

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2018
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE
VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 24th, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Sorapuru led the Prayer. Councilman Malik led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel present were Keith Green, Jr., and Law Clerk Kennilyn Schmill.

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

"Good evening everybody, my name is Mrs. Geraldine Watkins. I reside at 104 Apricot Street, LaPlace, LA. I'm one of the concerned citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish. Chloroprene was originally developed by the US Chemical giant, DuPont in 1932. The use of Chloroprene in products and the billions invested for Chloroprene capacity, is nothing compared to the few million dollars that Denka keeps saying they have spent, and/or to clean up the mess being made by this plant in St. John the Baptist Parish. I would like, I say it like this because there are some places that have refused to continue the use of Chloroprene in their communities do the research! Chloroprene, rubber is the core business and acquisition from DuPont. And it's expected to larger contribute to the sustainable growth. What about the sustainability within the families of this parish? It is past time that our governing body, you the Parish Council, stand with the citizens of this parish and demand the stoppage of all Chloroprene use or shut the plant down. Again do your research, the question is answered through facts provided by EPA and I'm going to believe facts over whatever is the opposite of what the EPA has said, and continued to show in figures that Chloroprene is bad here, as it was in other places. Do your research! Thank you.

My name is Hugh Lambert, Lambert Firm stated, I'm an Attorney that's been looking into this matter with a number of these concerned citizens and I'm their lawyer. We thought we had 12 minutes, we thought we were on the agenda, we're not. I've got 2 minutes so I'm going to hurry through what I think I just heard and I want to echo the truth of it. The things that are irrefutable are that the isoplat which is basically an irregular circle drawn around the Denka plant, was developed not by lawyers, but by Denka and by DuPont. So that circle around the plant that identifies the .2 micrograms per cubic meter limit of exposure, was done by the defendant in the law suits where we represent thousands of citizens now of this parish. They developed the isoplat, the .2 micrograms per cubic meter limit was developed by scientist that worked with the EPA, not politicians but scientist. In 2010, they issued an iris report which is 100 of pages long, which

contains all sorts of data, including animal studies that identifies what the maximum exposure should be. They actually wanted .002 micrograms per cubic meter, but settled on .2. Now, we have taken samples, urine samples of people that lived at random inside of the isoplat drawn by DuPont and Denka. One hundred percent of those peoples' urine has tested positive for metabolites of Chloroprene and those metabolites come only from the Denka facility. They're not as you'll hear probably from others from Butadiene or from cigarette smoke its Chloroprene only, that's where it comes from. It's not an opinion it's a scientific fact. So, the point is is that the people that live around this plant have this metabolite of Chloroprene which is a breakdown product that comes from the exposure in their bodies, and there are increased risk of developing the diseases that come from it, which include Cancer, which is a mutagenic...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Excuse me Mr. Lambert I've got to cut you off. I gave you..."

Hugh Lambert interrupting stated, "I know. I've been cut off before."

Councilman Madere stated, "No, no but I gave you I gave you the same amount of time I gave Ms. Watkins you know so, thank you."

Hugh Lambert stated, "Thank you very much council members I really do appreciate, at some point I would like to know how to get on the agenda so I don't get cut off. And I hope you get some answers from the Director of a..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh I think they will."

Ed Garrison, Attorney stated, "I got my stop watch, I'm ready for you."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'm ready. We just make sure we synchronize."

My name is Ed Garrison. I'm an Attorney, I represent members of the community for fighting for a right to clean air that live in the vicinity of the Denka plant continuing a theme of Ms. Watkins, Mr. Lambert's themes of truth and science. I'm here to just present some select data from the EPA. As you know there are various air monitoring stations that were installed and maintained by the EPA at different locations surrounding the plant. We've heard some propaganda where the air is improving or the filtering systems or the scrubbing systems are now making air sufficient, sufficiently clean for the community. I don't think that's the case, and I'm just going to point to data not by me, not by any of my experts. Focusing on the 5th Ward Elementary School, the most recent data we have ends in March 26th, but for that month before, it's taken every three (3) days. We have looking at the 5th Ward Elementary School, five (5) of the ten (10) air samples taken at the 5th Ward Elementary School are above the .2 standard. On February 27th, 1.2 micrograms per cubic meter, six (6) times the standard. On March 14th, 3.57 micrograms per cubic meter 17.85 micrograms per cubic meter. At the levee it was 28.3, 141.5 times the standard, so we have 5 out of those 10 at the 5th Ward Elementary School were elevated above .2, for the other 5 where the measurements at the 5th Ward Elementary School were below .2, they were elevated somewhere else. So it was a matter of wind direction, it's not a matter of the deficiency of the scrubbers. We continue to see a pattern of elevated Chloroprene concentrations in the air surrounding the community of the Denka facility. Thank you.

Casey Peterson, I'm also a Lawyer, I represent some of the citizens here. I'm going to tell you just a few facts, a handful, in my short time about Chloroprene

and what it does in your body and why it causes cancer. It's a Mutagenic Compound that means that when it's in your body, it operates via mutagenic mode of action. In 2001, the metabolite of Chloroprene that causes cancer, the actual compound that Chloroprene turns into in your bodies that damages your DNA and causes it to reproduce in such a manner that it forms a tumor, that metabolite was discovered by a DuPont Scientist. And if you think Denka didn't know about it, in 2007 they co-sponsored the study with the same scientist with DuPont that did a study on this exact same metabolite. This metabolite in 2013 was found to turn into another metabolite, abbreviated CLMA3. This is a metabolite both of these metabolites are specific to Chloroprene, this is the only place they come from, they don't come from Butadiene, they don't come from Isoprene, they don't come from Vinyl Chloride or anything else. Those were all found, this metabolite, the final metabolite (CLMA3), which comes from the one that causes cancer was found in every single urinalysis that we've conducted. It's in the bodies of everybody here, if you took our urine right now it would be in ours. This compound 1-Chloroethyl Oxirane or abbreviated CEO, remember that because that is what causes cancer. It's in every single one of us right now. And it's not like well just at a certain amount it becomes unsafe, there's no safe amount. Every single time one of these molecules interacts in your body, you're rolling the dice. Every one of those is going to damage your RNA and your DNA, and has the potential to cause cancer in each and every one of you. Those are facts, be happy to give you the studies if you want to read them, I hope that you hear them from the other people that are here today, but just in case you didn't I want to make you aware of them. Thank you very much for your time.

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok thank you, anyone else in the audience?"

Good afternoon, my name is Robert Taylor. I live in Reserve, 389 E. 26th Street. I'm a lifelong resident of St. John Parish, Reserve as a matter of fact. I even pre-dated Denka, I'm astounded at this, at these numbers at the, all of the stuff that surrounding this. There is scientific data out there where we don't have to have politics and/or bureaucracy, science is, it's just that. When somebody says, .2, I mean that's what that is that's the final. When they say 0.2, it's changed by I think a by a whole decimal, but it changes exponentially when they tell us 00.2 was the findings that our American Scientific community came with. The scientific community not the business or political community, and I just hope that the people of this parish and the people of this state-this country that we're living in, began to separate the difference between a trickery of proprietors of people who are in the business of making money and they don't have regard for human life. To put Chloroprene in our communities and to bombard that school at sometimes at 400 times at what is recommended as a safe level, is murderous. I don't see the difference in that and in Syria gassing those children that we went to war for. I think our children are just as important as the children of Syria, even though we're in a poor black community. Our children's lives are like mine. I have chloroprene the metabolites in my body, out of the 6 I've got 5 of them in very high levels. And I don't want my children and grandchildren to suffer this, so I'm begging the people to get the politics out get the trickery out, DuPont is not being honest with us. They're being dishonest with us, they tried to deny access to this information. So that makes me not trust them, why wouldn't they want us to have this information. We have the right by law to have it, but if you are coming in our community to do business, you're obviously making money. It's profitable for you to be here, we would love for you to be here we need the money. I got children who need jobs, we got taxes, all of that is well and good, but if it's going to destroy our people. Not if it has a potential when you say a .2 microgram, I was dealing with a number that blew my mind. But it was actually 00, it was actually .002, thank you sir."

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Natalie Robottom - New Business - SoLah Productions Inc., Ms. Javon Ophella Butler, MPA

Administration requests removal of this item as it will be rescheduled.

Tom Malik - Presentation - Paul Green - 2nd Annual Aviation Awareness Day

"Good afternoon everyone, my name is Paul Green. I'm a 1986 graduate of East St. John, U.S. Navy Veteran serving the Persian Gulf War, Helicopter Crewman. What I'm doing May 5th, is having an Aviation Awareness Day that we did last year, which was a huge success with over 300 kids. So this year we was kind of invited to do it again, and we have an overwhelming response from all the local businesses. And we are just asking everyone to come out and support us, everything is going to be free for the kids, and what we're doing is bringing aviation to St. John Parish. We are aviators, I have a son that's flying, so we're trying to just get another vision for our youth to get into a wonderful career and I thank you guys for your time for listening and inviting me, putting me on the agenda. Like I said, it's May 5th, and everything will be free that day. Thank you."

Larry Snyder - Presentation - Tommy Scott - Louisiana Workforce Commission

Mr. Tommy Scott with the Louisiana Workforce Commission provided information for residents who are seeking employment. The office is located at: 421 West Airline Highway, Suite F. or call (985) 652-3471 for more information.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May 7-12, 2018 as National Economic Development Week

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for May 7-12, 2018 as National Economic Development Week.

Lennix Madere/Larry Sorapuru - Concerned Citizens of St. John

Wilma Subra was present on behalf of Louisiana Environmental Action Network on behalf of Concerned Citizens of St. John, to give a brief presentation on Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes for review.

Dr. Chuck Brown, LDEQ Secretary - Presentation - DENKA Update

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, *"I heard my name quite a bit, I must know something."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"I hope so."*

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, *"I think you know what to ask. I am Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary of Louisiana DEQ. I have always tried to be respectful to everybody's opinion. My name was mentioned 4 or 5 times, and we had three Attorney's that were medical experts and trying to refute what I'm going to say and maybe even get a free deposition. But I'm here to give you some facts, and hopefully give you a path forward. We've got some actual air data that I want you all to have starting from 2016 until April of this year. And I want to be able to show you that those numbers, where they started and where they currently are, then I want to talk to you about the control equipment that's installed, it's efficiency, nobody talks about that cause probably they don't know or they haven't heard or*

they haven't looked at our data, because everything that's been talked about they've gotten from our electronic document management system that we make public available to the public for anybody to see and evaluate on their own. We're going to pass these out to you, since December 31, 2017, the company Denka Performance Elastomers, they had the Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer installed. I've got data, I'll start from 2016 we're going to look at all six (6) sites that you've heard over and over, where they are and what they do. For the entire year of 2016, we had an average of about 9.4 micrograms per cubic meter of Chloroprene that was emitted. You have a copy of the actual data. I suggest you look at it for yourself! 2017, that number the entire year, all six (6) sites, the average of Chloroprene was 4.7 micrograms per cubic meter. That's about 60% reduction, whatever that number is. From January and February of 2018, in January the plant had several opportunities to go offline, if you recall I know you guys had water problems, you had freezes I think you even had boil water alerts in your parish, so we still collected data, January and February of '18, that average number was 4.2 micrograms per cubic meter. Now what I did was, I took March 1, as the actual steady state operation of the RTO, and you heard that some of the numbers were elevated. Well the average of all six (6) sites for the month of March and April up to April the 7th, was 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter...

Councilman Madere interrupting asked, "Excuse me Mr. Brown, exactly what sheet are you on?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "I'm on that one sheet. That's the one right there."

Jackie Landeche, Council Secretary stated, "March through April 2018, that's that one."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, thank you. I just wanted to make sure everyone was on the right page."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "So that average including that, 3/14 date, that had that an issue with some of that waste water, we were at 1.5 average if I took that one spiked data out, I'm at 0.8 micrograms per cubic meter. Now, is that where we need to be? We are looking at alternatives, other opportunities for reductions. We did a preliminary stack test on the RTO, we actually did an official stack test on 4/08 the preliminary test shows that the RTO is at 99.1% destructive. It's destroying 99.1% of the Chloroprene. (I think I was respectful when everybody was talking. Yes I was.) Now, a fact is a fact. It's a stat test..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Mr. Brown, ok I just like to make sure that everybody understands this, let's be respectful and listen to his information."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "So when we get the official data back, we of course will share that with you. So we figure there are opportunities out there for further reductions. We know that there are issues with the Poly Kettle Room, the Fugitive Emissions we think we can capture to try and reduce those spikes. We know there is opportunities when they maintenance work, we're continuing to collect air data, we're continuing to find ways to reduce that particular number. As long as we can collect 30-60 more days of air data, at that point I will come before you again and tell you exactly where we are, and what we're going to do to continue to go to reduce our numbers. I'm continuing to be in contact with our medical professionals, because you had heard one speak tonight, that as long as they are telling us that we can continue to move forward as we are, that's what we're going to continue to do. We going to continue everything we can to be protective,

but we want you have the accurate information so you can make decisions on your own with data that's unfiltered and it's right there for you to see. There's nobody is telling you what it says, you can see the numbers for yourself. So at this point, we are at about 1.5, even including that March 14th date. When I see the numbers which I see them before everybody seems them, and I look at them and I ask questions from not only my staff, but we're in consultation with the APA constantly, both Dallas and Washington, D.C., we are, this is high on our priority list. Somebody talked about, we haven't discussed production. Well how will they know that? So I'm just being rhetorical, so how would they know what's been discussed between us, the company and EPA regarding every opportunity to reduce Chloroprene. So, I'm here to give you this information, I wanted you to have it, I'll answer any questions that you may have, again, we're in consultation with our medical professionals, both locally and nationally. We got experts from all over the country. We're dealing with, as a matter of fact, I have a call that I'm going to sit in on tomorrow with the National EPA counterpart, they health agency (ASTDR). So, we're discussing the data that's been presented to them, what their opinions are, there were some discussions about, what kind of cancers Chloroprene can cause? Well, I would ask that question to our medical professionals. So you will have the accurate information so you can make accurate decisions regarding where our path forward is going to be. So having said all that, I will say this...I see miss determined, when I started coming here there was miss-determined, and then last year there was misdetermined, so I understand every year we get a new termine. I hope I'm not here with all of you having the opportunity to be termind, hopefully you're the last one I had to stand before and talk about this subject matter."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well hopefully we get everything that will benefit the community out of all these meetings that we're having and the concerns from both group."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "And let me say this, I was the first one that brought this to the community. On that July 7th meeting of 2016, that's been referenced more than once, we stood before the community and laid out the case before them. So, I just wanted that to be a part of this record."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'd just like to say a couple of things you know. You're right, okay I remember the day we received the phone call from Ms. Robottom to come to the EOC and we had a meeting this very topic. And then we went from having a meeting in the EOC, to a meeting with the community at Our Lady of Grace, okay I remember that specifically and first time I was aware of this situation was at that time. Okay, so you're alright, you're the one that brought it to our attention and it seems as though this particular Chloroprene was in the news prior to us even knowing anything about it, I think as far back as 2010 or something like that?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "From my understanding it's been produced at that plant since the early 70's."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh no, no, no. I understand that, I met when they first said it was..."

Dr. Chuck Brown interrupting stated, "The data..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, some data that came in 2010 right."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "It was released in 2015."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right. Okay and one other question that I have personally then we'll move on to some of the experts like you said. You mentioned, Ms. Wilma mentioned the fact that there is some additional technology that may be available to help reduce it and I..."

Dr. Chuck Brown interrupting stated, "I don't think she did."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I think you said that, didn't you?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "What is said was, right now we have the best available control technology in place, it's 99.1% effective. There are other areas that we need to look at when it comes to fugitive emissions, we think that some of their processes we need to examine further and even reroute some of those emissions to the RTO."

Councilman Madere stated, "Which in term would reduce some of the emissions."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Which will continue to push the number down."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and let me ask you another question. And I understand what you said, that they wouldn't have a way of knowing about your conversation with Denka as far as reduction in the product?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "As we move forward and to continue to collect data, if I can't get to the numbers I need to get to, production reduction is not off the table."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, because I'm not a scientist or anything, but I remember a meeting before and I think Mr. Perrilloux was in that meeting, I don't know if Mr. Snyder in there, where I brought up a couple of Denka's employees about reducing production in you know certain time of the day you know, and you know so I brought that up to them over a year ago. But like you said, that's, it's not off the table. Okay, that could be something down the line."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "It's not off the table."

Councilman Madere asked, "Any other questions from you Council members?"

Councilman Snyder asked, "Mr. Brown, you did say that they are working or they will be looking at a future emission program over there, or do they already have a future emission program?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Well right now, what we've already undertook is what's called an LDar Process-it's leak detection and repair. We think that the opportunities for further reduction is when they perform maintenance activities, sometimes they open up the tanks, and you'll get a spike here, and we think that part of their production facility, which is the Poly Kettle Room, there's opportunity there for further reduction of the fugitives. So yes we think opportunities there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know because I know that's a very, with a lot of, I know Marathon probably got it, I know Dow have it, I'm sure DuPont have it, that future emission program is vital and if they are doing it, then I guess there's not enough room to improve on it if they are doing the future emission as far as I know for future emission where every flanges come together, every valve, everything is monitored all the time. You know and if they're doing that that's

one of the methods by which you know to get rid of these things. That's why I asked you if they had a future emissions program like that."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Yeah yes sir. Yeah they do, but there's always room for improvement."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah well, that's for sure."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "And that's where we're trying to get to. There's some sources we haven't seen before."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Yes, Mr. Brown you're an expert in this position correct, for the state?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "I hope to think so."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "And who do you report to?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Governor John Bel Edwards."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Ok. Miss Wilma just mentioned about the urine samples that were caught from the children and the people within this community and adults. How can we dispute the samples coming back with the cellulites in it?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Well that's been and I was going to let our medical professional address that. But there's never been any denial that anybody who's exposed would probably have a metabolite in their body."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So in your years and experience with, you deal with a lot of plants up and down the river. Correct?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "There are lots of plants in the state of Louisiana."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "And you had your own consulting firm at some point dealing with these plants?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "I've worked in lots of arenas."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Have you ever worked for Denka, for DuPont as a consultant? Were you ever paid by DuPont as a consultant?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Never...Never...Never worked..."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So you're telling me right now that these urine samples don't count?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "I didn't say that at all."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well you've been in the business all these years Mr. Brown, you should know that."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "What I would say is, I'd let my medical professionals address that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well the EPA is trying to saying...the EPA is

telling you right now this thing is out of balance and...

Dr. Chuck Brown interrupting stated, "The EPA is not standing in front of you."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "You're contradicting the EPA."

Dr. Chuck Brown asked, "How is that?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "They don't agree with the readings that we're getting."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "How do you produce that?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "The EPA is not agreeing what the .2 that you're trying to get to."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "EPA has been working with me step and step."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay, so you're telling me that everything is ok, we just need to move on with our lives and don't worry about it?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "I'm not saying that at all, not at all."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "How long you've been in this position Mr. Brown?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Since 2016."

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Sorapuru. Okay, we're not here to question his qualification. We're here to question the document/the information he gave. It's not our responsibility to question his qualification for the position he's in. Okay, now you have any questions pertaining to the comments he made, as far as, what's in the kids blood, anything I think he said that he have some medical experts here that may be more able to answer that question that you're asking him. Okay cause you're asking him to answer a question that he's undoubtedly not qualified, because he's not another medical doctor, but we do have some medical doctors here, that's what you're saying?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "So I think they would be the ones to answer that question..."

Dr. Chuck Brown interrupting stated, "If it's asked to them I'm sure they would answer."

Councilman Madere stated, "If you would yield the mic to a medical consultant..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "And Mr. Madere I understand clearly about all this, but Mr. Brown reports to one man. We report to this whole parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand that. Okay and this whole parish is going to see this meeting..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "Correct."

Councilman Madere stated, *"The whole thing is about, it's not about his qualification, it's about the information that you presented to us..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"I'm not concerned...I'm not questioning his qualifications..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"Let me finish..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"I'm questioning his surroundings in the chemical industry. That's what I'm questioning..."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"We're here for the information. Okay..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"He's here to answer the question I asked him..."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"He's here to answer the question that you asked, but listen to me..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"Well I don't have to take it...listen to you. I'm talking to Mr. Brown..."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"I'm the Chairman and I'm ready to explain to you..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"And I'm talking to Mr. Brown..."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"And I'm going to explain to you...I'm talking to you..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"Well I'm talking to you too!"*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Okay well listen then and you will get your chance to talk. Now I'm telling you, this is about what's on this sheet. Now anything that you want to ask him concerning Denka, not him personally, and any question you want to ask concerning-medical-there's some doctors' right here. Now that's the question you can ask, okay? Now anything you want to ask him about his own personal business or whatever he do, you can do that outside but not on this agenda..."*

Councilman Sorapuru stated, *"I have never asked Mr. Brown anything about his personal business. I asked him a question about his business in the chemical industry. That's it!"*

Councilman Madere stated, *"That's his business..."*

Councilman Sorapuru stated, *"He's an expert..."*

Councilman Madere asked, *"Now, do you have any other question concerning information he made and we can get the doctors up here?"*

Councilman Sorapuru stated, *"No I don't have any more questions Mr. Brown..."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Ok, thank you..."*

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, *"Alright..."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Yield to your medical because we do have a couple of questions..."*

Dr. Jimmy Guidry, State Health Officer stated, "I've come before yawl before on this issue. And shared with you that, I've been concerned from the beginning of the exposure to this chemical and been pushing real hard to get all the expertise in the room to try and address it. There's not a whole lot of science on Chloroprene, even though it sounds like we know everything about Chloroprene. It's a little confusing on how the data is presented cause when you look at total cancers as experts, we don't look to see a chemical here and total cancers here. Cancers have a lot of things that cause it, so it gets a little confusing when you say, we have elevated total cancers. And there might be a cancer here that's not related to chloroprene at all that's making the number go up. So saying chloroprene's here and the cancers are here doesn't mean that the necessarily cause a relationship. But we don't need to be exposed to this chloroprene at the level, we need to get it down and that's really what we're working towards. I'm with the folks on that issue that it's not happening fast enough, but you know this technology and there's ways to bring it down and it's being worked on. But it's still not an easy question to answer. I've got Dr. LuAnn White, who's from Tulane, who's a Toxicologist, who's an expert in the field of exposures and chemicals, and she has helped me put together a panel of folks to decide how urgent is this, is this a public health emergency, is this is something that we have to do today or do we have time, and so I'm going to let her share with you what she's found out in talking to folks and maybe try to answer some of your questions."

Dr. LuAnn White, Toxicologist - Tulane stated, "I've worked with Dr. Guidry since this began way back when we first heard about beginning in 2016. And we have done a tremendous amount of research and investigation on it. Primarily to see what was going on, what are the possible health effects, first I think we need to think about when we look at the modeling's that say this is the highest risk area. This isn't risk that is measured, this is risk that do various risk assessments and various models. Those models are not met to predict health effects. They're developed to give the regulators information to reduce these emissions, so this often a misunderstanding that the regulatory level is a health effect level, and that's not the case because we have many safety factors uncertainty factors that we've put in there because we don't know. End of last summer beginning of last fall, we convened a panel and we brought together several of the experts in Louisiana and some from outside, we had people from ATSCR, we had various physicians and toxicologist from LSU Shreveport, LSU New Orleans, the Tumor Registry, Ochsner Clinic, the Poison Control Center, who looked at all of the data and said, with the question Dr. Guidry asked us; is this a public health emergency? Looking at the data, the exposure data and what we could look in the literature is that, definitely we wanted the levels in the air to come down, but it didn't constitute a public health emergency. The levels are intermittent, they were higher we've seen them come down over the last year and a half, two (2) years, which is what we're looking at. And so, it's you know as Dr. Guidry says, we remain concerned, but we see the levels going in the right direction. The levels when we start talking about these average levels, they've been given in micrograms per meter which is half of cubic meters. You know if you translate that back, we're looking at the low part of a billion range, when you convert that. Okay, that's a very low level, we want them lower, but we don't have high very high levels that would tip this over into some kind of acute emergency."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well before I ask my question, does anyone have any questions for..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Dr. White, thank you. The LEL that the EPA put out

that .02, point per billion might that be?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, ".2 maybe .05 per billion."

Councilman Snyder stated, ".05?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "Yeah. I mean we're talking about fairly low levels."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right, yeah, yeah I know .05 yes you know. Now does this actually dictate that if I'm exposed to a .2 for 20 years, that I will definitely catch cancer?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "No. What that is that is a modeled risk number. The reason why we use these modeling's is because it's below any level that we could observed. I mean these are extremely low levels, so we can't see an effect in people. So they used statistical models that bring in a lot of different variables and look at it. So it's meant to be a guideline for regulators, to as levels as low as possible even given all of the, you know safety factors and uncertainty factors that we put into the various statistical models. It's a measured level, it's a statistical level."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But I guess if we add that number it would increase, it increases your chances of some cells mutating or whatever."

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "Right, I mean it's a risk level it's not a prediction, it's a risk."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And there is no way that if I go in the hospital and they found out that I may have a/this disease, they can say it came from neoprene or it came from pork chops."

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "No, there's no way when you look at a cancer you can say what caused it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok."

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "When we do studies, unfortunately when we try to look at these very low levels, everything is over shadowed by smoking. You know if I want to say one thing that I know causes cancer, its smoking. And people don't want to hear that. But when you do your epidemiological studies and you look at it, it's like chloroprene would be a drop and smoking would be an ocean, and so it's hard to pick that up. You can't say it didn't cause it, but you can't say it did cause it either. So what we want to do is decrease the level that's in the air as much as you possibly can. That's the best thing that we can do to try and prevent it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So in conclusion, if there a cancer level in a certain area that's higher than normal maybe-just bear with me here-and it just so happen in that particular area, we have two chemical plants, and would it be practical to say that this cancer came from one of those chemical plants or maybe one of those chemical plants might have caused it?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "I think you'd say well there's the risk, but when you do this you got to go you got to control for all the risk. And it's very difficult to say a single cancer came from a single..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Chemical."

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "Particular cause. That being said, we still want to reduce those levels."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah, almost definitely."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ms. White, I'm a reference Ms. Wilma said something about metabolite. What is that?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "A metabolite is when substances are going into our body, our body breaks them down. The body breaks them down because once they get in, the body wants to get rid of them and that's the way it/that's one of the ways it gets rid of them, is by breaking them down into other compounds that can then be more readily excreted."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "So metabolite can be caused by numerous things or chloroprene or anything else?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "Well everything is metabolized down. The thing is, we have many different compounds that have common metabolites, and so what we look for which he referred to are unique metabolites, what is only coming from a particular compound. So when we find metabolites, sometimes they can tell us a family of compounds, sometimes you know if they're unique then we could relate that back to a particular compound. But when we detect it what it means is that, that is a bio-marker of exposure we know we've been exposed. But we know if chloroprene's in the air, we know we've been exposed. What it doesn't tell us is what is the effect after that because you can have it, there can be no effect, there could be affect but we know it's there, but we don't necessarily know what that affect is. And there's' not very good studies that relate that exposure to an affect."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you. I just had one more comment I just had one more comment I'm going to comment to Mr. Sorapuru. Mr. Sorapuru, we're not here across the river for a judge and jury, we're here to get the information. We're not going to attack individuals, Ms. Wilma, Mr. Guidry, Ms. White or Mr. Brown. We're not going to do that that is just disrespectful. We're trying to get information for the public, so the public can see what's going on and we get the best information. Because I heard some things tonight, I didn't agree with it and I'm not going to attack anybody. But I want to listen from all sides to make judgements and to make how we should foresee this, but not attacking his credibility or anybody credibility or what they did prior to coming for it's worth. You asked him if he had a consulting business, that's not what we're talking about. You got to give respect to the Chair. He's trying to control a meeting. This is not on the West Bank at the courthouse. We got to have respect in there and respect each other and listen to the information. That's what I have to say. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Before we go on Mr. Malik has a question. I'd like to thank Mr. Perrilloux for saying that, because we're doing our best to control this meeting and I think the people in the audience have done a tremendous job sitting there and listening. I'm pretty sure 50% agree with what Ms. Wilma said, 50% agree with what Mr. Brown said. But whether you agree or disagree, there's a level of respect that everyone owe to each other, okay when we're talking about this. And when someone is up there to that mic, they deserve all the respect from everyone, this council and everyone sitting out there. And that's what I expect, and that's what we're going to get. Okay and if anyone violates that, you understand what I mean, and I made that perfectly clear before the meeting

started, I will have you removed from the council chambers. Okay, it's all about respect, all about information, we're all in this together, it's from St. John the Baptist Parish and we want the best possible solution for the people and (where she went?) She can come back to the mic."

Jackie Landeche stated, "She went to sit down."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh no, they not finish with you. No, no, no, no...You're not tired hah? Okay we have a few more question Mr. Malik have for you, and then I have one I'm going to save mine after he finish."

Councilman Malik asked, "Within this area, are there certain types of cancer that we're more prone to?"

Dr. LuAnn White asked, "What do you mean?"

Councilman Malik asked, "Are there higher/is there higher rate of any specific cancer within the St. John?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "You'd need to ask the Tumor Registry and the..."

Councilman Malik stated, "I don't know if Dr. Guidry would have been able to answer it."

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "I'm a Toxicologist in a..."

Councilman Malik stated, "I wonder if Dr. Guidry disappear...oh there he is, I'm sorry. Would you be able to answer that sir?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "We've looked at cancer in a number of ways for this area. First we did it at the parish level, and people said that wasn't detailed enough, so if I could try and give an example of how the numbers can be changed on you. If you look at people in general, and everybody knows somebody with cancer, everybody know somebody in the family with cancer and the reason is, if you live old enough, one in two males will have cancer. It might be prostate, might be you know all kinds of different cancers, one out of three females will have cancer. So you start with a fairly high number to begin with, so it's really important to know the ages of people, and the cancers, and the types. So we look at lung and liver, because what you have here is-there were some experiments, and this is why it's so difficult with animals, which doesn't necessarily mean that's what's going to happen in humans, but mice and rats constantly exposed to a chemical and then look at what cancers you find. And there were multiple cancers in those animals, but not intermittent exposure not where the winds' blowing, but where they're constantly being exposed. And so there's those cancers that people say; oh chloroprene causes these things in animals, and then there's the human cancers that we know of so far and most of it is centered around the lung and liver. So we looked at lung and liver in the parish didn't see a spike that we would expect from being exposed to a chemical for 40 years, so that kind of made you feel somewhat good but then you know we heard that; hey you better look at the census track level. When you get down to smaller numbers that changes, if I take you/I go to your family and one (1) out of twenty (20) people have cancer, then that's one (1) out of twenty (20). If I take one family and that's two people, and one of those people have cancer, that's 50%. So, the smaller your numbers the harder it is to extrapolate. So we looked at the census track and we didn't see huge numbers that alarmed us in lung and liver, which is we relate to chloroprene. Now I'm sharing all this with you, from my experts and what they've

told me. The Tumor Registry did this because the Legislature said; we want to see census track data, and then you got to try and explain what it means. There are multiple sites around Louisiana with elevated cancers. When you use total cancers it confuses the picture because, if you have a cancer that's not caused by chloroprene but it makes the number go up because you have a lot of people with a certain cancer, then that changes the numbers. So they're actually people in Louisiana with a higher level of cancer like there are here that are not anywhere near a plant. So they're obviously exposed to something else or something else has happened, but you can't assume just because you cause you have a high number that it's related to one thing. It's related to our life style, our choices and our exposures. So not disputing the fact it's a carcinogen, we should get the numbers down as much as possible, but I'm not seeing the huge spikes that concern me that after 40 years of exposure, there's a lot more cancer here as a result of chloroprene. There is an elevation in some of these census tracks, but there's nothing glaring but it does concern me, like why? You know is it that, what is going on? Not an easy question to answer because it could be for a lot of reasons. For instance, in black males is a higher instance of prostate, that's across the country. They have more prostate cancer in black males. So if you have more black males, that cancer is going to bring your rate up. Well, does it cause prostate cancer in humans? Not anything that I've seen literature that says that, but you know I've always left it open, the more information we get the more we share hearing from each other, the more we can make better decisions. So, there's no easy answer to your question."

Councilman Malik stated, "That's why I didn't think it was, but you look like the smartest guy in the room so..."

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "But I do feel I do feel that we continue to look at it, we continue to ramp the number down, and we could try to answer the questions. One of the things that's really difficult in Louisiana that I have a hard time is that; the cancer incidents may not be that elevated but if you get cancer in Louisiana, the chances of you dying from it is higher. Because people don't go in early, they don't get diagnosed early, they don't get treated. Therefore they end up getting a bad outcome. That we can correct with you now people getting seen, catching things early, but it's certainly, everything we can do to minimize ourselves and our body's changing. Whether that's an exposure to something, eating the right foods, not smoking, drinking in moderation, all these things that we can do to avoid turning on cells that can become cancerous, so I don't know why there's an elevated level I some of these and it being tied to cause it's around Denka, but I'm also seeing that same elevation in census track away from Denka and this census track is nowhere near Denka. So that's you know you got to try and answer the question but it's not an easy thing to do."

Councilman Malik asked, "But the only way you can ingest chloroprene is through breathing?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "Breathing, ingestion, and skin, so obviously it's another chemical that enters your body that can make changes in your body, and the more that we can make that at a level as low as possible, that's what we should strive for."

Councilman Malik asked, "Alright thank you sir."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes, like both of yawl. We had an expert mention about the urine, the cellulites in the urine. So the samples that were taken, how can I go back into my community and tell my community to protect yourself, is

there some special respirator we should wear everyday?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "Well, I mean obviously if there is chloroprene in the air people are being exposed to it, I mean you don't have to measure urine to know that. The levels are going down, so that's good. We want them to go down further, that's good. But I don't think that we necessarily say because you have that exposure, you're necessarily going to have a cancer or what that is because there's, just breathing it is not going to cause cancer."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So you don't, in your opinion you are an expert. You don't think that we need to test everybody in the parish to see exactly how many people have chloroprene in the urine?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "I don't know that testing would tell you more than you already know."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So we could just keep breathing chloroprene until it comes down?"

Dr. LuAnn White stated, "Well we need it to come down, but it's/the testing may tell you whether there's exposure or not, but it's not going to tell you what the effect is."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I just want to say a couple of things myself. One thing is you can see why the, level of concern because this is a community that's you know not say been talkative, but recognize they have a lot of chloroprene in the air. Okay and it seems as though the only solution to get the level down as you say, you said it's a concern, but we definitely have to bring the levels down. Right! I think you also said some of the levels have been going down, and you also said they're not where we want them to be. Okay, do you have a specific number where you would be comfortable in saying that you know it's to that safe level?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "EPA has come out and said their number that they calculated from a mathematical formula, and until we can prove otherwise that we should strive to get to that number."

Councilman Madere stated, "And what number is that to be exact?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, ".2."

Councilman Madere stated, "2. Okay. (Thanks for the applause, but once again, like I said try and keep it quiet). And that's the thing I wanted to make sure that we get out there, that it's 0.2 is what they say is this, basically a safe level. And as we talked tonight, we are not at that level?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "No sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, so we have to strive now to continue to work with the EPA and DEQ and Denka, to approach that level or get to that level, right?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "And EPA, DEQ may you know, find out down the road that they can't get to that level and they'll have to make other decisions."

Councilman Madere stated, "Now when you say other decisions-what do that entail possibly?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "I'll let DEQ answer for that cause that's their decision."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "We're going to strive to get as low as we possibly can. I've said that over and over and over. At some point if I can't get where I need to be, then I'm going to take some further steps. I'm not going to tell you what that is tonight, cause I don't know what that is just yet."

Councilman Madere stated, "Now one other question I'd like to ask you. The fact that you know, I think just about everyone in here then had someone in their family or friend affected by cancer, and it's nothing nice. Okay like I said you know I lost my father to cancer in '84. Now, and I will say this, (what's the lady name? Ms. White, the lady that was up there?) I think she mentioned that several things can cause cancer and chloroprene being one of them. Okay and like I said, my daddy lived there all his life, you know less than a mile from DuPont, and he was exposed because we was not aware in the 60's, the 70's, or the 80's or even in up to 2016 that we was being exposed to this stuff. Okay so it's safe to say that I can't say exactly that he/that his death was caused by chloroprene because he did smoke, and he did work at Godchaux Sugar Refinery. So they do have three (3) possible cause one that two (2) that I knew of before, and this third one which I just recently found out in 2016. Okay basically all that, so I always used to be upset with cigarettes and I mean Godchaux Sugar Refinery you know, but it's a possibility it could have been chloroprene. You know, you would agree with that it's a possibility? Not necessarily a cause, I mean maybe it's best for the doctor to answer that question."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "I don't think the doctor can tell you that specifically."

Councilman Madere stated, "No, no, he can answer this question the way I'm going to phrase it to him. And what I'm asking him is, I would be right to say, that the three that I mentioned the two that I knew before, and the one that I knew now, I'm still will not be able to say which one actually caused his cancer, right or wrong?"

Dr. Jimmy Guidry stated, "You have cells in your body and it's taught that some of them are pre-dessin to become cancerous. You're born with them and those cells can go wild with just exposure to certain things. Whether it's food or alcohol, so you really can't pinpoint what turns a cell on. If you put me, what's the highest risk, definitely smoking much more toxic. Chloroprene can cause cancer, so when we have a family member or a love one that gets cancer we want to know, what the hell happened? What caused this cancer? You don't know that, you can't prove it. And that's the thing that's really difficult, is that if you know you've been exposed to carcinogen what's the biggest carcinogen besides smoking that we are exposed here? It's actually at the gas pump! It's benzene. It's much more toxic than chloroprene, but we don't talk about that too much but every time you pump gas, you're exposed to benzene. So it's that going to turn a cell on? I don't know. You have to live healthy as best as you can and you have to minimize exposures as best you can. There's risk in everything. So I can't, the answer is I can't answer what he died of. He died of cancer."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Mr. Brown. You're the head of DEQ and Denka, Denka's in violation, am I correct?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "We've got some enforcement action."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Okay so, normally when a plant's in violation, do they pay any type of fine for being in violation?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "We're right now settling what that's going to be."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So you're talking about that right now?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Of course."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "So we have other plants that are paying fines right now. They're above the emissions but they're paying a fine, correct?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "In 2016, I collected Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) in penalties. In 2017, \$1.5 (I'm adding them up), \$2.5 Million. We fined and enforce environmental rules all the time."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay. So we let them pay the fine and keep polluting, appears to be the standard."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Of course not, it's a correct of action."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "That appears to be cancer alley."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Well I'm sorry Mr. Sorapuru if you feel there's a cancer alley."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well it's not what I'm feeling."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "There's death row plants all over the state of Louisiana."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "You said you collected Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) in fines, so you're taking the fines and letting them pollute. Sounds like that's what is going on to me."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Well it's not actually."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "How much in fines did Denka pay so far?"

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "We're still settling that. I think I mentioned that before."

Councilman Madere stated, "Hold on hold on. Once again, okay we're off track..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "No, I don't think we're off track Mr. Chairman..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Sorapuru, I'm going to tell you just one more time. I let you speak I'm the chairman and I'm speaking now, I control this meeting okay, and that not only for the citizens out there, that also go to council members to. Okay, and when I mentioned about having citizens removed and that also reflects the council members to..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"Well that's fine..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"Let me finish. We're not here to discuss fines..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"I have a question about Denka paying a fine..."*

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, *"I said we're not here to discuss a fine by any other plant, okay? It's only about chloroprene and that report he gave and the report Ms. Wilma gave. We're not here to discuss any fines by any other plant of this river, we're not here to discuss the fines on DuPont, if you want to know the fines are about DuPont and Denka, put on the next council agenda..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"No."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Okay, but it's not, okay then you don't want to know it. Okay but you're not..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"That's public records Mr. Madere."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"It's not what we're here tonight to discuss. Now if you want to know about fines by any plant in this area, put it on the agenda. But we're not here to discuss fines, how much someone paid or nothing. We're here to find a solution to chloroprene, okay, and how we can affect and better serve the people in our area. Not about a fine! A fine is not going to stop cancer, a fine is not going to stop chloroprene, so I can care less about a fine. I'm more worried about a solution, and not about a fine. Fines don't save no one..."*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"You're exactly correct."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"About a solution?"*

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, *"You're are correct."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Okay, so let's move on and get off of fines and get on to the topic that we here about. There's no comments from the citizens in the audience, you need to raise your hand. Okay? Now this is how it's going to go. Okay, stick to the topic on this agenda, now if you want to talk about fines, put it on the next agenda and I'll make sure you get a chance to talk about it. But we're not here to talk about anybody fines, any plant, Denka or nothing else. We here about chloroprene that's affecting citizens in our District. And that's the answer I want, I could care less about a fine. I care more about life!"*

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, *"Make one last comment. That we're going to continue to work, we're going to continue to work with our local partners, our federal partners and we're going to continue to be protective of these citizens, we'll do everything within our power. So I just want you to know that, we will come back at the appropriate time, give you an update on where we stand and then we'll hopefully have something better to tell you than what we told you tonight. The numbers are heading down, it's not where we want to be, but we're continuing to work for a positive solution."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"Okay and I just want to say one other thing. First I want to thank Ms. Wilma and the concerned citizens for showing up tonight and bringing this to the forefront, I also want to thank you for the report that you*

gave. Okay, and if anyone feelings is hurt, upset or problem, Hey! I'm concerned about finding a solution, I'm not concerned about any fines I'm not concerned about who's right who's wrong. I want a solution and the people want a solution, and along with you, Ms. Wilma and the concerned citizens are going to stay on top of it. We're going to find a solution that's going to bring this down, okay? And whenever we have something on the topic, we will stick to the topic. And if you want to change anything put it on the next agenda. Thank you."

Dr. Chuck Brown stated, "Thank you very much. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to recess for 5 minutes. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to return to the regular council meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - April 10th, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church of LaPlace Fun Walk/Run - Saturday, May 12th, 2018 at 8:00 AM; Civil Service Board - Appointment of Graylin Burl - member elect/Employee Representative; Councilman Wright - Re-appointment of Mr. Jamie LaBranche to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - April 10th, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Rising Star Baptist Church of LaPlace Fun Walk/Run - Saturday, May 12th, 2018 at 8:00 AM; Civil Service Board - Appointment of Graylin Burl - member elect/Employee Representative; Councilman Wright - Re-appointment of Mr. Jamie LaBranche to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hugh Martin/Jason Akers - Resolution - R18-07 - A Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Mosquito Abatement District of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes. Neither, Mr. Jason or Mr. Hugh were able to make it tonight due to conflicts. However this is a current tax and its set to expire at the end 2018, the proposition renews at the same level and it's for an additional 10-years and we recommend approval."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R18-07. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-08 - A Resolution for the transfer of LA 643 to St. John the Baptist Parish to apply a portion of the road transfer credits to the Parish's commitment to State Project H. 011845 - St. John East Bank Mississippi River Trail, Phase 4

Natalie Robottom stated, "This Resolution amends the original agreement authorizing the transfer of a portion of LA 643 to the Parish in exchange for road transfer credits. This amendment allows for a portion of the credits to be applied to the Parish's match for the East Bank Mississippi River Trail - Phase 4 project, which is ready to bid. Administration recommends approval. And for informational purposes, this is the last Phase of Phase 4 what started West 10th, where we finished last time and it would go to the St. James parish line. That's the one where we had the meetings and looked at industry and at what those requirements would be, and we would be one of the first to actually have one side of the river completely completed."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Where is 643?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Pleasure Bend. That was the road transfer that was approved in Pleasure Bend, the road St. James took a portion of it St. John took a portion of it, they agreed to provide cash towards the project, as well as the tax the road credits of about 1.2, \$1.4 Million toward typically projects on state roadways or on state projects. And this qualified as one, because it's..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "Are we approving the use of those funds for the..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Some of them, just a portion of them."

Councilman Snyder asked, "But now, we've approved the transfer already?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We did that what...how long ago?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah, it was a few meetings ago and you specified some of the use and we got approval for some of the cash, and this one was one that had talked about but it wasn't written into the document. So we're asking to amend the document to include this project as well."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well tell me this. This my first time hearing what we're going to use the cash for. Could you tell me why this is our first time hearing about this? It's my first time anyway."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No it's not actually. Mr. Sorapuru and them, actually at a meeting..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "There we go now, we..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No, no, no, this was at a public meeting, Ms. Schoen actually had yawl to table this item, because they wanted..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I remember that I remember that just thinly and I was against this then and I'm going to be against it today. Because here again, where are we using the money at? Now, I was against it before because I know we're going to have to take care of this street, a Million Dollars to do that whole street. That's what I got from I think I asked, I was over there by Engineering, that would it would cost to do that street and that's why I was against it then. Now, now we're taking that money from that, we then declared it already. That's my first time hearing about it. I got some streets I could use that money for, you understand that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No actually this was publicly discussed, Council members, it was, you know they actually objected until they met with their constituents and we were able to work with DOT to do some additional things outside of what they typically did and they agreed for the transfer. This was an item that was discussed in addition to utilizing the cash on some of the West Bank projects, including a roadway in Pleasure Bend. And again, out of those dollars we definitely..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "It probably came up Ms. Robottom, it might of just, it may have come up in just that we could use some of the money for this road, but I don't remember no discussions as far as you know what we're going to use the money for council. Do you have any idea?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's actually in the document yawl approved, it was written..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Now see they you go again, we approved it. I didn't approve it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok. Well however voted on it, it passed, and the actual use of what we were getting, what we were going to use it for, had to be in the resolution that was submitted to us by DOT. So may have voted against it, but the rest of the council supported it."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Let me just say it Mr. Snyder; I understand why you were, why you said you were against it the first time and I was against it very much the first time. But to my understanding the money was going to be able to be used anywhere in St. John Parish that we see needed. I understand there are a number of roads that might be coming across the same way to take funds to put in your District or wherever it was needed, and I was very cautious about going that route but after going to Pleasure Bend and looking at what Pleasure Bend's got, and the amount of money been spent in Pleasure Bend on other federal levels with rock jetties and water well and all that and they got to road that's in real good shape that's going to be good for the next 12-15 years, and no heavy trucks going back in that area. And like Ms. Robottom just said, we're the first one finished a complete bike path, St. Charles Parish started probably 10 years ago, they haven't they stopped in Hahnville they haven't come to Killona yet. They don't think Killona deserves a walk path I guess. But, that's the mindset that I had for supporting a road swap. I mean, we all St. John St. John Parish, I mean you know we all need roads to be fixed at some point. But here it's a recreational activity and I'm not going to not support anything for recreation as much as we want to make a recreation a priority in our communities."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How much is our credit?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The total credit is \$1.4 and I think there's Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) in cash...Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) in cash that's outside of the..."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And we going to use our credit or the cash for that walk on the levee over there?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We're actually attempting to use the credits for the walking path because it is a state project."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And how much is that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The whole project is an excess of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000)."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm talking about our credit toward that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually budgeted some money, the total match is six..."

Robert Figuero stated, "Its Six-Sixty in match."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The total match is Six-Sixty, we had budgeted a portion of that, Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) would go toward the match for the bike path. The Five Hundred (\$500), Three Hundred (\$300) in cash can be done outside of state projects. That was caveat that we got for the transfer was those dollars, we wanted to do a road in Pleasure Bend, well it's not a state road and they don't typically do those. We wanted to do something on the West Bank that may not have fit into a state project and they actually provided the additional money and lead way to be able to use it for other projects."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We're not going to buy a lift truck with that are we?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I mean bucket truck, that's what I mean yeah."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R18-08. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilman Perrilloux absent and Councilman Snyder against.

Julia Remondet - Resolution - R18-09 - A Resolution requesting the FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION representing St. John the Baptist Parish to intervene and take action on its behalf to compel the various Railroad companies with rail systems passing through the Parish of St. John the Baptist to take immediate remedial action to repair, improve and maintain the culverts, drainage arteries and ditches located under and/or parallel to the tracks within the railroad system rights of way

Councilwoman Remondet requested to remove Resolution - R18-09 from the agenda.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 03-13-18) Council's possible withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission

The above item will remain Tabled.

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage and road repair in District III

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to TABLE Update on drainage and road repair in District III. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Larry Snyder - Update on the Financing of tap water projects in Water Districts 1 and 3

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah we discussed that already. If you got something to say on it, fine. But I think it's up to us now what we want to do with that."

Jaclyn Hotard - Reference Discussion from 2/27/18 Council meeting Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding reading water meters manually versus electronically

The above item will remain on the agenda in Councilwoman Hotard's absence.

Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding street servitudes in District III

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Sorapura seconded the motion to TABLE Discussion regarding street servitudes in District III. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Larry Snyder - Update on raising the electrical boxes at Ruddock

Councilman Snyder stated, "Since we got a box truck coming we can raise the electrical meter back there now. We can raise that electrical panel back there. Okay I'm satisfied with this, I understand. We're waiting on FEMA right now."

Marvin Perrilloux - Discussion regarding what is being done to remedy the situation of the effluent pump discharging and flowing into the Haydel Canal from the River Road Plant

The above item will be carried over to the May 8th, 2018 agenda.

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Board of Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas v. AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, et al., #17-CV-01313 (D. Kan. Dec. 21, 2017); Ohio v. Mckesson Corporation, #CVH 20180055 (Ohio Ct. Com. Pl. Feb 26, 2018). The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Councilman Perrilloux excused himself from the meeting at 9:12 PM.

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

There was no action taken as a result of executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Board of Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas v. AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, et al., #17-CV-01313 (D. Kan. Dec. 21, 2017)

Ohio v. Mckesson Corporation, #CVH 20180055 (Ohio Ct. Com. Pl. Feb 26, 2018)

Edward Jackson d/b/a EDR Construction vs. St. John the Baptist Parish and Royal Engineering & Consultants, LLC Case #71671

Cape Horn Investments, Inc. vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Case #72013
Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

18-10 An ordinance naming the West Bank Recreational Park - the "Juan Anthony Joseph Park" (K. Becnel)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Last Friday, we joined the Governor and Representatives of the Office of Community Development as they announced funding for 10 resiliency projects, which includes St. John Parish. Through, LA Safe and OCD funding will be allocated toward the Airline Hwy. and Main St. Complete Streets project which focuses on beautification, storm water management and the overall sustainability of our community. We are very excited and ready to work with OCD and RPC on moving this project, as there is a four-year timeline for completion. In addition to OCD staff, I would like to thank Planning & Zoning Director, Alex Carter, and her team, CAO, Laverne Toombs, Communications, and the Center for Planning Excellence and RPC for their tireless efforts to secure this grant and assist with all of the public meetings that led to this decision. More information on the project and process can be found at lasafe.la.gov. On Sunday, I had the honor of speaking to a national planning audience at the 2018 National Planning Conference in New Orleans. Joined by John Lane, St. Bernard's Executive Director for Coastal Operations, and led by Alex and Evelyn, we discussed future development, natural environment issues and the challenges of coastal land loss in a session titled "Leadership along a Disappearing Coast." The session was well attended and allowed us to provide a local perspective for dealing with the future of our coast to attendees from around the country. Specific topics of discussion included rising sea levels and increased flood risks in our area. In another aspect of the conference, our Planning and Zoning Department unveiled a poster in the Exhibit Hall titled, "Promoting Inclusiveness in Preservation Planning." The poster detailed the timeline for establishing a Historic Preservation Committee, developing a work plan and revitalization strategy, approval of four (4) Historic Districts and designation as a Certified Local Government. They did a great job and it was well received by all. Today, we celebrated the opening of River Place Behavioral Health Center in LaPlace. Through a joint venture, Ochsner partnered with Acadia Healthcare to repurpose the old River Parishes Hospital building to provide critically needed mental healthcare services to residents across the state and region. The \$18 Million investment in the 82 bed facility is state-of-the art. The opening of River Place Behavioral Health not only addresses the dire need for mental healthcare services, but it also creates new job opportunities for healthcare professionals in St. John. River Place Behavioral Health is the latest facility to open as part of the \$30 Million commitment Ochsner pledged to St. John in 2014. We welcome them and thank them again for their investment. Thank you to all of the individuals, groups and organizations who participated in the Spring Clean Sweep on Saturday. Over 100 volunteers swept the Parish and picked up loads of garbage and debris. St. John is again partnering with the 40th Judicial District Children & Youth Services Planning Board & Prevention Committee to host its annual Fishing Camp. The event is Saturday, May 19th, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway and it's free to youth ages 8-15. To register, volunteer or

donate, please contact Bernell Charles at (504) 570-4885. On behalf of the Voodoo Boat Club, we would like to invite everyone to the Voodoo Boat Nationals held in Reserve near the Airport next week, May 3rd through May 6th. The club will be celebrating its 10th anniversary as the most prestigious boating competition in the world! Held each year in our Parish, the sport brings boaters and spectators from across the country and world. This year more than 20 states and 4 countries will be participating in the event which is open and free to the public. For viewing, there is a large covered area and a food vendor will be on site each day offering a full menu. Please help us support this wonderful venture and one that brings economic diversity to our Parish! **Reminder:** The construction on Belle Terre Blvd., is almost complete, but please obey the signs for safety purposes. **Reminder:** All on and off ramps to Belle Terre will be closed from 8:00 p.m. to 4:30 a.m., tonight, tomorrow night and Thursday. Signs will be placed directing motorist to exit at Hwy. 51. Thank You

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:35 PM, Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Lennix Madere
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary