

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**  
**CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE**  
**VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** Lennix Madere

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Snyder led the Pledge.

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as Mental Health Awareness Month**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for May as Mental Health Awareness Month

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as Senior Citizen Month**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for May as Senior Citizen Month

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Public Service Recognition Week, May 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week, May 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R18-10 through R18-16); Councilman Sorapuru - Re-appointment of Greta Duhe to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Resolutions - Annual Sewer Plant Audits (R18-10 through

R18-16); Councilman Sorapuru - Re-appointment of Greta Duhe to the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to place Ordinance 18-10 on the TABLE. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, *"I would like to make a motion to accept the finance reports."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the finance reports. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - Council withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to place the item Council withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission on the TABLE. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard against, and Councilman Madere absent.

**Lennix Madere/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R18-17 - A Resolution Acquiescing to the St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney's Office to authorize, approve and direct the employment of certain law firms to represent the St. John the Baptist Parish ("Parish") in potential litigation against contributors of Opioid Addiction Crisis**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I just have a quick comment Chairman. This is just a follow-up to an item I believe that was held in executive session. I just want to thank the District Attorney's Office for working on this. I think Opioid Addiction is something, just like mental health, something that has touched either someone that we know, very close family and friends, so appreciative of all the hard work. Thank you for your support."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I just got a question on this, and maybe somebody can answer it for me. Maybe you can answer it for me Ms. Hotard. Is there a difference between Opioid and Opiate?"*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I believe it's just a different type of the drugs, it's the same family, they come from the same family, I think."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"It do the same stuff?"*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Yeah they do the same stuff."*

Councilman Snyder asked, "Isn't one synthetic and the other one is a natural growing?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Now that...I believe they all are derivatives of opium, and the way the drug is manufactured whether it's Opioid or Opiate, but that's about as far as my..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And that's why, I was reading something on this the other day I was just wondering if it affect this. Because we talk about Opioids and we mentioned Opioids, but Opioids/Opiates. So you know and I was wondering is, would it make a difference as far as the resolution cause one is synthetic."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You might have to ask a medical person."

**MOTION:** Councilman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R18-17. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

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

The above item remained tabled.

**Jaclyn Hotard - (Carried Over 04-24-18) Reference Discussion from 2/27/18 Council meeting Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding reading water meters manually versus electronically**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm just reading the item, I guess I'm just going to reference it. Is it two (2) items?"

Jackie Landeche, Council Secretary stated, "You see okay. What it was, was; at the meeting before when you were here. Remember when Natalie wasn't at the meeting, you and LaVerne were going back and forth and she said she didn't remember us doing it and you said, Jackie pull it we did it, put it on the next agenda. Cause we had done it a few months before, so I had put (there was two (2) occasions actually) that I had put in there in the last book, but there were more than that that they had mentioned. But that, you had wanted us to do that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Unless Administration has anything to report tonight. I'd like to discuss this item when we get over back into LaPlace just because it's live. If there's something that you all want to add tonight?"

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay, we want to carry it over until, okay! You want to carry this item over until our next meeting? Ms. Robottom, is there something you want to say?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No problem. That item, Ms. Hotard item will be carried over."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you."

**Marvin Perrilloux - (Carried Over 04-24-18) Discussion regarding what is being done to remedy the situation of the effluent pump discharging and flowing**

### into the Haydel Canal from the River Road Plant

Blake Fogleman stated, "The Department currently has two (2) projects underway to alleviate these type of issue that occurs primarily during the rain events. The first project is the Oxidation Pond, which I think Councilman Sorapuru has seen the progress of, it's roughly 50-60% complete. We're expecting to try to get substantial completion by the end of this year. It's a substantial amount of work left to be done, but we're certainly making significantly progress. The second project is effluent controls, updating that effluent controls at that water treatment plant, that's in the design phase currently. Both of these in conjunction with the Oxidation Pond will take flow from river road in these high flow periods. The controls at the river road at the effluent pump stations were actually with our pump bid, also plan on creating those pumps to handle higher flows of capacities. So those two projects are ongoing, I know they're probably long overdue, but you know we're pushing these things forward as fast as we can."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you Mr. Fogleman, you and I discussed that earlier and just for the record, I want the residents of LaPlace Park know, what is going on, cause I get calls three times a week. I have gone to different resident's houses out there, and I can see things on the water and I talked to Mr. Alexander a few times and I asked when this happens, send a robot call out to the residents, plus you need to at least get with Mr. Dufrene and Mr. Perrilloux, turn fire hydrants on just to deodorize and flush that canal out. Because that canal really don't have an outlet to say; well I'm going to empty into, it just goes out in the swamp. That's we need to do and we need to flush that canal out and just...because kids playing back there and playing in that water."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Sure, and I'll say this much. I know there may be some odor issues and I know it looks a lot differently, I will say, at least in my team here the overflows have happened on the effluent of our stations, which means it is treated, to a degree you know to a certain degree. So it is hydraulically blown through our plant and running through our plant quickly, but it does get chlorine, it does see some contact with every part of our plant. So it's not the same as an overflow out a manhole or something that's straight out of the ground from the...that's just to be safe, right. But I do agree and we will address those, we encourage people to call that in to Elm Street, just like they would call in an overflow that they've seen anywhere else, and we'll actually go out there as well. You know the readers read, takes pride that the fact we address water quality calls as well as waste water calls in this nature. And we want to go to each individual and try and address that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Good and that's what I wanted to come across. You said the timeline on this completion is about the end of the year?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "The end of the year is where the water will take this water proactively. What I would say is a lot of this water comes from the rain, right! So, a lot of this comes from tops of manholes we open, clean out manholes in peoples' yards because it helps drain their yard, we've seen that a lot times. All of this may not contribute to this issue at your location, but it certainly contributes to an issue in another location. So we want to try and eliminate any rain water from entering our system and we would certainly appreciate it any assistance from the residents in communicating any issues they see appear."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Good and also, I did tell the residents on nights and weekends dial 911. That's still the same?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And also, I informed them every time this happens DEQ is notified."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "And they've been to the site a few times?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir. They actually recently within the last 6 months"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok, thank you and I'll communicate that to the residents myself."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Ok."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ok, thank you."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir."

**Lennix Madere - (Tabled 04-24-18) Update on drainage and road repair in District III**

The above item remained tabled.

**Lennix Madere - (Tabled 04-24-18) Discussion regarding street servitudes in District III**

The above item remained tabled.

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding Adjudicated Properties**

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I want do want to discuss that. I was discussing this with the District Attorney Office and it just so happen I was watching something on my telephone, I forgot what it involved and this guy said; how do you get some property with no money, being broke? And then this was a guy that was homeless. You know and he kind of explained how he got some property, and I said you know something? We need to look into things like that, because we have a lot of people in this parish who don't have anything. And above something, you know but there's circumstances and with the type of job they have, they got to make minimum wage. But with something like this guy did, you can make minimum wage with no credit and still have him a decent piece of property and we have adjudicated property and we need to have them get rid of it. Ah, and I looked at another one yesterday, and these particular people, they had, he went and tried to look at some property, he went to the county, it was a county in the parish, and they had tax sales, nobody wanted it, nobody wanted that, didn't want to bid on it. So what he did, he went back and went over to the parish, the parish sold it. The parish told him 10% down and on what we get our money back out of it, and depending on how much it is, give you so long to pay for it. And these were people that lived in parking lots, they lived in RV fields, and wherever they could find a place to sleep that night, a guy, his wife and two (2) children. And we wind up with a nice piece of property, put a trailer on it, now they got homestead out there, and he was broke with two (2) children. So I was wondering, I was talking to the District Attorney's Office on this and maybe we can re-look

at this, a program like that because we have, we're starting to get our adjudicated system going now and we may have properties that people with money may not want. But there may be some poor people who out there making minimum wage, can do something with that property. Just buy it and pay taxes on it, and clean it off a little bit at a time and put a house on it, a trailer on it, these days you know, if you got some property and they got some people that will pay you for a house with nothing down. So, that's what I want to bring to this Council, not necessarily come up with anything tonight with this but just put it on your minds and let us know what you think about it cause I'm going to have it put back on the agenda again. Alright, anybody have anything they want to add?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I think that's a fantastic idea Mr. Snyder. Of course we have a, I think over 4,000 people that's on the list with Housing Authorities that's needs a place to live. But if we have all these adjudicated properties that's here, and we have a program set-up with the DA's Office to get rid, you know put it back in converse and why not look at some non-profits and I don't expect to have this full discussion tonight on this, on this particular topic, but there are people that are doing things you know in that manner and you know if you look at it possibly donating the property or at reduced cost to a non-profit entity that will put the property back in converse. I think that is something that maybe we can look at trying to formulate and I don't have a problem trying to look into that. Not at all."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good, anyone else got any ideas?"

Councilman Malik stated, "It goes on in New Orleans a lot, they have that Humanity taking over projects. There's entire areas that are constructing through those volunteers."

Councilman Snyder asked, "That's true. Really the parish got to get with it got to invest it, once we get it back I don't think we get any tax money on it. Well it was just an idea I'm a look into it a little bit further. I talked with the District Attorney, and Mr. Green opened my eyes about something with the adjudicated properties. Mr. Green, can you direct on this, our discussion on the other day on this? Is there anything you want to contribute, as far as our responsibility for this problem?"

Keith Green, District Attorney's Office stated, "As we discussed on yesterday, there are a number of programs that the parish can actually take advantage of with respect to getting properties off of adjudicated homes and back into the stream of converse. Once this program, would be something that's put into a Blight Property Program. Under the state constitution, the property is declared blighted, as well as being adjudicated, then the parish could actually donate that property to an non-profit, provided that they put certain perimeters in place that the property needs rehab, put back into the stream of converse within a certain period of time. The parish can even look at partnering with the Housing Authority, finding someone from HUD, getting some HUD Grants to actually get monies to rehab properties that are adjudicated and the Housing Authority can in turn take those properties and use them as scattered sites or actually sell them to low-moderate income families. So there are quite a number of programs or a number of options that would be available to the parish, I think it would be a situation where we would need to sit with the parish and identify what the specific need is, and reach out to of course you know people and the state... (What do you call them?) Congressional Delegation exactly, and maybe get some insight from them on what would actually be available to the parish as far as funding or program rules and regulations, etc."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well tell me this. If the Sheriff got to sell some property and the bid starts at a certain amount and it doesn't sell, what happens to the property? It just there? You know off hand? There Sheriff go to sell the property."

Keith Green asked, "Like a Sheriff sale?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Like a Sheriff sale, right! But nobody want to bid on it you know, nobody want to bid on it. What happens to the property then?"

Keith Green stated, "Well it would really depend on the type of sale the Sheriffs' is actually doing. So, if it's a foreclosure sale for example: that probably never happen."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Tax! Tax, tax."

Keith Green stated, "A tax sale. Well in the case of a tax sale, no one bids on the property at tax sale-then that property is adjudicated to the parish. And so and then there it becomes the parishes' responsibility, but the parish doesn't necessarily own the property. The parish just has a responsibility as a 'tax sale purchaser' if you will."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And we can't do anything with that property at that point unless we go (what you call it) adjudicated and something else you were saying."

**Larry Sorapuru - Discussion regarding a possible Youth Planning Advisory committee to assist and encourage participation and enrollment in the South Central Louisiana Technical College**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes and I see Ms. Penny is here tonight, and she would like to talk on that a little bit. The strategy behind putting this on the agenda; including we have a number of residents in St. John Parish that's not attending community college and we have mega bucks that's coming to surrounding parishes and our parish you know, good clean industries we want to promote in and be active in our communities. Our residents are not going to that community college and I had seen a number of articles and this year I think Ms. Robottom had commented to the newspaper; Ms. Hotard I think I saw something you had on Facebook encouraging people to go to the community college. Ms. Penny, I think you had an article that you presented also. We're talking about this and I don't know if anybody is aware of this that's going on, I've done some research on community college, and one negative thing that I see and I think this is just a negative situation. If we don't have anybody on that board that's within our community, and at that time to serve (maybe I'm looking at the wrong website), but there's, that board is structured and I do understand that the Gonzales campus is going to consolidate with the campus here in Reserve. But Ms. Freeman, I'm so glad you came here tonight and I've had a number of conversations with you, and the new Planning Board for the past three (3) or four (4) years, and when Ms. Cindy was here also. But, the schools if we can get the Principals and the Superintendent of the schools and school, and hopefully what I'd like to see come out of this is a committee formed from this Council, and to get with some of youth and Superintendent and Ms. Penny, and get a continuous dollar or how important it is for us to go to that community college, cause if the industries are drawing off of that community college. So if a kid doesn't go to that community college, they're not getting an opportunity to even to get an interview. And there's some pros and cons with other things going on but I'm not

going to dwell on the negative things that I'm hearing in the street. This is an opportunity we need to be proactive with some things. I just thought I'd bring this to your attention; Ms. Freeman, I'll let you, you'll take the floor right?"

Penny Freeman stated, "Ok, actually I'm Penelope Shumaker now, got married.

Councilman Snyder asked, "The Shoemaker?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Yes Shumaker, and I am the campus Dean. Officially as for our summer classes which start on May 29<sup>th</sup>, we are technically are going to be for all ten (10) purposes, River Parish Technical College - Reserve Campus. And what that really means to the community, is that we now will offer all those community college classes for credits that we couldn't offer before. So along with our technical programs which we have, that are pretty successful on their own, we now will offer the Louisiana transfer degrees. So, students could actually come to our campus, get their Associates Degree and then transfer to LSU, Grambling, Southern, any public University in the State of Louisiana will accept our degrees. We added a new program this summer, its Industrial Electrician and we have our typical; we have Process Operator, we have Instrumentation. We have HVAC VAC, we have Nursing, Medical Assisting, Patient Care Technician we have a Welding Department, we are hoping to break ground on our new welding buildings this summer, and we are hoping to move into it in January. All of our programs are flourishing, we're full we really are. The question has always been - only 30% of my students come from St. John Parish. And I get a lot of flak from industries who wants to hire local. And when they say local, at Marathon they mean St. John. Okay, so we been working, I've been working the last year or two trying to find the answer to get St. John residents more interested in coming to the Community College. Again, we have a lot of students from Jefferson, Ponchatoula, I mean they come from everywhere. We have students that drive in from Thibodaux. So, I don't think it's the programs or the college, and I don't know exactly what it is and we're working on it from a lot of different directions. There's a big push right now to try to get to the influence (instance if you will) the parents and the grandparents. People who will help the children decide after high school where they want to go. We've recently been spending a lot of time with Mr. George, and the school systems have done a lot of presentations in PTA. We're starting the summer program this summer, we started it last summer, we're going to extend it into this summer, looks like we have quite a bit of teachers. So the interest is building slowly, I think it's just going to take a collaborate effort, everybody, and one of the things I'd like to point out is that, if you read my article in the newspaper recently; it said, that you know the Vo-Tech went to a Technical College and is now a full grown Community College. We got to stop saying Vo-Tech, we've have to. There's no such thing anymore, nowhere, not even here. So we have to start saying Community College, we have to get used to it. It's a full flesh Community College with all the bells and whistles, all the degrees are going to transfer to any State University, any State University, so that's part of it you know changing that mind set. In less than two (2) years, a person can come to our campus and walks out with a really well-paying job and not just Process Operators, in our HVAC Program, we have more jobs to fill than we have students. Every single student has a job before they graduate. It's amazing how many jobs are out there and we're hoping to fill those. But again, I get a lot of phone calls from Marathon and the local industries saying; we want local we have to hire local, and they're hiring from you know Ponchatoula, and they're hiring from Thibodaux, and they're hiring from Jefferson, because that's what we're producing, that's who's coming and that's whose graduating. So whatever we can do, we're willing to do, I mean I've been campaigning like a person running for President lately,

actually, I seem to be in a meeting every other day. So if you have any ideas on the things we can do, we had a program a couple of weeks ago where we brought high school students, parents, industry and our program people together, it was really wonderful, we had three hundred (300) people attend. It was the largest attendance we've ever had in the four (4) years we've had this. We gave away some Scholarships and but again, we gave six (6) Scholarships that night. I believe there was only two (3) from St. John. So, it's there it's there and you know we have all the things they need to come. It's just, I don't know what, if there's a magic answer or not, if we just keeping talking about it maybe they'll start listening to us."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you very much, we appreciate that. And does anyone else has questions?"

Councilwoman Remondet asked, "Yes Penny. Do they still have career planning in the schools? Are they doing that? I know..."

Penelope Shumaker interrupting stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Remondet asked, "All three (3) and they're doing that?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Yeah, in high schools."

Councilwoman Remondet asked, "In our high schools?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Oh in the high schools I don't know."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I know at one time, I assumed they were still doing that."

Penelope Shumaker stated, "We do, do, a lot of different folds than St. Charles and we do a fair amount in St. James. Now, we just brought St. John into the fold, and it looks like we're going to have a banner falls zester with dual enrollment, that's a big part of it to get the students in the classes. Because you can actually start college in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and have all those credits done. So, you are almost there by the time you are ready to graduate from high school. You don't have to all that left to do."

Councilwoman Remondet asked, "And when you said they have that Career Day Planning or whatever, with the parents and the students, was that done on a weekday or a weekend?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "It was done on a weekday, it was done in the evening, we did it from 6 - 8 o'clock, we sent out 7,500 invitations. We sent letters and postcards to the parents of the children, and all three (3) parishes and all the high schools. We get sophomores and juniors and seniors."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "Thank you."

Jerry Jones stated, "And a letter went our through the parish."

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Yes, we publicize it quite heavily. Shell based for this particular program this year, and the parish did a lot of things on their website to get the word out. The Chamber of Commerce came with us and tried to get the word out, so the more outlets we have to get the word out, I think it's

important. But again, forget about Vo-Tech it's a Community College, it's real it's not here, it's not a Vo-Tech anymore."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Why not?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Cause its better. Make more money!"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. Penelope, thanks for coming tonight, I think you're on the right path, with you know meeting with Kevin George. I mean the Superintendent, the schools, they're the key to accessing students. You know obviously we can put information out and we do, but giving you all the access that you need to their students, you're on the right track with that. I do know and I'm sure you have at both of the high schools, but they do start a Career Track in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, when they kind of declare. You know put them on these career tracks so the conversation is have the students have you know at an early point-9<sup>th</sup> grade probably cinder, but that would be something that I would really try and not that you haven't, because you said Kevin George, that's the best thing. Is really helping those relationships, even with the Counselors. You know they see students, probably more often than the teachers, when the student's go the Counselor; Hey I'm not really sure should I you know venture off and take you know a class like this, I'm not really sure about what I would like to do, you know when I leave here. So I think that's a good start."

Penelope Shumaker stated, "What I did recently was, I met, we had a meeting with the students who were Juniors, going into Senior year (this all happened within the last two (2) weeks) then we met with the Counselors, and now to PTA meeting and met with parents, so we kind of hit all the cycles that we could. We offered some more scholarships that we had left over from Career Night. So you know we're working it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I actually think that starting earlier like 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, because with the dual enrollment and I experience this is a parent and (and I'm still experiencing it with my daughter in school) if you know exactly what you want to do, dual enrollment is a beautiful thing. But if you don't know what you want to do, it's the worst thing for a kid. Because with my daughter, you know and there's many of them like her, but I can share this as a personal experience; she did not know what she wanted to do. So, but she had 10 college courses in high school. Well that was all her prerequisites, so the minute she stepped on college campus, she had to know what she wanted to major in and because she had gotten all the prerequisites out of the way, where as some students need that opportunity to visit the campus, take a Sociology, take an English, because no matter what you're studying, everybody's pre-reqs are the same, get exposed to some things that they do like, rule out thing they don't like. So I almost think that 9<sup>th</sup> grade or 10<sup>th</sup> grade if they're going to get into those doable classes and they aren't sure what they want to do could be a little too late, because that forces them once they out onto a college campus whether it's 2 year or 4 year, hey I don't know what I want to do, I don't have the opportunity to doddle around. And when you take a college course in high school, it's a much different experience than if you take it on a college campus, where you're sitting with someone who might be in your English class but hey you're going study Engineering or going study something else. You get some different perspectives, so I would almost say that, 6, 7, Junior High, is a good age to really start you know introducing career paths to a child so they don't end up you know like you know she is, she's graduating next year, you know and just got in. So I hear both sides from students where when you do know what they want to do, but dual enrollment is great, if you don't it's not, so maybe even getting to

those students a little bit earlier to get them introduced to something so they don't you know."

Penelope Shumaker stated, "We do something on that line, in October we tour every 8<sup>th</sup> grade in St. John Parish. Basically from Monday through Thursday for the entire month of October we have 8<sup>th</sup> graders on our campus. We show them all the different departments and the different programs that we have. So we do, do that. They do have to declare in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, whether they're going to go jumpstart or I mean you know career or technical, whatever. So yeah, you really have to you do have to start a little earlier. The good thing I think that's going to happen right now is with the dual enrollment, we've not only finally worked out a plan with St. John Parish to do more dual enrollment, but to bus them to our campus. So the difference is going to be is, they're not taking classes in their classrooms the way they do in St. Charles and St. James, they're actually going to come, they're going to take those English and Biology classes on our campus with college students, which will give them a whole different perspective of college life because for that three (3) hours a week, they're going to have to be responsible adults who handle their college classes. So that I think is going to help a lot. It's going to give them a much better sense of what college is like rather than just going to Ms. Jones's English class. I think it's going to be better for them. So...

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Right. Well that's definitely good to hear. Because like I said, you'll sit next our students who are in that PREQ with you who may be studying something different, and they introduce you to something you hadn't considered as a career path. So I'm definitely glad to hear all that. I'm so excited about just being River Parish Community College. I agree with you, the stigma of Vo-Tech you know it that you're going to go there and learn how to you know be, you know I don't want to learn. Right, right, but you can actually get you know a 2 year degree or/and one of those good paying jobs, a good career path and if you're in the 2LT I believe is what it's called, you can transfer that entire 2 years into a 4 year. So even if there's a financial concern you could live at home, you know go right there to school get those 2 years and then transfer every class into a 4 year program and it'll cost you so much less and will have been able to live at home. So from an affordability standpoint you know that would be something to get the parents interested. But you know the dual enrollment shorting the time, that kind of thing that would be well...but I'm glad to hear that we're starting it earlier."

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Exactly."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Yes and what's the cost, what would it cost to work under the 2 year programs?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "I'm going to quote you as cost because we haven't switched over yet and I'm not that familiar with RPCC cost sheets yet, but for a 2 year program in P-Tech it was right at \$10,000 for the whole thing, two (2) years."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Do we have any of the industries that are giving scholarships?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Absolutely. We have some great programs right now. We have 19 students on our campus that are dollars of apprenticeships, that's not only paying their tuition, books and fees. They're paying them 40 hours a week, the student comes to class for about 15 hours a week, spends the rest of the time or some of the time in the plant actually working with a crew, and then they give

them paid time to study and things like that. It's a fantastic program. Marathon's working on a big internship for our project right now. A lot of industries are getting really into the apprenticeships and the internships. We had some decent dollars for scholarships, Marathon typically will give us about \$15,000 a year. We had little smaller scholarships throughout the year from smaller companies, like Bayou Steel and ArcelorMittal, we have a Dean's Luncheon in October where we actual raise some money for scholarships that goes to all the different programs. So scholarship money is there, it's available."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Ms. Freeman, I don't know what else that we can do because a Council Committee isn't going to do no better than you do. You're doing everything that I encountered you on already and told Mr. Sorapuru you're doing. You're meeting with the school board members, you're meeting with the Council Members you're meeting with the Principals you're meeting at the PTA meeting. I don't know what a council committee going to do. You're doing it all. I can't just grab their hand bring it to the school. They're offering scholarships, I even suggested a few industries offer scholarships to River Parish College. The only thing I can see now more is just advertise on Facebook, L'Observateur, Government Channel...River Parish College, River Parish College. Get that into their head, it's a college, that's the only thing I could see."

Penelope Shumaker stated, "You know that's a great idea because I don't have any budgets for marketing so...there you go! Do some marketing for us that would be great. We typically don't have that kind of money for budgeted for that type of thing. I got to go more on airline once in a while but, typically we don't have those types of funds for that so."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You don't have any vocational curriculums back there? Whereas whether or not it would be a carpenter, or mechanic or a P-Tech in a condensed time? Two (2) months, 6 weeks, 6 months?"

Penelope Shumaker stated, "Well we have all those. We can't do...you get what you pay for. I don't know if you want a welder on the job in six months. But, I mean you know. Now I will tell you this, I'm certainly opened to, we do a lot of workforce development we do a lot of training programs for industries and other groups. So we do have workforce training that is condensed, so I'm not going to say 6 weeks, but we could probably put together some kind of condensed version of something to possibly get someone interested on a contractor level, maybe a laborer type of thing you know something like that, but if you think about it our A/C program has 400 hours of electricity. Those people have EPA certifications when they finish. You just can't do that in 6 weeks or 6 months."

**Kurt Becnel - Pamela Lewis - 184 Central Ave., Edgard - Discussion relative to the status of construction on her mother's home through the CDBG Program**

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes, I brought this up and you'll might have seen me texting all night, you're going to see how serious this situation. Because this young lady I know and I'm embarrassed as she say, because we didn't take no action, that makes me look bad and you know like I said; my number one priority is and also will be my constituents. But we need to, somebody, we need to just move forward with this and this young lady is here now, she just made it in the nick of time, her mother is a stroke victim, and yawl are going to see what's going on. I mean I don't understand we got to review this, review that or whatever. But these people been waiting since November, and you know what that called me last week and asked me? Councilman, when am I going to get in my house, I just thank the Lord I live to see my house. And you see, we keep making these

decisions that we didn't take it off the table or didn't discuss it. Then five (5), six (6) months going down the line, that lady house should have been constructed since January or February according to their contract. Now I'm going to let her come up, and tell yawl her story. We need to hear what these people are going through, and we need to get our act together as a Council, like I said, I'm not taking sides, I respect the DA's Office, and I respect the Administration. But dog gone it, something got to get done. Now Pamela I'm going to ask you to come up and explain what's going on. Actually she had to leave her mother by herself, I hope someone is over there right now."

Pamela Lewis stated, "Good Evening. I'm here on behalf of my mother, Ms. Bertha Lewis. We have been through the ringer, I have, not my mom because she's disabled with a stroke. Running back and forth getting paperwork, FEMA-they asked us if we had any money from FEMA which was Two-Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), the roof was off the trailer. We fixed that, the inside well it rained inside, they had Friends of Charity, Pastor Bernard, they came out they cut piece of pieces of it, when they pulled it down it was molded and they left the rest of it inside. In her room, instead of gutting it out, they cut a piece out so they put a board there. It is molded behind there, she's on breathing machine right now because of that. As a matter of fact I'm here because she was awarded a grant for \$117,500.00. Yes we had a little property problems, we got that straight, which was since September last year. Everywhere I go, I go to Royal Engineer they send me to Metro, Metro, sent me to the parish. I went to the parish office asked to speak to Natalie they tell me she out the office. I have called, nobody calling me back nobody giving me an answer. All I want to know, we got dumpsters in our yard that been there since January. We're living out of a POD, I have to go in the street get somebody every night to come put my mamma in bed. Her lifter is in the POD because they told us we was moving. She's sleeping on the sofa because there's no bed in the home because they told us we were moving. We haven't moved yet. We have no answer we don't get no answer, they give me a number to call Metro, it's the wrong number. So all I'm here to find out is will she get the house built, how soon will she get it built, or if she's not going to get it built, then she's not going to get the grant that the Government give her, come on, get that POD out our yard, get the dumpster out the yard, then I can take my mom stuff that's in there and start all over so she can get a better living."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well, appreciate you coming, appreciate you putting that on the agenda and a decision couldn't be made here tonight, for sure..."

Pamela Lewis asked, "It's not? I'm sorry."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Not in here, not in here because there's too many circumstances you got to deal with here, cause there's the Administration need to get with people who are doing the, everything you see, so that's not. Ms. Robottom, you got anything you want to say or anybody has anything they want to say from the Administration as far as contacting the state?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Excuse me Ms. Lewis. I'm not familiar with her case, but we'll definitely take a look at it. There are several, and this is extremely unfortunate, but we all know these items have been tabled and why. Basically construction is halted, the contractor is halted. I spoke with Mr. Perrilloux earlier, he wants to try and get together to kind of get more information on it and we will. Our recommendation remains the same. Which is to terminate the existing contract, properly procure a year to fix so we can move forward with the program. That's been our recommendation I think since February, unfortunately everybody is on hold. We did have a conversation with Representatives from OCD

*with regards to releasing some of the funds for some of the contractors who have not received payment, but other than that in terms of starting construction, we need construction managers. We need somebody who can meet with residents and right now because there's no funding for the program after March 2018, we can't get anybody to come and work and not expect to be paid. So again, we're happy to have those discussions with you all again with regards to the action that we're recommending and why, and why the state made the recommendations they did, but we're anxious to move forward. I will have I think Myra, pull the specifics of your case because I am not familiar with it, and we will call you tomorrow."*

Pamela Lewis asked, "Okay."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you Ms. Lewis."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Ms. Robottom, is it possible even though Royal's contract has expired, do we have the capability to even manage what we have existing that was already in the pipeline of this contract?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay, so it seems like right then and there we have a real issue. Because if we don't have the capability of managing what's currently in the pipeline, and everything that was pending is stopped basically."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That's right."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And the only way to start it would be to either manage it ourselves or procure another manager?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "That's correct. And there you know, obviously different parts of the program. There's one part that's moving forward, the demolition and clearance that did not require any additional assistance. But management of construction rehab program requires; meetings and notaries and legal and a lot of you know inspections, and you know bids, all kinds of things that occur throughout the process in completing a project. And again, we think it's doable, it was moving for a while, there were some homes and it's extremely unfortunate that are under construction but it stopped. There are some that construction hasn't started and you can't start..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "I'm going to stop there, I know Keith told me it wasn't an agenda item. I thought we'd wrap it up, but we'll have to definitely address this, it's a problem."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well we have to discuss again the specific recommendations and why, and before this can move forward."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Yes Council, I know this wasn't agenda item, is there any way we can waive this agenda at this time, this is a very hardship situation having to deal with, we have probably a lot hardships that sitting out there waiting right now on a list just like her mother right now..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "I think Ms. Robottom already said that she's going to contact Ms. Lewis tomorrow and look at this situation when she get addressed to what's going on. So let's leave it as that for right now."

**Kurt Becnel/Larry Sorapuru - Arthur Johnson - 385 Castle Drive, Edgard - Discussion regarding removal of vehicle from property**

Councilman Becnel stated, "On that issue, Mr. Johnson came on my job and visited, I contacted Alex and they had a meeting. He and Alex had a meeting, so I don't see him here so I guess whatever they discussed, it was must be okay so far."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we can scratch that off?"

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes right now cause he isn't here and I know he said he had a productive meeting with Alex."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay now take it off the agenda."

**Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding preparation for Mosquito Season**

Sam Stein, Mosquito Control was present to discuss preparation for Mosquito Season. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Mosquito Control at (985) 536-6531. A copy of the report is attached.

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Ocie Ann Hill-Davis v. The Parish of St. John the Baptist, Docket #55368344. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

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

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Chairman, actually it's a good thing. I'll offer a motion to offer as a Council to settle; Ocie Ann Hill-Davis vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket #55368344 in the amount of \$6,737.38, which includes court cost, and is lower than the amount we originally authorized to settle the suit. And that'll be the motion."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to offer as a Council to settle; Ocie Ann Hill-Davis vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket #55368344 in the amount of \$6,737.38, which includes court cost, and is lower than the amount we originally authorized to settle the suit. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security

Ocie Ann Hill-Davis v. The Parish of St. John the Baptist, Docket #55368344

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

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

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

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

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**18-11** An ordinance amending Ordinance 16-53 adding the Levee Protection Fund to the annual operating budgets for St. John the Baptist Parish for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 (N. Robottom)

**18-12** An ordinance amending Ordinance 17-61 relative to the annual operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Animal Shelter, ARC, Communications District, Community Center, Criminal Court, Department of Health and Human Services, Economic Development, Office of Fire Services, Health Unit, IKE/Gustav CDBG, Hurricane Isaac, Juvenile Detention, Public Safety, Public Works, Recreation, Sales Tax District, Senior Citizens, Street Lights, Mosquito Abatement, Wastewater, Utilities, Parishwide Sewerage Construction, 2009, 2010, 2014 and 2015 Bond Issues and the 2015 Sales Tax Bond for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 (N. Robottom)

**18-13** An ordinance amending Ordinance 17-35 relative to the annual Operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport Fund, Ambulance Fund, Isaac CDBG Recovery Fund and the Solid Waste Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. I'd like to congratulate Mayor Latoya Cantrell, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, the newly seated Council, and other Orleans Parish officials who were sworn in yesterday. St. John is a part of the New Orleans region, thus our success is dependent on the success of our neighbors. Thank you to the Voodoo Boat Club for the opportunity to kick off the International Model Boat Association 2018 Gas Nationals which are held in Reserve at the Airport Road pond each year. The Club is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and is currently the most prestigious remote control boat competition in the world. The event brought boats and racers from all over the world, 20 states and 4 countries, racing against each other at speeds of up to 100 mph. It was free and open to the public and if you have never seen it, it is truly something I to see firsthand and I encourage you to go next year. We are continuing to work with this group more closely on maintaining the pond and developing a relationship for many years to come because they do bring visitors and money to our Parish each year. I'd also like to congratulate "Guys with Goals" and all who helped with the second annual Aviation Awareness Day held at the Executive Port of South Louisiana Regional Airport last weekend. There were hundreds of children in attendance, also adults, many of whom had their first ride on an airplane and additionally were exposed to a variety of careers associated with aviation. We look forward to working with the group again and thank you for this great event. It's Economic Development Week and there are a host of activities taking place for the remainder of the week. We encourage you to participate in the rest of the week's events: Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - "Taste of Tourism", 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Belle Terre Country Club, LaPlace; Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> - "A Night of Networking", 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, - St. John Theatre, Reserve; Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> - Port of South LA Breakfast, 8:30 am - 9:30 am, Port of South LA Guesthouse, Reserve; Please RSVP to Economic Development staff if you plan to attend. The National Weather Service has proclaimed the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> as National Hurricane Preparedness Week and residents are urged to plan for the start of Hurricane Season, which begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Families are encouraged to use this week to discuss their emergency

plans, review their insurance policies and update their emergency supplies. Visit [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) for more tips on how to be prepared this season. Earlier this evening, a hurricane preparedness meeting was held here on the Westbank and there will be another meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm at REGALA Gym in Reserve. Public safety officials will be on hand to provide a refresher on hurricane preparedness and recovery and ensure residents have the proper information to get ready for the upcoming hurricane season. Opening Day for the 2018 baseball season will be held at REGALA Park this Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Thanks to all of the parish staff, volunteers and parents who helped make the basketball season a success and we look forward to baseball season. St. John is partnering with the 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Children & Youth Services Planning Board & Prevention Committee to host its annual Fishing Camp. The event is Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway and it's free to youth ages 8-15. To register, volunteer or donate, please contact Bernell Charles at (504)570-4885. I also would like to wish all the mother's Happy Mother's Day and hope you enjoy the weekend with your families. Thank You.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:15 PM, Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

/s/Larry Snyder  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary