

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF**  
**VICE CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Michael Wright

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

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

**Art Smith - Introduction - Mike Curtis - Curtis Environmental**

Mike Curtis with Curtis Environmental was present and gave a brief informative presentation on what his company does for the parish.

**Natalie Robottom/Jobe' Boucvalt - Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation presentation of Dividend Checks**

The parish was presented a refund dividend check from the Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - St. John Warriors - Winners of the International Biddy Basketball Tournament in the 13-14 age bracket**

Natalie Robottom presented the St. John Warriors with certificates and a plaque to the coaches for winning the International Biddy Basketball Tournament in the 13-14 age brackets, everyone congratulated the boys on a job well done.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - National 9-1-1 Education Month**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for National 9-1-1 Education Month.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Bike-a-Thon - AOL - 4/29/12; Permit Approval - Block Party - Creole Street - 5/5/12

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Bike-a-Thon - AOL - 4/29/12; Permit Approval - Block Party - Creole Street - 5/5/12. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to be addressed at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**12-16** An ordinance that the St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding an Article III; Section 1, that reads as follows: An ordinance to add - Rules and Regulations for Use of Bike Paths and Walking Paths.  
(N. Robottom)

**12-17** An ordinance to Re-subdivide Lots 21B & 27A of J.R. Troxler Subdivision into lots herein designated as Lot 21C & Lot 27B of J.R. Troxler Subdivision, situated in Section 60, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-12-1024)  
(N. Robottom)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"This evening the finance committee met and discussed several items of business at this time I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 2 abstaining (Hotard & Millet) and 1 absent (Wright).

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Update on Street lights for new Highway 3179 in Reserve - will there be caution lights at Intersection**

Councilman Snyder stated, *"That was just something that I threw in there. That is a very dangerous place at night, especially when it is raining. If it wasn't for the DuPont caution light you really wouldn't see the turnoff there and I was just wondering if there will be some caution lights there and what is the update on the lighting or is it still up to the state? That is all I wanted to know."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"The lighting itself is in the permitting process. We did receive an email and I think Mr. Cooper actually forwarded to Mr. Gauff and Mr. Madere - you may not have been on the email Mr. Snyder but we did get a response from DOTD. They are evaluating the design and illumination plan. They have indicated that there is nothing else that the parish can do until they make that approval and once they do then we can go ahead and proceed with putting the lights but the caution light was something that we were not familiar with and really wasn't sure if you wanted it at Airline or at*

River Road, so now are you saying you are concerned about River Road or both ends?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was concerned at Airline but I don't see a problem with having them at both places actually because it has been raining a lot, the road is shiny and you just can't see in that area."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well that is a request we can make to DOTD as Daron follows up on the lighting. What they typically do is a study. They have some criteria that they determine as a state road what can and can't be there, what is applicable and we have already made some contact to see if there was ever a request before. There wasn't any information but now that we have some information from you we can have Mr. Cooper proceed with that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think the big thing is to push it as a safety issue more so than anything else. I understand what you are saying."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is generally what they respond to and we just didn't know if it was Airline and River Road and now you are suggesting both?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, right."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Mrs. Robottom and Councilman Snyder, why put a caution light, why can't we put a red light because we have a lot of traffic there coming from DuPont in the morning. I go to work there in the morning and it is everybody running across the Airline. That highway has been there for about 19 or 20 years, I had a good friend killed there who left a wife and four kids, another guy out of state went straight across the Airline and hit a tree. We need a red light. I don't think a caution light will do. We should have a red light there because the traffic is really heavy morning and evening. The school traffic, DuPont's traffic and people coming trying to short cut from Marathon on the River Road. We need a red light not a caution light."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well DOTD makes that determination but we will put both to them. They generally do traffic studies and there is a process that they use to determine what is feasible there but now that we have an idea of what you are both asking for we will be happy to pass that on and you are looking again for red lights at both intersections?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "No just to get on Airline, caution lights can be placed at the River Road."

Councilman Snyder stated, "All it takes is one school bus to cross that Airline going west coming out of that street and they would have a red light next week probably. We need to be a little bit proactive and look at the safety of it."

Councilman Madere stated, "When I am coming from the St. James area on the Airline I have to use landmarks to try to find that spot at night especially when it is raining because if not you will pass it by. It is a very dangerous location and like we said we are dealing with the lives of individuals in the parish and I know the state has control but

*we need to try and expedite and push them as hard as we can to try and get this done. I would hate to see someone else lose their life in an accident in that particular spot then they will react. We need to try and push as hard as we can and I know you are doing all you can but instead of one foot, put two feet on them."*

**Larry Snyder - Placement of litter signs with fines**

*Councilman Snyder stated, "The reason I put that on there was because I didn't see any in the parish. I know they have a lot of communities, Milesville is one, I know the people in Cambridge and some other communities in Reserve are trying to get their community together to try and bring this thing back to retake their community. I drove the Airline from Garyville to the spillway and I saw one sign that was so busy if you read it you would actually run into somebody. It was just too much on that one sign. Then I drove from the spillway back to Reserve and I saw one right past the spillway going west. There was just one sign saying the exact same thing, no dumping, I think it is a \$500.00 fine or you have to do community service. That is too much reading to be while you are driving. Also on that stretch I saw at least do not park on the side of the highway sign ten or twelve going in each direction, actually more than that. We have plenty signs like that. We need some litter signs that aren't too busy. If people want them in their community then we can ask the administration to get some for the community. We don't have any now. You may have some in your community but I saw one from Reserve to the spillway and that is my narration."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "That is fine and we will double check to see if permitting you know DOTD controls everything, especially on their roads and Airline, River Road, Belle Terre those are state highways. We don't have a problem we have people who can actually construct them and put them up. There are some on Belle Terre. Are you concerned about Airline or are there some other areas?"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I am just saying that we need to get a focus here. If DOTD put all of those don't park on the side of the road signs we ought to be able to get some signs. Take a ride down Airline Highway and see how many signs they have down there that say do not park on the shoulder. Do you know where they are? In front of all the businesses, they have four just in front of Wal-Mart."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "And probably they are generally dictated by safety issues. So they put that up there so that is their concern. Obviously we have a different one, we just have to make sure that it is okay. We don't have any problems with putting up more and public works can actually put them together and they have staff that can put them up."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "We ought to put them up and then have them tell us and make us take them down."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just wanted to remind, and I agree with Mr. Snyder as Airline Highway is becoming a litter capital along with our other major thoroughfares. My concern is that all of our businesses, there is an ordinance that we have in place, that our businesses it is their responsibility to keep the front of their*

businesses litter free and our code enforcement can go out and ask them to make sure. There is an ordinance so at least we can keep the front of the businesses on Airline Hwy. it is their responsibility, it is their customers who have littered it is their responsibility to clean it. As far as the roads where there are no businesses then it is time for the police to start issuing tickets and I am 100% behind that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "The only other thing that I would say is that I have found in areas where we have traditionally had people dump trash, then we had signs and along Capt. Bourgeois is one of those where people would go on the back street and just dump their sofa or trash when it is late at night. So we have no dumping signs with a \$500.00 fine. So I think we are trying to be proactive and just to keep St. John beautiful and help us in that cause."

**Larry Snyder - Notification of the businesses that are applying for operating permits with any background information attached**

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is in there because I asked Ms. Sutherland to explain to me and whenever there is a new business coming into the parish. I think the council should know before it is permitted just so we would know. We need that information. They may be coming into some of our neighborhoods and maybe the neighborhood doesn't want a business like that. So I think we should know and give us the responsibility of getting that to our neighborhood and constituents. I just wanted to make sure that this was done in the public because it happened in Cambridge back there and that is why I wanted to make Ms. Sutherland aware of it. A business came back there, the neighborhood didn't want it and when we found out about it they were already moving in furniture."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think if it was done or not it will be done that copies of the information is forwarded to the council office."

Councilman Snyder stated, "She assured me of that thank you."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It has been being done even before I had gotten there I was informed that it is emailed to the secretary, not the entire packet that we receive from Planning and Zoning but the application which serves Mr. Snyder's purpose of he wants to know what the business is and the address that they are locating to."

Councilman Snyder stated, "She did send me one a few times."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We do receive the permits but only after it is approved. We want to receive it prior to it being approved."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I totally understand what you are saying. It goes through three channels. It goes through myself, to the parish president to the sheriff who issues it. There are three separate steps of approval. I am only approving zoning compliance. So you do get it at the same time that I am getting it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We have not. In the past I have received it after it has been approved. We would like to see it prior to it being signed off so that if we have any questions or concerns."

Angelic Sutherland asked, "So you want to see if before the parish president signs off on it?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Yes before she signs off, before it even goes anywhere else that way we have the first step, we can give our opinions on it one way or the other if we have no comments on it that is fine but if we do I don't want to do it after it is on the second or third step, I want to catch it in the beginning."

Angelic Sutherland asked, "Just for my knowledge, how long should I hold it before I approve it?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We can email you back once we get it. It is our responsibility to notify you if we have a situation with it or not. If we don't then roll on but we need to receive it prior to it going to the next one because then it is already in the chain. We want it first."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I understand what you are saying and I have actually spoken to Tom about it. All I am doing is signing off that the business is zoned appropriately for the location it is going into and according to our legal counsel I do not have the authority to not sign off if it is zoned appropriately."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "It sounds like maybe just what Mrs. Millet is asking is not necessarily for you to not mark on there if it complies with the zoning but just to let us know before that so if we have some reservations about the type of business then we could maybe address them and discuss them with you and maybe put together some type of plan of action if it is something that we are not really comfortable with or if we don't know if the residents will be comfortable with and I guess kind of like what Mr. Snyder is saying then it will help us be on the front end so that when we get asked by constituents somewhere sometimes they know that the business is coming before we do. So I think maybe that would just help in case there is a problem then we can just talk about it. I understand part of your concern is probably thinking from an administrative stand point if you are waiting on nine council members to say I saw it then it may hold up some of your day to day operations. So I understand that but I think there could possibly be some type of compromise in the middle and maybe that is something we can talk about and work through together so that we do know what is coming before you in our districts or divisions and we could have some input or if there is something that we could maybe foresee that there will be a problem we can address that with you at the time."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think what we are trying to say is go ahead and sign off but let us know about it. We are going to have to work out a time line between that second stage and that third stage before it moves on and I think that is what everybody is trying to find out. Right now by the time we find out about it it is already permitted. I think that is what this issue is all about is trying to find that in between so that we can look at it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Mr. Madere I think the discussion had changed a little, they want to know ahead of time, even before the second stage or step. We end up finding out about a new business through the grape vine and it shouldn't be that way and I think that is what we are

looking for. Just a heads up ahead of time, not to hold up the process but just an email or something to say there is a new business coming into your area."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am not sure what was done before but what we are planning on doing is when Ms. Sutherland gets it and she has a completed application, that application is forwarded to you all and me and then from me to the Sheriff's office, so you all are going to get it and it is a notification issue. I get them and people are calling me immediately that they want their license and it may just be all in one day. So I guess as a council you all need to decide how long you want to hold off. I know I don't keep them long and I have people calling coming to pick up their occupational license the same day that I get it from Ms. Sutherland. So you can decide how long you would like to hold off as a council and you can let us know."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Even if it is just to the council member in that district and the at large member."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think that is how it is being sent. It is only being sent to the council member in the district and the division for wherever the business is located. So are you saying you all want everybody's occupational license?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "No that is appropriate."

Councilman Madere stated, "For clarification what I was saying is before or after she signs off, regardless we still need to find out about it before it actually goes through all of the stages. We have to work out how long she is going to hold that before we allow it to go whether it is before or in the second stages of it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Not to beat this up too much but with some of those applicants that you had that you said maybe they will submit it and want it in one day. Hopefully the residents and people who are coming to do business here will understand that even if it is delayed one or two days of course we don't expect that but that it is not a delay or that we are trying to hold them up but that we are trying to proceed with caution and act in the best interest of the constituents and the business owners as well. We don't want to just kind of rush through anything before the council has the information. So hopefully that will be something that they will understand."

#### **Larry Snyder - Employee Safety**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I guess it is obvious to everyone why this is on the agenda. I talked to Mrs. Robottom about it and she has some plans that they are planning on implementing for all employee safety. I was concerned about the incident that happened at our water treatment plant back there and since that time I have had discussions with people and you know our water system is really vulnerable to terrorism if you think about it because I think that some of those clarifiers are opened at the top..

Natalie Robottom stated, "Do we want to really continue along this line? I understand what you are saying but it kind of exposes us and our vulnerability when we announce on TV what our vulnerabilities are."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that is my issue."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is why we tried to communicate in advance so that we didn't have that discussion here."

#### **Art Smith - Communication**

Councilman Smith stated, "I think basically everyone has had some of these problems with internal communication. It is just that it takes us so long to get answers back and that is my major problem. I am trying to improve the internal communication and getting answers back from administration. I have had some problems and I know it says here that a meeting request was forwarded to the council secretary to schedule a meeting to discuss all my concerns and questions and they remain open to the meeting but I got one email in the beginning of April asking to meet and I gave them a time and date that I could meet and that was rejected and I am still open but there are still some issues and concerns out there that I have since January that are relatively simple issues like street lighting or putting handicap things up, these are very simple things here and we are just not getting the communication back. I am just at a point to where I need to know is it something that we are doing wrong or me or why does it take so long to get communication back."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I would be glad to address that, we actually attempt to due diligence and I guess what you may not know is who else is requesting it. Just as you are requesting and calling various departments and employees you have your co-council members doing the same thing as well as we have public records request, request from residents, we have safety sensitive issues, we have time sensitive issues so we are getting a lot of request and I know that everybody is new so you are requesting a lot more than a lot of people have but you don't know what everybody is requesting. So if you are focusing on your request but we are getting requests from lots of people. We are attempting to get them out. What I ask for in your case was because we were getting them from all over the place that if you just pulled them together and sat with us we would try to address them. No we couldn't go to Bridge City to meet with you, we just thought maybe if we rescheduled it somewhere in LaPlace at a different time then maybe you would be able to visit us here. With regards to everybody else, we are getting a large number of requests. We are getting a lot of public records requests and that is going to continue. We have a time frame for how quickly we respond to that and if we don't then we are in violation so some of those things take priority, especially if it is a legal issue. So as much as we are attempting to get things out we are getting a very large number of requests from not just you but from lots of people throughout the community and we are attempting to gather good information before we forward it to you. So we are going to ask for your patience and even if you can instead of calling every day or three times a day just make a list of what you want and just send it so we know what we are working on and we can assign it accordingly but as we get started on one thing there is somebody else who wants something else and we tend to get distracted in addition to trying to do what we are supposed to be doing which is to provide a service and taking care of the people of the parish."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess my problem is when I don't hear anything and if someone would get back to me and say hey we are working on it then I would know it was coming but when I don't hear anything it kind of frustrates me and I will go back to my January issue. I have not heard anything back on some of those issues as of today."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We don't know who you asked anything to? They go all over the place. I ask that you formulate a list and send it to us so we can do a follow up and again we have not gotten anything."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess I will have to get Jackie to resend the emails. I cannot formulate the issues because they are basically responses for my constituents who ask me to look into a problem. So I don't have a giant list that says yall give me all of your problems and make a comprehensive list and we will get them answered all at once. These issues arise on a daily basis. We have water problems and all kind of problems and as they arise I bring them up for suggestions and to try to get a solution to these problems and communication back to me would be a very simple thing just say hey we are working on this, give me a couple of days or give me a week or whatever and I know where I stand at that point but as long as I hear nothing it only adds to my frustration and I am like okay if you ignore me fine and dandy I will bring it up at some time where we have got to get an answer and you have got to be honest with us Mrs. Robottom, you may not have seen the requests but having a request put in January and now we are almost at the end of April and I still have not heard anything back on that request..

Natalie Robottom stated, "I have no idea what you are talking about Mr. Smith and I can't direct it because you don't come to me. You may go to employees. You may go to a director I don't know what you are talking about. As I said because you were frustrated we sent an email asking please accumulate all of the things that you are missing and send them to us to set up a meeting and we will be happy to discuss that with you but other than that I really don't know what you are talking about so to say that you made a request in January..

Councilman Smith stated, "If you didn't get it you can't answer it. I understand that..

Natalie Robottom stated, "I have difficulty following up if I don't know who you asked. So all I am asking for is to just give us a little information because I have a problem with that too if you asked somebody for something and didn't get it but I don't know because it didn't come through me and I don't know that you are waiting on something is what I am saying."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess in the beginning when we had the workshop, we were told to go to the directors, we could send it to them for questions and basically that is what I instructed Jackie to do. Hey send it to the proper person and she always sends me a copy of the emails so I know an email is going somewhere now when it comes back we don't get it but I will make sure that you get a comprehensive list of all the things that I asked for and have not received anything on yet."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand what Mr. Smith is talking about and I understand what Mrs. Robottom is saying too because if the

request didn't go to her then she doesn't know exactly what we are talking about but we have made some request to different departments and haven't heard anything back and a simple phone call or an email saying that you are working on it or that you haven't been able to find what you requested would be sufficient enough to make us understand that it does take time to find something especially if it has been several years or something say back from 2008 but before I even came to this meeting I had some people call me about an issue last week and I told them I was going to get the information to them but I still felt a responsibility before I came to this meeting to stop by their house and let them know that I didn't forget them and I am working on it and they appreciated that. So I think what Mr. Smith is saying is that whatever is requested from whatever department if it takes longer than an immediate response then they can send an email or something saying I'm working on it and haven't forgotten about you. I think that would be sufficient enough instead of us just not hearing anything because I get things from my constituents and if you don't respond to them in a timely manner they are calling you up and saying well what are you doing? So I think the most important thing is regardless to who it is, if it takes longer than an allotted time just let us know, email us back and that is it."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I have a question and also I know I had some communication with the council secretary in the last couple of weeks about the difficulty with getting information from the administration. Do you prefer and I know when Jackie sends out emails she sends it either to a department head or to Theresa directly. It is never to employees themselves. It is usually your department heads or your CAO and CFO. Do you wish to be copied on all of the request that we are making so that..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That would be sufficient if there is something that isn't there then I would know about it but if I don't know about it then I can't follow up. Again I hear what you are saying Mr. Madere, there are times that we know immediately you are not going to get an immediate response. If it is something that we have to calculate or put together and pull information we could respond to you and say we are working on this it will be about five days or I need to check with somebody who is out of the office. So a response of that nature would be helpful even if we can't give it to you right away but that you know we have received your request and we are aware of it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to ask maybe from Mrs. Rodgers I know there were some email request that I know I have seen forwarded directly to you. Are you having any difficulty or is there something that is overwhelming you that is preventing you from being able to respond to the council?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "I'm not sure exactly what you are referring to unless it is the most recent request within the last two weeks and the request I am referring to was for information about the contractual arrangement with Strategic Impact and then the council placed on the agenda the appearance by Madea Jones, the owner of Strategic Impact, LLC, but there were some follow up questions and it took going back to the year 2009 to all invoices and all copies of checks that had been issued to the company which took days to compile and you all know I sent it to Ms. Landeche and I am sure she forwarded it to you all but

it took quite a while for me to type the three page based on three and a half years' worth of invoices and then the council further asked for the backup information. So that took me sorting the files annually and I believe one of the years was 91 pages so the file was too large that had to be split up and that all takes a considerable amount of time. If there is another requests, you referred to emails plural, I am not sure what there was recently that was requested."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I didn't mean any specific one. I know you just brought that one up and now that you have said it that was one that took a little bit of time but like you said it was maybe requested and then it was put on the agenda but I know there have been several emails that have been sent maybe and just from talking to my fellow council members and even asking me has it always taken this long or this amount of time to receive information from administration. So I guess I am just asking you two because I know most of the emails that Jackie sends she will cc either you or Natalie on them. Is there something or some reason that is holding up some of the information coming to the council?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "I think I just gave a very good example of why it is so time consuming to respond to some request. There are some requests that are handled in a matter of minutes, it just has to do with the nature of the request. I don't want to point out any specific council members but there are some that will email me and I immediately reply because I have contacted for example public works and they have immediately responded that there is a crew on site to remove x,y, and z debris or whatever the report is and we do appreciate receiving those request from council members because you have obviously seen something in our district. Our preference would be that our staff saw it first but maybe it occurs on a weekend when no one is on duty. I know for a fact that and I apologize Councilman Smith if there is something you requested in January that you didn't receive. I am trying to rack my brain to think what it is because I remember establishing in January when you took office a folder entitled District I because you requested several things. I remember compiling a list of churches. I remember us going through the entire parish list of businesses. It is a very comprehensive excel spreadsheet and sorting out the ones that existed in District I, a question about the Pleasure Bend fire station and providing you with the cell phone number of the fire chief and the person that had the key to that fire station. I know there were a couple of other things. I do know that my computer crashed in January there might have been a couple of documents that were lost in that time but if there is anything that the council is waiting on please do send us the email. I will tell you this that I have heard that employees, other than directors, have been contacted for information and like Mrs. Robottom has said and Ms. Landeche knows I told her that the other day because there was a request made that wasn't answered and I didn't know about it. If we don't know about the request then we don't know that it hasn't been followed up on."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can tell you lately that we have been spending a lot of time, there could be some request that you have asked for, our priority this week has been the ferry, the insurance and things that are happening now. As you can tell whether it was late and you used it or not there was a lot of information you received that didn't just appear. We have to work on that. We have to compile and it

took a lot of time just the insurance. So the insurance has been extremely time consuming just reviewing all the proposals, pulling all of the documents, trying to create a file that was clear. We do have some problems with our filing system. We have everything scanned but they are not always scanned correctly. The entire document is not in laserfische. It may not be titled properly. So we have a lot of work to do. We didn't create it all but we will fix it. It is not always at our finger tips. So some of the things that you request requires that we compile it and we have to find all of the information first. Yes it is good to have it scanned but if you go to pull a contract and only the first page is there it doesn't help us. So then that makes us have to look for it. There are duplicate files. Different people set up different folders on their system. So everything that you ask for isn't at our finger tips. We would love for it to be there but it does take time and as I said our priority over the last few weeks has definitely been the insurance and as you can see you got a lot of documents and a lot of information. We spent a lot of time on that trying to respond to questions, get clarification and put it in a format that was understandable. We are working on programs that are coming due now. I will talk about it later. When you are called up to meet with the Secretary of DOTD that kind of takes precedence or if you have to go you know the legislature doesn't necessarily want to work around my time schedule, you know when they call you they need you to come up then. So we are kind of covering a lot of things at the same time but there is no excuse for not getting you the information. Clearly there needs to be a system, I think we have discussed the fact that going through the directors and us was an appropriate way, trying to get things and directing employees is not but if know the information that you are requesting we can try to follow up on it and a simple response to you that yes we received it and it will take us some time or many of you get responses. We are talking about all of the non-responses but you get a lot of responses and you get a lot of them very quickly. So if you are not getting them that is generally what is happening."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I know there has been a lot of negativity and I just want to say that in the short term matters when I do email Mrs. Rodgers and I will always cc you to make sure that you are aware of what I am asking for at all times, I do get a response that you did receive it and you were working on it. If it is something that I know will take a little longer I understand that but I do appreciate the fact that you do make an effort to satisfy my request. I think that the rest of the council members feel the same way they are just looking for some cooperation so that they know hey it didn't go into thin air, just tell me you got it and that you are working on it and I will be patient and that is what we are probably looking forward too. I want to let you know that I do appreciate the times that you do let me know because I do things on Fridays and Saturdays and Sunday nights at midnight or whenever and I do get my responses cause that is when I have the time to do it. So I do appreciate that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would ditto Mrs. Millet. Thank you for the effort. I have always for the most part, received information in a timely fashion but I think the most important thing that we are looking for is a response to say I am working on it and I think that is the respect that we are looking for. So thank you."

**Art Smith - Civic Center - Future Plans & monthly operation cost**

Councilman Smith stated, "This is another thing that came from my constituents because I had some people on the West Bank that were actually looking at renting the Civic Center. So I was just trying to figure out what we are going to do with it and what is it costing us? As I understand it was empty as some point and we still have operation cost basically. So I wanted to know what is going to happen with that building. What are we going to do with it? I know that there were organizations looking to rent it and we have high school graduations that could use it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Based on 2011 figures, expenses at the center are approximately \$18,000 per month or \$215,182 per year. This cost includes operating supplies, building maintenance, rental fees, furniture, fixtures & equipment, utilities and marketing. Additionally, the 2011 amended budget reflects \$89,345.00 which was transferred to General Fund for payment of a 2005 Certificate of Indebtedness. 2011 revenues from the Hotel/Motel Tax were \$130,000 and Rental Fees were \$312,079 for a total of \$444,015. The remaining balance for 2011 was just over \$100,000. The parish recently tinted the atrium windows and installed a new heating and air conditioning system which allows specific areas to be cooled or heated on an as-needed basis. As a result, we anticipate a reduction in electrical costs. Administration and representatives of the Tourist Commission recently solicited information from other sound stages and facilities to evaluate the pricing for the center. Although not finalized, there are several opportunities to increase revenues in the near future. Additionally, we are revisiting our policy to consider rental rates for residents and non-residents and non-profits and for profit organizations. The parish recently entered into a contract with a major production company from May 7 to August 6 of 2012 (3 months) at \$40,000 per month plus cleaning fees. This is a rate increase compared to previous rentals. Clearly as a council and as an administration we have to make decisions on where we want it to go. The previous council, or at least two back, decided it was going to be a sound stage. They invested money into it. They created it as such. It is marketed as a sound stage. Of course the problem is when it is used as a sound stage it takes it out of commerce and then our residents cannot use it. There are a couple of opportunities that I have discussed. If we are going to market it as a sound stage and we can get reasonable revenue for it, something that is worth our while then we need to consider how we want to utilize those funds in terms of the future and building something that our residents can actually use and afford to use because with the additions to the facility it kind of out priced itself. I do think our utilities will come down with the changes that we made but it is still very difficult to book things on the last minute when you have a movie being produced there or there may be a set that is already built into the facility. So that is a difficult partnership to have it as a sound stage when it is rented it is usually rented for blocks at a time and when they are using it they may have something built in it that you can't remove and use it for a day. Clearly there is no way for us to get \$120,000.00 for a rental in three months from our residents but then we run the risk of having it empty at other times. So it is something that we are open to talk about. I think there are some opportunities. All of the comments about it as a sound stage are very positive. They like using it. It is a lot better than our competitors but I do think we were underpriced and when we looked at those

comparisons we made some adjustments in what we were paying and as they have done every time they didn't blink an eye and they paid it. So clearly we were underpriced. Nobody has challenged the new pricing and paid it very quickly. So that lets me know that we weren't charging what it should have been because they didn't bat an eye with a \$15,000.00 a month increase."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Did you do a comparative study to find out if our numbers, like you were doing as far as the rentals for the community or what have you, did you do a study also to find out if our numbers were maybe 50 is better, maybe 60 is better, I don't know. Maybe 60 is more in line for a month that is what I am asking?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right that is how we got to 40, some of the other studios charge like for parking spot, like you have to add all that up or the air that they use per day and instead of nickel and diming we decided to just up the rental fee so that nobody has to go and track how many parking spots we are actually using so we raised the fee and that was an adjustment. We are going to continue to look at other opportunities. We have looked at a couple of the other places and how they are doing it not just for the movie production but when they rent it out for things other than productions, you know what are their cost that is how I realized there were non-profit and for profit and resident versus non-resident by looking at other policies to see how we can make adjustments that would make it easier for our residents and some non-profits to use it as compared to what we are doing now."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Are we pursuing other marketing venues to have this place rented for all the time? I personally don't like the fact that it is locked out as a sound stage where you can't use it at all. I mean that is not what the intention was when the voters voted for this but my concern is are we marketing this to anything other than a sound stage?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we have another potential rental for a trade show or a national meeting so we are doing other things and it is rented for other things but I will be honest a lot of times people want to use it for free that is the most request we get, to use it for free. We have had opportunities to rent it. We have had parties there. We have had meetings there but for the most part the majority of our requests are for free use. Now I can tell you we get a lot of interest by productions, they will come in and they are checking out other places and they may just rent ours for a part of the time but we very frequently get productions coming to look at it and this was the latest one and it is a very big one there are some high power stars that are going to be in this one."

#### **Art Smith/Lennix Madere - Update on summer camp & summer feeding program**

Councilman Smith stated, "This was another one that a lot of my constituents asked about and I am just trying to get an update. There are a lot of rumors floating around that we weren't going to have a camp and everything else so I was just trying to get the public the facts."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we kind of answered that a couple of

times but yes we are still going to have a camp but we were looking at our finances. Clearly we have had some problems in the past, we just amended the 2011 budget where we had to add I think \$91,000.00 to the recreation budget and in pulling the numbers together and trying to differentiate what the camp cost are, what the swimming cost are, we just needed to get an idea of what was available, what sites would be available and we do meet with our partners, not just this year but the previous year. Mr. Smith who works for the school board actually meets with us to help decided on schools and bussing. Dr. Millet was also involved. We partnered with New Wine and Pastor Bernard is here to address some of your concerns. Previously we used his basketball facility and the kids in the camp used the swimming pool. So we have had relationships in the past and they were good relationships and we would like to continue those. We also work with health and human services for the feeding program and they put together their budget for that and again they have to go through the school system. What schools are available for us to use as a feeding site? So there are a lot of things that go on before the camp actually starts or opens or is advertised and that is the kind of work that we are doing right now trying to pull together what is available, what is going to be available, what those costs are going to be before we step out and do something that we can't afford. Do you want to hear from Pastor Bernard?"

Neil Bernard, Pastor New Wine, stated, "First off I want to dispel any miscommunication, New Wine has no intention of taking over the parish feeding program or the parish recreation program. What we have done is we have submitted a proposal to collaborate with the parish in providing a summer camp. We run a summer camp called 'kids on the move' for ages 4-12 for eight weeks of the summer. The camp each year we scholarship more than 100 kids free of charge if they grew up in a single parent household or if they have a parent incarcerated we scholarship them so that they can come to the camp free. The reason why we do that many of you know here in St. John, as well as in Louisiana, we incarcerate more people per state than any other state in the United States. The reason being is because we don't have structured programs addressing our youth in bringing about real life change. So what we have done is we designed a summer camp program that provides recreation, character and value enrichment, as well as education. We do these in a structured environment and a faith based setting that really makes an impact in the lives of our students. As a result our camp has grown considerably each year. We have collaborated more and more with the parish each summer and what we did was we presented a proposal about the opportunity to work with not only the 100's of kids who currently come to our camp but also for the kids in the parish camp. We are looking to create a win/win and what I mean by that is we already have a successful camp. We get more demands then what we can handle. Our desire is to enlarge and reach as many kids as possible because we realize that, as many of you know, the department of justice says it this way kids who grow up in a home where the parent is incarcerated are 80% likely to be incarcerated themselves. A kid who grows up in a single parent household and does poorly in school 80% of them will be in the judicial system. We want to change that statistic here in St. John and that is what we have been endeavored to do. This is our 9<sup>th</sup> year providing the camp. We are beginning to see a real change come about in the lives of many of the children and what we are doing is we want to offer an opportunity to the parish as well. So that is what we

do. Again our goal is to empower the children and the youth of St. John and I am open for any questions or comments but that is what we are about."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Pastor Bernard is correct. He never suggested or implied that he wanted to do anything more than partner with the parish. I think our recreation director received immediately from his appointment with Dr. Millet a letter of congratulations and some suggestions on how we could better partner knowing that we had a camp and kids on the move had a camp, we are all trying to get buses. We are all paying for buses. They are duplicative services so our intention was to meet and try and reduce some of the cost associated with all of our programs especially when we have full size school buses on the road with maybe only 2, 3 or 4 children in it that doesn't serve us well. So I had some questions for Pastor Bernard that he was able to answer for me. We have not finalized a plan. We are looking at what we have available and what he may be able to provide. One of my concerns was whether or not he would be able to include the number of kids that we have in our camp if that were the case. What would happen with the people who work with our summer camp? Would they be employable with his camp and he has assured us of all of that. Again we have not finalized anything as of yet. We are looking at what our numbers are, what he can do, the school system, Dr. Millet has offered some assistance with buses if we are collaborating. So it is more than just me and Pastor Bernard, it is our feeding program and it is also the school system because we rely on them for a site as well as their buses and drivers. So we are trying to work through that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think as far as an opinion of mine I would like to have been included in some of that if possible. Some of the council or maybe an email or something for suggestions maybe we have some ideas to help out or assist in the camp program or just ideas on how to facilitate the camp just some emails to keep us in the loop I guess because for the most part I think we were hearing rumors and as you have come today and dispelled all the rumors it just didn't look good."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But we have answered them six times okay. He is dispelling them today but every question each time he either responded or we responded that it wasn't true, he isn't taking over recreation there was no proposal. So we have been responding to and trying to but you know people don't believe us."

Councilman Gauff stated, "That is what I am saying all the questions were coming to us and we didn't have any answers so I think that is why we tried to get to speak with some of you all and that is why we were constantly calling or maybe trying to meet with you."

Councilman Madere stated, "I agree with Mr. Gauff and what he is saying. We would have like to have been included in the whole process and get a little communication. A lot of the communication I got was from off of the street and not from administration or the recreation department and that is why I had questions because I was trying to answer the questions that were being forwarded to me. Mr. Bernard called me the other day and we spoke on the phone about it and I got a better understanding of what he was talking about then but because of communication you can better understand it and I think he understood

where I was coming from okay I don't mind the recreation department or the summer camp partnering with anyone. It can be with 100 different individual organizations in St. John Parish, New Wine included and I think he does a great job and I believe every statistic that he said being in the school system I know these statistics are real and right but I also believe that St. John Parish, like he said if we are going to have the summer camp and we are going to be the controlling force of the summer camp and we are going to take all of the good things from anyone and every partner that wants to partner with us and help to improve St. John Parish recreation camp and we want to keep it in that light and I think that is what everybody was concerned about that maybe it was changing over or going somewhere else and because of the lack of communication that is why there were so many questions but after talking to Mr. Bernard he wants to help and be part of St. John Parish recreation department and not necessarily control it and that is what a lot of people were concerned about and that is what I mean about the communication. I am getting phone calls all off the hook asking me about this thing and I had no personal response other than to try and find out. I think he does a great job. As far as money being in a deficit or anything my way of looking at summer camp money to me is not an object. I don't care if it is \$100,000.00 that we have to put with it. We are talking about the future and the kids of St. John Parish. So I don't think you can put a price on that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just kind of wanted to echo I guess what Mr. Gauff said. Some of the frustration if you will came from the fact that we would be approached from our constituency about the possibility of us partnering and all of these types of things. I believe there were some emails that were sent to administration about it and the response was the answer is no. So we tried or at least some of the council members, I just saw the emails, tried to get information so we could be better equipped with the answers when the public asked us. That is all we are really asking for is not to be the last to know or not to have our constituents know what is going on before we do so when we get asked the question we don't know and there was like I said the question was asked to administration so I don't know if you gave it six times, I didn't see it. I know the council didn't but that is all we are asking for..

Natalie Robottom stated, "We did. I actually answered in an email and explained what the process was and that we were meeting with our stake holders to try to come up with a proposal that we would be submitting to the council. We did have individuals that called us to say look this is what I am hearing and we cleared up and said no that is not the case we do have a proposal. So we have answered it and again it is like and I know you guys have answered it and they are still asking you. So the same thing you are asking us I know you are getting it. You tell them the answers, they don't want to hear that. Pastor Bernard has come before you to tell you exactly what happened. This is a lot of work and obviously we don't stop to confer with everybody every time we get ready to move. This camp has been going on for twenty something years. I know I have been involved for six. We have been working through this meeting with the people who actually handle the camps, getting ideas from them, verifying numbers, they meet with the school system to determine the school, they put together plans for advertisement and typically it comes before the council but knowing you had asked what I responded was we were trying to get together some information so what I

*gave you would be accurate. I didn't have anything to tell you because we were still trying to figure out what would happen here, is it a possibility, can you take our kids. We still had questions. So there is no commitment. We are still trying to get our feeding program going. We are still trying to get baseball going. We are trying to do a lot of things and we generally cannot stop and get input on everything that we are doing or it would never get done. As I said we responded to your questions in person and by phone and in writing and this is where we are. I want to thank Pastor Bernard. I know he was getting a lot of calls and felt like he was being persecuted basically for something that he was not attempting to do and I appreciate him coming."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The email communication that I saw and it wasn't generated by me but it was a request to say can you provide us with the information so far that you have put together or give us some of the information...(being interrupted by Mrs. Robottom)...I have the floor - Jaclyn to Chairman Gauff - Are you going to put this in order? - It is one person is going to speak at a time. I respect you when you are speaking. I would appreciate the same thing. I don't cut you off and I don't interrupt you. I would expect the same thing and I would expect the chairman to call order when it is out of order. The email that was sent and all I was saying was that it was requesting the information from you to say hey can you just let us know where you are, who you are meeting with so that we know and your response was the answer is no and all I am saying is that I think that is what the council's sentiments are is that we would like to be communicated with more so that when our constituents ask us questions we want to have the answers too, not just you. So if we don't have the answers we can't answer our constituents but you can answer your constituents instead of just not giving us the information and you have the information. That is all I am asking for, that is all we are asking for. We are asking for respect to start out with and we are asking to be communicated with. All due respect to you and we want all of our due respect. That is all."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "That is understood. I would like to comment on that. The question was very specific. What I said was I had been meeting with our stake holders, including Dr. Millet and Pastor Bernard and we are trying to get together some information. The request was can you send me your meeting notes and all the things that you have done and my answer was no. As I said before we are putting together a plan and a proposal that we will submit to you. I didn't have any meeting notes or anything that I could distribute to you because we were having meetings. I didn't have anything prepared that I could submit to you and my response was very clear. I referenced back that as we pulled some things together I would submit that to you. You got some of that today for both the feeding program as well as the camp for us to differentiate how much our costs are. So we are attempting to provide you with what you need but you cannot expect that every time we have a meeting we are going to send you notes. It is not going to happen. It is not going to happen. We will try to relay as much as we can in a fashion that makes sense. It doesn't make sense for us to send you something that hasn't been finalized. We are attempting to put together information that will be useful. We get information all of the time and I cannot possibly send you everything that I get."*

**Art Smith - Angelic Sutherland - procedure for blighted properties -**

### **length of time**

Councilman Smith stated, "I had a long conversation with Ms. Sutherland and she basically took care of my issue. I will just let her read her comments."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Blighted properties are investigated to determine whether they need to be boarded and secured, or demolished. According to the code of ordinances, two notifications must be sent to property owners before any action can be taken by the parish. If property owners do not comply with the notices, the parish may either have its public works department board and secure, or proceed to court for an order to have the property owners repair or demolish. Some good news our adjudicated properties program that we have been working on the ordinance was actually approved at the end of 2011 by the council. The program authorizes the properties that have been adjudicated to the parish for a period exceeding five years. This program is managed by the Broussard/Baloney Law Firm and they are responsible for administering the sale or donation of these properties. We have completed the page on the website under planning and zoning. You can go to the page and click on a link to see the properties that are listed."

### **Lennix Madere - Update on the cleaning of the canals in Reserve, update on the cleaning of the culverts under the Rail Road in Reserve**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Responses to the Request for Qualifications for Canal Repair, Clearing and Drainage were due yesterday at 3:00 p.m.; therefore they have not yet been evaluated. There are several Reserve area canals included in the scope of work in the RFQ. Public Works has also assessed the need to clean a canal near Homewood and will be scheduling that work soon. Additionally, approximately sixteen culverts along Airline Highway in the Reserve Area are scheduled to be cleaned by DOTD. Permission from Kansas City Southern Railroad is required to clean culverts in the Reserve area close to Homewood."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Is it possible to get a copy of the list of the culverts or the canals that are on that list to be cleaned - the ones that you said they were going to do in house so we would have an idea of which ones are in our division."

### **Cheryl Millet - Update on Ridgefield Canal- cleaning schedule**

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I know they are working on the canals in the area but I am just kind of asking can we get rid of the trees so that it doesn't collect more debris in there and I just wanted to know what is the schedule for that canal?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think Mr. Kendrick's was with you last week. They are currently working on the Vicknair Canal which is in the vicinity and after that job is performed they will get to the Ridgefield Canal. The portion of the Ridgefield Canal north of Interstate 10 was cleaned in March through June of 2011. The Public Works Department is working on a maintenance schedule for canal cleaning which will include Ridgefield south of Interstate 10. It is scheduled for cleaning following the work currently being performed on the Vicknair Canal."

Torri Buckles gave a brief presentation on the Economic Development's marketing of the parish for the future of St. John.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R12-21 - A Resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council in support of acceptance of grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program to construct a Farmer's Market at 5793 Highway 18 in Wallace, LA**

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration requests approval of this resolution authorizing the Parish President or designee to sign the closing checklist and accept the grant for the Farmers Market. The closing and grant acceptance is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-21. A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council in support of acceptance of grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program to construct a Farmer's Market at 5793 Highway 18 in Wallace, Louisiana. **WHEREAS**, St. John the Baptist Parish was awarded funds in the amount of \$99,999.00 from the United States Department of Agriculture; and, **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture requires a resolution from the local governing body authorizing the Parish President or designee to sign the closing checklist and to accept the Farmers Market grant award, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the members of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council do hereby authorize the Parish President or designee to execute any and all documents in connection with the acceptance of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program to construct a Farmer's Market at 5793 Highway 18 in Wallace, Louisiana. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

**Theresa Rodgers - Resolution - R12-22 - A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council approving the application for grant funds from the Federal Highway (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration requests approval of this resolution authorizing the Parish to apply for \$100,000 in grant funds for Phase 2 of the Garyville Northern and Mill Trail. The trail will extend roughly one mile from the Historic Timbermill Museum in the heart of downtown Garyville along the route of the old Garyville Northern Railroad. This grant requires a 20% match which will be funded through the recreation budget."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to approve Resolution R12-22. A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council approving the application for grant funds from the Federal Highway (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program (RTP) **WHEREAS**, the United States Federal Government provides funds to the State of Louisiana for grants to state, local and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trails;

and, **WHEREAS**, the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the state and setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the program; and, **WHEREAS**, said procedures require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before the submission of said application; and, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby:

1. Approve the application for grant funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 from the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program for Phase 2 of the Garyville Mill Pond and Northern Trail; and 2. Certify that St. John the Baptist Parish has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, sufficient funds to build (including 20% local match), operate and maintain the project; and 3. Appoint the Parish President or designee as agent of St. John the Baptist Parish to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to application, letter of commitment agreement, amendments, payment requests and completion report, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

**Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to sign a contract with the Office of Community Development for a \$50,000 grant for water treatment improvements at the Lions Water Plant**

Theresa Rodgers stated, "The parish was awarded a \$50,000.00 grant through the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program for removal and replacement of the existing vertical turbine on the South Clear Well at the Lion's Water plant. Administration requests authorization to sign the contract with the Office of Community Development accepting these funds."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign a contract with the Office of Community Development for a \$50,000 grant for water treatment improvements at the Lions Water Plant. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

**Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to sign a contract with the Office of Community Development for a \$50,000 grant for improvements at the Edgard Water Treatment Plant**

Theresa Rodgers stated, "This grant is for the installation of a 12-inch water line from the Edgard Water Plant to the main line along Louisiana Highway 18. This will increase the flow and water pressure to the existing system which is presently using a 6-inch line to supply local residents and commercial customers on the West Bank. Administration requests authorization to sign the contract with the Office of Community Development and accept the \$50,000 grant."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign a contract with the Office of Community Development for a \$50,000 grant for improvements at the Edgard Water Treatment Plant. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

**Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to sign a contract with the Office of Community Development for a \$42,800 grant for improvements to the**

## **Reserve and LaPlace Water Distribution Systems**

Theresa Rodgers stated, "The parish has been awarded \$42,800.00 in grant funds through the Community Water Enrichment Fund Program for improvements to the Reserve and LaPlace Water Distribution Systems. This project includes removal of a booster pump and replacement of associated system valves to control water flow. Administration requests authorization to sign this contract with the Office of Community Development."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign a contract with the Office of Community Development for a \$42,800 grant for improvements to the Reserve and LaPlace Water Distribution Systems. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

## **PRESIDENT' S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening-I want to begin by saying thank you to all who participated in this year's Clean Sweep event. We had an overwhelming amount of volunteers who came to clean up St. John Parish. The final number was approx. 530 people who attended making it the largest participation thus far. We look forward to another Clean Sweep in the fall on the tentative date of September 29. Information will be available online and we encourage volunteers to sign up early. Thank you to everyone who came out to vote in the election last Saturday. St. John Parish had five very important propositions on the ballot and we appreciate all the support we received. This funding will allow improvement to all areas that affect our quality of life in St. John the Baptist Parish. Baseball Clinic - Terrence will give info under department reports. Congratulations to South Lake Surgery Center and Historic Riverlands Church on their grand openings this past week. South Lake Surgery Center is located at 694 Belle Terre Blvd. in LaPlace. South Lake Surgery Center provides outpatient surgery for the following: orthopedics, gynecology, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, general surgery, urology, pain management, and otolaryngology. Ask your physician about using the services at South Lake Surgery Center. Riverlands Christian Center Church held its ribbon cutting last week at the Our Lady of Grace Historic Sanctuary in Reserve. As the oldest church in Reserve, this site has been selected to be on the African American Heritage Trail by the Louisiana Office of Tourism and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Tours will be available on Friday at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Tours are \$12 for adults, \$6 for young adults, and children 12 and under are free. This morning we attended the Industry Breakfast at Ormond Plantation - thank you Cedric Jones who attended on behalf of Evonik. We hope to get more participation from industries next year as we appreciate their business in St. John the Baptist Parish and their continuous community support. United Way will host the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Kickoff Celebration on Wednesday, April 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the Central Library in LaPlace. The Pro-Life Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 28 at the KC Home, 346 Fir St. in LaPlace beginning at 9:00 a.m. Guest Speaker is Patricia Jones. The Recreation Department is now also accepting applications for Certified Lifeguards. Employment applications are available online or in the Recreation Department located at 200 Regala Park Road. For more information on how to become certified, please call 985-652-9569. We will be holding

our second All Staff Meeting for 2012 on Wednesday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Atrium. Council members are invited to attend. River Parish Hospital is sponsoring a Senior Health Fair on Thursday, May 3 at the St. John Council on Aging Activity Center, 214 REGALA Park Road in Reserve from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. The health fair is free to all seniors 60 years and older to check blood pressure, sugar levels, grip strength, vision, and bone density. Lunch, and door prizes will be available. For more information contact River Parish Hospital at 985-652-7000."

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

Councilman Smith stated, "I am going to work with Mr. Jones on getting some kids from the West Bank. I will get some information from him tomorrow morning. We will have a team from the West Bank. I promise you that. I want to congratulate the basketball team and their coaches. I want to thank all of the voters for coming out and supporting our issues and trusting us to do the right thing with their money and to Pastor Bernard thank you for clearing up a lot of our misunderstandings."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to thank all the business owners in District III who made clean sweep very successful in their area. Those individuals came together as a group and went to every business and cleaned up. They said that they are looking forward to keeping the area clean. I was very proud to see how they came together. I would also like to thank Regan Tyler she was also helpful in cleaning the parish. Also keep in your prayers Mr. Felton Collins who is dealing with a little health issue and I wish him all the best."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to thank the residents of St. John Parish for passing the millage and we will be good stewards of your money. I would like to thank everybody in clean sweep. Also I would like to say get well Mike. Also the town hall meeting for Sugar Ridge, Foxwood, New Riverland/Belle Terre has been cancelled for Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> because of the Legislative Day capital reception. We will reschedule at another date."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to thank the code enforcers for a quick response to a situation in Cambridge. Please remember the golf tournament on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the proceeds go to high schools it is back at Belle Terre."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would also like to thank the voters of St. John Parish for getting out and voting for the millages. I would also like to commend the administration they put together a great effort in promoting that at every event they really kept it in the minds of the voters. Also clean sweep was a great success thanks to all who helped out. Riverside had their spring festival this weekend it was a great success. Also St. Joan of Arc fair is this weekend from Friday to Sunday it is really important that we try out best to get out and support our local schools. Also hopefully Mike gets well soon and Happy Birthday to him for this Sunday. I told him he is getting old like us. I also want to commend Mrs. Robottom on her efforts for the ferry. I know it is very important to all of the residents of St. John."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I want to echo a lot of the sentiments that

*were spoken already but thanks again for the effort that was provided for clean sweep but let's continue clean sweep every day. We need to keep St. John beautiful. I want to congratulate the basketball team. The ESJ boys track team are the district champs. So congratulations to them."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss the update on LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC vs. The Parish of St. John the Baptist, Civil Action # 61301, 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

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

There was no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

Update on LaPlace Industrial Properties, LLC vs. The Parish of St. John the Baptist, Civil Action # 61301, 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 10:00 PM, Councilman Smith moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

/s/Lucien Gauff, III  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary