

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
**CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
**VICE CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Michael Wright

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Smith led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Keith Green, Jr. were present.

**Natalie Robottom - Appointment of Director of Human Resources**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Nykyia Perrilloux Freemont, is recommended as the Director of Human Resources to replace Stacey Cador. Ms. Cador is leaving her position to spend time with her family and we are grateful for her continuous service to St. John Parish and wish her the best in all future endeavors. Freemont holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, a Master's in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She has accounting as well as management experience, and has worked for the parish in Finance and Human Resources since September. She is a native of St. John the Baptist Parish and a resident of LaPlace. The appointment is contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to appoint Ms. Nykyia Freemont as the Director of Human Resources. The motion passed with Councilman Wright and Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**Natalie Robottom/Jaclyn Hotard - Recognition - Riverside Academy Boys Basketball Team State Champions**

Natalie Robottom introduced the Riverside Academy Boys Basketball Team state champions. It should be noted that this is the third state championship for these boys who are all residents of St. John the Baptist Parish. The council commended the boys for a job well done and encouraged them to keep up the good work, good grades and are a leader for other kids in our community to look up to.

**Natalie Robottom/Vince Lucia - Presentation - Louisiana Workers**

**Compensation Corporation (LWCC) presentation of Dividend Checks**

Mr. V.J. Rollo was here to present the parish with two LWCC Dividend Checks. The parish will receive a check in the amount of \$324,780.00 and the Office of Fire Services will receive a check in the amount of \$177,996.00. Mr. Rollo commented that the parish has been receiving checks since 2003 which total \$1,033,648.00.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - 911 Telecommunications Week**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for 911 Telecommunications Week

**Art Smith - Presentation - Danis Walker/Tanza Sterling - HIV Awareness**

Danis Walker and Tanza Sterling were present at the meeting and gave a brief presentation on HIV Awareness in the River Parishes. Councilwoman Millet commented that this would be a good program for the new Health Advisory Board to be connected with to bring our parish further with HIV Awareness and testing for all.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes - March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church - Fun Walk/Run - 4/25/15 beginning @ 9:00 AM

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church - Fun Walk/Run - 4/25/15 beginning @ 9:00 AM. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson and Wright absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

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

Angelic Keller stated, *"This re-zoning was approved at the March 16, 2015 Planning Commission meeting and Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-10. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson and Wright absent.

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

Angelic Keller stated, *"This re-subdivision was approved at the March 16, 2015 Planning Commission meeting and Administration recommends approval."*

approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-11. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson and Wright absent.

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

Angelic Keller stated, "This ordinance revises the current parking requirement for hotels and motels to a standard similar to that of other jurisdictions. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How does that change the old ordinance?"

Angelic Keller stated, "Currently it is 1.25 parking spaces per guest room so it actually reduces the requirement and most of the other jurisdictions we found that it was one parking space per guest room. So what we did was we did one per guest room and we added four additional spaces to accommodate employees or just to make sure that we had a little extra."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I'm kind of getting crazy here if you have four additional spaces for employees if the hotel is full only four employees can go to work. I am just asking a question."

Angelic Keller stated, "Again this is based on Jefferson Parish does it this way, we have researched Orleans and St. Tammany this is the standard in other jurisdictions as one to one."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Let me ask you do we have any parking issues right now or is there access parking right now?"

Angelic Keller stated, "No we don't currently have any problems and I don't personally know of any time that a hotel has been full to capacity."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay I am asking questions because I am just concerned. I don't want to see a problem happen."

Angelic Keller stated, "I think what normally happens too is when you have developers that are building hotels obviously it is a big investment to them so they are going to make sure that they have sufficient parking spaces and they know what parking is usually required for their hotels."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So why are we reducing ours?"

Angelic Keller stated, "Because it is the minimum standard that doesn't mean that they can't have more according to their needs but this is the standard what we had, the 1.25, was excessive when you compute it per guest room."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Did we have something a developer or development that came up that brought this issue to our attention?"

Angelic Keller stated, "We did actually as part of our administrative meetings we meet with developers, residential, commercial or anybody who is coming through for a project if it is a re-zoning or a re-subdivision, a new commercial construction project and again this is just someone making suggestions to us that you know in other jurisdictions this is how they normally do it and we looked into it and researched it ourselves and we found that is in fact what the common practice is in other jurisdictions."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just to touch on what you said Cheryl often times your tourism industry you don't have everyone driving into hotels often times people have flown in or they come in by junket on busses so you usually don't have a situation in a hotel where every single room that is occupied is occupying a parking space outside that is just not the situation. If you go to the back by 51 where all of the hotels are even when they are full at maximum capacity there are still parking spaces in the parking lot based on how the industry runs."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "My concern was based on the old requirement of 1.25 we don't know what it is going to be with the new requirement."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "But it is a standard requirement everywhere."

Angelic Keller stated, "I think that was a requirement from 1986 that hadn't been updated."

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-12. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson and Wright absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

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

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Laverne Saulney stated, "Good evening Council, please refer to the copy of your Economic Development newsletter which I have placed in front of you. We are excited to present this new initiative, a quarterly newsletter recapping the prominent event, news and upcoming trainings on behalf of the department. We thought it would be a great idea to not only express all the hard work done by the Economic Department but also showcase with graphics and photos as well as appease ways of our residents. You can find this newsletter on the Economic Development website also the Chamber of Commerce, the St. John Business Association, the Rotary Club as well as a number of retail within the parish and I can also say that one of our council members is highlighted in the newsletter regarding her new business, Councilwoman Millet."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This is the second time that I have seen this and I think it is a great job that you are doing and it is really this is Economic Development. Thank you so much this is so important that we spread this out to the entire area and let everyone know that we are working on Economic Development and I am so glad that you are in this department it is just amazing thank you. I am so pleased."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I also would like to congratulate you on this. This is every colorful, it is very informative I think it is what our parish needs and a good jump start to the future of the EDC Department and the things that are in the future for us. Great job."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to echo what everyone said but this is a prime example of how the council and all the department heads have to work together and putting this together moving the parish forward it is good for us to know and it is good for the citizens to know exactly what is going on in your department and communication and working together is the key."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Will this be mailed to our house or will we have one every week?"

Laverne Saulney stated, "No sir it is quarterly and the next one will be issued in August."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Where can we get this or are you going to give it to us through mail?"

Laverne Saulney stated, "We will make sure that you get it sir. Also I would like to thank the public relations and communication department as well because it is a team effort so I thank them for their assistance."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Is this going out to the public or how are we showcasing this? Is it something that we pick up in the administrative office?"

Laverne Saulney stated, "Yes we have some in the office. I take them to all events I attend."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Just to showcase what you are doing this is a great marketing tool to me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is a good tool. I commend Ms. Saulney and her department and communications this item is something we have been watching other parishes' do they send it out electronically to all the businesses and chamber. We deliver them. They are in our libraries and our public buildings so we are going to continue to put them out in that fashion this is a fairly big document so it is difficult for us to mail and would be extremely costly but at all of the events and association meetings that we go to we will be delivering these as we have done in the past. This will actually go to other parishes as well showing just as they send theirs to us what is happening here obviously the business owners that are highlighted in them will have an opportunity to have them in their stores. This is our first time doing it and I am very pleased with the product and we are going to get it

out similarly to how we do everything else but it is also on the website and will be sent out electronically to all the media outlets and all the group emails that we have so that they will get it in that manner."

Angelica Keller stated, "You also have in front of you the Code Enforcement flyer that was recently put together it actually contains the common code violations. This was an effort to inform the public of some of the common types of violations with some information that is actually contained in the code even though our Code is online a lot of times people aren't going to go or don't know how to access Municode which is a very lengthy document unless you know what you are looking for so we tried to pull it out for them. Fortunately because our flyer is only one page we are able to have them mailed out with the utilities bill the cycle actually takes an entire month so it will take a month for them to get out but they will be sent out to all the residential and commercial utility customers. There is also contact information for the permit office as well as the code enforcement office."

Councilman Madere stated, "This is a very good idea and the fact that we can mail this out and put this in each individual's hands that should help them understand when the code enforcement officer comes around if they look at it it might help them understand some of the violations they may have on their property so that is a very good idea."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Mr. Nunes can you give me an update on LaPlace Park and the water back there, the situation and where we stand?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Currently I have a crew out there on site they are going to stay there for the rest of the night. We have two pumps running on full right now they are on manual though so I am going to keep those guys out there just to avoid any problems that we may have. We did get the all clear from the National Weather Service for the rest of the night but I am going to keep them out there until the water level comes down or pump ahead and keep it real low because we know there is some more water coming tomorrow."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "And you said they are running on manual just because of the water or they won't run in automatic?"

Brian Nunes stated, "They will run in automatic but with the amount of water that we have out there we want to keep it in manual to avoid any chance of something tripping out so we are just going to keep it in manual and keep people out there until the water levels come down so maybe another two hours."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay keep me posted because I am still getting calls about it now and where we are going forward with the Haydel Canal Crossing if you can just give me some talking points tomorrow when you have a meeting."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would really like to say thank you there was a lot of rain out there today and every time I rode through you were there. A lot of the areas I rode through I either saw you or some of your workers manning the pumps or making sure that the pumps were running. I know we beat you up a lot. I am saying thank you. I saw you

all out there actually trying to make sure that our pumps were running. Thank you very much."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to say thank you also. I did see some trucks out there but I do have a question for you because when it rains I am definitely going to be one that is out there and I rode around from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM and one thing I was concerned about when I got to the Homewood pump one was running and they were working on one and I think the comment was that they were cleaning the oil filter. To me I do know things happen but that is more of a preventative maintenance situation right there during the time that the rain was coming down really hard that pump was being worked on and the reservoir was filled to the top now they were able to get it working but I think in the future and this is not a criticism but when we know 4-5 days ahead of time that we are going to get weather like that we should go out there and turn those pumps on and make sure they are all working now I do know that things happen and I don't know if they ever got that pump started but I do know when I got there the guys were working don't get me wrong they were working on it but instead of working on that pump I thought that pump should have been working. So could you explain what happened or is that a maintenance problem?"

Brian Nunes stated, "There may have been a miscommunication we blew a hydraulic line out there so what we were changing wasn't the oil filter it was a hydraulic filter. We didn't want to have any water in the hydraulic system so when we blew the line we just had to make sure we took care of everything before turning it back on. It wasn't scheduled maintenance. It wasn't something we could have seen. We did get it running again both pumps are still running and I have somebody on site right now."

Councilman Madere stated, "I know it is running I stopped before I came here. One other thing I have always been pushing for a drainage department and I am going to push even harder for that. We are going to have to sit down and talk about that the council agrees that we need a drainage department. I understand that we had a tremendous amount of rain and you did a great job but I strongly believe that if we had a maintenance department and someone to do things like we were doing today it would have been taken care of prior to the rain coming down and that would make it even easier for us. I have a location that I will tell you about on E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street which is the railroad and the railroad is a big problem for us too. I have said it before and I will say it again tonight we need to put a class action law suit on the railroad not only for not cleaning their culverts out but for taking all of their cross tires and just throwing them along the tracks in our parish. I understand they have the right of way to pass but they don't have the right of way to litter or to cause damage to the homes of our citizens and we need to take some strong action against the railroad and make them understand this. On E. 12<sup>th</sup> where you cross the railroad track going into Homewood there is a blockage, a car fender, gas tank and other objects that are on both sides of that canal so it is definitely causing a problem so maybe someone can get out there tomorrow morning and try to get that taken care of but we definitely need a drainage department and I know you need more help and you need more workers in Public Works because everything is on Public Works but once again thank you for the good job that you did today it was over loaded but we definitely need to get you some help."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "First off I want to tell you that I also ran through the parish a little bit today and some areas that normally flood did not they had no standing water so whatever precautions we did yeah we did something right however I did notice that the area behind the Canterbury's had an abundance of water and I don't know what is causing that because the North side of Country Club was high and dry so I don't understand how they ended up getting that water in there so if you can have somebody check that area back there because I couldn't even get through when I attempted."

Brian Nunes stated, "It was a strange storm today. We did get the call about the Canterbury's it was something today that I hadn't seen since I have been here. It is just the way the water was flowing. It wasn't like Isaac. It wasn't like any storm we had seen before. It was strange the way the water was flowing."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Just check the culverts over there and make sure that there is nothing blocking that over there because there is a reason I mean it is drained now but at the time it was just not going anywhere."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have a maintenance schedule on those pumps whereas we can swap them once a week or something like that to make sure they are running?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We run them at least weekly we will go out to test them for a brief time we can't run them dry but we do turn them on briefly to make sure that they are running and we stay on top of that all the time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Didn't we have a problem in Reserve? I was just wondering because we had some problems out there by the airport and I was wondering about our maintenance schedule just to make sure that we are rotating these pumps to make sure that they are running because I think we had some people that got water into their homes and I am not saying that the pumps are the reason for that but in some areas it was bad and I know I am going to get some pumps back there right?"

Brian Nunes stated, "On Vicknair yes sir."

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

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

**Ranney Wilson - (Carry Over 03-24-15) Drainage - Toni Dr., Cop Dr., S. Church St., Stout St., Fig St., Historic Main St. and other areas**

Councilman Wilson stated, "I see what you are saying in this report and the rain that happened today was so much but I see that you are working on it and are going to do some surveys on Toni and Cop Drive and will assess some streets in Garyville so I will accept that right now. Today was a terrible day for everybody but in Garyville we had water in a few houses."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Just to add a little to that Mr. Wilson, I do have work orders written for most of the areas that you have on the agenda. I know some of them are falling under the project with some work that we are doing on Toni and Cop and that area. So I think we will get some relief in that area."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Like Mr. Madere said earlier the railroad is a major problem and I don't know what we are going to have to do but something is going to have to be done with them sooner than later."

**Larry Snyder - Gary Triche - Business request to address council**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Mr. Triche you can come up. Mr. Triche asked to address the council on some issues but just keep in mind that we cannot discuss any bills that pertains to individual billing issues. This is a business from the parish that has some concerns."

Gary Triche stated, "I have a shopping center on Airline Highway which houses Mabile's Restaurant and what I want to talk about first is the water bill. I don't know what the reason is but there was an ordinance that was passed that all restaurants's had to pay a \$67.00 per month permit fee, sewerage wise a regular retail business if you have a \$100.00 water bill you would pay \$100.00 sewerage. A restaurant you pay \$100.00 worth of water and you pay \$175.00 worth of sewerage. I am trying to figure out why a restaurant is charged these extra fees."

Councilman Snyder stated, "My understanding is that is driven by DHH because they have grease and stuff like that and the restaurants are the only ones that have to pay that which is my understanding."

Gary Triche stated, "Well the understanding I have I talked to the state and they said that this is entirely up to the parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Oh yeah?"

Gary Triche stated, "There are fees but it doesn't have anything to do with restaurants."

Blake Fogleman, Special Assistant to the Parish President, stated, "I have done some research on this since coming on board, Virgil isn't here tonight but we did discuss a few of these issues because it is ongoing. I know he had spoken directly to a few of you regarding this. This is a non-domestic program put in place by DEQ. The requirement for everyone to be in a non-domestic program is driven by the state. The ordinance sets the ability for the utilities department to set fees based on impact to the sewer system that is collection as well as treatment. All restaurants in the parish do have a fee. All washateria's have a fee. All industrial users have a fee. That is a permit fee as well as usage. They are all set at different rates depending on the severity of their waste that are put into our system. Firsthand what restaurants do to our system we have Reed Alexander here with collections he can attest to the issues we have with some of our collection systems and it is not intended to make any money off of anyone. We want these businesses here. This is just to maintain the maintenance we have to do to our equipment based on the sewer that is coming from those."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So you are saying that it is driven by the DEQ?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "It is a DEQ requirement. A non-domestic program for all of them to be listed as a non-domestic user in our parish actually St. John voluntarily put this program in and was very proactive in putting this program into place and it is now driven by the state department."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And they pay 100% of the sewerage bill and there is a part on that also for the non-domestic?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Normal retail is 100% to 100% but normal retail only puts domestic waste into our sewer, restaurants put oil, greases and other things as well. I know they have grease traps and pre-treatment so to speak I've only been involved in a few of the negotiations with Virgil and just sitting in and listening but I do know that the table is open to sit down and discuss if we do testing we check that testing over a period of time and there are discussions and negotiations that are had to make sure that we are not just out right billing people for not putting anything that affects our sewer system in. So it is strictly driven on what comes out of the back in into our collection and treatment system."

Brandon Mabile, Mabile's Restaurant, stated, "I am the owner of Mabile's Restaurant and I am the one that has the issue. I don't understand why my water/sewerage bill should be more than anybody else's because yes we do have a plan. I have a 300 gallon treatment plant, grease trap that I have to pay every 3 months to get cleaned and I don't understand why I have to pay more for my sewerage than somebody else that is the reason why I have this grease trap. So is it now since I have to pay more for that can I get rid of my grease trap and direct line it to the sewerage and not have to pay for that anymore since I am having to pay more water."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I wouldn't do that. Do you have a direct line or some place that you bring the used grease to?"

Brandon Mabile stated, "It is a separate trap that is in the line."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is that working pretty good guys?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "That is pretty standard for the restaurant business."

Brandon Mabile stated, "There is no oil that goes down the line. It is from washing dishes just like you wash dishes at home that is what goes down the line. The oil is in a separate container that has nothing to do with the sewerage that a company comes and picks up every month."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So I am just trying to get an understanding here. The water that goes through you wash the dishes with and it goes to the grease trap and then into the sewer line and the reason why I am asking the questions like that is because there maybe something that we can do later on there is nothing that we can do tonight for sure but that is why you spoke to us and hopefully that will suffice for tonight but there may be some other things that we can do. I don't know but if

*we put our heads together I am sure that there is something we can do."*

*Gary Triche stated, "I supply water and have been supplying water to all of my tenants for 41 years now all of a sudden here comes this bill and they decided it isn't sewerage anymore it is wastewater. Now I am paying a higher rate for everyone in that building because the parish won't work with me they want me to put another meter in and another backflow preventer and that cost thousands of dollars plus we have a long way to run to get it. It seems to me that there should be some way that the parish I mean everything else around here they change up but they could work with me because I am being over charged drastically."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't know if you have had meetings already but this may be a good time to meet with the director."*

*Brandon Mabile stated, "We have 7 businesses in this building and all go according to one water line and the higher bill for the restaurant is for the entire shopping center just because the restaurant is on that one line."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I got you. I understand. We are not going to solve that problem here tonight for sure."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Blake, I had a situation come up with another business a few months ago and it was frequency of the testing. Is this what..."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "They are only referring to the monthly fees. In your case that was discussing because they are in a different category because of what their industry is and they were discussing the frequency of what the laboratory test they were taking on their waste water."*

*Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And the \$67.00 permit fee is that something that was set by ordinance and does it have to be that amount, did we determine that was the amount?"*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes. It is set depending on business."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "Today if a new business or if someone is building today a restaurant say there are more than one tenants to that building are they allowed to only have one water meter."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "That is not typically how we would recommend it be set up."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "Yes because that is not typical for what I understand for new construction. So it is because you have been around for so many years you only have one."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "It is for commercial also and I know they have been around for a long time and that is the issue we are having with it."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "I wasn't in here when this first started so I am catching up on what is going on but Blake he mentioned that he has a grease trap is it required for all new businesses to have a grease*

trap?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir it is standard for restaurants."

Councilman Madere stated, "For restaurants what about a store like Winn-Dixie?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "If they have anything that they are frying then yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "The reason I am saying that is because I do remember when I first started working I worked at Winn-Dixie and my first job was cleaning the grease traps and that wasn't a very fun job. So it is not all stores but all restaurants. Any new restaurant would have to have a grease trap? Now the purpose of this grease trap is to eliminate as much as possible of the grease that is going in that water? So the next question is what is an acceptable limit for them as far as going into the sewerage system?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Offhand I don't know the actual concentration but I think that is also set in the ordinance and there is an actual surcharge for anything above that concentration."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay let's just say that they are below?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "That is accepted as normal residential."

Councilman Madere asked, "So they still would have to pay extra?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Because they are in the non-domestic program yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Only because they are in that program?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "The program is like the back flow prevention program, similar to the one state mandated that we have to follow that takes time and resources. We are not trying to make money. If there is anything that affects our collection system or our treatment we need to try to watch that. We know as a whole what industries are putting that and affecting our collection entry."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well here's the thing you can't change it and I understand we can't change it you said it is state mandated that seems to be a problem because like he said then someone might say if I have to pay this money regardless of if I am under or above the limit I might as well save money without putting the grease trap."

Blake Fogleman stated, "There is a surcharge built into the ordinance and Reed would find out in a hurry if that is the case and there would be other ways of handling that as in fines and fees."

Reed Alexander stated, "Mr. Madere just like we have a discharge permit for our wastewater plant we have limits that we have to meet in the water that we treat and we could also ask that of our customers and if they paid us that we wouldn't have the surcharge."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Do we have a way of determining if the

*grease traps are working?"*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes we could sample that and the negotiations that I have sat in on and what Ms. Hotard was referring to is referring to frequency of testing to negotiate the variances..."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "So in this particular case a meeting would be in order."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "My understanding is that they have had meetings and I can't speak for Virgil and the outcome of those meetings but I understand that they have brought this to the table before and then Councilman Snyder put it on the agenda so that we can discuss it here."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "So there is ongoing negotiations or we are not satisfied with the result of the negotiations."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "Apparently not."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "But to have all five buildings have to pay the surcharge is just there has got to be a way to resolve this."*

*Blake Fogleman stated, "It is difficult for us as the parish to do that because the other side of the meter is not our terrain and to decide."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am not asking you to decide. I am asking that we meet and not penalize our small businesses unnecessarily and that is my concern. There are ways to monitor if their grease trap is in fact working properly therefore we should be able to sit down and negotiate as well."*

*Councilman Wilson asked, "Blake I would appreciate it if you could get all of the council members copies of those ordinances and the state laws you mentioned so that we can have this before you meet. Mr. Triche all of the businesses are being charged the fee?"*

*Brandon Mabile stated, "Only the restaurant is charged the permit fee. I'm paying almost double sewer."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "We apologize but this is obviously not the manner to solve this problem. Part of the problem is that they are on one meter and it is unfair for all of your tenants to pay for the restaurant portion but as Mr. Fogleman indicated we don't have control over what happens on the other end of the meter but we can sit with you and meet and go through the ordinance obviously Blake can get you a copy but it is on Municode your assistant can locate that as well. It was an ordinance passed by this council and we will be happy to go through that our goal is not to impede the business community however we are held to standards and we are held to maintaining compliance in our plant and we will allow things to enter our plants then that cost us additional money and the reason this law came into effect was to prevent that from happening. So clearly you have a very specific situation that can't be handled tonight but we will get together a team of people to sit with you and see what can be done. As far as the council goes Jackie you can pull the non-domestic ordinance that was approved by this council and distribute it to everyone that might be helpful there may also be some minutes associated with it that might*

give them a little history on why it was approved and passed but in the mean time I encourage you to meet with the staff at the office and if we need to do that together in my office I welcome it but we are not going to resolve this tonight."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "That is my suggestion and I was going to wait until Virgil got back so that I can follow up myself on what was discussed at the meeting because right now I am blind to what was discussed so we don't know. Jackie will pull the ordinance and if we can make amendments to it or change something we will but we aren't going to solve this right here tonight."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We have many things in this situation, little shopping center they are all over and have been here for 50 years and I can understand their concerns that is why I asked that we get copies of everything so that we can sit down and study it and see what the problem is and maybe come up with a solution because it isn't just them that has this problem and after this meeting others will see that they have the same problem."

Councilman Snyder stated, "All this sounds good but I haven't heard anyone say let's get together tomorrow or the next day or until we can look at some of these things now I am just asking a question to get an understanding because after tonight I don't know if anyone is going to contact me to let me know anything about this. Look what we just did for the hotels we came up with an ordinance to help them out and that is what I am talking about that is how you work together we are not going to get out of here and forget about all of this because I am not going to forget about it. Now I need to understand this program that Blake spoke about so that if I want to do some thinking on it I can do some thinking on it sometimes I look up and think like tonight I will go home and think about it but this program does it say that they have to pay extra or does it say that they have to pay for a permit?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Snyder I am not sure if you heard me but I directed the Utilities Department to set it up but I also offered since they already met with them that maybe they could set it up in my office. So both of them are here they will establish that meeting and I also ask that Jackie get you guys the information from the ordinance but in the meantime the staff that is here will be setting up the meeting and I am open to have them schedule it at my office."

#### **Ranney Wilson - Update on new road from Garyville Northern to Hwy. 54**

Councilman Wilson stated, "Mr. Nunes has looked at this and the cost is probably prohibitive with the drainage situation the way it is I can understand that. I will look for some different avenues."

#### **Ranney Wilson - Parish GPS System**

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

#### **Ranney Wilson - Garbage Problems - District II**

Councilman Wilson stated, "I have been having garbage problems in my district for quite a while Progressive can't pick the garbage up when they are here I don't know what they are going to do but we need to

watch what goes on with them."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I agree we have been having problems with the garbage people and are getting calls every Tuesday and Friday well I know I am getting them I can't speak for the rest of the council. The service has gotten terrible and something has to be done about it and we need to sit down with administration and see what the plans are."

Councilman Madere stated, "I also called Progressive the other day and complained that some people have garbage picked up on Wednesday and Saturday and for some reason they changed it and when I told the lady about it she said it wasn't a big deal but it is a big deal when we have an ordinance that says that a garbage can should only be out for a certain amount of time and someone puts out for a Wednesday pick up and you don't pick it up until late Thursday evening and come back at 5:30 on Saturday morning picking up the garbage and then they don't pick up again until next Thursday so it is a problem. If you are on a schedule for Wednesday and Saturday and you switch it without telling anyone it is a problem and like I said Progressive has regressed they need to change their name because it isn't Progressive it is a problem."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just a follow up I think we all received information on the same day that there was a change in the location of the building for Progressive. We quickly held a meeting with their upper management team. They indicated that they should have notified us before discussing anything with their employees as a matter of fact I received a phone call from an employee who brought over a copy of the letter that they were given by directors within a day or so their regional director met with us and we expressed several concerns not just as a result of the move but we had gotten complaints about just as you said Mr. Madere that they were off schedule they were either very late that evening or they were a day behind. We also see complaints that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day collection which is the bulky waste is not being picked up. We had a history of complaints of taking longer than 5 days to repair or replace a part and one of the concerns was that they had moved from 1 hopper rather than 2 per truck. I don't remember the exact date but I think I emailed all of you possibly last week the results of the meeting we met and provided all of those questions to Progressive it took a little while maybe a week or so but we did get those answers and I have provided those to you. We also asked legal counsel to review the contract to make sure that they were within their legal rights to no longer have that facility here and that was done if there are any other concerns, other than what we have addressed tonight, please let us know but we will be holding them accountable for delivering the services that are in their contract. There were a couple of questions I think I spoke with Mr. Gauff yesterday about sometimes them going earlier than the time frame and when that occurs it is with permission from my office and it is specifically around holidays for example if there is no garbage pickup on Christmas then they need to pick up whoever was on that day and the next day and I will grant them permission to start early to make sure that everybody's garbage is picked up but on a regular basis that should not occur, they should not be late, they should not be a day off and the service that you are paying for should be delivered. Again I want to think maybe it was last week or so that you all received that information if there is something on it that you are seeing that is not true please let us know we will

*get with our legal counsel and get with their representative again because our expectations are that they will deliver the service that they were granted the contract to deliver."*

Councilman Madere asked, *"Mrs. Robottom I know you spoke to legal but in that contract don't we have a clause that we can get out of that contract with just a certain amount of notice?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Actually we probably do. I was specifically asking them to take a look at the fact that they had a facility in our parish and they had elected to move it and making sure that there wasn't a requirement or component to the contract that they were issued and that one wasn't however they are held to all the other requirements of the contract and if there is something specific that we need to look at please let us know and we will do that."*

Councilman Wilson asked, *"I have asked before if other council members were having problems with the garbage and the answer was no and in LaPlace and the subdivisions North of Airline Highway it might not be a problem but in the rural areas where we have little narrow streets that have houses on both sides we do have problems and we have been missed all together by the garbage people I mean they will come on a Saturday and pick up half of the area and leave the other half and I have asked them on numerous occasions to pick up where they left off first thing in the morning but they don't do that."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"That isn't just specifically for you Mr. Wilson. It is throughout the entire parish."*

Councilman Wilson stated, *"I just want us to watch closely what is going on I don't want it to get worse than it already is."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Absolutely, we talked about this last night and we have to put it in perspective our team receives complaints on Facebook, we receive calls, you guys submit calls and we follow up. It is somewhat relative to the fact that they are making 22,000 collections a week and if we get 10 calls it is very important to the 10 people and I have it in my area where the can is in the middle of the driveway and not put back where it is supposed to be or they are late. So it is not just in the rural areas but it is something that we are staying on top of and we have a commitment from the staff as was in the email that if they don't do what they are supposed to we will be calling another meeting to initiate penalties because that is also part of the contract."*

**Ranney Wilson - N.W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street - ditches**

Administration wrote - The ditch in question is more of a canal and is a major outlet for storm water. The estimate for culverting the canal is in excess of \$1 million for materials alone (72 inch culverts, culvert bands, drain inlets and backfill material). Employee labor and equipment would be an additional cost. This would need to be a capital project.

Councilman Wilson stated, *"I see the cost of putting culverts in that ditch that you are calling a canal and that makes it even more important. If a vehicle today if a vehicle runs off of that road there*

is no shoulder what so ever that car would disappear, I mean it wouldn't be seen, two vehicles can't pass at one time and if someone was under the influence or a school bus passed and someone tried to pass at the same time they have part of the asphalt now that is starting to fall off and this is a serious problem. It is an accident waiting to happen. A life is worth a lot more than 1 million dollars. This is a serious situation. When I say they have no shoulder there is no shoulder it goes straight into the canal and it is something that can be done and I ask that we look for somewhere to find money to accomplish this."

Brian Nunes stated, "We definitely understand the safety concerns and you are right today the water was deep and there is no shoulder there and judging by the size of it it would be about 1 million dollars it is about 1.1 miles so we could make it a capital project and go forward with it that way. We could try to piece it together but that is going to take forever every 100 feet is going to cost you about \$15,000.00."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That wouldn't be feasible I would like to have it all done and if we can do it under a capital project that would be fine I just want us to try to do this sooner than later or find the money to do it."

Councilman Madere asked, "Is it possible or do they have any room so that we could put a guard rail up for protection?"

Brian Nunes stated, "There is really no shoulder there to put it if we start digging into that bank then we are asking for it to erode away faster."

#### **Larry Snyder - Update and time line on Vicknair Canal sonar study and maintenance**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I see one of these, the one on N.W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street you call it a major outlet for storm water will you have to get permits for that too if you wanted to dig that out a little bit to put some big culverts in there I thought there were different laws that pertain to that."

Brian Nunes stated, "This isn't considered a navigable channel on N.W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street it is a parish ditch so we wouldn't need a state permit to install culverts."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Why can't we do the same thing for Vicknair Canal?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It is a matter of size. The Vicknair Canal is considered a navigable channel it is about 20 feet wide."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that one is navigable too if I put a little pero in there and I am serious about this. I have heard about this sonar thing for the last two months now I tried to call DEQ to see if I could talk to someone to find out if we really need a dredging permit, we don't want to dredge, we just want to get back to the way we were or close to it but this is inside of a community."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is the only way they will even let us touch

*the bottom is if it is inside a community."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"That is exactly what I am saying. Why do we need sonar and why haven't we gotten it?"*

Brian Nunes stated, *"The need the sonar to see some king of historical record. They want to see where the bottom of the canal was 20 years ago as opposed to where it is now and we don't have anything there is nothing from when Vicknair Canal was put in but this sonar what it is they have two frequencies on a boat and it sends it out one reads where the silt level is and the other one reads the hard bottom of the canal so that is going to show them what it was originally and what it is now and that is what I am going to get to them to see that we need to dig back to this original bottom."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Well it is a good time to go do that now."*

Brian Nunes stated, *"I agree."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Why haven't we done this yet?"*

Brian Nunes stated, *"They submitted their first proposal. I think we finally got it last week and we set up a meeting because we thought their proposal was a little high to be honest with you it would be about \$50,000.00 just to do the Vicknair Canal sonar so I asked them to scale it back a little bit because we don't even know if DNR will accept it so rather than waste the tax payers money maybe we will just do a 1,000 feet of it as a sample to go to DNR with and say if we give you this will it work. So they ended up emailing me this afternoon I haven't had a chance to look through it today but I do plan on reviewing it tomorrow and if administration is on board I can give them a PO by the end of the week and they can be out here next week to do it."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I want you to keep me informed on this. I really believe that canal is part of the drainage problems that we are having over there in Riverlands. We don't have any problems where they have the pumps but the other streets are major problems."*

Brian Nunes stated, *"I agree. If we get that whole thing dug out and in conjunction with the pump station that is coming it is going to help the Cambridge and the Riverlands side."*

#### **Larry Snyder - Illegal use of 18-wheelers in Residential areas**

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I see what you have written down here. I have called the Sheriff's Office many times but I thought that was more of a Planning and Zoning issue so I read the ordinance and it said no 18 Wheelers allowed in neighborhoods so why can't we stop them from parking in there?"*

Angelic Keller stated, *"This ordinance is enforced by Code Enforcement when they are working their normal hours so the Sheriff's Office was contacted and I think they will be addressing it at night and on weekends when Code Enforcement is not working because they do go and visit them during the day but if somebody ends up driving into the subdivision at night and then in the morning they end up leaving Code*

*Enforcement will never actually get to it to address it. It is a team effort."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I spoke to Mrs. Milioto about that same issue and I saw one guy working on his truck in front of the bowling alley yesterday with the hood up doing work."*

*Angelic Keller stated, "I do want you to understand that even if Code Enforcement goes out they are there to enforce the code but they don't have enforcement power. So if they tell someone to move they don't physically have to move they don't have that power. All they can do is notify them that they are in violation and they can issue a violation then it has to go through the enforcement process. Initially or historically it was handled a little different when our code officers were commissioned by the Sheriff and at that point they used to issue citations they don't do that anymore."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Can we call the Sheriff if we find a violation and have them come to issue a citation?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "We can and I think that is why we did address it with the Sheriff so that it can be a combined effort."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Let me know when you have a meeting with the Sheriff to see what we can do with that please."*

*Councilman Wilson stated, "The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the parish and he is bound to follow the ordinances of the parish. I know we have a 5 ton load limit already. Are they having any problems by the lift station by the church? Are there any 18-wheelers going there?"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes they are going there also."*

*Councilman Wilson stated, "I passed an ordinance many years ago stopping 18-wheelers because if something happens in there the fire department can't get to it there are only supposed to be trucks not 18-wheelers."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Mrs. Keller I understood what you said the code enforcement officers don't have the power to give citations or anything just to write it up. At the time that they notice an 18-wheeler parked illegally down the street can they call the Sheriff's department and ask them to come out there?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "Yes. We were actually assigned a liaison officer with the Sheriff's office and whenever we have any issues whether it is that issue or any issue enforcing a code we can call the deputy."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "So they are aware that they can call the Sheriff's department to address that problem?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "I did not personally speak to the Sheriff but it is my understanding that the administration did contact the Sheriff's office but historically yes we have been able to contact the Sheriff's office to get assistance."*

Councilman Gauff stated, "When I first read it the illegal use of the 18-wheelers in residential areas I was thinking it was some of them traveling through some of our neighborhoods and I guess I had gotten with Mr. Coburn about Hemlock and the businesses along there and the 18-wheelers not having the room to turn into like the tire place or the businesses there they can't make a left turn because of the businesses so they eventually travel a little further over the railroad track and try to make U turns in front of the ACE Hardware or now they can turn over where the fire department was on Hemlock. We are going to try to address that when the new turn lanes are put in hopefully that will give them enough room but that is a concern even in some of the other areas is the point that I was trying to make that it is still a problem that these 18-wheelers are going in certain areas that they shouldn't and causing problems and drainage issues in some of those areas so we do have to be mindful of it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I will just add Lucien you are correct I have noticed that on Hemlock what we have in Cambridge is a little different of a situation when the 18-wheelers are doing different things when they come into the neighborhood so I am glad to hear that now the Sheriff's office will work with us and issue citations when they do see it in the front of Cambridge and even in the rear of Cambridge I see 18-wheelers and if you are not making a delivery then you shouldn't be there."

**Larry Snyder - Temporary workers for field positions in public works and utilities department**

Councilman Snyder asked, "I would like to know where we stand on that and are we doing anything to help out this summer with anything? Are we going to bring some extra people in to help out with the grass cutting?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "In the Utilities Department we actually do not have any temporary workers but we also are advertising for positions that are open and need to be filled. We brought on part-time employees in the Public Works Department this summer when we took over the grass cutting after the Sheriff's office was no longer able to do it. We brought on contractors to do some of the larger areas and we brought on temporary employees to handle a lot of the weed eating spaces and some of the areas that contractors weren't interested in doing. We still have some of those working with us. We are approaching grass cutting season again they have worked well primarily in the areas where there are a lot of trees and they are maintaining that but we are also making sure to fill the vacancies in the department but typically we do have temporary employees as needed but we are mindful of our budget and we are trying to remain within that but there are some now and there probably will be some in many departments as we approach summer."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So we will hire some temporary employees. Thank you."

**Lennix Madere - Homer Joseph Center building repair update**

Councilman Madere stated, "I see they have from the administration no

new information. Well this has been going on for quite a while and I think that it is time for this thing to be put to rest. It is something that really isn't a big issue but it is an important issue. First the administration asked where are we going to get the money so we took care of that with the budget we allocated \$10,000.00 to the Center. We also as a council passed an ordinance to have that building repaired and we also had the CAO take a ride with me to the building the other day and to say that there is no new information isn't quite true because that was his first time seeing it and he does have an opinion on it but I am not going to ask him to give that opinion tonight. This building needs to be repaired. The money is allocated for it it is just a matter of this administration carrying out the wishes of the council to move forward and take care of the problems that are existing in that building. It is not a hidden problem. It isn't a mirage. It is real. People can walk in there and see it and feel it and believe it and it is something that needs to be done and all I am doing is asking administration to carry out the wishes of the council. The money has been found and there are no stumbling blocks other than the administration."

Councilman Wilson excused himself from the meeting.

#### **Lennix Madere - Discussion street repair list for District III**

Councilman Madere stated, "This is not just for District III. I saw the list that was provided to us and I know that there was some money left over from last year and I think it was added to this list here but I am advocating not just for my district but for any street I see and some of the streets that you have listed they need to be repaired but there are a couple of streets in my district and one in Mr. Wilson's district that people called me to tell me about it and I am not shy to say that the street in his district was worse than any street in my district and that happens to be East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street that street is actually collapsing on both sides and if you have a small car you are going to scrape your car. Now I have some streets too but I recognize when something is worse than what I had and some of the streets that are listed in my area are not as bad as 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> and we definitely know about 24<sup>th</sup> because actually the middle of it collapsed when we had that leak back there that street actually collapsed."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This list was set and made by requests from the council. If there is something that you want to give up is that what you are suggesting taking some of the roads off in your district and letting Mr. Wilson's get on?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Let me explain something I am not ever giving up anything in my district. I just noticed in that district. I didn't say I am giving up. Mr. Wilson will fight for his district I am just letting him know. Now you can go and take a look at it it needs to be added but I will never give up anything in my district but what I am saying is that the list that we have for my district I can change some streets some people might be mad but I want to change to the streets that really need the work versus some that don't need it or that can maybe wait a year. I don't think the back of 23<sup>rd</sup> that the school bus travels can afford to wait that shoulder broke off a couple of times in fact the back of 23<sup>rd</sup> is just a total mess Mr. Nunes can take a ride with me anytime that is a total mess and a bus passes back there and I

am concerned about the kids on that shoulder back there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will be happy to sit with you to go over your list. For informational purposes for the entire council we haven't released this yet but since 2010 and through 2015 we will have completed 88 asphalt overlay some of you who have been here for a while will recall that we used to do two a year. We did that with grant funding. So we are utilizing information that you are providing us as well as what our departments are out there seeing and when we provide you the list at that time we would expect a response but prior to putting the list together many of you submit roads to us that are included on that list and the design has been completed we met with the firm and they are going to move forward with the list that was provided. Now there are things that we kept as funds available so some things can be done in house which we do have some money that is not all part of the road improvement plans so if there is something that is very specific that we need to look at please make sure that we get that. If the cost come in and we have money left over we have already started another list so if there are priorities that are not on that list please make sure we get those, if they are safety issues we need those first but at this point we are going to move forward with the list that was provided."

Councilman Madere stated, "The street that I mentioned 23<sup>rd</sup> was definitely one that I mentioned last year. I have been talking about 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> since they have been doing the other ones so I don't know how it wasn't on the list. The street that is on there I didn't mention that street. I know I didn't put that street on the list."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Madere if you would like to sit down and discuss the list we will be happy to do that but these list are ongoing when we finished the 2014 list we started the 2015 so this has been going on for over a year if there is something on it that you didn't want or wanted we are happy to accept that but keep in mind there are other people who select roads other than individual councilmen. We also get request from residents and the staff who are out there also add roads to the list. We do take into account and many of you have said the roads you submitted have either been done or are on the list but in every district we can't do every road every year. I did take the time to go back and review the roads that have been done and for your information they have been equally done throughout both sides of the river and as well as through all of the towns. There has been an investment of over 6 million dollars in this and that has also been fairly equal throughout all the areas and that is something that is important to all of us to make sure that we are covering all the areas that need work. It is not ending. We are going to continue to budget at least \$800,000.00 annually as we continue to do these roads there will be fewer that have to be done but if there are safety issues we definitely want to address that but I don't have the list in front of me tonight and Brian doesn't have it with him. If you want to sit down and discuss something other than what is on there we welcome you to do that."

Councilman Madere stated, "For informational purposes 23<sup>rd</sup> Street was one that I said many times and is nowhere to be found on that list so what I am saying is that when that list is finalized of course if I have 9 I am going to turn in 9 but at least when they get ready to make

*the final determination as to what roads we are going to do in that district maybe they should sit down and talk to that particular councilman and let that individual decide that this one is worse than the next one instead of them coming up with the streets themselves because I ride those streets everyday so I know the ones that need to be repaired more than the other ones so that would be my suggestion and I will get with Mr. Nunes in the morning."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Mr. Madere is talking about District III and I just wanted to remind Mr. Nunes maybe you haven't been told about this yet but they repaired some utility lines on E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street and that was over a month ago and they filled it in with gravel and now they need to have some asphalt put down there that might be something you didn't know about yet and maybe they have a contract to do it but that is one thing that needs to be done because the busses pass there and it is tearing up the other part of the black top."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "Mr. Nunes on 3179 I don't know who we have to get in contact with but one of the pipes that they put in the canal I think when they were running those power lines the weather actually lifted that pipe up straight in the air. I think industry put that down when they were constructing those power lines but that thing is sticking straight up in the air from the rain today so maybe you can look at it tomorrow morning and see if they can get that down."*

#### **Lennix Madere - Update on house at 205 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street**

*Councilman Madere stated, "I see that the abstract was completed and is being reviewed by our legal counsel."*

#### **Lennix Madere - Update on house to be boarded on Hwy. 3179**

*Councilman Madere asked, "It says here that a first violation notice was on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Is that due to the fact that I said at the last meeting that I know we were shorthanded because it was actually written up in December so is that the reason why it is late getting out?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "Partly it is due to we were behind and once we got to it had to be sent back to the code enforcement officer because the report wasn't sufficient."*

*Councilman Madere asked "So everything is moving forward with that?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "Yes."*

#### **Lennix Madere - Discussion relative to speed bumps**

*Councilman Madere stated, "We had a discussion with Mr. Boucvalt and Sheriff Mike Tregre so everything has been taken care of with that."*

#### **Art Smith - Update on Construction work at Edgard Courthouse**

*Councilman Smith stated, "I see it says the State Fire Marshall approval was granted on Monday April 6, 2015 and punch list items are being generated. I walked through there today and it is coming along pretty good. Thank you."*

### **Art Smith - Update on the West Bank Senior Citizen Center**

Councilman Smith stated, "I was just trying to get an idea of what is being done and I see that we have an explanation from administration here."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are a couple of things we have the renovations and the quotes are being solicited for those repairs and they are anticipating opening those on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Now that is the current center that we are going to make some renovations to with regards to the new facility the Conceptual floor/site plans will be delivered on April 15, 2015. Soil borings for foundation design has been delayed due to water levels in the Mississippi River. This work will resume when the river falls below 11 ft. at the Carrollton Gauge. We did have them looking at the site and what would be the best layout before anything is finalized we will get with you all so you can see what those plans are. We also want the senior citizens to be involved in the plan but they are putting together a plan based on the dollars that we have and the site and what was done on this side of the river and what they have learned from that."

Councilman Smith stated, "That is good enough for me thank you."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I just wanted to say continue to keep me in the loop as you reported that whenever we start to get those plans I would like to sit in and be a part of that just as the senior citizens or especially Mrs. Parquet I had talked with her and said that we would make sure and I know that is protocol for your staff and I just want to make sure that she is involved because she works there and is there daily and she knows what is needed."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Absolutely."

### **Art Smith - Update on the Farmer's Market Buildings**

Natalie Robottom stated, "There was a meeting held with the committee as well as resident and farmers and Mr. Gauff was there and we think it was a very productive meeting. Our focus remains on making sure what it there is run well and is up to standard which we have a few things left to do we fine that the recommendations that come from the committee are sound and we are going to work with them. One of the members provided us information on a building similar to the one in St. James and Ms. Saulney did research and pull some information on that but where we are right now are some things that need to be done on that property and that is leveling the ground and making sure that the walkway is easily assessable but keep in mind originally those stones were placed there for parking and we elected to put the tents there and people walk on the stones so we need to make an adjustment there. The other thing that was discussed was signage, directional signage getting you to the entrance as well as a large enough sign for people to see. We talked about sponsorships as well and doing a sponsorship sign within the facility rather than the baseball type sponsorship along the fence level. We were also discussing non-profit status and we know that there is a workshop that is scheduled some of the folks are going to attend to try to be more in line with other markets. So at this point we are

*trying to make sure that we sure up operations. We are soliciting additional farmers. We are trying to make sure that what is out there is good and we think that we are working well with the committee and the farmer's that are out there to get that done."*

Councilman Smith stated, "Yes you are doing a very good job with the Farmer's Market. The people really do enjoy going out there and it is a good project."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think it has been successful especially for the farmers they get lots of traffic but our goal is to get more traffic if they are attending other events and stopping there or going there and then going to some other tourist attraction. We have met with folks who have some recommendations there for attracting more people to the site. We did come in and provide some assistance initially and we were grateful to do that but in the long term we have to find a way to try to fund some of the things that are needed not necessarily from the farmers but either through other types of revenue generating opportunities and that is something we are going to continue to work closely with the committee on."

#### **Art Smith - Update on West Bank Boat Launch**

Natalie Robottom stated, "We met with the property owner of the boat launch, keep in mind it is not ours, we did meet with the owner who did indicate that he was interested in possibly working an agreement with us prior to the new DA coming on our previous DA had worked with those individuals on an agreement but we have not moved forward with that yet. I know they are very busy helping us with a lot of things but this is one that we have not yet approached but we will need legal guidance and assisting with any type of agreement that is established."

Councilman Smith stated, "I understand this is private property and that you have to go through some protocol thank you."

#### **Art Smith - District I sidewalks**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Another item \$200,000.00 of the bond issue has been set aside for these sidewalks. The contract was started I think last week. We sent him across the river to do the sidewalks and the Corp stopped him because they consider that excavating and it is too close to the levee so they had to come to this side of the river to start some of the panel replacements but as soon as that water level goes down they will be back on the West Bank to complete the sidewalk project."

#### **Art Smith - District I bike path**

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have no additional information at this time. Recently DOTD approved Phase IV of the East Bank project again keeping in mind with what they have done trying to develop some connectivity on the East Bank that is not to say that at some point they won't approve the West Bank. I do recall that you had possibly spoken to a representative on the Lafourche Levee Board about some assistance with the levee walking path we have not received any commitment there but given the choice of the sidewalks or the bike path we went with the sidewalks first but we are going to continue to pursue

*funding for the levee bike path."*

**Art Smith - Update on New West Bank Facility**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually I received a couple of calls there have been several articles regarding Uripem in the media the last one was that they were not coming forward however we were quickly forwarded an email saying in the translation that was incorrect and they are still very much looking at the West Bank site and will keep us in the loop. We do know that they have been back to Louisiana within the last three weeks they actually stopped by to visit with us but they quickly responded that the article that was released recently was not accurate."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

There was no discussion on this item.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

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

Larry Snyder - Hurricane Preparation plans

Ranney Wilson - Vincent Simon - Water bill issues

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

Water bill issues - 133 Beechgrove, Reserve, LA

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

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**15-13** An ordinance to grant a subdivision modification under Section 111-29 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: Subdivision Modification Za Road, Reserve (L. Gauff)

## PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening - First, I'd like to remind everyone that we are under a Flash Flood Watch until 7:00 pm tomorrow and received 2-3 inches of rainfall in the past twelve hours to an already saturated system. We also want to remind everyone that 911 is our source of reporting street flooding and hazards to allow crews to be dispatched immediately and to make a record of all calls. Crews of employees, firefighters and police officers were dispatched earlier this morning to assess and manage operations throughout the parish. This involves manning pump stations, removing debris from ditches, culverts and catch basins and barricading areas with high water. Unfortunately, more rain is anticipated this week, that will add to areas that are already saturated. An emergency alert was also sent Parish wide and again we encourage everyone to register for these alerts at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). Several important public meetings are scheduled over the next month and the schedule is as follow: -Water Infrastructure Report - Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 at REGALA Gym - Reserve-I-10 Interchange - Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 at REGALA Gym -Pleasure Bend Town hall - Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 at the Fire house. The Comprehensive Resiliency Plan public hearings scheduled for this week have been postponed. Information will be released when a date is finalized. Yesterday was the beginning of the legislative session and the state is dealing with a \$1.6 billion deficit. We are following all activities very closely, specifically measures to eliminate the Inventory Tax which will have a detrimental impact to our parish government, schools and sheriff's office. Last Thursday, my staff and I joined Council Members Snyder and Millet at a luncheon to welcome the new Chief Executive Officer and officers of Pin Oak Terminals to St. John Parish. We commend the company on hiring a CEO to continue moving this project forward. In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, representatives from Public Safety, Fire Services and Communications attended the 2015 Region 3 Hurricane Coordination Meeting hosted by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The annual meeting allows state and local emergency officials to discuss plans in advance of hurricane season and maintain open communications from parish to parish on what is needed for the future. Hurricane season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and residents are encouraged to begin making preparations now. As with today, we can experience inclement weather outside of hurricane season and receiving emergency notifications can be critical for residents. Please sign up to receive Parish emergency alerts via phone, text or email at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) by clicking the "Stay Connected" icon. Congratulations to the 25 recent graduates of the Young Marines 5<sup>th</sup> graduating class "Echo Platoon". It is a great community program that will generate benefits for years to come. Special recognition is extended to Amiya Lamar for being named the honor graduate of the class and to Brian Bertrand and his instructors for their commitment and hard work. Best of luck to all of the graduates in the future. Anyone interested in joining the Young Marine's program may contact Brian Bertrand at (504) 628-0418. Residents are invited to attend the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Salon Experience this Thursday, April 16 from 10:00 to 11:00 am at 534 Belle Terre Blvd in LaPlace. The River Region Chamber of Commerce will commemorate its new location with a Ribbon Cutting Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 390 Belle Terre Blvd. April is Keep St. John Beautiful Month and we encourage our residents to clean

areas around their homes. Churches, homeowner associations and businesses are encouraged to clean areas in their neighborhoods and business locations. Due to last weekend's weather conditions, the Spring Clean Sweep and Park Dedication for Thomas F. Daley were postponed to Saturday, May 9. To register your organization for this event, please contact Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569 or visit our website. If you have already registered, you do not need to register again. Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day will take place this Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Plaza LaPlace Shopping Center located at 1921 W. Airline Hwy. in LaPlace (New Wine Parking Lot). Residents can drop off paint, solvents, auto batteries, used oil, and computers for proper and environmentally-friendly disposal. The Economic Development Department is partnering with the HUD to offer a free grant writing workshop on Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at REGALA Park Gymnasium. HUD staff members will be on hand to give attendees information needed to prepare a successful grant application. Registration is required and can be completed by contacting the ED office at 652-9569. Team St. John is gearing up for this year's Relay for Life event to be held on Saturday, May 2 at East St. John's Joe Keller Stadium from 2 pm to midnight. We want to encourage residents and our employees to participate and help raise money for the American Cancer Society. If you are interested in joining Team St. John, please visit the CAO or Communications office for more information. St. John Parish is again partnering with the 40th Judicial District Children & Youth Services Planning Board & Prevention Committee to host its annual Free Fishing Camp. The event is Saturday, May 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway. Youth ages 8-15 are invited to attend. To register, volunteer or donate, please contact Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. The Recreation department is looking for certified lifeguards for its upcoming summer activities. Applications can be found on the parish website or at the Parks & Recreation Office, 200 REGALA Park Rd in Reserve. On May 2, voters will be asked to renew an existing millage. This millage provides funding for maintenance of the Percy Hebert Building, the Parish Courthouse in Edgard, and the jail. This is NOT a new tax or a tax increase - it is simply a renewal of an existing millage. This millage has been in place for almost 20 years and generates funding for operating and maintaining parish buildings. Please vote early beginning Saturday, April 18th through Saturday, April 25th at the Registrar of Voters Offices located in the Percy Hebert Building in LaPlace or the Parish Courthouse in Edgard. Early voting hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day except Sunday. The renewal of this millage is critical if we are to continue to serve the people of St. John."

**ADJOURNMENT :**

At 9:15 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Wilson and Wright absent.

/s/Marvin Perrilloux  
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary