

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, APRIL 25th, 2017
CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER
VICE-CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McToby Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 25th, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: 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, Raj Pannu, Councilwoman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Larry Sorapuru

Councilwoman Hotard led the Prayer. Councilwoman Remonet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., Geoffrey Michel and Kennilyn Schmill were present.

Councilman Snyder stated, *"We have to make some adjustment to our agenda tonight, we have some executive session issues we need to discuss and we an addition to the agenda. So we're going to listen to Mr. Wright and he'll make a motion to that affect."*

Councilman Wright stated, *"Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd like to offer a motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add St. John the Baptist Parish New Government Building Complex Change Order in Department/Engineer reports."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Remonet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add St. John the Baptist Parish New Government Building Complex Change Order in Department/Engineer Reports. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

Councilman Wright stated, *"Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add an executive session item - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Murray Architect, Inc. perspective litigation."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to add an executive session item - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Murray Architect, Inc. perspective litigation. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Respacare Louisiana, LLC - Carol Valencia

Jerry Jones introduced Carol Valencia who is the owner and operator of RESPACARE

of Louisiana, a medical equipment company providing assistance to the elderly such as: oxygen, walkers, wheel chairs, compression stockings, bedside tables. The retail store is located on Hwy. 51 and are open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information call (985) 652-9933 or visit the website at respacareofla.com

Natalie Robottom/Ross Gonzales - Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation (LWCC) Presentation of Dividend Checks

Mr. Vincent Rollo and Gerri Prestia, the Account Executive with the LA Worker's Compensation Corporation. For the past 14 years LWCC has declared a dividend and on behalf of Vincent Rollo and LWCC with the dividend earned for 2016, distributed in 2017, the Parish Council in the amount of \$353,146.00 and the Office of Fire Services in the amount of \$176,561.00, and this is a representation of your loyalty of LWCC.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - National Economic Development Week - May 7th - 13th

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for National Economic Development Week - May 7th - 13th.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS:

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to remove consent agenda item from the table - Civil Service Board - Tulane Re-Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru and Wright absent.

Civil Service Board (Tabled 4-11-17) - Tulane Re-Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder; Approval of Minutes - April 11th, 2017, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Fair Fun Run - Saturday, 4-29-17 beginning 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R17-14 through R17-20); Natalie Robottom - Civil Service Board - Employee Member Appointment - Donald Brown

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Civil Service Board (Tabled 4-11-17) - Tulane Re-Appointment of Lisa Tregre-Wilder; Approval of Minutes - April 11th, 2017, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Fair Fun Run - Saturday, 4-29-17 beginning 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R17-14 through R17-20); Natalie Robottom - Civil Service Board - Employee Member Appointment - Donald Brown. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru and Wright absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

17-03 (Tabled 02/21/17 until 05/09/17) An ordinance amending the text of Chapter 109 - Natural Resource and Environmental Preservation and Protection, Article II. - Coastal Zone Management with the intent of the adoption of the St. John the Baptist Parish Coastal Management Plan (CMP) and the establishment of a local coastal management program in accordance with The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) and The Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978 (SLCRMA) as amended and in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:214.21-214.42 and the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 43, Natural Resources, Part 1, Office of the Secretary, Subpart 1, Chapter 7, Coastal Management (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Madere stated, "At this time I'd like to ask that the council to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru and Perrilloux absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - Resolution - R17-08 - (Tabled 3/28/17) A Resolution dedicating a portion of New US Highway 51 from US Highway 61 to the I-55 interchange to "Veterans Memorial Highway" in memory of our Veterans

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to remove Resolution R17-08 from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru and Perrilloux absent.

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think based on the last conversation we were in full support of the resolution, but it was my understanding that legal counsel needed to review some of the wording and if you guys are ready to move forward we definitely support the resolution."

Councilman Wright stated, "Yes to apologize I wasn't at the last meeting, but there was a little bit of a language that we just had to change from renaming to dedicated, and that is cleared up so we're ready to move forward."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-08. A resolution dedicating a portion of New US Highway 51 from US Highway 61 to the I-55 interchange to "Veterans Memorial Highway" in memory of our Veterans. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-21 - A Resolution to adopt the "Cambridge Subdivision - St. John the Baptist Parish Repetitive Loss Area Analysis" (RLAA)

Natalie Robottom stated, "Adoption of this resolution adopts the analysis that was completed on the Cambridge area for homes that were repetitively flooded. It was completed in partnership with UNO through our Planning and Zoning Department. Approval of this document also enhances our future grant application ability for infrastructure and flood mitigation efforts, including drainage improvements. Administration recommends approval and this will tie into our next resolution as well."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-21. A resolution to adopt the "Cambridge Subdivision - St. John the Baptist Parish Repetitive Loss Area Analysis" (RLAA). The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-22 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to prepare and submit a pre-application to the Statewide Flood Control Program

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes this resolution is somewhat of a result of our

attendance, I think at the Police Jury meeting, where we listened to DOT speak about a program that we weren't familiar with, which was a State flood control program. As a result of that we had an opportunity pursue some of that funding, the adoption of this resolution in this case is a requirement for submission of a pre-application for state funding for drainage improvements in Cambridge. As you all are aware, we do have a bond issue project in design for Vicknair Canal, the cost somewhat exceeded the funds available, this will give us an opportunity to add to that project. The project area was identified as having high instances of repetitive loss as per the RLAA which was referenced above. The proposed project would add two pumps and a mechanical bar screen to the Vicknair Pump Station, which is currently under design. The pre-application will begin the process of seeking funds to reduce the existing flood damages, provide necessary documentation of flood damages and other related information that's required. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ms. Robottom, what does this mean to me in layman terms?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We were informed about a new program, obviously we have accessed quite a few programs. This was one we did not have access to because we were not familiar with it. As a result we got with Mr. Rob DeLaune who represents in pursuing in grants, and he's working on an application with utilizing some data that we actually accumulated based on your area and the flood losses there, because we actually will have a document that supports what we're applying for. We think that gives us a leg up, so we're attempting to get some additional dollars to go with an existing project that's under design."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes so we're just be a little proactive back there now."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Absolutely."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good. People in Cambridge will appreciate that."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-22. A resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to prepare and submit a pre-application to the Statewide Flood Control Program. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to amend the agenda to move up Executive Session item - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Murray Architects, Inc. perspective litigation. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Murray Architects, Inc. perspective litigation and St. John the Baptist Parish New Government Building Complex change order. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru, Becnel and Councilwoman Pannu absent.

Councilman Snyder asked, "Did we get anything to come out of executive session?" Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Chairman Snyder. I'd like over a motion at this time as a result of executive session, that we approve Change Order #002, as

it relates to the Eastbank Governmental Complex contingent upon final approval from parish administration not to exceed 10 days."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion as a result of executive session to approve Change Order #002, as it relates to the Eastbank Governmental Complex contingent upon final approval from the parish administration not to exceed 10 days. The motion passed Councilman Sorapuru, Becnel and Councilwoman Pannu absent.

Councilman Snyder stated, "And for the record, no action was taken, no vote was taken after coming out of executive session."

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

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

The above item will remain tabled until the 06/27/17 council meeting.

Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - (Carry Over 4-11-17) Update on repairs of Tom Daley Park and clarification of motion

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I apologize, I was unable to attend the last meeting. I have visited the Tom Daley Park and I will say I'm pleased, most of the items that we brought up have been remedied. The second part of my agenda item was clarification of the motion because in the motion I asked to receive a monthly report from the Recreation Director on the maintenance of the parks. And what was delivered to my office was about 1,000 sheets of just maintenance sheets. And I wanted to clarify that the motion was for a report on the maintenance of all of the parks. And Jackie if you could forward to administration a copy of the motion again, I have still not received the report from the department, it's been a month. But a 1,000 sheets of daily log sheets that was not acceptable. I'm not going to go through all of that and the few that I did go through, the items couldn't have been checked or they wouldn't have been in the condition that they were in. So I would just like to ask again Jackie, send that over and I would like to get the report. The motion was that we get a monthly report, we have not received one. But Mr. Bigham, I know you're here to talk about the item, but again like I said; most of the items that I saw at 51 park they have been remedied. So I do appreciate that, as some of the items were safety concerns. Thank you."

Lamont Bigham stated, "Most of the concerns identified at the March 25th Council meeting have been addressed, while others are ongoing. Several trash receptacles have been replaced and plans are underway to replace others at all parks over the next year with a mesh-type receptacle. The new fence for the Dog Park was completed and the park was treated for ants and fleas. The metal wire and poles were removed and Public Works is working with the Recreation Director to develop an alternate system to prevent vehicles from driving across the park and walking paths. A work order has been submitted to Public Works for several of the walking path panels and a repair schedule will be forthcoming. Some of the same items are being addressed at all of the parks and will be included in the monthly report as requested."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And you know with the report, and you and you can pass that along to the department, I'm not looking for you know 5 pages, just whenever you go to the park and you see all of those items that you know need to be repaired/replaced, if we could get something monthly to just say: Hey this is

what we identified at the parks, this is you know but we're taking care of it, so it's not so alarming when we get a call from a resident and we go out there and we see it with our own eyes and you know there's no work orders that are being worked on, those types of things. So just keeping us posted to what is going on with the parks. At any given time you may not have any repairs that need to be done. So it would just be that, you know Tom Daley Park or Greenwood or whatever park that it is, everything is up to date and in good condition, those types of things. And so we know before we get a call, if we do get a call, we could reference the report and say; Oh, yes I do see it, Tom Daley Park they have some cracked panels, it's on the list to be repaired. And it would be easier for us to handle it that way, instead of reactionary if you will."

Councilman Madere stated, "I heard you reference a new fence for the Dog Park? What happened to the old fence?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can address that. The initial fence, it was a large dog park because some of the smaller dogs were getting out and mixing with the larger dogs, so we just confined a smaller area for smaller dogs, so it's still within the same vicinity, but rather than having to make..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "A fence within a fence."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right, a fence within a fence to kind of separate the larger from the smaller dogs."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, one other thing to I noticed about that fence when they installed it. Who cut that grass at that park? Do we cut it or a contractor?"

Lamont Bigham stated, "Contractor."

Councilman Madere asked, "A contractor?"

Lamont Bigham stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I noticed on the backside away from the parking area, on the backside of that fence, that fence was hit by someone cutting grass with a tractor and damaged that fence back there, I noticed that. We need to make sure that we hold those grass cutters responsible for those fence, because I know they're swinging those tractors around, and hit the fence and then just ride off into the sunset. Because that fence was just put there recently and you see I usually go walk there sometime and when I took that trip around there, that fence had not been installed there for a very long time but it had been hit. And usually hit by those back part of those tractors that they use or whatever they use. Because if we have a dog that bit that iron fence and bent it like that, we have a problem."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And we'll check on that because probably there's a couple a things, probably the contractor is cutting grass but probably our folks who are cutting the servitude. So give us a little opportunity to..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Someone bent that fence back there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Somebody did something to the fence and of course we have cameras so we'll be able to..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay next thing too, when we talked about this I know it was brought up concerning that particular park, but I think we touched on all the parks. The maintenance on all those different parks and everything.

Natalie Robottom stated, "Absolutely, that's in this item."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I know one thing I've been asking for a long time, in that Belle Pointe Park is to have that graffiti removed from the inside of that park. I'm tired looking at cave man, whatever his name is on that area at the top up there. We need to make sure we remove and get that off of there, because that doesn't look good. And I do want to thank you all, yawl installed those rubber mats underneath the swings that is the best thing because those rubber chips is not the answer. The rubber mats are the answer to all those situations. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One more thing while I have you. In the Dog Park if they can check the locks, it seems like there's only access if you're inside the Dog Park to get out you have to reach inside the gate, just make sure there's a way to get out and they're pretty high, so like when I was in there I had to ask somebody come lift it for me because I couldn't reach it. I would of probably still be there, but if we can have the locks on both sides. And also with the fence and it really should have been installed this way. The other Dog Parks they don't use the fence that we have you, use the fence like they came put in the center for the small dogs, where it's small at the bottom. That should have been the original fence all the way around, because now what they've done they created that divider and then they put that mesh, chicken wire I call it, chicken wire at the bottom and then they just tied it with a twist tie. So we need to get back to the contractor, I hope that's not what we approved them to do, but that just tying that chicken wire to the bottom of the fence with those twist ties, it's not really going to prevent the small dogs from compromising that chicken wire. Yeah ok."

Lamont Bigham stated, "Okay."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Of course I have something to say here, Ms. Hotard I did read some of those reports also, and I started laughing as I got half way through them. Actually the reports were on things like for instance, I don't know you know was the swing sets still there, things like that you know, of course they're going to be there for years you know. But it had nothing to look at the grass cutting, or the edging, or the cement and the area where you have to improve at, what we did to change some of those things, there was nothing. I mean and I looked at about a hundred of those things. Like you said, they had about a thousand of them in there and I read a bunch and they didn't have anything to say; I found this and this is what I did. None of them and I just couldn't understand that part of it. I took a walk in Cambridge Park the other day and I just want to let you know, whoever cutting the grass over there they're doing a bad job. Because they're about, in some areas they're about five feet from the fence because the trees hanging over, and in some areas they're two feet, but there was a lot of grass between the fence and nobody cutting there. They're just not cutting up to our property line. Now I know about 3 years ago I put in for a fence back there, I don't like what I saw back there. Someone is going through that park at night and whether they're going to some things over there back there in that area way over there, they don't have any business, I don't know. But I can see some footprints going through our park, into those bushes back there and that's what I was afraid of. Ladies out there walking at night and some girls walking out there at night and that grass right there, you know they have

alligators back there, alligator might grab someone and I think that was about 3 years ago I said the same thing about alligators you know and that we need to do something about that. Especially that grass and those ants in Cambridge Park, grass and ants in Cambridge Park."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One thing really quick that you touched on that. When I did receive those inspection sheets I did email administration to tell them that kind of the same thing, if these are the inspection sheets that we're using and everything is checked off that it's ok, then we need to probably amend those sheets, because if they would have all of the items checked on there, we would have noticed the items that were in deficiency. So I did send that in my email to administration that the sheets need to be updated or something because you know weren't sufficient at this time."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes two other things. Also heard you reference about putting some type of petition to keep individuals from parking on the park itself on the grass. Okay, are you planning on doing the same thing in Belle Pointe?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "All the parks."

Councilman Madere stated, "All the parks, right. Ok, I just wanted to make sure because I remember it was about a year ago, I had to call the Sheriff Department because they had about 6 vehicles parked on the basketball court on one side, while one side was playing they kept the other side like they applied for a parking area and messed up the ground. So we want to make sure all the parks are protected from vehicles going on those grounds. And one other thing to, I talked to Mr. Watkins concerning the restroom at Belle Pointe Park, he called and told me they had an issue, okay have yawl resolved that issue?"

Lamont Bigham asked, "At Belle Pointe Park?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes about the kids in the morning going in the park, and using the restroom for other things than the restroom, okay and it was in the morning just before school and in the afternoon. Did yawl resolve that or come to a solution on that?"

Lamont Bigham stated, "I'm not sure, but that's definitely something I can pass to him."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And it's a problem. We had it at one of the other parks across the river, so keep in mind we're trying to find the balance. We wanted to keep them unlocked, so that people will have access. But when they start doing things after hours in the dark then we try to lock them. I don't know what the answer to that is other than you know we discourage people from doing things that would cause us to lock them, because they're there because we want people to have access to them, and the vandalization typically takes place you know in the afternoons, but we did have that situation and we were actually called about a park and asked to lock it because you know there were things going on into it. So please let us know if there's specific parks that you're seeing this, we'll get with the Sheriff's Office to maybe get some additional patrols, obviously we'll need to check out cameras that were put in there, but you know we would like to leave them unlocked, so that whenever people are there they will have access to them. That's why we put them there."

Councilman Madere stated, "That's what I was getting ready to say, we have cameras."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good, the ones in Cambridge are very clean. Very, very clean and we have a lot of kids out there. And I went through one last week, and it was immaculate actually the restroom and I was proud of that."

Jaclyn Hotard - (Carry Over 4-11-17) Update on abandoned house on Madewood Drive

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We can go ahead and remove that item from the agenda."

Lennix Madere - Drainage in District III

Brian Nunes stated, "Good evening Mr. Madere and Council Members, I'm going to read what we have on the admin report, but I also have the Design Engineer here to answer any specific questions."

Councilman Madere stated, "One thing I'd like is for yawl to update the council on the process that you tried with the railroad cleaning out that box, and what the results were and what's the next step, because we didn't get the desired results we were looking for."

Brian Nunes stated, "Actually we didn't. I did meet out there with the contractor and with the railroad and you were out there as well, we just had too much water there at the time, so while we were cleaning everything, it was just flowing right back in, so our next solution what we're going to do is dam up the entire thing, pump it down and then get the contractor to clean it when it's all dry, that'll get everything cleaned out. I just need to coordinate with the railroad again, because their representative has to be there for us to do any of that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I just have to say one thing, the railroad guy was there on time. I think we mentioned at the meeting he was supposed to be there for 8 o'clock or 7 o'clock and he was there on time when I arrived on time it was the other part that didn't keep up. They didn't arrive till 9:30, so they didn't actually start doing something till 10 o'clock. So we have to do better coordinating as far as the time schedules, people being by the railroad myself or anyone else, have to coordinate to be there on time. The next thing is, I think a young man stopped and spoke to you concerning some concerns he had, he his property surveyed and the contractor moved the stakes and everything, and it was not placed back in the proper location. I think we had this conversation one time before, whenever we're doing this work by someone's driveway and it has to be exactly the same way, put back the same way. The mailbox have to be put back in the same location, any sticks or markers that were picked up have to be placed back in the same place. This guy at the time, I don't know if you remember, he said he paid \$3,000 to have his land surveyed and now all the markers are gone. And then 2 days later I received a phone call from another young lady who has the same complaints. Ok, we're supposed to be improving certain areas and with the drainage but we don't go and alter the landscape. Okay, we cannot alter the landscape that was already there, and he also mentioned to you that his mailbox was placed in the wrong place, now the mailwoman, when she pulls over to put the mail in she's actually tracking on his lawn now so his mailbox is not in the proper location. And also, we have another lady on 26th Street who called me yesterday, and she said when it rains now, and that's an area where we did the drainage, she had water sitting in her driveway and she never had that before. So the only thing that I'm saying is; we're improving, okay if we're going to improve than we're going to improve. We can't improve and then all of a sudden create a problem somewhere else on someone else driveway or move someone markers or mailbox. So that's my concern right now and how quick are we going to take the

action on these items? Because these individuals are calling me, they have the right to be concerned and they have the right to call me and I have the right to bring this to your attention, this has to be taken care of."

Brian Nunes stated, "No you're right I agree. The stakes we have talked about, I'm just waiting because the contractor was advised to video everything he did before he did it. Before he moved the mailbox or a driveway or anything, he should have video up and down both sides of those. So I just need to check his videos and make sure that everything matches the way it was supposed to be. Now that new driveway, this the first I'm hearing of it, I can't fix that one just yet."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah my only thing is I understand about the videos, but they have to make sure you know they should have used some type of, you can't tell everything from a video, as far as location you know."

Brian Nunes stated, "The stakes being there or not being there we can obviously tell that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well the stakes were there, I definitely believe the guy he have no reason to lie. I've been knowing this guy for a long time, he has no reason to lie about that. So I totally believe what he said, that he had, in fact that home had just recently been there, that house hadn't been back there 5 years. Ok it's a very nice home and very respectable man, he said his land was surveyed marked, I have no reason to doubt that. Okay so my thing is, we have to make sure that it's right, ok? I represent them and I will represent them, if he say it's wrong, it's wrong. His mailbox is in the wrong place, it's in the wrong place. We have to make sure they're happy, because they're the one that live back there."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree with you 100%, that's also why we do a substantial completion inspection, we don't let anything go unnoticed. We will not close this project until everything is the way it's supposed to be."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh I know we won't I won't vote for it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "On 26th Street Mr. Nunes, the last two houses back there, I was back there today and yesterday, my niece lives in the last house the one next to them. We need to do something with the sod that we put down there, it needs be leveled off a little bit and kind of slanted because it could be holding water, it could be the same people talked to him I don't know. But they're holding water back there, water not getting to the drain you know, and the drainage is lower but water just not getting to it. The last two houses back there where they have the problems at, especially the second one from Perrilloux. My niece lives in that last one, the one next to them is the old lady that stay there. The water is sitting in the yard now and it's not getting over their driveway to the drain toward the north."

Brian Nunes asked, "On 26th?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah, yeah. So if you'll can look at that and kind of straighten that up a little bit for them that would be great."

Councilman Madere stated, "And two other things. Right these addresses down so you can talk to those individuals. 352 and 358 on East 24th Street, those are the one that have the complaint. So you need to talk to them and not to me, because

you know you have to make them happy. They happy, I'm happy and everyone happy. Okay now one other thing concerning that, let's see we had drainage and it was something else that was brought to my attention, if not I'll get to you in the hallway cause it's going to come back to me, it was something else. Ok something else."

Lennix Madere - Parish water meters - update on moving forward

Ross Gonzales stated, "Good evening Council."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Yawl just want to report to us what you have."

Natalie Robottom stated, "First we want to find out what it is, because we had a misunderstanding about what this item was about."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well, you should have called me. You should have called me if you had a misunderstanding about it. Well let me clear it up for you. Right now, we all been getting a lot of phone calls about the water bills, water meters. The bills are in relationship of the problem with the meters, we can't separate the two, okay? Ok in no way you can separate the two. The water meters caused the problems with the water bills and everything and all the complaints that we all have been getting. I received at least five complaints last week, all related to the water bills and the water meters. This is connected until we straighten it. Okay, my question is tonight is: how far are we along at selecting a particular meter? Are we going to fix the ones that we have or are we going to rip them out and put new ones, or what are we going to do? Okay, I don't see any, really progress, because I'm still getting great tremendous amount of phone calls."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can answer that if that's not obviously you have a different issue. I think what we suggested to you this was a \$6 Million dollar project, that led us going into a, I think we met with some of the council members into doing the Utility Study, to see: 1) Can we gain some efficiencies by in operations can we cut cost, can we gain efficiencies? What/how much are we generating? How much we need to generate to do projects? Where available funding would be so that's why we moved toward this utility study, because we think it's greater than just fixing meters. We have to improve the entire situation. I know that you're suggesting that a lot of it is meters, but we also have some personnel issues that we are dealing with as well, it's not just the meters, it is some of our workforce and they will be dealt with accordingly, so it's a combination of things that we're dealing with, but right now the funds are not in place for this \$6 Million dollar replacement, we are working with some of our neighboring parishes on some of the techniques they're using, they are continued to be tasked with trying to utilize what was recommended, which was the estimating system, but also going and doing some of the individual meter reading themselves, but until we identify a funding source, which is not available to us right now. I think the technology is there, that will cut down on a lot of problems, however the expense to change it all out at one time was significant 10 years ago and it's going to be significant to replace them all."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I totally understand everything you just said and don't disagree, okay it's all about money. We need money to really solve the problem. But my issue has always been from day one until now, till we straighten it out. This is not a burden on the citizens, it's a burden and a problem that was caused by these meters, by these meters. We have to find a solution that relieve the burden off the citizens. And we haven't come up with that solution,

because they're still receiving these large bills. And the ones that it really bothers the most are the ones who are really elderly that's on fixed incomes. And we still have not...

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I'll let Curtis address that. I don't have any information on that."

Councilman Madere stated, "And we still have not been able to come to something that really solve this problem because we've been dealing with this for a long time. Now we need to find a solution as a council, how do we solve this problem with these people constantly calling, worrying about their bills? Okay, to me it's a problem, it's an internal problem and like you said; if some is the meter and some are the workers. That's all internal. So as a citizen, elderly or young, they should not have to be burden with our problem. Okay and right now by the bills being high, late or whatever, threatening to cut them off and all kind of stuff, we need to find a solution to that. And my solution from day one was averaging the bills, 12 months, 6 months. Okay if I've been paying \$50.00 a month all my life, then I should still be paying \$50.00 till you finish this, till we get this straight and then all the phone calls would stop. If everyone is paying their average bill they normally get. No one would be mad with the average. The over average is a problem, that should have been addressed from day one and now we are almost a year, and we're still having the same calls and everything. We need to find a solution for the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm just going to interject here for a little bit. There was some people went home tonight and I asked them, we're not going to discuss water bills, because this thing said water meters and that's what I thought it was, just some water meters. And I think we ought to stick to that topic and not get into the water bill thing. Mr. Madere I understand where you're coming from, I'm passionate about that also, but we did tell people earlier in the meeting that we wasn't discussing bills we're discussing water meters. And that's what I thought it was you know, so."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and that is what the agenda says, not that we don't want to discuss that with the residents because I get the calls as well. It almost seems like it's shifting a little bit, if you're receiving more calls now, the calls that I've received have slacked off a little bit, so I don't know if we're having troubles in another billing cycle, you know billing location. My question here and we talked about this when we had the meeting, if we have a register problem and we have a meter problem, do we fix that problem by investing \$6 Million in more meters and more registers? That's my concern. Are we set up financially where we can continuously replace and repair an automated system or are we in such a financial position, the parish itself that this doesn't benefit us? That we do need to have a manual read and we've asked that at council meetings, I know I have several times. And that's what I want to know from administration. Can we afford, St. John the Baptist Parish afford to continuously sustain a system that has automated readings with these registers and batteries that we know are going to break, we know they're going to fail, and we have to replace it when we never just have \$6 Million that we're sitting on. Not like St. Charles Parish or some of the bigger parishes, we just don't. So that would be my concern even if we had a blank check for \$6 Million, do we get more registers and meters and then 10 years down the line when it's a whole new group in here, it's affecting our residents and as it ever is as now. That's what I want to know because we have to make the decision on which direction we're going to go, I want to have that information."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And just to add to that, you're correct that's why we're doing the study. We need to know what is our capacity and you know that'll guide us in what we can and can't do. Because we need to consider capital projects, maintenance projects, things that we, unless we pass a bond issue, we have no money to take care of the basic things that other people do in their systems. That's why we need a comprehensive look at you know, what's been done, you know what does it need to be to be able to include some regular maintenance, some upgrades in capital projects, that we're not depending on just bond issues or grant dollars to do whatever we need to do and many times the time span between getting that, we end up with you know a much bigger problem because we don't have the money. So hopefully this process will lead to a, I guess some of the realizations that some of our neighbors have done, you know we got a copy of this being done in other parishes, they used the data to guide them in the direction they needed to go with their utility system, so that's kind of what's guiding the request."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Let me ask this. How much longer will it take to have something back on the utility study?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think you guys did this before Ross..."

Ross Gonzales stated, "I think about 4 months, it's been 4 months."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok. And it's going to also identify areas in the utility system where we have a little bit of waste? You know whether it's consolidating systems and things like that, so we can have a complete picture."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Wright stated, "Actually I'm glad you touched on that Ms. Hotard, and to add to what you said Ms. Robottom, part of that study to was to look to see if we could cut cost and if there was a revenue stream we could create to possibly bond out to be able to replace the system with something like this. So I just wanted to add on to what you were talking about."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, well everybody know how I feel about studies. Studies is a waste of money. Okay that could be applied to what we're going to do, we have people in place that should be able to make a suggestion, this is the best way to go and this is the best system, bring it to the council and let's move forward. I don't like studies, you understand me, studies to, you do too much studying you waste a whole lot of money. That's how I feel about studies. Now, if we get this water meter, these water meters, let's just say we select one, one that's going to last maybe 50 years or whatever, okay that's going to improve the building and everything else, right? And solve the problem with billing? Right?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'm sorry, say that again."

Councilman Madere stated, "I said if we get, let's just say we have the money and we get a whole new set of meters in there that should resolve the problem that the individual are having with billing, with their billing problem?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "With the spiked bills, that's the typical..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "With the spiked bills. Right! Not necessarily saying their bill is going to be low. Just saying it's connected to the/with the bills. Right? Everybody agree with that? Okay, that's why we talked about bills with the meters tonight. They are connected forever, okay? The problems we are having affect the bills, the solution will affect the bill. So I don't care what's on that agenda, they're all one and the same."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I just want to say basically what I've been doing with my District, my constituents and basically it comes out to communications. I finally made them realize that even if they get a spiked bill just pay your average every month, basically what you've been averaging and the biggest fear to them was the word DISCONNECT, and I think I've got it across that you will not be DISCONNECTED. Pay what you normally pay and some of them they would tell me; okay councilman you told me to pay what I averaged but it came back higher. And I said; just keep paying what you average. And right now I think it's working out pretty good in my district. I just wanted to say that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ms. Remondet. We're not talking a bills, we're talking about meters."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I was just going to agree with Jaclyn, I find my calls have been less so I don't know if they've found the issues with the meters in my area or they've got that under control. But it has been drifting from one end to the other, but I'm not having as many issues. But as far as the study, we have a new Manager in the Utility Billing, so he's coming up looking at it from a different light. Mr. Gonzales was not in St. John with the last study, so I think a study is a good idea, he has ideas from another area so a study would only give us a different look than we've had in the past."

Lennix Madere - Metro - Issues in reference to second collection garbage pick-up

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes, Mr. Perrilloux had spoken about this I think several meetings ago and I know he said he had, someone had some trash I think fence poles that was left out there for a couple of weeks. Okay I have some pictures and my concern with, my concern is not with Metro my concern is actually with this council and the contract that we approved. That says that they can only pick up 200 cubic yards of trash on any particular? Two! Right, that's well two. Okay whatever it is it's not enough, it's not enough. Okay and then they have to wait they have to wait to the following week to go back to that particular pile. That's a problem, because at the end of the day we still pay them to pick up the whole pile. So why do we pick up a half of pile on this week and you can't come back until the following week to pick up the rest? Which absolutely make no sense at all, no sense at all. If I'm going to pick up a pile as big as this that side the wall over there and I'm going to pick up one section Monday, wait the next week pick up the next section, then wait the next week and come pick up the next section, they can take a whole month to pick up something the size of this building right here, one side to the other where he can get that in one day. And we still pay for it, but it still sit there for 4 weeks, that does not make any sense. And some of the pictures I have right here, I'm going to pass around to some of the council people, he's got the name on it. Okay but what my thing is, when they go to pick up a pile they should remove the pile totally and not have to come back 2 or 3 weeks to that same location. Okay that makes absolutely no sense and it's not Metro it's in the contract that we approved. Okay I keep hearing that commercial in my head, Pay Me Now or Pay Me Later, we still have to pay them. So we need to make sure they pick it up at that particular time and not wait 3 weeks to pick up a pile in front of someone's home. Okay that's the

problem. Okay you can pass these pictures around and you can give them to administration to look at. That's the adjustment we have to make."

Councilwoman Pannu asked, "Just for my knowledge, what was Progressive doing? I know I was not here at that time, but did Progressive have the same contract that they only pick up 2 cubic feet? But we never had a problem with the picking up whatever was left over."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right, it's the same contract. It's the same specifications that were in every garbage contract, and you know there are alternatives, I'm not sure cause Mr. Madere didn't necessarily address this with us with exactly what he's talking about, cause I think Mr. Perrilloux brought this up once before in terms of what the second pick up was for, that we actually have a recycle yard in the rear of the building, that if you have a larger amount of debris you can deliver it here. If you're doing construction or reconstruction, you are required by law, by ordinance to provide your own dumpster, so you know part of your regular household garbage collection is not for construction debris, so that's not what's included in our contract. Now on occasion there is a section in the contract that allows for promiscuous disposal, so if there are hazardous piles or for safety reasons we send out someone to pick that up, they will pick that up they will bill us, but they will pick it up, which is not part of the twice a week payment that people pay for garbage services which also includes the grappler truck. So we'd be happy to meet with you Mr. Madere to find out exactly what your concerns are, I can tell you Metro picks up outside if the two pick-up collections, but they do is when we assign them to something, they take pictures, they send them to us, they bill us and then we have additional landfill cost for that, so depending on what it is they do pick-up. But just know there's a difference in construction debris versus your household garbage which is what our contract is for."

Councilman Madere stated, "All those pictures there are not contractor's debris. All those debris is from individual homes, it's not a contractor that did work as those pictures indicate. These are things that we're supposed to pick-up like maybe..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I don't know I didn't see."

Councilman Madere stated, "Maybe, I'm going to pass the pictures around to you. See that's not construction debris, that's debris that someone had from their home that we supposed to pick up like washing machines, mattresses and stuff like that. Okay because..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And I'm surprised and again that's an offline conversation. I was behind a truck picking up mattresses off of Belle Terre, so I know they pick them up. I'm not sure if you know I was actually you know steered around the truck with lights picking up those kinds of things up."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right you'll be able to see some of the pictures of one particular item was, right before the Easter holiday, I went in Park Place and they had as soon as you turn the corner right by the corner house, they had a lot of debris that should have been picked up by Metro, so I called Metro at the time and they said they had been there and picked up the amount that they were allowed to pick up, and they would not be able to come back until the following week."

Natalie Robottom asked, "So is this evict, what is this? That's an offline

conversation, this is not your typical this is not our typical household garbage collection."

Councilman Madere stated, *"But it is in our contract."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"It is, so we can have that conversation."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"It's in our contract, okay that's why we have 2 collection days, but that's something that has to be picked up."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Good, I think a lot of our constituents..."*

Natalie Robottom asked, *"Did you have more, do you need this back or is this our copy?"*

Councilman Madere stated, *"No you can keep them I've already seen them."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I just didn't know if somebody else needed them."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"No."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"A lot of people will be happy with that, because I've seen some of the same stuff out there, they just seem like they don't get to it as quick as they can, they say on the second and things like refrigerators and mattresses and furniture stays out there too long, much too long."*

Councilman Madere stated *"Last comment. My whole thing about this is when they start picking up a pile, they should not have to wait until the following week, that's what I'm concerned about. I'm not concerned about exactly what's in that pile, okay because in those pictures those are things that we're supposed to pick up, so my concern is when we start picking the things up on that particular pile that we're supposed to pick up, that we finish it that day and not have to come back a week from now, that's my concern, okay that's my concern. I want it picked up, if he's picking up Monday, you start picking it up on Monday, I don't expect to see half of it stay there a week until the following Monday, you start picking it up on Monday you clean that whole area out then go to the next one. Okay, that's my concern."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Just a quick question. If the contract says, and yawl may have brought this up, I'm sorry I had to step out for a moment. If it says 2 cubic yards, contractually for them to pick up more we have to amend the contract, right?"*

Councilman Madere stated *"And that's next."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"That's next, ok!"*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"And we do have to pay for each time they dump."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Right, that's correct. And again we'll get with, I think I'm not sure if Keith is still here but I know he helped us with this contract document. So we're going to actually meet with him and go over and see what exactly what that requirement is. And you know obviously you know we can have a conversation with the contractor on what additional cost would be for them to pick up more than what they agreed to in that contract and see where that brings us."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Because another issue that comes up and I get this often times, not often but I used to get it often in my area where I would get a phone call and it'll be a big pile and it was a landlord who effected a tenant. Well you're running a commercial business, it cost all of the taxpayers more money, because we have hauling and the disposal is where you get charged because they weigh it at River Birch. And you know so all the taxpayers are kind of sharing in the cost of businesses running a business. And many of the calls that I got when it was bulky waste and those type of things and I'd go out and look and it was clearly either contractor or again a tenant who had evicted, I mean a landlord who had evicted a tenant. So I definitely don't want to get into that situation, but I agree with you if it is someone who is remodeling their bathroom, they're cleaning out their garage, those types of things. We don't to have it sitting out there, but understanding it's not only something that we would have to amend the contract, understanding that it would increase the cost of what we're disposing of at the landfill as well and we pay the landfill we pay the fees to the landfill."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand exactly what you just said. We have nothing in place to determine if someone actually lives there and cleans out their garage or landlord kicks someone out. Because the furniture or whatever it is, is just out there to the road. We don't have any way of determining is it someone like myself, moving there cleaning out the garage or someone next door renting a house out and kicks someone out and put the same type of debris out there. We don't have any way of determining that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Well when I got the calls, I knew it was a landlord. Once they called me I knew who it was..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Yeah you knew, yeah you knew. But we don't have any way of knowing all the time exactly where the trash is from. My concern is just what I said, is when we start picking it up, that we pick that whole pile up and not have it sitting a week then come finish it. Because at the end of the day the amount that you pay, ought to be the same. Basically you have to bring it to River Birch don't you? You said they pay by how much it weighs, right?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "It's not the same because if someone puts a load of garbage out at the road, that is really a contractor, 18 yards of debris versus what the contract is allowing 2 yards, the cost they weigh it at River Birch per yard, so we could actually be absorbing the cost of those additional 16 yards that's assuming one dump truck load. So we're assuming additional cost for those residents when it could potentially be a contractor should have hauled it away or a landlord or those types of things. So it is going to cost you more and it's going to cost you more for the person who's actually having to remove it and the dispose of it, you pay twice. Well you have two charges billed into it. "

Councilman Madere stated, "Well look, let me just let me just say this. Saturday we have what we call Clean Sweep okay, so I want the garbage truck to clean sweep when they go pick up something..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "We just got to be prepared to pay for it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay but that's it, okay but we're going to clean sweep, okay but we're not going to have clean. Okay we have Clean Sweep coming up

this weekend, we're talking about clean sweep, how do we have a clean sweep if I have a load of garbage that, I'm a legal citizen paid and I have this trash sitting out here and I put it out here on the legal day that they supposed to pick it up and the guy comes and take half of it and the other half sitting there. And it just sit there for an entire week, how is that clean sweep? Okay I just want them when they go to pick up garbage on that day and it's the right kind of garbage that's supposed to be picked up at that location, pick it all up. That's my point pick it all up."

Councilman Snyder stated, "One speak at a time. Mr. Madere you got your point over you got your point over."

Councilman Madere stated, "That's my issue. I don't think we got it over because we're still talking."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And the thing about it is, this is what I want to know. Is he supposed to pick up just 3 cubic yards, 2 cubic yards at one time? That's it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That's correct."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok. That's it. So we need to do something with the contract? We need to look at the contract?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Right that's the answer."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We need to do something to the contract, we need to look at the contract."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Amend the contract."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right, and I think that's what I suggested we got with Mr. Green who helped us draft it..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "We just need to look at the contract that's all."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And there's another component that we need to look at that I don't think we picked up on. The garbage trucks are on a route, so they've scheduled their routes for picking up household garbage on these days, so if they're picking up more at each stop then it's taking them longer to go back and forth to the landfill dumping it because they're filling up quicker than if they went through just picking up household garbage. Again, there's some very specific language in the contract, we'll get with Mr. Green and Mr. Michel and possibly meet with the contractors. You know obviously they do this all over so they will have some ideas on recommendations on how to deal with this, what those additional cost would be and how we would have to go about making those changes."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Councilman Madere I'm agreeing with you, I'm just stating that until we amend the contract to allow for more pick up, we can't require a contractor to do something they're not contractually allowed to do. So I'm agreeing, I do want to get it up off of the road, we need to make the adjustments."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We're going to look at the contract, I think our Parish President got that and our lawyers understand that. Let's move on here."

Larry Snyder - RFP and RFQ processes - discussion and changes

Councilman Snyder stated, "The only reason why I put that on there was because of an issue we had with RFP's went out and it seems as if the engineering group that they RFP was the first on the list and I think some of the councilmen approached me and said; how could that be whereas an engineer had the job before we approved the engineer for that job? And I think that was a legitimate question and that has something to do with the RFP and the RFQ process. And so if the parish wants to defend that somehow with what you have written down here that's fine, you can just read it or if you want to adlib that's fine to. But we just need to know how that happened."

Natalie Robottom stated, "In all honesty that's a best practice process is to find it in federal law in your policy and state law. The firm did not have the contract, they were the recommended contractor and the funding entity approved the process and the recommendation that was made because they were the funding entity. Now I know there's been several conversations and you know we can just cut to the chase, if this council does not want to accept the grant funds for this project, you are well within your rights. But if you accept those grant funds you have to follow the process of the funder. And I know you guys have spoken and so have we to the entity and again, when we're accepting federal or state dollars that require a certain process like our CDBG, our LCDGB, which is why there are policies that were adopted and were required to be adopted, once we receive these large sums of money because that is what they require. But you are not obligated to follow that process for this project if you want to continue with it and not use the federal dollar. That's as clear as I can put it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I think we all understand that, but is that when we put in for the money, we put an engineering group name in there and we got the money in contingence upon that engineering group before we approved them for the project because they were, they came out number one in the rating."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Not exactly. These dollars were approved in a grant I think since 2004. It was a million dollar EPA Grant that was awarded to the parish. We did partial projects I think, Julia you may have been here when there was a sugar cane, sugar mill looking to come here, we actually applied for that for a sugar mill. That sugar mill elected to go somewhere else, we still had the million dollar grant, so we broke it up into projects and the reason it's taken so long was we didn't have a violable project it had to be in a low to moderate income area, which is why we proposed a project for the Westbank, was a Waste Water Treatment Plant project. Throughout that process EPA was approving our process, they forwarded us the RFQ document they approved what we put in it they approved the specifications. When we said we were going out for solicitation, they needed proof from us that we actually reached out to DBE's and NBE's. Throughout that process they were emailing requesting information, copies of the advertisement to show that we reached out to try and get other people to participate, so that process ended with a recommendation. But before we could move forward with it, we had to send them the scoring documents, the process, everybody who had applied and from that they agreed; yes we approve your recommendation for this award. We brought that back to you all, and in your case you elected not to approve that, which again is your right. But because the funding entity approved the entire process from the time we got the money till the time we tried to make the award, we were following their requirements. And they were specific to a section of the Federal Procurement Law which is what they gave to us to follow and approve throughout the process. So you know we're

welcome to consider something else if that's what you want, we'll have to go back to the drawing board with those grant dollars and submit another project for approval and go through that process for those dollars. But in terms of the project we think it's a worthy project, we just were counting on using grant funds to pay for it. And we choose not to follow that process, we just have to take another route."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well we can use some of the money, I think it was a \$68,000.00 grant out of what a hundred and something thousand dollars that the engineering group was going, that we had to pay? That would give us 68% of it. I mean \$68,000.00, you know and I understand all of that what you were saying. But you know if we're going to do this and work in harmony with each other, with administration and legislative branch of this government, then I think we need to be sincere in this. Ok? We know that we could still get that grant and it's easy to get. We know that since South Central Planning, all they had to do was to come to us and ask us why? Why you changed that? You see and present that to the EPA. And the EPA, if we give them a good enough reason why we did that, they would reconsider that \$68,000.00 that they said we're not going to get now. But we can get that, but we didn't know this if we had been told. If you're not going to do that you need to write a letter stating why you're doing that to EPA so we can still get this money. We didn't hear this from anyone, we had to call the EPA to get that information."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And they didn't tell that to us. But basically..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Well I feel sorry for the people that got the grant and the letter that they got back from the grant, I mean from the EPA. It states that, it states that in some emphases terms that all we need to is and say why. And they got reasons why, I know why I chose to go with a smaller company, because it was small is one of the reasons why it was smaller and it was a DBE. And they needed and this wasn't really a large project and this is the kind of project you want to kind of help smaller companies with. And that's one of the reasons why I did that, if they wasn't building that building out there, that nine millions dollar building might have been something different. But this was a small project that Mr. Madere could have done you know more or less, he's not an engineer but he could have done it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just want to make sure, we don't lose the money. Okay, that grant money is still there, we may not be able to use it on this project, but we can come up with another project that we follow their processes and..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "We can use it on this project, either the construction part of it, we can go back with a letter on the engineering part of it. That's what it is."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well you guys have a copy of the letter..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "And I talked to Mr. Belanger and we're going to get that letter. I talked to him, he's not here he's in Shreveport somewhere. But we're going to get that letter, we're going to write that letter up and I'm going to ask our law firm over there to help us out with this you see and we're going to get that letter on why, I know why I know the reason why I did it, I'm going to talk to these other people if we want to discuss it right now that's fine. But we voted to do this."

"Yes and I was at that, well it was on a conference call, conversation and it was explained to us that you can simply give a reason in writing as to why you selected this other company. And he told us that they all qualified they all are capable of doing the work. You just need an explanation as to why you prefer this company. And he said there shall be no problem, he said it's been done many, many times before and he said it's no problem. Okay, so that's the bottom line is that, we still have the ability to select from the qualified group and not necessarily always have to go with the number one if you have a reason or an explanation that you can present to them. Okay and that's been the sticking point alright, because I think I mentioned that I don't like being a yes man every time something is presented we just agree to it. We need to see and maybe we have some different ideas or different reasons why we chose another group. Now we know it involves this type of money, all we have to do is give an explanation, a reasonable reason and he pass it on to them and they don't really care because they know that their individuals are qualified, he said they all are qualified."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think we had that discussion last time, they're all qualified firms. We evaluate them based on the specified criteria that's set forth in your RFQ and typically the guideline say you want the firm that's most advantageous to the parish. Typically that's chosen by you know how the solicitations were scored. I've given a copy

Resolution 09-21 was adopted in 2009 as the CDBG and LCDBG Procurement Policy. It is consistent with other state and federal requirements and specifies evaluation factors or selection criteria including the point system to rate the proposals or qualification statements. The procedure outlines the process for reviewing and conducting a technical evaluation to identify the most qualified competitor. Utilization of this criteria and scoring process allows for a fair evaluation and comparison of each proposal or qualification statement. Ordinance 13-20 was adopted by the Council in 2013 requiring Council approval before soliciting RFPs & RFQs so they would be informed before any solicitation. In the current process, the council approves the request prior to moving forward, is provided a list of all proposals submitted, an electronic copy of each proposal and 2 printed copies of each for their review prior to the committee scoring. The recently amended Purchasing and Procurement Policy & Procedures approved by the Council on November 22, 2016 describes procurement methods and establishes standards for procuring professional and Architectural & Engineering ("A&E") services. Although in practice since 2011, the document outlines the process using best practices. A competitive process of procuring professional A/E Services, i.e., RFQ, is required for projects funded by the state and federal government, such as CDBG, HMGP, EPA, DOTD, DEQ and DHH."

Larry Snyder - SCPDC presence and explanation of the grant for West Bank WWTP's Tank Rehabilitation project

Blake Fogleman stated, "Representatives from Digital Engineering and SCPDC will be present to address questions and concerns about the EPA grant process (see attachment)."

Larry Snyder - Work order request process and mechanism for feed back

stated, "Work orders are generated in response to residents,

Council members or staff and/or preventative maintenance schedules. Once work orders are completed, the system is updated and copies provided to Council members by District on a bi-weekly basis."

Larry Snyder - 2017 Budget line item Registrar of Voters - Office appropriations

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good. I put this on here because we had some questions from some of the group here on whether or not the budget for the ROV was correct, was this correct, and is it correct, that's what I need to know. We're having problems with hit of what we're spending in it or what we're doing to remedy the situation."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually, let's see. The proposed budget for the 2017 Budget was begun obviously in June/July it was put together in October or introduced in October before we knew people were leaving. It was based on the current salaries, the line item in that budget was specific to salaries, was based on three specific salaries for the then Registrar, the Deputy, then the special Confidant, which is documented in that's how it's equal to the \$62,000 that was there. Once we realized and received a notice that they would both be gone, we had no idea who would replace them, whether it would be somebody with experience that might still garner that amount of money or really we had no way of budgeting what those salaries would be. It was going to be two replacements, but we had no idea what their salaries would be. Once both those individuals retired, out of that salary came their payouts for vacation. So in addition to having to pay for salaries or the parish's portion, now for those of you who may not be familiar, the state has a greater share of the salaries paid to these three individuals, the parish has a required portion to pay and then historically parishes have the option of providing a supplement or supplemental. In the past the employees and the Registrar of Voters office did receive a supplemental, as a matter of fact because they had been here for such a long time, they started receiving the 3%, 5% or whatever raises the parish employees were getting, those employees were getting, so over time the longer they were employed the greater their supplement became. So at his point, once we had new people coming on we met with the Registrar because we had long time Registrar of Voters we really didn't have to deal with that before, Ms. Rita had been here a long time, Ms. Betty had been here for almost 30 years, so our HR Director contacted the Secretary of State, got the statutes, they sent over the required statutory pay and we worked from there. Because it was new to us, I spoke with Registrar of Voter in St. Charles who made some recommendations to me, that I work through our Council with regard to determining what our supplement was, which is why I contacted the Council Chair, he asked for some additional information, I provided it but what I asked for was for input in making that decision. What we've since found out is that one and we hadn't calculated out of that sixty-two that about right at eight or nine thousand dollars was spent on payouts. The next thing was there was a line item for office supplies, which in the past because they weren't really it was sufficient but with the new Registrar who wanted to make some changes, we agreed that you know there was some needed upgrades you know to some of the equipment we agreed for them to lease a copier, which they had previously not used, they wanted a label maker, some of the things to make the office work smoother, which were all approved. However, the amount exceeded in that budget line item was significant and it's right at \$6600.00. And a, so there's a balance remaining in that line item. And again, my email to Mr. Snyder and request was for guidance in determining what that supplement should be, as the recommendation from Veteran Registrars was that that the decision was at the discretion of the parish and that I should seek input from those who could make that decision, which is what I did."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I've kind of been involved maybe from a distance in this item if you will for a while and I took upon myself just to find out in the line item that we have currently for Registrar of Voters, how much was being paid to each one of the employees. And then I contacted the State Department who handles all of the payroll for the employees to find out, what is/ of what we're paying out of the line item, for example: if we were giving somebody \$10,000.00, what of that amount is required for us to pay, so then I can subtract what we're paying from what we're required to pay to come up with what had been paying for a supplement. Anything addition in addition to what you're required to pay is considered a supplement. So for example: if we were paying \$10,000.00 to the Confidential Assistant, there's a state required portion which I put it all in an excel sheet, there's a state required portion let's say; it's five, well then that five thousand was the supplemental pay. I want to step further and I pulled up in the election code Title 18 of the election code: 55B, it says; each parish governing authority shall continue to compensate its registrars at no less than the same annual dollar amount as that paid by the particular parish on July 1st, 1991. Each parish governing authority shall continue to compensate its registrars at no less than the same annual dollar amount as that paid by the particular parish on July 1, 1991, including both the prior mandated parish portion and any supplements authorized. Every year when we approve a budget, no matter if we arrived at that number by a 3% or whatever mathematical calculation went into establishing the supplement, this council will approve those line items and those supplements every year when we approve a budget, just as we approve everything else. So for me based on what the election code is stating, we don't even have the authority to reduce the supplement that's already been paid and that we've authorized every single year in the budget. No matter what the math is, because if you go we've got 64 parishes, if you go to all 64 parishes, some supplements the numbers they come to the number by just saying; oh we think it should be twenty, we think it should be forty, they have different procedures, some of them get to their supplements by step increases. So there's nothing that states how you get to the supplemental pay, the election code is just clear that once it's established it cannot be decreased, it's right here in black and white. So why we're having this conversation is beyond me, to address the line item and Mr. Jack I see you're here, I want to commend you for what you've done in that registrar of voter's office. I can't say it enough, the office was so dated there was not even a fax machine or a copy machine. So has there been a little bit spending more in the supply column, no fax machine. They had to walk down to the assessor's office and use the fax machine and the copy machine. They didn't have a PO Box that meant if a mail ballot came in on Saturday, they had to hope that the postal service put a little sticky note on that mail and mark that mark that mail ballot Saturday because if they marked it on Monday, that's illegal and Mr. Jack made those changes. And another thing, it was mind blowing when I talked to Mr. Champagne in St. Charles Parish, before prior to Mr. Jack becoming the Registrar, you'd go into vote you'd see the lady at the desk, Hi I'm Jaclyn Hotard, I need the early vote; Jaclyn Hotard she's early voting! A lady in the office pulls out a big dusty book, blows the dust off of it, alright we got Herring, we got Heltz, Oh Hotard here you are you sign, Brian Champagne said, we're one of the backwards office in the whole state, nobody does that. Why we were doing it? I don't know. We never had a standard before, but guess what? We got one now. What did we need? A \$150.00 label makers and if you voted early voting and I hope you did, when you went into that office, Jaclyn Hotard I'm here to vote, you know what they did? Control P, they printed that label, they stuck it on the paper you signed. The books didn't even get used. So we're talking about all of these issues and again, I commend you, I think it was a slap in the face, I'm just going to go all the way there. When

that article came out in the newspaper, we had council members sitting right here who said it was a detriment to the office that you were named as the Registrar. And it was a slap in the face because nobody really knew what you were going to do, and not one person has printed a public retraction, has said anything publicly and apologized about the comments they made about that office. And I'm just emotional about it, because Russell I've known you for a long time and people just so quickly to pass judgement and don't about what's really going on in that office. It's a shame, it's really a shame. But again, here's the election code, I have the spreadsheets, don't know why we're here tonight talking about any of this, we've authorized the supplements every year. No matter if we use $e=mc^2$ to get to the number, we authorize those supplements. We cannot reduce the supplements."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually we did have meeting with legal counsel and Stacey is her, she spent more time with Secretary of State's office. But some of what was said is correct, once given a supplement you cannot reduce it. You cannot reduce the supplement to once it is given. So for these employees who have been working there for 27, 30 years, we could never take that away from them. For the one who was there for 5 years, we could not take that away as a matter of fact, one of them was promoted so it was incumbent upon us to try and at least get an elevation. But it's our understanding from the documents we received from documents we received and I'll Stacey address that further, was if you didn't receive it then it's not yours to keep. But this council and the parish's discretion to decide what that supplement will be. But for those people who had it, we could never take it back. And again, there was a basis for..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Excuse me excuse me. Look, one meeting at a time guys."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There was a basis for determining what those supplements were, there are documents that show that, but I'll let Ms. Cador, I think she's still here, address the information she was provided that was confirmed through Mr. Champagne and there's an email from the Secretary of State's office that also suggested the same thing. But I'll let Ms. Cador address the specifics of her conversation."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is Ms. Cador coming up now?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Ms. Cador is going to have to get a number before she comes up and I don't think we need to hear from Ms. Cador. The line item is already in the budget. I understand perfectly clear what she said, what Ms. Hotard said, it didn't say by a person it said the supplement was given. It was given to that position, it was not given to any particular person, it was given to that position and whoever have that position gets that supplement. That's the bottom line and we don't need no discussion, we don't need no presentation. It's exactly what it says, that's exactly what I think this council should do, cause we wasting time beating around the bush trying to beat something down that is written in law and we, I remember this administration saying that it's not for the person it's for the position, so any position. The new parish president come in and get your salary and have never sat in that seat before, so we don't need to have all this discussion. It's for the position, it's for the supplement, that's what it's for and I think we need to make a motion."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I agree with everything yawl said and I told yawl about this before and I'm not going back and change anything. And I went to Mr. Jack office several times to congratulate him, and commend him on the job he's

doing in office cause it's fantastic, I mean they had a lot of stuff in there, when I went I said man! I saw the changes, I heard the changes I talked with him for an hour and a half each time I went. So I understand what he's doing, I understand the training he has gone to get in St. Charles Parish, St. James, Hammond, I understand that. And I am not going to go back and change the salary. We adopted it last year, it is what it is we didn't know who our ROV was going to be we didn't. It could have been Mr. Madere, I don't know but it is what it is and I'm not changing it, I'm going to leave it as it is. And a congratulations."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I just want to say this, Mr. Jack I commend you on a great job you're doing, but you know Jackie you said something and I know why we're having this discussion because basically if the salary is there and it was set already, he inherited that salary. You can't punish him because that salary was settled already. That goes with any job any department, when you come in the salary is set at x amount of dollars you inherit that salary. So you can't punish him based on pay, I don't have that much experience, he has 12 years of public service you know and stuff like that. What I don't like and I always say this with this discussion, you know to me, if we wanted to set a salary for the ROV at the time not knowing who it would have been, we had ample enough time when we were doing that budge last year, and you could have brought it up to this council and say, you know what? The person who is going to get this job may not have that much experience so let's set it at let's say at \$60,000.00 and we had a chance to agree to it and we did not do that. So like I said, we can't hold him hostage or punish him because that salary was set in place already and that's another thing, one more thing I don't like is this, you know having this discussion is not necessary, it's a waste of time to me because you know what this is, stalling and delaying. And from what I was told the man is not being paid properly, we have to think about his retroactive pay to. Because he cannot be punished for that and that is my opinion. It's all this stalling and delaying, stalling and delaying and the unble thing is

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion for administration to continue to supplement at its current level, that we set it retroactive to the day (02/02/2017) that you received your commission from the Governor's Office, and that administration prepare a budget amendment for the Registrar of Voters office to adequately cover these items. The motion passed with Councilman Sorapuru absent.

Councilwoman Hotard excused herself from the meeting

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss R. Bend Estates, II, LLC. et al vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, et al #69795. The motion passed Councilman Sorapuru absent.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Legal Representation and Prospect of Litigation for Haydel Canal Project
Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc. and
Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827

John Barrett vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket# 68043 (Graffiti issue)

Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40th JDC

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

17-12 An ordinance approving the requested rezoning of Lots A and E, Emilie Plantation, located in the area generally bounded by the Illinois Central Railroad/Museum St., LA Hwy. 44, S. Emilie St., and Mr. Brother Ln., containing municipal addresses 2884 and 2890 LA Hwy. 44, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana from the Residential District One [R-1] to the Commercial District (PZR-17-1067) (N. Robottom)

17-13 An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 1 - General Provisions, Chapter 14 - Fees and Charges, Chapter 26 - Nuisances, and Chapter 40 - Traffic and Vehicles, to clarify standards for junked, abandoned, or inoperable motor vehicles on public and private property, and to provide for related matters. (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. I'd like to offer my sincere condolences to Councilwoman Pannu and her family for the loss of her husband. I'd also like to thank her for her service on the Council and remind everyone that the election for her replacement as District 7 councilperson is this Saturday, April 29th. Also on the ballot is Senate District 2 election for the seat held by Senator Troy Brown, but most importantly and affecting all residents of St. John is the Ad Valorem Tax to fund levee protection. Residents are being asked to vote on a 7 mills Ad Valorem tax dedicated to the levee project and flood protection that is finally moving forward after more than 40 years. Congress approved a 718 million Levee from Montz to Mt. Airy including pumping stations and flood gates, however in order to build it, we must ensure that we can pay the estimated \$50 million for our share of construction and long-term maintenance. The tax increase is minimal, ranging from \$1.50 to \$53.95 per month for homes ranging from \$100,000 to \$1 million. Residents whose homes are valued under \$75,000, seniors over 65 and 100% disabled veterans will see no increase. Thank you to all of the homeowner associations, AARP, Senior Citizens, civic organizations, and stakeholders that invited us to meetings and assisted with getting information out to other voters. I'd also like to thank the River Region Chamber, the Business Association and the DPEC for formally endorsing the tax and for the support of the Near Neighbors' Group. This vote is one of the most important ones residents will make now and in the near future, so please get out and vote. If you have a meeting and would like us to come share election information, please call Baileigh at 652-9569. As the legislature kicks off, I attended a committee meeting for adoption of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan last week. The plan is updated every 5 years and the West Shore project and the Hope Canal Diversion are included as priorities in the plan. The plan must be adopted by the legislature,

so please contact your representatives and ask for their support. In other news, we are pleased to announce that the Louisiana Garden Club Federation has chosen Wallace, Garyville and Reserve as 2017 Cleanest City Winners for their prospective districts. These areas will be judged statewide the first two weeks in May. Also, the Club has chosen LaPlace and Edgard as runner ups. They commended the growth and progress being accomplished here and were impressed with the general cleanliness of most of our areas. With that being said, beautification is a team effort. We are asking all of our residents, local organizations and business owners to join us for the annual Spring Clean Sweep next Saturday, April 29th. The event will begin at 8:30 AM at Thomas F. Daley Memorial Park in LaPlace and close with refreshments around 11:30 AM. To register your organization, please contact Terri Abadie at (985)652-9569 or visit the parish website. The Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day will also be that day from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the New Wine Christian Fellowship Parking Lot. This is your chance to safely dispose and recycle unwanted waste, paint, solvents, appliances and more. Visit hhmcd.com for a complete list of what is accepted. The first 300 people will receive a free deluxe car wash from Pelican Pointe Car Wash. I'm sure Councilman Snyder will cover this but he will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting for District 6 residents on Tuesday, May 2nd at 6:30 PM at the LaPlace Library. The information has been posted to communication outlets and Baileigh has scheduled alerts for the council district as a reminder. St. John Parish is hosting two community meetings to present the findings of the Historic Preservation Study Committee to residents and business owners. The committee has worked with Planning and Zoning and a team of graduate students from UNO over the last nine months to identify historic areas of St. John Parish and propose recommendations for revitalization. The meetings will be held at the following locations: Eastbank: Thursday, May 4th, 6:30 PM; Leon Godchaux School Cafeteria, 1600 Highway 44, Reserve; The Westbank meeting will take place Thursday, May 11th, 6:30 PM at West St. John Elementary School. Attendees of the meetings can expect a brief presentation regarding strategies proposed to preserve historic structures and economic activity within historic districts. Good luck to the Office of Fire Services as they compete in the Louisiana State Fireman's Association Competitive Drills this Saturday in DeSoto Parish. Bring home the trophy for the fourth year in a row! We'd also like to welcome back Nick Saale, one of the firefighters injured in the bridge accident in August. He has made a miraculous recovery and we are extremely pleased to have him back to full duty. We hope to have him attend one of the upcoming meetings in the coming months. Just a reminder - tomorrow is Administrative Professionals' Day - please remember to recognize all of those who make our lives easier. Thank You."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:50 PM, Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilmen Sorapuru and Perrilloux absent.

/s/Larry Snyder
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY