

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009
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 28, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilwoman Millet led the Prayer. Councilwoman Usry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsels Barry Landry, Kerry Brown and Jeff Perilloux were present.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes April 14, 2009, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes April 14, 2009, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

09-14 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to add the title of Lead Billing Permit Clerk to Grade 5 on the pay scale. (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 09-14. The motion passed unanimously.

09-15 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to upgrade the position of Payroll Clerk from Grade 5 to Grade 6 on the pay scale. (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 09-15. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

- 09-16** An ordinance authorizing the Parish President to accept an Easement from E.I. DuPont De Nemours and Company as per exhibit "A" attached hereto and made part of. (B. Hubbard)
- 09-17** An ordinance authorizing the Parish President to execute a Lease Agreement with Troy Construction, LLC for the lease of approximately two (2) acres near Airport Road in Reserve, Louisiana as per Exhibit "A" attached hereto. (B. Hubbard)
- 09-18** An ordinance amending ordinance 94-74 to rename the following Street. **Trosclair Ct. to DV&D Drive** (B. Hubbard)
- 09-19** An ordinance amending ordinance 94-74 so as to incorporate a new Street into the St. John the Baptist Parish Address system.
Azalea Drive

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:15 the finance committee met to discuss financial matters of the parish. I would ask for a motion from one of my fellow council members at this time."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the bids for the St. John Airport - Airfield lighting and navaid improvements under advisement, approved to take the bid for Walnut St. drainage improvements under advisement, approved to accept administration's recommendation to employ Crochet at a cost of \$14,000.00 per month for an Air Curtain Incinerator, approved to accept the vehicle purchases as recommended by administration, authorized administration to bid the Woodland Drive Bridge Project, and granted administration authorization to enter into various agreements in connection with the July 3rd Fireworks Celebration. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters.

Dale Wolfe - (Carry Over 04-14-09) Discussion Code Enforcement Officers

Councilman Wolfe stated, *"I haven't had a chance to meet with Mr. Hubbard regarding those positions. I understand two (2) of those employees are contract employees and want to remain part time and two (2) would like to stay the same. At the next meeting, I will be in a better position to deal with that matter."*

Dale Wolfe - (Carry Over 04-14-09) Discussion all Parish Contracts

Councilman Wolfe stated, *"Again Mr. Hubbard and I have been behind closed doors, fussing and cussing. So you can remove that item from the agenda."*

Dale Wolfe - Garbage Problems - Division A

Councilman Wolfe stated, "If it is okay with this council I would prefer not to use any names but it is not our major contractor that I am talking about in terms of garbage service. I would like to ask that I be allowed to dictate a letter to that company making that person aware of my findings that I am having a problem with in Division A."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Can we be copied on it?"

Councilman Wolfe stated, "The council will receive a copy."

Mike Henderson - Update on Hurricane Katrina/FEMA housing assistance plan

Pat McTopy, CAO, stated, "Mr. Henderson could not be here tonight but we would like to make the public aware that public assistance for FEMA trailers, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, is going to end May 1st. They have advised us of this. We have been advised that FEMA will not extend the deadline. I have been advised that there are fewer than ten (10) FEMA trailers left. We have notified the various residents through certified mail and public notices. We wanted the public to know that is what is coming."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat McTopy - Resolution - R09-06 - Louisiana Recreational Trails

Pat McTopy stated, "This resolution is required in order for the parish to apply for some funding under the Louisiana Recreational Trails grant. What we would like to do is apply for funding in the Regala Park, Senior Citizen, Veteran's Home area so that we can kind of tie those areas together. It is not a guaranteed grant. In fact our odds aren't that great but we feel it appropriate that we apply and give it a shot. It would be a great asset to that area."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to accept Resolution R09-06 - Louisiana Recreation Trails - **WHEREAS**, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century provides funds to the State of Louisiana for grants to federal, state, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and commercial entities to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trails, and; **WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program 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**, these regulations require an application to have a resolution of support from the local governmental body of the jurisdiction in which the proposed project is located; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does hereby endorse and support the application being submitted to the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program to extend the Regala Park walking path to link with the Council on Aging Senior Citizens Center

and the Veterans Home so that the residents of the Home and the visitors to the Center can have access to the Park and all of its amenities. St. John Parish Council is respectfully requesting \$89,000 from the Louisiana Recreational Trails with matching funds from the Council in the amount of \$29,000. The total cost of the project is not to exceed \$115,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat McTopy - Resolution - R09-07 - Adoption of Citizen Participation Plan for LRA funding

Pat McTopy stated, "As the council is aware, there are certain community development block grants that have been allocated to the state of Louisiana. These funds would be administered through the Louisiana Recovery Authority or the LRA. In order for the parish to participate in the program, one of the things that we need to do is adopt a citizen participation plan. So that is what we have here tonight, a resolution approving the Citizen Participation Plan, which is the first step towards applying for the funds."

Mike Carter, LaPlace, asked, "Mr. McTopy, when you say citizen participation plan, can you expand on that a little bit? That is my only question."

Pat McTopy stated, "It requires certain public notices and contact with certain areas of the community low income to moderate income areas. We have to put public notices in the newspaper and essentially get the public as involved as much as possible in the decision making process as to where the funds can be spent."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R09-07 - A resolution for the adoption of Citizen Participation Plan **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council does intend to apply for Community Development Block Grant Gustav/Ike Disaster Recovery funds in addition to possible future regular Louisiana Community Development Program funds; and, **WHEREAS**, the Parish has previously enacted a Citizen Participation Plan with regard to the Community Development Block Grant program; and, **WHEREAS**, the Parish desires to update its Citizen Participation Plan to reflect that it includes both the regular LCDBG and the Disaster Recovery CDBG programs. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**, do hereby adopt the attached Citizen Participation Plan in connection with both regular Louisiana Community Development Block Grant and Disaster Recovery CDBG applications. The motion passed unanimously.

Haston Lewis - Resolution - R09-08 - A Resolution urging State and Federal legislatures to support the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico levee project and endorsing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Alignment as the preferred alternative for St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I am just asking, this is the first time I am seeing this resolution, can it wait two (2) weeks or is it urgent?"

Councilman Lewis stated, "No, we need to send it in with federal. I had it in here sort of on time, but some kind of way they didn't send everything that they were supposed to send for us to write the

resolution. We need to have it in before next month. It isn't going to cost the parish a dime. It is a project that we already have that is being financed by the levee board, the Lafourche Levee Board, the state and the federal to build a levee from Donaldsonville to the Gulf."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I guess the thing that just caught me off was levee alignment. When you say that, so much goes off in my brain because we have been fighting levee alignment for a long time."

Councilman Lewis stated, "That is what we are fighting over there too. To make sure that everybody supports it. So far all the parishes are supporting it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I want to support it. I just don't know anything about it. I am going to abstain, nothing to you Mr. Lewis. This is the first I've looked at it and I wouldn't be comfortable voting on it."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R09-08 - **A Resolution urging State and Federal legislatures to support the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico levee project and endorsing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Alignment as the preferred alternative for St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. WHEREAS,** the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico, Flood Control, Mississippi River & Tributaries, study was authorized by a resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives on May 6, 1998; and **WHEREAS,** the project purpose is to provide flood control, navigation, wetland conservation and restoration, wildlife habitat, commercial and recreational fishing, prevent salt water intrusion and promote fresh water and sediment diversion, and other purposes in the area between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River System, from Donaldsonville, to the Gulf of Mexico; and **WHEREAS,** several alternative levee alignments are being studied within the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico study to protect the area between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River; and **WHEREAS,** the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) hurricane levee alignment which provides multiple lines of hurricane protection when combined with existing levees is one of the alternatives being considered for the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico flood control system; and **WHEREAS,** of the alternatives being considered for the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico flood control system, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway hurricane levee alignment provides the greatest level of protection for the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish and the surrounding region; and **WHEREAS,** St. John the Baptist Parish wishes to express its support for the prompt and efficient implementation of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway levee alignment of the Donaldsonville, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico hurricane protection project and urge other affected public agencies and elected officials within the region to also support the prompt and efficient implementation of the levee project, as a comprehensive and regional solution to a natural flood hazard; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that State and Federal legislatures are urged to support the Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico levee project and that the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Alignment is endorsed as the preferred alternative for St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** by St. John the

Baptist Parish Council, that the Parish President is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Wolfe stated, "Now this might be a little strange what I am about to say but it is coming from the heart. I would like to thank Mr. Bill Hubbard on behalf of E. 28th, E. 23rd Street the people really appreciate how the streets are riding and looking. I would like to also thank Mr. C.J. Savoie who was the engineer on this project. I really appreciate you and your staff Bill and C.J. and his staff. I raised some hell. I am not raising any hell tonight. I am saying thank you. I really appreciate it."

Councilman Julien stated, "I want to remind the people of District III of the community outreach meeting on Wednesday, April 29th at the Reserve Library. I would like to congratulate some guys from St. John Parish, we had gone to draft, and it goes to show how our recreation department has done a great thing. We had one of the kids go third overall. We had one go in the fifth round. We have two others that will be going as free agents. So I just want to commend Errol Manuel because they were there under his watch. Congratulations to all those guys."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I wanted to mention the Clean Sweep for 2009. It will be Saturday. I also wanted to mention the St. John relay for life that is on both days. So please come out and support two worthy causes for the parish."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "Thanks council and Dale I appreciate it. Even though we fuss and cuss a little bit behind closed doors, I like it a lot better when we don't have to do that out in public and that we remain as professional as we can. I am glad that everybody likes their streets that were overlaid. It is a pleasure for all of us to do things for the people of the community. I wanted to let everybody know that this weekend Our Lady of Grace is having their fair and then also St. Hubert's Church in Garyville is having their fair. Also tonight Mike Henderson couldn't make it here, he is in the hospital, so everybody say a little prayer for Mike hopefully he will get well soon. Like Jaclyn said, we do have clean sweep. We are inviting everybody in the community to come out this Saturday in front of the Percy Hebert building for 8:30 AM. We are going to have supplies. We are going to go throughout the parish and clean as much as we can. All the civic groups and home owners associations, we really want you to participate. Tom Daley, our newly elected DA, will be there serving jambalaya at 11:00 AM. I hear he is a pretty good cook. Please come out and help the community."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Negotiations

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:47 PM, Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary