

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 11<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 McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 11<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 Remondet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI

**ABSENT:** Michael Wright, Raj Pannu, Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Sorapuru led the Prayer. Councilman Becnel led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Geoffrey Michel and Kennilyn Schmill were present.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Clay's Café' - Jody & Yvonne Clay**

Jerry Jones, Economic Development Director welcomed Clay's Café'. Yvonne Clay and Joy Clay were present to introduce their family owned restaurant preparing fresh home cooked meals prepared for you as you order. They are located at 975 Suite B, Cambridge Drive and are open Monday-Saturday, 10:00AM - 10:30PM.

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

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

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

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April as Fair Housing Month.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - April 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> as 911 Telecommunications Week**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for April 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> as 911 Telecommunications Week.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Art of Respect**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Art of Respect.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Williamsburg Dr. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Block Party - Sunday, April 16, 2017 beginning at 4:00 PM and ending at 8:00 PM; Councilman Madere -Appointment of Mala Taylor to the Planning & Zoning Board; Civil Service Board - Tulane Re-Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Williamsburg Dr. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Block Party - Sunday, April 16, 2017 beginning at 4:00 PM and ending at 8:00 PM; Councilman Madere - Appointment of Mala Taylor to the Planning & Zoning Board; Civil Service Board - Tulane Re-Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to table consent agenda item - Civil Service Board - Tulane Re-Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder until the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 until administration receives confirmation from Tulane. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright absent.

**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)

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 17-09 from the table. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright.

**17-09** (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 03/28/17) 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 the attorneys are here. It was my understanding that Mr. Keith Green was still working to resolve this, I think one of the attorneys that was in the meeting is here can possibly speak on it. The original draft did not take into account, the parish's current agreement with one of the insurance carriers and I think he's reworking it. Would someone like to address that from the DA's office?"*

Geoffrey Michel, Legal Advisor for the Council stated, *"I talked to Keith Green prior to this meeting, he said the ordinance was good to go and could be voted on as is."*

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"Explain what this ordinance is supposed to do, if I'm gathering right explain what it's supposed to do."*

Geoffrey Michel stated, "This ordinance is to ensure a process by which we comply with state law in regards to settlements that are made by the parish."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I can't say for instance. Give me a for instance cause, you said settlements with the parish, settlements with the residents if they have accidents or something."

Geoffrey Michel stated, "If there's a claim made against the parish, this process is going to be used in order for the appropriate people to confirm a settlement and to approve a settlement."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Without going to court?"

Geoffrey Michel stated, "That's part of it correct."

Councilman Snyder asked, "This is also including going to court or out of court settlements? That's what it does, is looking at our reliability, the parish's liability according to like Mr. Michel said. According to Mr. Green, what we have to work with can be, what are we waiting on can be done at a later date, and that's for getting the process in order. But as far as the ordinance is concerned, he said it's good to go."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'm going to abstain from this because I'm still trying to understand this ordinance. That's why I'm trying to understand it. So I'm going to abstain against it, I'm just not following it."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-09. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright absent and Councilman Perrilloux abstaining.

**17-10** (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Alexandra Carter stated, "This re-subdivision request was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission at the March 20th meeting and Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-10. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright absent.

**17-11** (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Alexandra Carter stated, "This re-zoning request was unanimously approved by the

*Planning Commission at the March 20th meeting and Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-11. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Madere stated, *"I'd like to make a motion that the council accept the finance committee report."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - Resolution - R17-08 - (Tabled (3/28/17) 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**

*"The above item Resolution R17-08 will remain on the table until the next meeting on April 25, 2017."*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-13 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to petition the U.S. Congress and Administration to preserve full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and maintain its essential features**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"April 17-22, 2017 has been designated as National Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) week. The program is designed to develop viable urban and rural communities by expanding economic opportunities and improving the quality of life, principally for persons of low and moderate income. St. John Parish received \$6.7 Million through the Gustav/Ike grant program and \$32,674,000 through Hurricane Sandy/Isaac grant funds that were allocated to Parish recovery projects, including the School Board and Housing Authority. Any reductions or the elimination of these funds would be devastating to our community and other communities that rely on them for resiliency. We must be proactive in contacting our federal delegation with support of this program and continuation of this funding to vulnerable populations. And the new budget process, this is one of the programs that slated for cuts, we do have some sample letters, we'll be happy to share with you but we have benefited greatly from this project, and/or this funding opportunity over many years and there's lots of folks around the state of Louisiana who are depending on it as well. So you supporting this effort will be greatly appreciated."*

Councilman Perrilloux asked, *"It won't affect the money we have now?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"No. We got it before..."*

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, *"I know I heard about it over the TV."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Yes."*

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Ok, alright thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-13. A resolution authorizing the Parish President to petition the U.S. Congress and Administration to preserve full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and maintain its essential features. The motion passed Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu and Councilman Wright.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

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

**Larry Sorapuru - Discussion regarding Utility Department deficit**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes, I did have a conversation today with Mr. Ross Gonzales and we're going to get back with a few council people and administration and Blake if he's here, with us next week Jackie. There's some things that we can explore, he wants to share some things with us, but I think there's some opportunities for us to help out with this situation."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Just put it back on the agenda when you're ready to discuss it."

**Lennix Madere - Drainage in District III**

Brian Nunes stated, "Good evening Council. The Reserve Drainage Project is proceeding with the Contractor working two crews - one on the west side of 27th Street and the other on the east side of 26th Street. A meeting was held with both DOTD and CN and a plan developed to address blockages at the intersection of Perrilloux Dr. and E. 22nd Street. We are awaiting, actually the Project Engineer is here. We were talking about the plans to secure the culvert openings, I see he has them with him and just as an update to what's written here, we're meeting the railroad tomorrow morning to clean that culvert out."

Councilman Madere asked, "So they'll be doing that tomorrow morning?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Tomorrow morning."

Councilman Madere asked, "What time they'll be there?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I don't have a time. The railroad I think they'll be here around eight and the contractor might be here by seven, but we need both people to be there at the same time and I'll call you as soon as we have them both."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh I'll be there."

Brian Nunes stated, "Ok."

Councilman Madere stated, "You don't have to call, I'll be there."

Brian Nunes stated, "If there are any others specific questions, I'll be more than happy to answer them or Merrill Pollack can."

Councilman Madere stated, "One thing, I know we have to finish what's going on right now, but also when they finish that part of it, they're going to go back to I think its 24<sup>th</sup> Street because they have to complete all the way to Sweet

Lorraine, you know when they moved the poles?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yeah right, right yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right that's still part of the project, they have to go back and do that."

Brian Nunes stated, "The extensions that we talked about yes, that's still part of the project."

Councilman Madere stated, "And the plans are, he have the plans for the, you know the culverts?"

Merrill Pollack, Buchart Horn stated, "Pleasure to meet before you tonight. We've actually drawn up a detail on the culverts and there are going to be three locations where we will need to add a structure in order to not do any ditch grating to try and insert those pipes, no sloping the ditch down, to address your concern."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay just one other thing, I know we had that very big rain storm the other day, didn't last very long but it was significant. I passed through the project area, there was no water in the areas where the big pipes were, but I was concerned it's still going to be up to the front and I voiced that concern when the project first started. I understand it's going to really improve the drainage to the back because I didn't see any water hanging where that particular area was. But up to the front, especially on 26<sup>th</sup> Street by that particular trailer I keep telling you about, tremendous blockage right there. You know and we may have to dig that up to see what's going on underneath there, because the front part of those streets were basically the same, okay the same. So I know we have to do something to the front, for the people in the front can take advantage of what's happening to the back."

Brian Nunes stated, "Right I think a good cleaning would do that. So I think that's our next step. We'll go ahead and blow those out, especially 26<sup>th</sup> and we'll start..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "But at that address, they've tried blowing that thing out, you may have to find out exactly what's, put a camera in that one."

Brian Nunes stated, "We can do a camera as well."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah because that one there, just blowing it out doesn't work."

Brian Nunes stated, "Right. We'll get a camera in a see what else is wrong."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you."

Brian Nunes stated, "Thank you."

**Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - Update on repairs of Tom Daley Park and clarification of motion**

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda due to Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright were absent.

### Jaclyn Hotard - Update on abandoned house on Madewood Drive

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda due to Councilwoman Hotard was absent.

### Larry Snyder - Update on Major Canal maintenance

Brian Nunes stated, "The annual canal spraying program is underway which includes spraying four times a year. Public Works completed cleaning the Vicknair Canal and is currently dredging the Haydel Canal. The next canals scheduled for dredging are River Forest and Montz Canals. The Parish Engineer is in the process of obtaining permits on the remaining canals within the Parish."

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes, first I want to apologize to Mr. Nunes because I was supposed to have him a written report earlier this week, but I ran into a personal issue and I wasn't able to provide him with one. So to tell you where we are, as far as the canals we were requested by DNR to place the loading sites on the actual drawings for each canal and as you are aware there's 43 canals and there are 4 drawings that goes with each one of those lightings loading sites, so that's 173 drawings. We have completed approximately 75% of all of those drawings and we expect to finish the remaining 25%, we have 10 canals left to do, we should have those completed by say end of next week. My draftsman is telling me Wednesday but I don't believe he realize we have a holiday in there, so I'm giving him till Friday, at which point and time, once we complete those drawings, we'll be back in touch with DNR and we have a reschedule a meeting with the Mr. Jay Pecot with DNR whose handling the processing of the permits, at which time we will make a submission to him for another preliminary review, once they do that we should be able to put our final application together and get it submitted to them, and then from there it goes on, they place it on a 30 day public notice and they deliver it to their various agencies from that point. So end of next week we should be hopefully having that meeting scheduled."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good, the permit that we're applying for are permits, but not for dredging or for just snagging, cleaning whatever?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Both. We're doing, we've divided the canals into two, actually two permits, one permit will be for just the clearing and snagging as you say, and then we have sectioned off, there are a number of canals that we are basically blanket permitting under one permit for actual dredging of those canals, where it's required."

Councilman Snyder asked "Okay. Any other reason why we didn't do that when we got the other canals permits?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "We did, we did them as, what happened there Mr. Snyder is we did each canal individually as permits and so when you're talking 43 canals, you got 43 permits and they have different timelines on them, so they come up at different stages and different times and they expire. So what we have done is, we've gotten together with DNR and set it to do where we have all the canals covered under two permits that are running congruently with time, so when they come up if we haven't gotten to the proper excavation in time or so forth and if the permit comes to expiration, all we have to do is apply for an extension of that permit or actually reapply and flop it over into it where it starts that time cycle over on us, but we're only dealing with two permits at that point that would cover all of them as opposed to having 43 separate permits at multiple times, so that's why you're seeing the reconfiguration here."

Councilman Snyder asked "So that's the ones you're working on now?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, I'm talking about the one Mr. Nunes is working on."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'd like to add something to what he said. Part of the difference is we were previously denied dredging permits, and we tried something different and had DNR to detect where the original bottom of the canal was versus where it is now. We did a pilot to see if DNR would accept that and they did, so now we're pursuing that to the rest of the canals. So previously those permits were denied without us having the visual from the sonar to show the original bottoms of the canal versus what it silted in which is pretty much allowing them to grant us those dredging permits. Is that making sense?"

Councilman Snyder asked, "You want to explain this Mr. Nunes?"

Brian Nunes stated, "What she said is right. They did deny these permits for a long time..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I know they did but we have dredged canals since then. We got the permits, don't we?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We got one permit with eight canals on it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Eight canals on it and that's what I'm talking about. I'm not talking about the ones that he's done, I'm talking about the one that you and I worked on."

Brian Nunes stated, "Right, we did eight because we targeted the ones that were near the residential areas, that's why Vicknair and Haydel and those, they bordered subdivisions we thought it would be easier, that's what DNR said, because it affects the homes specifically as opposed to wetlands, it was easier to get it was a pilot to show DNR this is what we're dealing with."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And you all leveraging what you learned from them, from those canals, those eight that we did, the one that you did the sonar on, the one that we got the permits on, to what our engineers working on because I think you mentioned something that, if we can prove that these canals have so much sludge in it, then we can use the same test for all our canals that we want to dredge. Because that was a big thing, because they had you guys do some certain parts of the canal, if I'm not mistaken more than once."

Brian Nunes stated, "That's correct. Right we did a lot of work in the first phase, and I think that along convinced these agencies that we do have a problem. So we didn't have to do the sonar surveys again this time, correct me if I'm wrong. We did not."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You see that's what I'm talking about you see we don't need to do that again, that information has already been done. We can leverage that over to Mr. Savoie there."

Joseph Savoie stated, "Right, we're using that data."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You are?"



Joseph Savoie stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Great then, that's all we need to do that's all we need to do then. Because I know we have eight canals to clean up. Alright?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Right!"

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding RFQ's presented to the Council**

Councilman Snyder stated, "If you have anything to say that's fine."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually have something, I just didn't know if there was anything, it just says discussion regarding RFQ's. But some of these things took place before some of the existing council members. But several years ago the Council approved a motion a resolution or ordinance or something along that lines requiring Administration to request authorization to solicitations for RFPs and RFQs and that process has been utilized for the last several years. The amended Purchasing and Procurement Policy & Procedures was approved by the Council on November 22, 2016, and while I'm on this I'd like to share with you Mr. Snyder, when we approved that, the DBE requirements were placed in this policy. So the recommendation you just made is actually included in the policy that was adopted by the Council, and Ms. Stewart actually sent out these solicitations and bids to our small business outreach and to other entities to try and encourage DBE participation. So that's part of our current process that was adopted in November of 2016. So that's typically what we're following, and it describes the procurement methods and establishes standards for procuring professional and Architectural & Engineering ("A&E") services. Although the practice was in place since 2011, the new document actually outlines the step by step process and it uses best practices. We also have a resolution that was approved, I think in 2008 specific to the LCBG and LCBG programs that take into account the federal guidelines and requirements for procurement which is to solicit RFQ's and depending on the funding source for example; HMGP, EPA, DEQ AND DHH, those procedures are also used."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good. I know all those acronyms kind of get your head going round and round, but whole point was to discuss this and because of the issue we had at our last meeting. And that was that, we were given a list of contractors who turned in RFP's and told we had to take the first one on the list. Now, I put it on this on here to discuss on this board to discuss this to the public, and to get some guidance from our council over here, is that I'd like to see it given to us the top five or top six or top two or top three. You know whatever you guys might think or whatever we might decide to do and we'll decide from there, because I think if we do our due diligence and read some of these RFP's, you know and just scan through them because administration went through them and they got the one that was qualified to do the work that we're asking to be done. That way we can make our decisions as a board here, on exactly who we want to do work with our RFP's. That was my thought. I'd like to know how you guys feel about that or do you want us to take the administration say; okay this is my number one we have to take them, and if they can't you know go by what they're saying, I don't think that's necessary. I think that we are intelligent enough to decide on what's going on with once the administration do their job and we can do our job and decide on what contract we want to put out there and who we want to do the work."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes, let me comment first on that. You're right, you don't have to take the first one, like I said; I've been dealing with businesses

for 35 years, and the one thing I want to get clear, on your RFQ's when you say get a DBE, they have so much percentage that a DBE can get, we need to develop a system like you said earlier Mr. Snyder, where we audit that and see that that DBE is getting some participation. Because saying it and doing it is two different things, you know and like I said again, I'm totally against the point system, that's my opinion. You know I mean you can do it the way you want but like I said with one, the last person the last discussion that came up, I believe you need to call everybody in individually, every contractor who bid on it. You know you get points and then you just say; I recommend him. Look at the person, talk to them that might be an area you're missing. You know find out what's going on but, I know I've been involved in where I work at on a committee, DBE programs and stuff and let me tell you something, a person can bid a million something and say he's going to give 20% DBE participation, yeah he can say it, but if you don't develop a system and watch it he can get away with it, you know and they always talk about; well I can't find nobody. Yes you can if you look and you advertise properly, you can. You know and that's what I'm saying, I just we need to pay more close attention to that. That's my opinion."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes I agree with you Mr. Becnel because I've been saying this for a long time especially our local contractors and DBE in the parish. They're not getting enough work here in this parish with the contracts we're doing and I can point out some examples they're not. And Jackie I'd like to see that document November 22<sup>nd</sup>, what was passed or something about a former council, whatever I'd like to see that RFQ, RFP process. Because I think I read a document where money was set aside or in some ordinance for our local contractors and DBE in St. John the Baptist Parish. I don't know if it was ever implemented or implemented right. So Mr. Snyder if you want set up a meeting with Ms. Robottom, we could do it and meet her and we can talk about it, but we need to do something and I agree with you Mr. Becnel, I'm not for the point system and I'm always was for, give me the top five and let me read and pick from there. I've been saying that for the longest."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I just want to clarify, we're talking for FRP's correct, not a bid? For both?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Not bids."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Not bids ok. And I'm also the DBE system, I think it does encourage business locally and to grow but the one thing we always have to keep in mind is, that we are also here to protect the money and the liability of this parish, that we need to make sure they have the insurance required and that they're capable of doing the job. But a lot of these companies are obligated by the federal government to not only say I'm doing it, to prove it. So in some of these contracts that come with government money, I think you'll find that they have to by law, so but it doesn't hurt for us to look. It does not, check and make sure they are because most of them are used to dealing with governmental money and they know they have to do that. But the DBE program is a good one, as long as we protect the government's money. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I think it's very clear what this council intent is and everything. I think we all agree and like you said, we have to make sure that we're monitoring them that they are really doing what they say they're doing, even though you mentioned about government money, there's a lot of corruption in government too, you have some problems there to. So there's nothing wrong with us just checking to make sure that this is being taken care of, you know because you know we should shop local to when we're doing these business

contracts and everything. We have a lot of people in the parish that can do a lot of this work and I agree with Mr. Becnel, if they look they'll find enough people in St. John the Baptist Parish to do anything, and they want to have all the qualifications and insurance and everything that they needed. Thank you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Snyder, I want to give you the resolution number that I referenced; it is 09-21. It was passed in 2009 and it was specific to the Gustav/Ike dollars and the requirement to have a certain procurement process for CDBG and LCBG funds, so it's attached to that, some of that language is also included in that policy that was adopted by the council in November of 2016, and I will get with legal counsel on some of your concerns, but specific to the funds that are obligated through federal, whether it's EPA, DHH, DEQ, CDBG, HMGP all disaster related and some federal funds. They specifically refer to 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E, which designates the process to use in the selection process. And we just received this this afternoon but the recommendation that was approved at the last meeting, EPA is declining that. So I'll share this with, they were the funding entity for that project, they reviewed the process just as the Wastewater Treatment Plant was approved tonight, contingent upon EPA reviewing that bid and accepting it as the low bid before it can move forward, they also were the entity that approved the previous project, so we just got a copy of this today, I'll be happy to share this with yawl. We'll discuss with which ever legal team is here, some of the requirements that are listed in not only our procurement but the federal one, which had to be approved before we could put it out. Whenever they're providing us funding from the federal or state government, they review the actual document and make sure their language is in it before we put it out. When we get authorization to do that, it's with the authorization we're going to follow through with their process if we're going to accept their money. So that just threw a little wrinkle in this last one, obviously it doesn't affect your bond money or some of the other funds that the parish has, but when we're accepting funds from federal entities, they set the guidelines and they pretty much use 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E, which specifically list how to go about procuring and how you make the selection for award.

Councilman Snyder asked, "They declined us \$60,000.00/\$68,000.00, we're supposed to pay, that's what it was? That's what they declined to pay?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay they declined that because of our resolution to determine who we wanted as the contractor on that job?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually once the submittals were made, we submitted them to EPA, they reviewed and approved and approved the firm that had the highest score by name. And so when they sent their approval to us it was with the specific name, that this was the one we approved. And by selecting the third place, this letter suggest that that's problematic in accordance with their rules. But again I just got this list walking in, I'll give it to our legal advisors they'll be able to provide some input on that once they have an opportunity to review it. But we just got this, this afternoon."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay that's fine. I think we kind of expected that, but, go on Mr. Madere till I get my thoughts together."

Councilman Madere stated, "Here's my respond to that then. According to what you said, they approved it based on the recommendation that was made by you, right?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "They actually reviewed all the documents."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Themselves. All the submittals."

Councilman Madere asked, "Ok, what would have happened if they would have picked someone else?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "You know the reason..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "That's the review and everything, okay I understood what you said; we reviewed it and did what we had to do and we recommended Company A, after they reviewed everything they might, if they didn't want Company A they would have went with B."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right. Again the reason we send it to them is to make sure that they're in agreement with our recommendation. If they send something back saying they're not, then we have to do something else. Otherwise, you know what they're saying is their funding is attached to their review, they want to make sure we follow the process. For example, if we didn't and we violated something and made a recommendation that's outside of their practices, then they're not going to go along with what we did, otherwise they'd get in trouble. So, you know they're reviewing what was done to make sure it's in compliance with what they required. Now the whole step of the way, everything's approved by EPA, don't just wait till the very end of the process and say, ok look at this. We had to send the RFQ to them and they actually added some additional requirements to the back of our basic RFQ, which meant we had to follow that in addition. The same thing with the contract document, when they sent the, we sent the draft contract to them they added some additional language which legal counsel had to review to make sure it wasn't conflictual with our basic language. So this whole process when we're utilizing federal funds, are guided by the guideline established by the government. When we're not using their money, then obviously we use the parish guidelines and best practices. But many times we come before you and say we're recommending someone in contingent upon approval of the entity."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Since you just got this letter today, okay that's a whole new discussion and I think that's what we're getting into now, we need to just shut this down. But I would like to, I would like for my secretary to schedule a meeting for next week with the administration, dealing with Mr. Perrilloux's suggestion to talk about the DBE's and in the meantime, you can get us a copy of that letter and we could look at that and discuss that at a later date. Ok, so we're going to get a few people there, four of us can go. I'll talk to a few people. Thank you ma'am."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding "Customer Service" services for St. John the Baptist Parish**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think I kind of broke the ice a little bit a couple of weeks ago, a couple of meetings ago that the issues we're having with our water right now and what the Water Department have for Procurement Department or Utilities Department have done, they've got someone to handle all the calls that's coming in. And I like the way they do it, I like the way it was handled and a lot of people who came over here I know that I talked to and they complimented the way the lady was handling her business. So it was brought to my

attention that maybe we should look at getting us a Customer Service Department, not a department, a Customer Service Entity. Whereas, we can use people that's already here, we have one lady she worked here 8 hours a day or 10 hours a day, every day. So that means what? She can be missed some place else. Ok! And I don't think we need a lot of people, two people would be enough as small as we are, or maybe even one for right now. But I would like to see that, and I just want you to kind of sauté this idea and then we can talk with each other or one on one, I'll put it on the agenda, and then talk to with the Parish President, we have a meeting with her next week, and we can bring that up and let's see what we can do with this if you like it. If you don't like it we'll discuss it with the Parish President and we can just forget about it. But I think it worked out pretty good for the Utility Department right now, maybe it might work for the parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually looked at that several years ago, when I worked in Terrobonne Parish they actually hired someone, it's called a Community Liaison, a person that actually takes the difficult calls, does the follow-up and we actually had started putting together a document or job description with some of those things in mind, we didn't actually move forward with it, but I'll be happy to share what we have. We got a copy of that job description from Terrebonne at the time and it was a new position for them, where that person pretty much did what our employee is doing but not just for one department, for a variety of departments and that was her job. To kind of problem solve I think that was the name, The Problem Solver and she kept a record of you know the calls, did the follow-up and got back with them. All though we're doing it just for utility bills, that individual did it for a variety of concerns, so I'll be happy to share some of the information that we collected from other parishes that utilize something like that."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Did Mr. Jones or Mr. Snyder that lady present something to Ross pertaining to that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'm sorry."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Were there any documents that they presented to you on some work that they had done on that? Mr. Snyder and Ms. Norma? None, okay. No problem I just asked."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We know what she's doing though. We help put together a spreadsheet, we're very familiar with what she's handling and how she's doing it. But this was a little bit broader based on your request tonight, somebody who did little bit more not just with utilities, but with any problem customers and you know we gave them that individual attention that I think they're pleased with getting by coming here. But there is a job description that we got from another parish that kind of outline some of the things that I think you're referencing, so I'll be happy to share that with you if we're looking to have somebody do that job."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Basically we're talking about a Trouble Shooter. A lot of people will have a Trouble Shooter out there..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Or a Problem Solver."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Once you know how to handle people, talk with them about a volatile issue, that's a good trait to have, not everybody could do it."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding Grass cutting Contracts/RFP's**

LaVerne Toombs stated, "All grass cutting contracts resulting from the 2014 RFP expire on June 30, 2017 with a one (1) year option for renewal. The contracts were amended to include landscaping on June 14, 2016. Administration recommends executing the option for a 1-year extension and completing the RFP process for the next round of contracts after reviewing current and possible grass cutting locations. The staff and I had a meeting and reviewed the contracts in preparation for the expired contracts and as stated we do recommend that these according to the contract that we extend the contract for 1-year."

**Julia Remondet - Discussion regarding Railroad Concerns**

Brian Nunes stated, "The Public Works Department recently met with representatives of the CN Railroad to discuss culvert cleaning and high grass along the railroad. A ride through of the Parish is being scheduled this month. Any specific areas of concern should be relayed to the Public Works Department so they can be addressed with the appropriate railroad personnel."

**Julia Remondet - Status Update/Discussion - Phase II Drainage Improvements Reserve**

Brian Nunes stated, "The design for this project is in the final review process at FEMA. Once approved, bids will be solicited and a construction schedule determined. The site plan for this project is attached for your review."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security R. Bend Estates II, LLC, et al v. St. John the Baptist Parish, et al, #69795

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:**

There was no ordinances to be introduced.

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. Thank you to those who attended the town halls last week to gather information and ask questions about the levee project and April 29 election. We received some valuable questions and comments and appreciate those who took the time to attend. Those questions and responses have been added to the parish website. For those who did not attend, we want to remind you about the April 29th election - on a 7 mills Ad Valorem tax dedicated to the levee project and flood protection. Early voting is April 15-22. For more than 40 years, hurricane protection for St. John has been talked about - and talked about. Finally, we have action. Last year, congress approved construction of the

718 million Levee from the Bonnet Carré Spillway in Montz to Mt. Airy. To build the levee, St. John must ensure that it can pay the estimated \$50 million for its share of construction and long-term maintenance. The ballot issue of April 29th proposes a property tax increase of 7 mils for 30 years dedicated solely to flood protection and levee construction. The levee project affects more than just residents and businesses 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. The tax increase is minimal, ranging from \$1.50 to \$53.95 per month for homes ranging from \$100,000 to \$1 million. Residents whose homes are valued under \$75,000, seniors over 65 and 100% disabled veterans will see no increase. The April 29th 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 taken exercise your right to vote. For more information, visit [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) or call Baileigh at 652-9569. The LA Safe meeting to discuss resiliency and long-term sustainability for our parish was well attended and we appreciate all who joined us and we encourage you to stay involved as there will be more meetings in the future. We also had one of the most successful Easter in the Parks Saturday. The Parks were filled with excited children and youth to kick off Spring through an Easter egg hunt, refreshments, Easter Bunny photos and more. Congratulations to the Sings & Strings Committee and Garyville Timbermill Association for a successful festival two Sundays ago. Despite the threat of rain, the festival was well attended and raised money toward the Historic Timbermill Museum. The Sheriff's Office is offering the 1st Citizens Academy for free, April 27th - June 29th, 2017. The academy provides participants with an insider's view of operations of the Sheriff's Office in a relaxed and interactive environment. To register, please visit [stjohnsheriff.org](http://stjohnsheriff.org) or call 985-359-8685. The St. John Parish Sheriff's Office will be conducting an explosives drill tomorrow morning, Wednesday, April 12, 2017 in the area of New Wine Christian Fellowship, and West Fifth and Elm streets in LaPlace. Residents should not be alarmed if they hear explosives. This is only a drill for training purposes and not a real emergency. Team St. John also participated in St. John Relay for Life held at Joe Keller Stadium this past Saturday. We raised more than \$2500 for the American Cancer Society and Cancer research. It was a good day for a great cause. Join us for the annual Spring Clean Sweep Saturday, April 29th, 2017. 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 that day from 9 am to 1 pm in the New Wine Christian Fellowship 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. Just a reminder - Parish Offices will be closed on Friday, April 14 in observance of Good Friday. Happy Easter and may it be an enjoyable one with your friends and family. Thank You

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:10 PM, Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwomen Hotard, Pannu, and Councilman Wright absent.

/s/Larry Snyder  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
COUNCIL SECRETARY