

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**CHAIR RONNIE SMITH**  
**VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Raydel Morris, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman District IV, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Danny Millet, Councilman District II, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Millet led the Prayer and Councilman Gauff led the Pledge.

Legal Counsels Tom Daley, William O'Reagan and Kerry Brown were present.

**Kathleen Kreko – Accounting Manager for the City/Parish of Baton Rouge – Presentation – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

Kathleen Kreko, Accounting Manager Parish of Baton Rouge, commented on how well the parish of St. John the Baptist has been doing in its financial reporting. She presented a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Parish President, Natalie Robottom and Finance Manager, Vince Lucia.

**Natalie Robottom – Presentation – St. Charles Catholic High School – 2011 Boys State Championship Swim Team**

This item will be carried over to the next meeting.

**Natalie Robottom – Presentation – St. John Parish Warrior 12 year old All-Star Biddy Basketball Team National Tournament Champions**

Natalie Robottom presented the 12 year old All-Star Biddy Basketball Team National Tournament Champions, The St. John Parish Warriors. All boys were on hand to receive their plaques. The coaches thanked the parents, the council members, the recreation department and the boys for being such well behaved, intelligent gentlemen in representing St. John Parish so well all over the United States.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Mt. Calvary Baptist Church – Easter Fair & Festival;

Councilwoman Millet – Recreation Board Appointment – Melanie Basile;  
Council Appointment – Firefighters Civil Service Board – Bruce  
Simoneaux

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval – Mt. Calvary Baptist Church – Easter Fair & Festival; Councilwoman Millet – Recreation Board Appointment – Melanie Basile; Council Appointment – Firefighters Civil Service Board – Bruce Simoneaux. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Julien absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**11-12** (Carry Over 4-12-11)(Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Section 105-25 of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: Swimming pool fence requirements. (C. Millet)

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"This is an ordinance that is going to require a four foot fence on any above ground pools in backyards."*

Councilman Lee stated, *"This is just some clean up or an amendment to an existing ordinance. We have an ordinance and this is an addition to an existing ordinance."*

Councilman Gauff asked, *"Is this a legal requirement?"*

Councilman Smith stated, *"That is what we are changing it to."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-12. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-13** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, to authorize an additional homestead exemption for certain disabled veterans and surviving spouses; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (R. Smith)

Whitney Joseph, Parish Assessor, stated, *"Just to give a brief history, this was introduced by Representative Pope last year in the legislative session in Baton Rouge and it was passed. The only stipulation to this ordinance is the fact that each individual parish has to pass this ordinance. The ordinance simply gives an additional \$75,000.00 homestead exemption to veterans. Now the ordinance says to certain disabled veterans they are talking about veterans that are 100% disabled. It is just a simple way of giving something back to our veterans. Those who have fought for our country some have even given their lives. So I am asking this council to please allow the people of St. John Parish to vote on this ordinance. I think it is good. It isn't going to affect us negatively. So far I have two veterans who are 100% disabled to come to my office to enquire about this and one of them had given me the information that I needed with this form from the government saying that they are 100% disabled. So we are asking that you please allow the people to vote on this ordinance."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"I see the ordinance is calling for a special election. Is it something that could be done at the October election?"*

Whitney Joseph stated, *"I am sure that you could do it then."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"It wouldn't hurt you doing it then?"*

Whitney Joseph stated, *"Not at all."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-13. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-14** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 10-27 relative to the Annual Operating Budget for the St. John the Baptist Parish Land Escrow Fund for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010 (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This amendment, as well as the next two, addresses year end changes to the 2010 budget. It includes the actual revenue and expenditures. It is something that is done annually and we recommend approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-14. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-15** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 10-28 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Public Works Fund, Sales Tax District and LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Also these are just year end amendments to reflect the actual for that period."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-15. The motion passed unanimously.

**11-16** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 10-29 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Airport Authority, Ambulance Fund, ARC Maintenance Fund, Communication District, Convention Center, Criminal Court, Economic Development, Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, Garyville Volunteer Fire Department, West Bank Volunteer Fire Department, Office of Fire Services, Health Unit, Juvenile Detention, Mosquito Abatement, Parishwide Sewerage Construction, Public Safety, Senior Citizens, Solid Waste, Street Lights, Wastewater, Water Distribution System and Recreation Fund for the Fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Again this is the third of the three ordinances that reflect year end changes to the 2010 budget."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 11-16. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**11-17** An ordinance that Section 2:3 of Sub-Chapter A, "In General" of Chapter 2 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to provide for redistricting per the 2011 Redistricting District Plan 1C with amendments and the 2011 Redistricting Division Plan 1. (R. Smith)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Lee stated, *"The finance committee met at 6:15 this evening. We had three items on the agenda to discuss the financial business of the parish. I would ask at this time that one of my fellow council members make a motion to ratify the actions taken by the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Ronnie Smith – (Carry Over 4-12-11) Update on sewerage on Central Avenue in Reserve**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"In reference to the problem that you asked us about as well as one Mr. Julien asked us about, we are having some problems during rain events. We have identified about 100 sources of inflow in the Central Avenue area. We do have plans to RFP I/I repairs but in the interim we have implemented a new plan which would include installing a diesel pump to help handle the I/I during rain events as well as replacing one of the two pumps at the lift station. The main line will also be inspected for blockages utilizing video camera and of course as soon as that RFP is awarded that will be one of the first areas that we make repairs to."*

Councilman Smith stated, *"Thank you by any chance can you give the constituents of that area a time frame of approximately when this might happen."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Well the interim steps have already been taken and we are finalizing the RFP process that we think should not be very much longer. There are some minor edits before we put it out but once it goes out it isn't out for a very long length of time. So I would say within a month or so."*

**Ronnie Smith – (Carry Over 4-12-11) Update on ICU Leadership project – O.J. Breech**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I actually met with Ms. Breech as well as Superintendent Courtney Millet to discuss the possible opportunities to partner together. After meeting with our recreation director and his staff to discuss the recreation budget as well as our health and human services department to discuss the feeding program we had to make some*

adjustments in our own budget. We called a second meeting which involved Mr. Herbert Smith, Ms. Breech and a couple of other stake holders who were interested in partnering however we need to apologize that the meeting notice was late. So we are going to reschedule that meeting. Ms. Breech was actually out of town and wasn't able to attend as well as one of the other stake holders. Although it was a productive meeting all of the stake holders were not present and we will need to reschedule that."

#### **Haston Lewis – Drainage problems in District I**

Councilman Lewis stated, "I want to let you all know that I have some drainage problems in District I on both sides of the river. We have the tax passed around St. Joan of Arc. We are expecting to get a lot of water into the Milesville area and where they have a pumping station which is going to be good for the entire parish. What I would like to see is the new pump that we put in there is big enough to handle it because it is still floating the water around from one area to another. The pump is going to take that water over the levee but my district in that area there from Fir Street all around to Pine Street we are not getting enough ditches open over there. We still have ditches that no work is being done in at all. They have been doing some work so far on Capt. Bourgeois it should help a lot and it should carry that water and bring it to the lowest part so we can pump that water over the river because let me tell you what is happening with a lot of people. Water is going into their homes plus we have flood insurance rising like I don't know what and it is hurting a lot of people that have these house notes and have new houses. Even over the river in the Castle area across to the Lucy area and part of the Wallace area we have canals that we have got trouble getting permits for. It has been a long time we have been waiting on some of those permits. I can tell you some of the permits we have been working in the Lucy area as long as seven to eight years and we have the Lafourche Levee Board over there that would dig all of those canals for nothing. All we need is the permits and it looks like we can't even get the permits besides Moll Canal we have Dugas Canal, Johnson Canal and a bunch of canals but we aren't getting anything done over there to get the water in there and especially Castle right now everybody's house note is rising as much as \$200.00 as month and some as much as \$300.00. I know it is hurting those families because I can tell you I have a daughter in that same situation in that area and some of those people you can see those houses are real high but what's happening is the railroad plus 3127. When they put it in they didn't put any bridges in St. John it looks like most of them went in St. Charles and all those pipes that they put under the highway is going down into the ground because if you travel on 3127 everywhere they have a canal is like a rocking chair if you don't watch your car you will run into another car. So I think we need to look at the state highway or whoever it takes to get those permits. I think we need to do something because the better the drainage is in this parish the lower the rates for the peoples flood insurance. I had some talks with people in Jefferson who said if you can get your drainage in shape you can get your flood insurance down. That is all I have to say."

Councilman Smith asked, "Mr. Lewis is there a particular request that you have from administration?"

Councilman Lewis stated, "I think administration is doing the best they

can but I don't think we are getting the best we can with those permits because we have been fooling with those permits for quite a while now and nothing is going on."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think every now and then we actually are concerned about the same items. The permitting process was broken up into I think 24 and 25 permits that are being pursued now. We had originally attempted to do most of those in house and you are right Mr. Lewis it was taking us a long time so we awarded contracts for two companies to secure those permits. So again that is being addressed. With concern to your other areas in District I both on this side of the river and the West Bank, we have about 28 PO's specific to individual roads that are going to be addressed by our drainage excavation contract. We are also going to be utilizing some of our employees to cover some of the other areas. I know they started on Capt. Bourgeois but there are streets throughout the parish and I know we have cost estimates for some of the areas that you referenced across the river. So we anticipate some of that work being done over the next couple of months."

Councilman Gauff asked, "I was just wondering. It seems like we do a lot of work. Is there a comprehensive study to say that we aren't working against ourselves? We do a lot of cleaning out of ditches. We do a lot of installation of pumps. When have we done a comprehensive study to make sure we are actually working towards a larger goal to help our drainage project?"

Councilman Lee stated, "We have what is called a parish wide drainage plan and that plan is a work in progress of course. It has been altered over the years perhaps for necessity but to answer your question yes we do have such a plan. It has been in existence for quite a while now."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I understand that. It just seems like we are piece mealing a bunch of work and it seems like there was work done on Persimmon Street and Capt. Bourgeois years ago. We spent a lot of money there. Now we are spending a lot of money again to put in pumps and do some more work. It just seems like we need a better plan or we need to look at our plan again to make sure that we aren't spending this money two and three times."

Councilman Smith stated, "Let me make this comment and see if this helps any Mr. Gauff. I can tell you that the plan that we have in place was done some years ago. It cost us a whole lot of money and when I say us I mean the parish to get that plan done. Is that plan outdated? I'm sure it is somewhat. These days if you have a plan today, tomorrow it is outdated. Could we update the plan? I am sure we could but then we are going to be tying up more money again that the money that we have to fix some of the problems that we know we have, we would have to take that money to do another study or to do another plan. So I guess the best way for me to answer that question for you is that the council and the administration is using the plan that we have and trying to fix some of the problems that we have or that we have identified already to relieve some of the flooding and stuff now for the constituents in the parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think a lot of those involved large amounts of money. However several of them are either on the way or are being

bid out now. So that will take care of a large amount. I think what you are referencing is some of the maintenance things that historically we haven't done as good a job as we would like to be able to do because for a number of reasons. Some of it was money. Some of it was personnel and equipment. I think we have a system now or we are working towards a system of tracking. What is being done on GIS so that we don't repeat the same things and we move on to other areas. However it is an ongoing process. As you clean this year and you may skip a couple of years when you come back it is time to clean again. So it is never done. We just need to have a better plan of making sure that we do things in a sequential manner and be prepared to go back and do them again over the next several years."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mrs. Robottom could we, the council, request that we have some sort of a maintenance schedule set up that we can follow some kind of plan? Can we request that this be done by administration?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually have a plan. We can give you copies of what we have."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So you have a regular maintenance schedule of all the canals in the parish?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have a maintenance schedule for our employees. We also have separate assignments for our contractors. So we are trying to do something's simultaneously. They are not all done by parish workers but we do have a plan of what we are doing. The other thing and it is a goal just like we asked you with the street priorities. We are gathering input from the council members regarding their districts and the priority spot. So when we get to you know everything is about the funding, as we manage and make our way through this years funding we will have a set of projects already prepared for next year. So whatever we don't get to we are in the process of establishing 2011 priorities. We will have 2012 and each year we will continue to have that and that is something we will have on the website and available for everyone."

Councilman Julien stated, "Just for Mr. Gauff's information, our district is mainly about maintenance as the parish president said. So that is the one thing that we will have to be on top of. As the president said they have a plan that they are trying to implement. Our districts basically are about the maintenance of it. I think that is where we have kind of been falling short. She said that we haven't been doing as good a job as we like but that is where we are probably falling the most short."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I was actually going to mention that just for Mr. Gauff's knowledge also but like Mr. Julien said the drainage issues are sort of two fold. You have the maintenance side of it and then you have some of the hot spots you will see like with Foxwood, Homewood and the Persimmon and St. Joan of Arc that whole area is tied in where their issues are a little bit different so they are not just maintenance issues. So the way that we have approached them has been two fold. We need to make sure that we keep up with the maintenance of the ditches and the canals to keep the water flowing and then in the areas where cleaning a ditch or canal isn't going to solve the problem

that is when we have the engineering and administration and they come together and say okay we have identified an actual project that needs to be put in place for this area like we have for Homewood, Riverlands, Persimmon, Foxwood where those aren't maintenance issues they are more of a capital outlay project and that all stems from that comprehensive drainage plan that we have but again the maintenance come into it. We can have all these studies but we still have to maintain the ditches and make sure things keep flowing. Then we do have some hot spots that you run into that are just problem areas that you have to identify what needs to be done. So it looks like sometimes we are spending over and over but really it is just a matter of getting the maintenance schedule on track and really the administration has done a good job at that. Things are moving and the maintenance has been taken care of then identifying those areas that do have the problems when you have these heavy rains and they have done a good job with that as well. So once those tasks are out of the way then really it is just going to be a matter of maintaining what you do have and you won't see those problems areas have the flooding like they have had in the past. There is a copy of it in the council office."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I want to let Mr. Gauff know that the part I am talking about over there is already in the bond issue and I just want to make sure that the bond money is spent and take care of this area and put the right pumps in there and make sure that this area drains off because right now it is deeply under water and bringing more water to the area. I want to make sure that we get the water already in there where the pump can pump it so we can move all the water over the levee where nobody has any trouble."

**Charles Julien – Small Business, local business/diversity program**

Councilman Julien stated, "I basically just wanted to update my fellow council members and let them know that I have been talking to different people. I am trying to amass some information so we can put together a diversity program. When I get some of that information I will pass it on to you all. I think that administration has been doing some work because I have been talking to them. I just wanted to let you all know and let the community know that we are trying to work to get the program off of the ground."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Charles Julien – (Carry Over 3-22-11) Override Planning and Zoning for a denial for trailer placement for Tiffany Davis, 167 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Reserve**

Councilman Julien stated, "At this time I would ask that my fellow council members vote for a trailer override. It was not approved initially because they did not have a lease. We did not go forward with it last time because there were too many council members absent. So at this time I would like to make a motion to override planning and zoning to place the trailer."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Mr. Julien, at this time do they have the lease in place?"

Councilman Julien stated, "Yes they do."

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to override planning and zoning for a denial for trailer placement for Tiffany Davis, 167 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Reserve. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 3 nays (Usry, Cheryl Millet, Danny Millet).

**Ronnie Smith/Kevin Belanger – Re-apportionment**

Councilman Smith stated, "I am going to allow Mr. Belanger to give us a brief overview of the six reapportionment proposals that are in place. We are going to open comments and questions to the public and after the public hearing the council is going to vote on and select a plan to put in place."

Kevin Belanger, SCP, stated, "We have provided to you a packet which includes the scenarios of which we provided and will discuss tonight. I am going to be brief we have had several public meetings. This one is going to be the third that we have had with the general public and another one anticipated with the public hearing. As you all know back in 2000, we had a population here in St. John of 43,044 persons and in 2010, April 1<sup>st</sup> the parish had a population of 45,924. That is a pretty good sizable increase. The notation though however if you look back on the first page you will see that in 2000 the black population was 45.11% and it is now a little higher than 54%. The ideal population of the respective districts in St. John the Baptist Parish is 6,561 of which we try to overall keep these districts within a plus or minus 5% of deviation. As you will see the deviations of all the districts in the 5<sup>th</sup> column you will notice that the lowest district, that being district I has a negative 16.03% and the highest district with the growth is district V with 17.07%. These two combined percentages create an overall deviation which is in excess of 10% which requires you to consider reapportionment in this parish. What we did initially and if you turn the pages you will see plan 4B which is the existing plan that you are currently under and the existing plan 3B for the division of the parish. The very first plan we created, we created three alternative plans of which alternate 1 we met with the individual council members to hear their issues and concerns for infrastructure to look to find commonalities of communities and we created these varying three alternative plans which each one accomplishes different things. Alternate 1 is the alternate which provides the least amount of tweaking to the districts to achieve reapportionment. As you turn the page alternate division 1 remains the same. As you may have noticed on the very first page division A and division B had a negative 4.36 in division A and a positive 4.36 in division B which do not require reapportioning. However we did provide to you three alternate plans which would be the first alternate which would be do nothing and leave it as it is and that is alternate 1 division. Before I get into the 1A, 1B, 1C if you can go to alternate 2 in a meeting with some of the council and the public there were concerns with keeping the West Bank in tact. There were concerns with splitting the West Bank and obviously there were concerns of why district 1 had to come all the way to the southeast portion of the parish when the access from the West Bank to the East Bank was to the north. There were concerns as to why we weren't providing the concentration of those districts in the upper portion of the parish. So alternate 2 provides for an entire West Bank district to expand over onto the East Bank in the Garyville area. What you will notice with this particular plan is that the spill over of the

*districts causes all of the districts to be pushed southerly which has changed the look of the plan quite a bit. Alternate 2 on the divisions we have provided a higher concentration of minorities but as you will see in the inset you will notice that a tremendous amount of carving out of communities does occur which is a concern that we had as well. Alternative 3 provides for the division of the West Bank in two there were concerns that we should provide an alternative which shoes that plan of which we now show two river crossings of the individual districts. We held public meetings on these three plans. At the public meetings we heard comments from the public as to some had issues with not being able to see the actual existing districts as compared to the new proposed districts. So we later came back with new revised maps which showed the overlays. While at those meetings we had councilmen who were in attendance as well and expressed concern. It was at the time a consensus of sort that alternate one seem to be the most advantageous of all alternatives. It was at one of the public meetings that we were requested to show a variety of amendments to that particular plan and alternate 1A was a request by one of the councilmen to show that district VII not be carved up as much as it was and alternate 1 solved some of those issues however alternate 1 didn't provide for a high concentration of minorities in the newly created district IV which is a minority/majority district. So equally there was another councilman who requested the approach of looking at trying to get the highest amount of concentration of minorities in a particular plan and 1B achieved that. With that being done we were ultimately taking out and that was without concern for communities and without concern for where existing councilmen reside. So with that particular plan what we did was carve a community up pretty good and we ultimately took a councilman out of her particular district. So alternate 1C was derived, alternate 1C provided for somewhat of a commonality of interest and we were able to achieve a fairly decent high concentration of minorities and I should replace that fair a pretty high concentration of minorities in all four of the individual districts but there was still concern by some of the elected officials who seemed to be concerned with carving up the communities with that existing plan. So we did provide some snap shots of those particular amendments which you do not have and we would love to show to you tonight if I am allowed to. For the record, by the way my assistant, Josh Manning, who is our GIS coordinator tonight, he is going to pull up 1C amended. Now these amendments really do not do a whole lot of harm, in fact they do no harm whatsoever to the overall deviation and it ultimately improves the black concentration in district IV back into council district VII and out of IV. The council change that was requested was to move the Riverland Estate area into District V. That was brought up to us and the other change was to move a portion of Oak Point Drive back into District VII and by doing that the minority population in District IV increases to 59.35% which is slightly higher than what we provided in the original outlay of district IV which was I believe 59.31%. So Mr. Chairman with these slight amendments we would like to propose these plans to you to consider."*

Councilman Smith stated, "So at this time what we are considering is that we are looking at alternate 1C with amendments correct?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "That is if the council so wishes."

Councilman Smith stated, "Just for clarification purposes, what we are

*voting on right now is to go with alternative 1C with the amendments that were just shown by Mr. Belanger and his company again alternative 1C with the amendments that were just shown."*

*Councilman Lewis asked, "Is this the plan that we are looking at that we are voting on now?"*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Yes sir. What he just stated."*

*Councilman Lewis stated, "You know I am the one that talked to Mr. Belanger about crossing the river in the Garyville area. It wasn't so much of crossing the river in the Garyville area that I wanted to move the line the idea was when I cross the bridge Garyville and Mt. Airy is right there instead of me driving 15 or 20 miles this way to represent the people. I thought I could do a better job closer. Not only that, what worried me again and there was nothing I could do about it was I think we had 400 more people in the district then we had before that is going to be on the East Bank of the river which worried me quite a bit. I even came up with an idea on my own and I didn't mention this to anybody. I was thinking about talking to the council about having one of the at large members come from the West Bank instead of both of them coming from the East Bank like St. Charles Parish is. At the rate we are going, we are going to be left over there without any representation at all if the population keeps growing over here and not growing over the river at all. I know what happens when you don't have representation in your back yard. That is why everybody likes to have the best representation to get in your back yard and there is nothing I can do as far as making the population grow on that side of the river but I think the council could do something to make sure that somebody at large can come from the other side of the river and that would do nothing to change the plan A or B or whatever. Just have one at large like St. Charles does and one come from the other side of the river because like I said sooner or later we are going to be left with nobody over the river representing us."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Lewis my comment on that is that I don't have a problem with that. The issue is St. Charles has a parish wide vote for each..."*

*Councilman Lewis stated, "That is what I would want to."*

*Councilman Smith asked, "So you would want a parish wide vote?"*

*Councilman Lewis stated, "Exactly right."*

*Councilman Smith asked, "So you are asking the entire parish to vote on an at large member coming from the West Bank?"*

*Councilman Lee stated, "If I might, I believe that is out of order."*

*Councilman Lewis stated, "Well we are fooling with reapportionment."*

*Councilman Smith stated, "We are talking about districting also."*

*Councilman Lee stated, "We are talking about changing the way we vote on councilman at large and I think that should be or is a separate issue. I would be happy to get legal opinion or at least post pone it*

until we can get a legal opinion. The charter dictates how we do this."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Steve you are exactly right. What I am talking about we are going to have to go to the people to do that or to change it. This can't be changed by us as it is. I am just giving you an idea of what is going through my mind of what is going to happen with reapportionment. It isn't that I would like to push anyone this way. It is I have to look at what is close for me to work with besides crossing the river way over here. I don't have any problem with the people that I represent over there. I just would like to be closer than I am."

Councilman Julien asked, "Mr. Belanger, in this 1C as we are changing it and it is supposed to be close to 1B. Is district III, from my understanding district III isn't going across the river at all is it?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "No it isn't."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Kevin would you please explain how we gave up some residents in the Maple Loop and Mahogany area and then we took residents from the Estates. Could you please explain that?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "Well the easiest way to explain it is to show it on the screen. Obviously the population was fairly even of the two changes. The area in red is the area that was shifted back to district I and the area of Riverland Estates was then put back into district V and those populations were even in basic population numbers."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "The rationale was so that district IV would become a more minority district that is why Riverland Estates were taken out of IV?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "It did not affect the overall concentration of district IV. It would improve it because you are taking the majority of whites out of council district IV."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "So district V had to lose?"

Kevin Belanger stated, "District V initially had to lose but in this case it basically balanced out. That was from the original plan. Your assessment is correct."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I just wanted the public to understand what was going on. Thank you."

Councilman Lee stated, "Just one comment, perhaps we should have said this before we began the process. I am assuming it was said at some of the meetings. I know it was said at the one that I attended. We do this every ten years based on population. It is our responsibility as council members to make these decisions. Ultimately to be decided on or approved by the Department of Justice, as complicated as it looks we basically have two rules that we must follow in the redistricting. One is called a one man, one vote. Kevin alluded to that originally when he said that each district should be approximately 6,500. That is to prevent Haston's district, let's say that we just had the West Bank and it had 3,000 and where I lived had 7,000 that wouldn't work. It wouldn't pass the Department of Justice's approval. So that is the

number one issue that this council and the public must adhere to. Number two is that we do not dilute the minority voting act. That is it. Anything else is an outline in what this council member has always gone by. We are attempting to get commonalities. I think Kevin used that word earlier. Trying to put people in subdivisions and so on where they have things more in common, their issues are more in common because that is what local government is all about. It is solving the problems of the people that we represent. So that needed to be said because it appears to be a very complicated issue but it is driven heavily by the Department of Justice. Those are the two things that we must adhere to. Kevin, for the record, 1C with amendments, you believe as our professional that we hired will meet the muster with the Department of Justice."

Kevin Belanger stated, "Absolutely."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the proposed alternative 1C with amendments for our parishes redistricting based on the 2010 census. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Lee stated, "The motion that I would like to make is that after exhaustive research on that that we keep the division lines identical as it has been in the past. That would be Division Plan 1."

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to keep the division lines identical and go with Division Plan 1. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom/Buddy Boe – Resolution R11-21 – A Resolution supporting an application for funding from the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism’s Recreation Trails program in connection with the Timbermill Pond and Garyville Northern Railroad Trail as part of the Garyville Historic Redevelopment Plan**

Natalie Robottom, stated, "There is a grant application that administration is seeking through the FHWA Recreational Trails Program of Louisiana for funding for the Garyville millpond trail as part of the Garyville Historic Redevelopment Plan. It is a reimbursable grant awarded as an 80/20% cost share that the parish is willing to engage in. This is just a resolution authorizing us to apply for that grant."

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-21 - A Resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council approving the application for grant funds from the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana (FRTPL), as established by CFDA 20.219: **WHEREAS**, the US Federal Government provides funds to the State of Louisiana for grants to state, local and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trails; and **WHEREAS**, the FRTPL has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the state and setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the program; and **WHEREAS**, said procedures require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before the submission of said application; and **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by

the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby:  
Approve the filing of an application with FRTPL; and Certify that the said applicant has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, sufficient funds to build (including 20% local match), operate and maintain the project; and Appoint the St. John Parish Council as agent of the St. John Parish to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to application, letter of commitment agreement, amendments, payment requests and completion report, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom – Resolution R11-22 – A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District for completion of the East St. John Drainage Study (Bonnet Carre' Upper Guide Levee to US Hwy 51)**

*Natalie Robottom stated, "At the requests of the Levee District, I think they have done some work similar to this in St. Charles Parish that was successful and they made a proposal with us to work on a similar project to help with the River Forest area. The administration is requesting authorization to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District for completion of the East St. John drainage study. The study will address drainage issues at the rear of River Forest Subdivision and make recommendations to improve those conditions until a levee is constructed. All expenditures will be applied to the parish's match toward the future levee project and funds were available through the Bond Issue."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-22. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District for completion of the East St. John Drainage Study (Bonnet Carre' Upper Guide Levee to US Hwy 51)  
**WHEREAS**, the Pontchartrain Levee District, Board of Commissioners, and the Parish of St. John the Baptist are both commissioned with flood and drainage control for the residents and commercial entities on the East Bank of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; and **WHEREAS**, the Pontchartrain Levee District currently has a contract for consulting services with Burke-Kleinpeter, Inc., to study drainage issues in St. John the Baptist Parish in that matter defined as the St. John the Baptist Parish Upper Guide Levee to U.S. 51 Master Drainage Study; and **WHEREAS**, the Pontchartrain Levee District and the Parish of St. John the Baptist recognize that both entities benefit from the work of Burke-Kleinpeter, Inc. in the above study and wish to share the cost of Phase I of the study, namely Existing Conditions Model, on an equal basis, with each party paying fifty (50%) percent of the total cost of the study; and **NOW THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**  
The Pontchartrain Levee District and the Parish of St. John the Baptist are currently engaged in a project entitled "West Shore-Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Levee Project," which is designed to help assess the feasibility of projects regarding flood control and hurricane protection on the East Bank of St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. In connection with that study, Burke-Kleinpeter, Inc. has been contracted and tasked with the St. John the Baptist Parish Upper Guide Levee to US 51 Master Drainage Study in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. A copy of the Scope of Work is

attached hereto as Exhibit "A". 2) The project named hereinabove is currently being funded and contracted through the Pontchartrain Levee District 3) It is agreed and understood that the study identified above shall consist of two (2) phases: Phase I – Existing Conditions Model at a cost of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE AND 72/100 (\$163,265.72) DOLLARS and Phase II – Improved Conditions Model at a cost of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR AND 95/100 (\$121,424.95) DOLLARS, for a total cost of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY AND 67/100 (\$284,690.67) DOLLARS. A copy of said Consulting Services Fee Schedule and Manhour Estimate is attached hereto as Exhibit "B". 4) Accordingly, the Pontchartrain Levee District and the Parish of St. John the Baptist do hereby recognize the benefit of this study to both entities and do hereby agree to a cost-share of the study named hereinabove in the proportion of fifty (50%) percent each of the total project cost. In the event any funding for this project shall be received from outside sources by either the Pontchartrain Levee District or the Parish of St. John the Baptist, credit for those funds shall be given to the respective parties and the percentages set out in this agreement. St. John the Baptist Parish agrees to pay its pro-rata share within fifteen (15) days of execution of this agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom/David Dupre – Resolution 11-23 – A resolution authorizing the concurrence of St. John the Baptist Parish with the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's bid award to, Barrier Construction Company, LLC, in the amount of \$411,016.20, for the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I where St. John the Baptist Parish is responsible for 5% of the construction cost or \$20,550.81**

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Administration requests concurrence with LA DOTD's bid for the Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I. The bid process was conducted through DOTD and Barrier Construction produced the low bid of \$411,016.20. The parish is responsible for the 5% match towards the construction cost. This is Phase 1 that begins at the St. John/St. Charles Parish line and extends to Walnut."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-23. A Resolution authorizing the concurrence of St. John the Baptist Parish with the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's bid award to, Barriere Construction Co., LLC, in the amount of \$411,016.20, for the St. John East Bank Mississippi River Multi-Use Trail Phase I, where St. John the Baptist Parish is responsible for 5% of the construction cost or \$20,550.81. The motion passed unanimously.

**Marie Brown-Mercadel/Mike Tregre – Resolution R11-20 – A resolution revising R11-15 authorizing the Parish President to execute an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport**

Mike Tregre, Director of Public Safety, stated, *"Administration requests authorization to execute this revised agreement with LA DOTD for improvements at St. John Airport. The correction represents a 95/5% federal and state cost share rather than the 90/10% cost share approved*

at the last meeting."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Am I to understand that it is still at no cost to the parish?"

Mike Tregre stated, "That is correct."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is an unusual situation. The resolution was forwarded to us by DOTD that had a 90/10% cost share. When I looked at the actual budget for the project it was only 5% provided by them. So we got a clarification and rather than submitting the resolution in the incorrect form we decided to change and amend it to reflect the 95/5% split. Again no cost to the parish, it is a state and federal cost share."

**MOTION:** Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-20. A Resolution revising R11-15 authorizing the Parish President to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport. **WHEREAS**, Act 451 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the financing of certain airport improvements from funds appropriated from the Transportation Trust Fund; and **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council has requested funding assistance from the LA DOTD to conduct an airport master plan study; and **WHEREAS**, the stated project has been approved by the Louisiana Legislature and the LA DOTD is agreeable to the implementation of this project and desires to cooperate with the St. John the Baptist Parish Council according to the terms and conditions identified in the attached agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the LA DOTD will provide up to \$8,500.00 of the necessary funding, **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that it does hereby authorize the Parish President to execute an agreement for the project identified as AIP No. 3-22-0064-14-2010 and SPN H.009031, more fully identified in the agreement attached hereto. The motion passed with 8 yeas, 1 abstaining (Lee).

**Marie Brown-Mercadel/Mike Henderson – Resolution R11-24 – A Resolution authorizing a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the Parish of St. John the Baptist and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College Implementing Grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program through the Parish Implemented Recovery Program – Land Use Phase IV for \$315,000.00**

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Administration requests authorization to enter into a sub-recipient agreement with the Board of Supervisors of LSU Agriculture & Mechanical College to implement a grant under the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program. This agreement is for \$315,000.00 to complete Phase IV of the parishes land use plan."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "The funding for this is coming from?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "The Louisiana Recovery Authority/Office of Community Development. It was part of the seven million dollar funding we received for Gustav/Ike."

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-24. A Resolution authorizing a Sub-

Recipient Agreement between the Parish of St. John the Baptist and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College Implementing Grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program through the Parish Implemented Recovery Program – Land Use Phase IV for \$315,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

**Marie Brown-Mercadel/Mike Henderson – Resolution R11-25 – A Resolution authorizing a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the Parish of St. John the Baptist and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College Implementing Grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program through the Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Program – Resiliency Project \$176,000.00**

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, *“Administration requests authorization to enter into a sub-recipient agreement with the Board of Supervisors of LSU Agriculture & Mechanical College to implement a grant under the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program. The agreement is for \$176,000.00 to complete the Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Program.”*

**MOTION:** Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Resolution R11-25. A Resolution authorizing a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the Parish of St. John the Baptist and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College Implementing Grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program through the Parish Comprehensive Resiliency Program – Resiliency Project \$176,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDANCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Gauff stated, *“I would just like to say that this weekend is Our Lady of Grace’s Fair and let’s get out and support them.”*

Councilman Lewis stated, *“I would like somebody from administration or whoever can bring me up to date on what happened on the other side of the river when the chemical truck turned over. We didn’t know anything until we read in the paper that it was chemical. When I heard it in the beginning it was just a dump truck that had turned over.”*

Natalie Robottom stated, *“I think the state troopers handled that situation. We were in contact with the Sheriff’s Office and the State Trooper Association. We contacted the news stations and also provided an alert.”*

Kathy Gilmore, Public Safety, stated, *“There was a hazardous materials incident on the West Bank on 3127 last Thursday morning. It was erroneously reported as a dump truck overturn but upon investigation there were hazardous chemicals that being muriatic acid and some hydrochloric bleach that was going into the atmosphere. Again it was a state highway, the state police were the primary people on it. We had the state police hazmat. The responsible party came out and cleaned it up. Unfortunately we did have an injury, the driver of the vehicle, but it was located in an area where there was no residential or anything. So yes 3127 was closed for most of the day on Thursday but the state police handled that. We did get word to the news media and they did*

have to re-route traffic on 18 so you probably had a lot of traffic on 18 that day."

Councilman Lewis stated, "You know it is just a shame that I didn't even know anything about it. It looks like somebody could have called. When something like that happens the first person they call is the council member or somebody over there. We said there wasn't any people around there but only by air things travel more slowly especially when chemicals get loose there and you have a junior high school and a high school back there on 3127 they were very close to that if something would have happened. I think we should know even if it is just dust. At least I would have known what was going on so we can protect ourselves but that didn't happen until I read in the paper that it was chemical. As far as I'm concerned everybody thought it was just a dump truck that over turned not knowing that they had chemicals in that truck."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You are correct Mr. Lewis you should have been notified as well as the other at large member and we will make sure to do that next time."

Councilman Smith asked, "Can I request that when something like that happens could you send out something to all of the council members. The reason I am asking for that is if something happens in somebody else's district like on Airline Highway in LaPlace or something my constituents are going to call me and say hey what is going on out there do I need to evacuate or whatever. That way we will all know."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We did send out a press release but we didn't make the phone call and Mr. Lewis doesn't access email but we sent out a press release based on the information provided from the state troopers but we didn't make the call and that is something we should have done."

Councilman Smith asked, "Ms. Hotard was just asking is there anyway that we can get a blast text and any resident that wants to sign up for that can so that they can get it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We encourage that at every meeting that people go online and sign up for the emails as well as the 211 for text and call so we are going to encourage everyone especially now moving into hurricane season that they do access and sign up for those emergency alerts."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Would this be something that the residents would have received a text message about?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "They could have, if they were signed up for it."

Councilman Julien stated, "I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Easter celebration at the parks in district III. I would like to let the people of district III know that we have been working on the drainage issues that we spoke about at the last meeting. Administration has acted upon it and some of the streets haven't been touched yet but they are in the process of getting to them. I also want to thank the ladies who work in the council office because they work so hard. I don't think that everybody understands what they have to do and

what they have to put up with. So thank you all."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "They see you at the meetings Charles so they know what they have to put up with. I hope everyone had a nice Easter."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "First off I want to invite the residents of district VII to let them know that the Belle Terre Civic Association is putting together a crime watch set up meeting on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 at the Doral stop sign on St. Andrews. I encourage you to come out and meet your neighbors and support the neighborhood crime watch program. Also I am going to ask administration what is the status on the wonderful street signs that we are waiting on. Do we have an update on that yet?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "We sent a drawing to DOTD on April 7<sup>th</sup> and it is my understanding from us following up on that today that there is some additional design work that they need from us. So I have asked our capital projects administrator to make those changes and corrections and get them back to DOTD by the end of the week. We didn't expect it to be quite this complicated."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "How hard is it for a street sign? It is a green sign with letters."

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "I understand but we have to get the permits from DOTD before we can proceed and they have to be very specific. I think one of our issues is that we had capital letters and they wanted some lower case and some capital. It is very specific."

Councilman Smith asked, "Can we get them to pay for it all?"

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I have a question. When you say a green sign a lot of the signs in my district are blue. Did we get new ones?"

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Those may be state highway signs."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No, no even in New Era and Sugar Ridge."

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "Historic redevelopment signs."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No I have them in regular subdivisions."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yours are blue. What we are putting is major intersections which are called state highways."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So why do we have in some subdivisions green signs and some subdivisions blue signs, if they are making a big deal about the signs."

Natalie Robottom stated, "One is a public street and one is a private road."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No I have blue street signs on public roads in regular subdivisions and I have subdivisions that have green signs so I don't know why they are making a big deal about it."

Marie Brown-Mercadel stated, "I think we just need to follow up and see what is in your area. We are just following the specifications that have been set forth by DOTD."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I am only saying that because I don't know why they are being so picky. I mean I have two different street signs in my district and I know normally that is how you would differentiate between public and private was blue versus green but like I said New Era and Sugar Ridge a lot of the signs are blue. In LaPlace Park they have blue but in Carrollwood where I live there are green signs. So I don't know how we accomplished that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The signs that we are discussing are going on DOTD fixtures on major intersections. So they are determining what we are going to put on their signs. When we put up street signs along the way if it is private or public those are our poles and our signs. We make them. We are going to be going onto their fixtures that are extending across Airline and some of our major intersections. So they are determining how we it is like putting the signs along the side of the road you need a permit to say that we are in LaPlace."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I will take some pictures and send them to you because I don't understand why they are different colors and it seems like they just recently changed some in my district. I don't know who changes them."

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to thank the Krewe of Agape for coming out and assisting me at Cambridge Park. We had a bunch of kids they have a bunch of fun. Mrs. Robottom and the Easter bunny came out and we had a lot of fun so I wanted to thank the administration for their support and what they have done for the constituents in my district. Secondly, I would like to thank everybody that prayed for me. As you all know I missed a couple of meetings since I have been out sick. My blood pressure is a problem. I am not dying. I just have a blood pressure problem. They just can't keep it under control but we are working on it. So thanks to everybody that prayed for me. I want to let you know you can call me if you need me. I am still here."

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Hopefully everybody had a happy holiday weekend. There was a lot of effort from people on our staff trying to make Easter in the Park the success it was and we want to thank them for spending their Saturday morning with us. We also had a successful third annual clean sweep. Over 300 volunteers came out to clean the neighborhoods, major intersections and two of our housing developments. Several new organizations joined the clean up and we are looking forward to continuing that throughout the years. The 20<sup>th</sup> annual industry appreciation event was hosted this past week by the River Region Economic Development Initiative or Redi. We changed to a breakfast this year rather than the seafood evening at the request of some of the plant managers and I think they preferred that so hopefully we will continue to do that in the future. It was at Oak Alley Plantation and the secretary of DEQ, Peggy Hatch, was there to address the group. The New Orleans regional leadership institute or norli held its final session for its nine month educational program in St. John Parish and we would like to thank Marathon and their plant manager Mr.

Bubby Anderson for hosting the group in their conference room. There were about 25-30 young and emerging leaders in attendance to discuss the importance of regional economic development. It was a full day course and many of the individuals were from the metropolitan area and were very surprised to see what is out here in the River Parishes. In recognition of National Community Development Week which we announced at the last meeting, I would like to acknowledge that St. John has received over nine million dollars in community development block grants. These funds are going to help over 45,000 people in our community. The funds were used for providing needed services as well as infrastructure projects. We would also like to publicly thank the Rotary Club who made a \$3,000.00 donation to the Animal Shelter today. Those funds were generated through Pups in the Park and were donated to help offset the parishes cost of parvo vaccinations at the shelter. Also an announcement was made today that the River Parishes has received 1.3 million dollar oil spill national emergency grant from the US Department of Labor through the Louisiana Work Force Commission. Those funds will go towards long term training for individuals affected by the oil spill who cannot return to their previous lines of employment or who would like to explore other opportunities. The services will include WIA intensive training, supportive services such as class room training and employer based training, entrepreneur and micro enterprise training. The grants will be available until December of 2012 and for more information you can contact the Louisiana Work Force Commission at 985-652-3471 or visit them at 975 Cambridge Drive. This week the three river parishes, the port of south Louisiana and Juneau Inc. will host a familiarization tour or a famtour for several site selection firms. These tours provide an opportunity to showcase what is available here in our area to potential companies. An aerial tour of the parish and the Port of South Louisiana will provide an overview of the Highways, waterways, industries available, land and communities in the region. The site selectors will also meet with existing industry leaders to gain input into their company's experiences in the River Parishes. A reminder our minor home repair program will begin accepting applications on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at New Wine Ministries located at 1921 W. Airline Hwy. It will begin at 9:00 AM. Applications are available on our website and we do have someone here with applications if you would like to take one or eligibility requirements if you would like to take some of those back to your constituents. St. John day at the Capital is Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, middle school students from the schools in St. John will travel to Baton Rouge to tour the State capital visit legislative delegation and have lunch on the mansion grounds. So we are looking forward to that. Also on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 the St. John Leadership breakfast in support of Boy Scouts of America will host the breakfast at the Medical Pavilion at River Parishes Hospital. We invite everyone to come out to a grand opening. A new business Pro-Style Barber shop located on Belle Terre. It is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00, please join us for the ribbon cutting and ceremonial welcome. We are also beginning a series of brown bag lunches for residents throughout the parish to meet me and my staff and discuss their concerns, ask questions and make recommendations for improvements to the parish. The first one is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> on the West Bank from 11:30 until 1:00. We are inviting residents to come out and bring a bag lunch to discuss what they see the future of St. John including. Again we encourage all of you to visit our website. Sign up to receive our news releases, text messages, weather updates and emergency information at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) and of course we encourage you

*to visit the website as we approach hurricane season."*

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:02 PM, Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ronnie Smith  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary