements are. Again in combination with our Keep St. John Beautiful campaign we were asking that our businesses look at the regulations, look at what they have and attempt to comply on their own. Our goal is

not to issue violations. It is to have you comply without the violations. So again keeping in mind that maybe they weren't aware of all of the restrictions and requirements for being in the overlay district which is very different from being on roads that are not in the overlay which addresses your landscaping, the type of signage and why there is a permitting process for that so we sent it out as an educational piece but again requesting that they help by participating in removing violations that may be existing before somebody goes out and issues a violation."

Councilman Gauff asked, "So more of an awareness because I am thinking shouldn't that be a part of the permitting process itself?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is. If you attempted to get a permit you would have gotten the requirements with the types of signs but there are people who may not be aware that there is a process and a requirement for sign permits. So again it is an educational piece. We sent out the letters a couple of weeks ago giving them that time on their own to make the changes. Again clean sweep is this Saturday and we are asking them to make the changes themselves then we won't have to have any citations issued."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would just like to applaud the efforts of Ms. Sutherland. I found the information that was sent out to be very helpful especially with the pictures. I know sometimes reading the ordinances in the overlay district it is pretty difficult to determine exactly what type of signage you are talking about but Mrs. Robottom is right it is something that was really enforced than for a while it kind of fell behind so I am really glad to see that administration is taking a proactive role in cleaning up the overlay district and cleaning up the parish as a whole. So thank you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again if anybody is listening we would like for you to comply. We don't want anyone to come out and site you which is why we forwarded copies of the ordinance. Our goal is not to site you. We would like to work with you to comply without having someone come out there."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Just for the general public's information this is regarding signage and trees because yes the business owner was told but now the public is going what are they doing? So can you kind of clarify just a little bit for the general public?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "The major corridor overlay district ordinances, there are many ordinances that address many different things one being landscaping. This particular letter that went out was addressing the signage issue only but there are different requirements being in the overlay district for businesses regarding landscaping, regarding parking, regarding signage, entrances, exits, fencing so if you are in the overlay district you have a different set of guidelines that you would have to follow whereas if you were on River Road, Hwy. 44 or Hwy. 18 on the West Bank, which is not considered in the overlay district your rules and regulations would be different."

Councilman Smith asked, "In this clean up thing Saturday, Ms. Sutherland you used to give us a copy of the violations you had in our district, if you can continue that."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I actually have them with me today. I have them."

Councilman Smith stated, "It is a great help. Also in the clean-up, I am trying to get clarification, targeting blighted houses for demolition. What does that exactly mean? It was in the flyer that you sent us."

Natalie Robottom stated, "In the clean sweep flyer as we attempt to beautify St. John Parish we want to concentrate on not just picking up the trash, cleaning out the ditches but also in addressing those types of violations. So our staff members are paying close attention to that. We also use inmates and they will be addressing some of our drainage canals. So it is a concerted effort. There are a lot of things at one time. The focus for this month is cleaning up St. John and that is going to involve the overlay district violations. We will have our code enforcement officers paying closer attention to the blighted and homes that need to be demolished. Of course we know there is a time frame for that but they need to be paying closer attention to it as well as the overlay district."

Councilman Smith asked, "So basically our code enforcement officers are going to be out Saturday and I welcome that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I don't think that was the intent. They have been doing that from the time the letter went out. We have been making a conscious effort to do that. It wasn't a specific day. It is for the entire month."

Councilman Wilson asked, "In the overlay district for Belle Terre for instance, people have planted trees and you can't see the business until after you have passed it and also I want to know how that will affect our utilities underground the water and sewer when it is on our servitude with the rooting of those big trees. When you see the place that you want to go on Belle Terre you have already passed it and getting out is the same problem. You can't see to get out."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I know what you are saying Mr. Wilson actually in the overlay district as part of the permitting process the plans for landscaping have to be submitted to P&Z so initially when those businesses were built and the landscaping installed they had to submit that and that was all approved by P&Z but at some point and we actually I think had an instance, I want to say last year, where we had to go out and all we did was notify the business because I believe the tree started growing too high to where it was blocking the next businesses sign. So there are requirements that you have to keep your landscaping up and make sure it isn't getting in the way for safety issues. That is something that we address on a case by case basis but we can look at specific locations if you have any in mind or if you know of any that you think may be out of compliance but those plans should have been submitted when those businesses received their permits to verify that they are the proper distance within the servitude or from the street."

Councilman Wilson stated, "You know this is from years back. These trees are really getting big. I would rather see just a clean area more

*than having all of these shrubs and trees."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "The overlay district landscaping requirements require so many trees per so many square footage and so much shrubbery it is very specific."*

*Councilman Wilson stated, "I don't know but maybe we ought to see about changing some of them."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "I understand about the business in the LaPlace area. Now the district where I live and the businesses along the River Road, Hwy. 44, what sort of restrictions do they have or do they have any restrictions as far as signage or cosmetics to the businesses?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "The River Road in Reserve and Garyville doesn't have to comply with the overlay district because it isn't considered overlay district. The businesses on Airline in Reserve and Garyville do have to comply because they are within the overlay district. They would have to get a sign permit before they erect any signs but they don't have the same limitations as far as when you are in the overlay district you can have one attached sign, one sign on your building and one detached sign apart from your building. They can have more than one. It is not the same requirements. They still have to receive permits for any signs."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Because a couple of people in that area were confused about the signs and the permitting and how many they can have. So basically some of the things that are illegal in the overlay district would be legal on the River Road?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "It may be yes. We can address that on a case by case basis if you have any you can get with me after the meeting if you have any that you would like us to look into. Anywhere you are if there are signs in servitudes those are illegal no matter if you are in the overlay or not."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "So everything else as far as debris or problems all of those things are still going to be handled?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "You mean trash and debris? If there are complaints or if code enforcement officers notice trash or debris around businesses, same as residential or houses, they can write it up under the trash and debris ordinance."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "So in terms of businesses if they have a lot of pallets or any other type of material that they use, should that be fenced in or placed behind the business?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "There is a requirement that you have to have a fence when a commercial area abuts a residential area. So if there is a business on a corner and there is a residential area right behind it then there would be a fence."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "When we are talking about detached signs are we talking about portable signs also or are those strictly illegal?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Portable signs are strictly illegal."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is what I thought. We need to make that clear. It can be detached but it can't be portable and that is illegal those are the ones with the lights on them."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Portable signs are illegal in all districts."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And Mr. Ranney was saying something about how does it affect our utilities, those trees on the right of way and they really do because I talked with Mr. Kendricks and he had to unplug some drains in some areas and he found some roots and that is where our problem is at in some areas. I think people are planting trees on the right of way and I don't think trees are supposed to be planted there and now they have gotten larger. I know they have a couple in Cambridge for sure and now they are tearing up the drainage back there."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Jobe' Boucvalt - Authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a North Louisiana Parish to shelter St. John residents during mandatory evacuations**

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Public Safety, stated, "Although the contracts in the booklet are incomplete, the agreements are for shelters in North Louisiana and have been in place since 2009. The sites have been visited by parish personnel in the past, and meet Red Cross and other standards. These agreements are necessary in the planning process and updating of Standard Operating Procedures. The agreements are for a four-year period."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Northern Louisiana, it sounds very vague. Where in Northern Louisiana? If the agreements are already in place can we not name the areas?"

Jobe' Boucvalt stated, "Due to the sensitivity of the information being confidential our concerns of security and safety of the residents under mandatory evacuation that have no other means of transportation. We keep that information as confidential as we can but you are privy to the information and I will be more than happy to show you that information."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "It says on here that although the contracts in the booklet are incomplete do you know when they will be completed?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We just need to fill in the names."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay. Have we done this in the past where we don't name the name? I remember in the past when we voted on this we knew the names of the facilities. I mean when people are going to be evacuated it is not really confidential."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think part of the concern was and we did provide you with the names and that is part of what I asked for clarification on today was there is a sensitivity issue that when we mandatorily evacuate we need to be transporting people there and if we list it as an open evacuation site anybody can show up there not necessarily being from our parish and go on their own and then that causes a problem. So there is some sensitivity in that area. No one will be taken to an evacuation site without knowing where they are going. The documents in the book are all going to be very similar. It is consistent with the site that was previously approved by this council in 2009 and extended before however there was some concern expressed to us about putting it out there because once you start doing that then anybody can show up and that is really an agreement with St. John Parish and those facilities."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So it was more of a matter of us I guess being able to manage transportation of our residents and not have an influx of other people showing up because we announce that is an evacuation shelter."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is really our agreement with them to provide shelter for our residents. If we start announcing then anybody can show up and take the place from the people that we are trying to evacuate."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a North Louisiana Parish to shelter St. John residents during mandatory evacuations. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Smith stated, "First I would like to thank everyone for their condolences, thoughts and prayers and on behalf of my family I just want to let everyone know that I appreciate that. So thank you very much and I hope you keep us in your prayers. This is a trying time for us right now which is the reason I didn't attend the Easter in the Parks that Saturday. I understand it was a great success. Just a couple of things Pleasure Bend I understand is getting internet, the Reserve Telephone Company is going to provide that so there are a bunch of happy people back there. The West Bank has started getting the internet service and Comcast has a program for kids for \$9.00 a month for under privileged kids that is free and reduced lunch. The clean-up program starts Saturday and I won't be able to do that because I will be attending to some private stuff but the people in Miesville have been doing some work and I have some people on the West Bank that are going to be doing some work and taking care of that for me. I am really glad about the Farmer's Market. You guys just don't know how much I get questioned about that from people so I am really happy that is coming along and we can get that out of the way. Again thanks to everyone for their prayers and condolences."

Councilman Wilson stated, "The access highway to I-10 in the Reserve area, is that dead or is that still going? I thought we had gotten things started about 12 or 16 years ago."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually had our visit to Washington was

to advocate for that project to move forward. More recently there was a study done to determine the route of the traffic. It is in environmental review to determine the least I guess invasive route to get from Reserve to the Interstate to connect. So that is moving forward. Of course it would require funding, we have requested on St. John's behalf and continue to work through the Regional Planning Commission on that process but that project is moving forward."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Thank you because it would relieve a lot of traffic and not only that for an evacuation route also."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to thank all of the individuals who took part in the Easter in the Parks in the Belle Pointe area. I would like to thank Ms. Hotard for the bunny. Her daughter came by and a lot of kids really enjoyed taking pictures with the bunny and everyone had a good time. The kids really enjoyed themselves and I promised them next year, since this was my first endeavor into this situation that next year we will have water slides and some music out there for them and we will make it a whole day activity instead of just a few Easter egg pick-ups and then go home. So we are going to try and make it a fun day and the kids really enjoyed it. Also I would like to thank the individuals that will be taking part in Operation Parish Clean-up on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Also in the River Road area on Hwy. 44 I have a lot of the businesses from DuPont all the way down to E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street that are going to work together including some of the bar rooms that get a lot of bad press they are going to join forces and they are going to go down to each individual bar and clean the area around it pick up all the bottles, trash and everything and they are going to move all the way down to 14<sup>th</sup> Street by the welding company and we are going to take a group picture of everyone doing it and we are going to get the River Road to look like the overlay area so that we can be part of this. They are definitely pulling together to clean up and all of the individuals in District III that are taking part in it. Thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to add on there too that we will be in the Reserve project doing some landscaping and cleaning up in there too along with the clean-up. I would like to thank Bill and Stephanie Smith they started a neighborhood crime watch in LaPlace Park. I can tell you it is working. The neighbors are coming out in full force. The big guns are coming out with the elderly and I can tell you this they are taking their neighborhood back and I applaud them. Also I would like to thank Keisha, Kreshell and my wife for coordinating the Stephanie Wilkens Easter egg hunt. I can tell you it was a success. There were a lot of kids out there and thanks Ms. Hotard and her daughter for the bunny which I had a bunny out there and I thought it was her daughter the whole time hopping around and it was somebody else in the suit. So I would like to thank the two bunnies whoever the other person was thank you for showing up."

Councilman Wright stated, "Again I want to say thank you to all the residents who came out for Easter in the Parks. I want to thank the administration you did a great job of putting it together. I want to thank all who took part in it the fire department, our local teens also and Ms. Hotard for providing the bunny. We had about 170 kids show up at Hwy. 51 Park so it was a huge success. Also again I just want to remind you that April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have the gumbo cook-off at Noon at Choice International, formerly the LACE building."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to thank those that helped out in our Easter egg hunt and thank Ms. Hotard and her daughter for the bunny and the fire department for coming out and my family for supporting me the way they did out there and the kids had a great time. Mrs. Robottom coming by and putting a few dance moves down for us. I would like to thank her and thank you to everybody that participated."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to echo everyone's comments about the Easter in the Park. The kids had a great time. It is a very positive thing in the parish and even though we didn't have an Easter bunny we did have a good time. Also I want to remind everybody that even though Saturday is St. John Clean Sweep it is our responsibility every day to keep St. John clean let's just not use one day a year to not toss litter out, remember that we do have an up to \$500.00 fine for littering. If you do see someone littering there is a Louisiana state hotline that you can call but it is our responsibility as citizens and residents of this parish to keep it clean. No one is there to do it for us. It is not the parish's job to clean up our mess. It is our job not to put it down there."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just really quick I would like to thank administration as well. They did a good job the administration and the staff. I know the employees definitely worked hard. I would like to thank the council for their comments for the Easter bunny and thank my daughter as well. She says I owe her big time. So I am going to take a collection when it is over but we had a really good time and tried to make as many parks as we could but unfortunately we didn't get to Greenwood it was over when we got there. Again kind of to echo what Mrs. Millet said with clean sweep hopefully we can use this day as maybe a little amnesty so people that didn't take care of their properties before maybe this will be kind of your April resolution to make a conscious effort to take care of your property and if we all do that then everything else will take care of itself."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to echo everyone else's sentiments. The Easter in the Park was very much a success. Ezekiel Jackson and the West Bank were the parks I went to and even though Ms. Hotard didn't come out we had some bunnies that came out. So thank you to administration and to the fire department. I would also like to give kudos to the West Bank Association. Their organization did a fantastic job. They really reached down in their hearts and in their pockets and they do it big for the kids on the West Bank. So thank you to the West Bank Association. Also don't forget clean sweep is Saturday, come out and help us keep the parish clean and also on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the gumbo cook-off. Thank you."

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening-I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter holiday and the beautiful weather that was bestowed upon us this past weekend. Thank you to all who participated in this weekend's Easter in the Parks. There was a large turnout at many parks and it appeared everyone worked together to have a successful event. We look forward to continuing to look at what worked and what didn't to improve the event each year. Also, thank you to all who attended the REGALA Gymnasium Grand Opening last week. We had great attendance and

we hope all were able to tour the gym! Thank you Councilman Lennix Madere for holding a town hall meeting with District 3 at the Reserve Library. We appreciate all the attendance and look forward to many more meetings with residents throughout the Parish. If any neighborhood is interested in hosting a meeting or developing a home owner's association, please contact our office at 985-652-9569. Thanks to everyone who also participated in the St. John Relay for Life event. It was a huge success and Team St. John was able to raise over \$1000 for this year's relay for life event. We look forward to next year and raising more money for the American Cancer Society. Early voting is taking place this week through Saturday, April 14. Voters can cast their votes at the Percy Hebert Building and the Edgard Courthouse between 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Voters will decide on six propositions, five of which are proposed by the parish and one by the St. John Parish School Board. We are asking everyone to go out and vote all propositions will determine the quality of life for St. John the Baptist Parish. Election Day will be held on Saturday, April 21. The River Region Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Parish President's Forum tomorrow, Wednesday, April 11 at the St. James Parish School Board Public Relations Bldg., 1876 West Main - Lutcher beginning at 8:30 a.m. The film production at Evergreen and Whitney Plantations will be filming its last scene from Highway 18 in Edgard and Wallace. As a result, Hwy 18 will be closed on Thursday, April 12 between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. This will be the final day of closing the road as the remainder of the filming will take place on the grounds of the plantation. Registration for St. John the Baptist Parish Youth Baseball has been extended through April 13, 2012. Interested participants should register by filling out the registration form available online at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) and in the Parks and Recreation Department. A \$40.00 entry fee as well as the form should be sent in to the Parks and Recreation Department once completed. Coaches and volunteers are also needed for the St. John the Baptist Parish Youth Baseball league. Anyone interested in coaching or volunteering with the Parks and Recreation Department, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569. Background checks will be done and CPR training is a requirement. The Recreation Department is now also accepting 2012 Summer Youth Program applications for Certified Lifeguards. Employment applications are available online or in the Recreation Department located at 200 Regala Park Road. For more information on how to become certified, please call 985-652-9569. This weekend will be another eventful weekend with Clean Sweep on Saturday, April 14 beginning at 8:30 a.m. currently we have over 300 participants signed up, but we have a goal of having up to 500. Any interested participants are asked to contact Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569 or sign up online. In conjunction with St. John Clean Sweep, Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day will take place between 9:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 in the Plaza LaPlace Shopping Center, 1921 Airline Highway in LaPlace (New Wine Parking Lot). This is an opportunity to properly dispose of hazardous materials such as paint, tires, used oil, automotive batteries, scrap metal, major appliances, electronics, etc. Visit [www.hhmcd.com](http://www.hhmcd.com) for more information. South Lake Surgery will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 18 at 4:00 p.m. Please join us in touring the new surgery center and cutting the ribbon. South Lake Surgery Center is located at 694 Belle Terre Blvd. Riverlands Christian Center Church will host a ribbon cutting on Friday, April 20 at 10:30 at the Our Lady of Grace Historic Sanctuary located at Riverlands Christian Church, 123 Redemption Way. This site has been

*selected to be on the African American Heritage Trail by the Louisiana Office of Tourism and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Tours will be available on Friday at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Tours are \$12 for adults, \$6 for young adults, and children 12 and under are free. St. John Theatre will have an orientation meeting for the play Seussical on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. Auditions will begin April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Please call 985-536-6630 or visit [www.stjohntheatre.com](http://www.stjohntheatre.com) or St. John Theatre on Facebook for more information."*

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:24 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Lucien Gauff, III  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary