

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, MAY 9th, 2017
CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER
VICE-CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Marvin Perrilloux, Larry Sorapuru

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Administering Oath of Office - Thomas Malik - Councilman District VII

Barbara Malik Weller, Attorney at Law, stated, "I am here to swear in Thomas Anthony Malik, my brother, to the seat of Councilman District VII. Thomas please repeat after me. I Thomas Anthony Malik, do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as St. John the Baptist Parish Councilman District VII according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God."

Thomas A. Malik stated, "I Thomas Anthony Malik, do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as St. John the Baptist Parish Councilman District VII according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God."

Barbara Malik Weller stated, "Congratulations Tom!"

Councilman Thomas A. Malik took his seat and the meeting began.

Lennix Madere - Recognition - James Perilloux - Scholarship recipient to the United States Military Academy West Point

Councilman Madere invited Councilwoman Hotard up to assist him in honoring and

recognizing James Perrilloux as a Scholarship recipient to the United States Military Academy West Point. Councilwoman Hotard commented that she has known James for many years and couldn't think of anyone more deserving or anyone that worked harder to accomplish his goals, in addition he is a volunteer and all around outstanding young citizen of St. John Parish and a role model to all. Councilman Madere commented that James's mother is an employee with the parish and that he has been following his accomplishments for years and he felt it was only right that he be honored for all of his hard work and determination. He commented that he knows James will go on to do wonderful things and be an outstanding individual to represent St. John the Baptist Parish.

James Perrilloux commented that there were many people who helped him along the way and many people who wrote countless letters for him. He also commended his Mom for always being there and helping and assisting him in everything that he does. He wanted everyone to know that this is possible for anyone with hard work and determination all your dreams can come true and he thanked the Council and the Parish President for this recognition.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as Mental Health Awareness Month

LaVerne Toombs read the proclamation for May as Mental Health Awareness Month

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as Senior Citizen Month

LaVerne Toombs read the proclamation for May as Senior Citizen Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Public Service Recognition Week May 7th - 13th, 2017

LaVerne Toombs read the proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week May 7th - 13th, 2017

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to offer a motion to suspend the rules to move up Councilman Lennix Madere's item drainage in District III. He has to attend a school event."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to Suspend the Rules to move up Councilman Lennix Madere's item drainage in District III. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux and Sorapura absent.

Lennix Madere - Drainage in District III

Councilman Madere stated, "You know I have had this constantly on the agenda until we finish this project in District III on drainage but this is not so much about that particular project at this meeting it is more about the rain episode that we had last Wednesday. I started receiving phone calls I was in Baton Rouge around 1:45 and I called Mr. Brian Nunes and at that time he told me that they had about 4.5 to 5 inches of rain in an hour time and I totally understand the fact that when you get that much rain it is hard to keep up and it is hard for the pumps to keep up and I asked him another question was the Lake full because that contributes a lot to flooding and at that time he told me that the Lake was okay but he said we had about 4.5 to 5 inches of rain and I understand that. My concern is not when we get 4.5 or 5 inches of rain. We have some of the same problems when we have 3 inches of rain or even when we have 1.5 inches of rain. So it seems as though no one can handle 5 but we

can't seem to handle 2 inches. We have the same problems for the same individuals getting water into their homes and we need to find a solution and I have been talking about drainage since 2012. I talked about a drainage department and people that come to these meetings have heard me say over and over again that we have to do something about the drainage before the rain comes down. Well the rain came down the other day and it drained pretty fast but as I rode through my district when the rain went down it left a lot of debris and sticks, cups and cans in different locations and those particular areas are still like that today. Now when the next rainfall comes you are going to have built in dams already at those pumps. If we get another 4 to 5 inches of rain I think the flooding will be worse because you haven't removed that debris and that is not so much a fault of public works because they have road repairs and a lot of other things to do but we need and I think Ms. Hotard passed a resolution several months ago that we were to try to establish a department or like Mrs. Robottom likes to say we have a branch. Well so far that branch is dead. It has no leaves on it. We passed a resolution several months ago to look into having exactly what I am talking about a group of individuals that work on these problems every single day. I cannot expect Mr. Verdell or Mr. Brian to take workers every day from other jobs to go and move debris that is clogging up some of the area that is why we need a group of people that just do this all day. It is hard for them to do it because they have other things to do. We need something a branch or a department with 5, 6, 3 or 4 people that do only this on a daily basis and that is a question that Mr. Verdell can't answer. The administration and this council are going to have to get together because we have to do something to help the people in our district that get water in their homes on 1, 2, 3 or 5 inches of rain. I am saying this and when Mrs. Remondet gets to her item guess what it is - drainage and like I said if you can take care of the people make sure they have good clean drinking water, make sure you keep water out of their house you are doing a good job but right now I don't think that we are doing a very good job."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I can elaborate a little bit in reference to the number of people that we have in the drainage department presently we have 10 people that work in the drainage department that are assigned to particular duties within that department and you are correct there are issues that continue to occur during heavy rain so I did have some conversations with Mr. Nunes and Mr. Kendrick on last week when I was on vacation trying to come up with a solution and I think that we have presented a solution to the parish president that we are not at liberty to share at this time but hopefully with the recommendation that will be presented to her hopefully that will eliminate some of the issues that we face every time there is a rain. So basically to give you a brief overview it is that we would first target those areas or particular districts that we continue to have issues that they will be addressed at a certain time but again we do have a number of people and I do believe that we utilize those individuals well and what we want to do of course is come up with solutions and come up with resolves because the administration doesn't want this to happen every time it rains as well. I am sure that Mr. Kendrick can elaborate as well."

Councilman Madere stated, "You mentioned that we have 10 employees."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir in the drainage department."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to make sure this is perfectly clear, those 10 people just do drainage every day?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Practically every day."

Councilman Madere asked, "So those 10 don't do anything else? No road repairs or nothing else? How long have we had those 10 individuals?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Since you all commented concerning the utility department."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay do we have any type of work schedule as far as location and where they are?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir I get a schedule once a week as far as exactly where they are and what they are doing."

Councilman Madere stated, "Because you see that is news to me and I am pretty sure it might be news to the Council people in their districts because I can tell you I haven't seen those 10 in my area yet. So that is my concern. I am not saying that it isn't happening because I believe what Mr. Verdell is telling me that we have 10 every day that are working in those areas. I think it would be a good idea that we know exactly where they are at as far as district wise because if they were to tell me that they would be in District III say next week then I could also pass some information on to them that would be helpful and tell them where to look for some of the problems."

Verdell Kendricks stated, "We have no problem letting you know exactly where everyone is on a daily basis. Normally LaVerne gets all of the information and she knows where everyone is at but again that day that we had that heavy rain that hit us hard some people were out there themselves cleaning out the drainage and some of them were waiting for us to come in and clean them out. We are doing the best that we can do with what we have and that is all I can say and I think they are doing a great job."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would agree with you because we have had this conversation many times. What I am saying is that it isn't the effort or the work that they are putting in but you said the key thing and I have been saying that since 2012. I grew up in St. John the Baptist Parish all my life and this parish has grown. At one time you could get on Airline and not slow down just get on it now you can barely get on Airline. Anyone that lives in St. John Parish has seen how this parish has developed and grown and you cannot possibly do the job that you are doing with 10 people. You need to have a department that has grown as the parish has grown. We have a department that has basically been stagnate as far as the number of individuals that work in it. When you add more and more work to a group of people they get farther and farther behind. It is very hard to keep up. So my thing is not just a speaking out for the individual that is getting flooded. I am speaking out for the department that is working hard and doesn't have the necessary employees or in some cases necessary equipment that you need on a day to day basis that is going to make it easier for your department in turn it will make it easier for the individuals that pay the taxes and like I said some of the homes that have flooded, one home specifically on Chad B. Baker I used to go to that ladies house all the time and it never happened before. So there has to be something causing the problem and what I am saying is that you need some more man power and you need some more help."

Verdell Kendricks stated, "Okay we are aware of the lady on Chad B. Baker and

she is lower being one of the first residents to move in that area and when she built at that particular time that they didn't make her build up so she fell in the category of everyone else is above her and when it rains she is like in a little bowl and I sympathize with her and I hope you can do something for her it is not that we are not trying. We try to do the best that we can to help out."

Councilman Madere stated, "One thing about that bowl, the parish contributed to that bowl because that road is higher. Like I said and let me make this comment. I know that lady very well and I went to that house way back in the 70's and the two houses on the side of here were there in the 70's and she didn't have that problem in the 70's, she didn't have that problem in the 80's and she didn't have it in the 90's. It started in the mid 90's to now and I have said this before some of the roads in the area have gotten higher and we all know water drains downhill and you can see that the road is above the property level. All I am saying is that if we had better drainage with water moving I don't think she would flood as much but that is just my opinion. I may be wrong but I am just saying and it isn't just that one particular person there is a house a little further up the street that has the same problem, there are actually three houses down that street that get water constantly. There are two on 27th and it is not a burden on you it is a burden on this council as a whole to find the solution. You are doing the best that you can and I want to make sure that everybody in your department is doing the best that they can but it is up to this council to find some type of relief for these individuals because we are public servants. We work for them and we have to try to address their concerns and that is all I have to say on that particular issue right there. Mrs. Remondet will probably take it from there and take it further than that considering what happened with the rain episode but I would like to move on to part two."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Before you move on you might want to explain what Mr. Scott Reddick told us that he is going to try to do."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh this is just something that he is looking at to help some of these individuals get their homes raised. He didn't say it was guaranteed but he is looking into it to possibly help some of these individuals that have those houses that we mentioned. So Mr. Reddick is looking into that and we hope that he can find a solution to help some of these people because I can think of three of them right now in that district that would benefit from having their home raised. So we hope that he can come through with something like that. Now we can move onto my other drainage issue. About the current project, and I have been very critical of this project since it started. I didn't hide that. I said on several occasions that I didn't think it was going to work. After we have that big rain storm I passed back there where the project is going on at and those individuals didn't have any water on their property. I was happy to see that but the problem that existed before still exists. So whenever we do a project we have to make sure that we solve the problem and not put a band aid on it. We are not solving the problem and I think I mentioned to you in a meeting and I mentioned it several times. If we do half of the street, let me just express something, a half a brain is not good, a half of nothing is not good, a half a day with pay is good but a half a day without pay is not so great. So if you take four streets that have drainage problems from the front to the back and we do four halves. So in my eyesight we still have four drainage problems. We didn't solve any problems down Melius, 26th, 27th or 24th. We did not solve anything down those streets half doesn't work. I made the comment before that

we should have taken the two streets that we consider to be the worst and done them from the back to the front at least you would have solved half of the problem that you had on four streets. Now we have everything looking nice along the back coming along they didn't have water but we did not solve the problem that we went out to solve which was drainage down those four individual streets. Okay I have four flat tires on my car if I take two off I still have a problem and I have said that from the beginning and it was evidenced again with that rain. The people in the back didn't have any water when I drove back there. I was riding through the area and like I said the people in the front who had the problem before still have that problem. So I consider this project that I spoke against as not solving the problem. We are drainage monitors like the commercial says we monitor the drain but we didn't solve it. Now that project is going to be finishing hopefully soon and it is going to be up to this council to find money to do the other four halves and until we do that we have not solved one single problem down those four streets."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think this council will take that challenge and working with you we will look at some way we can do this. I would just dig them. I would dig them all the way to the front. We have machinery to do that and my understanding is that we are looking at buying another larger marsh buggy maybe that might help to dig those I think that is all that we need to do I would be satisfied with that if I were you. We are all frustrated and are going to work towards a solution. I am sure everybody in here got calls about drainage this past week but we understood we had 3 to 5 inches of rain that fell in a short period of time, those things happen, by the time we got back from Baton Rouge and I got to my district all my streets had drained and that was around 5:30 or 6:00 that evening so I understood. I received calls and I told them what I thought it is just one of those things but I think all those ditches where he is at over there need to be dug, just dig them. That is what I think but it will help."

Councilman Madere excused himself from the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Councilman Snyder stated, "Now back to the regular agenda."

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - April 25th, 2017, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda item: Approval of Minutes - April 25th, 2017, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 17-03 from the table. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "At this time I would like to offer a motion that we approve Ordinance 17-03. Just for clarification, we had tabled this item to allow the District Attorney's office a little bit more time to determine whether we had any damages for the oil and gas companies. We did receive information for the DA's office and they proceeded and so at this time we are ready to move forward. I just wanted to let the public know exactly what was taking place and I do appreciate administration staying on top of this both items are important to the parish to make sure that we are compensated for any damages that we have and that we are also part of the Coastal Management Plan so that we can tap into any of those dollars as well. So I appreciate both parties working together on this and that would be my motion."

Alex Carter stated, "Just for the record, we wanted to state that the administration does recommend approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remonet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-03. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

17-12 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the requested rezoning of Lots A and E, Emilie Plantation, located in the area generally bounded by the Illinois Central Railroad/Museum St., LA Hwy. 44, S. Emilie St., and Brother Ln., containing municipal addresses 2884 and 2890 LA Hwy. 44, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Commercial District Two (C-2) zoning district with the following stipulations (N. Robottom) (PZR-17-1067)

Alex Carter, stated, "On April 17, 2017, the Planning Commission recommended approval of this request with four (4) stipulations. This request is consistent with the future land use map, surrounding land uses and intended character of the area. Administration recommends approval with said stipulations."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Just for the benefit of the public can you elaborate on the four stipulations?"

Alex Carter stated, "Right, the first is that the site would include a vegetated buffer along Emilie Street at a height of 8 feet. Second would be that there would be no access from the site along Emilie Street. Thirdly that any truck or heavy vehicle traffic generated by the development be limited to Hwy. 44 and last that the development site not be permitted to be converted into a bar or a similar establishment that sells or distributes alcoholic beverages in the future."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Let me ask you is it common for zoning approvals to take place and you put in stipulations, is that?"

Alex Carter stated, "For St. John I would say no but for other municipalities I would say yes this is very common."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So it is something that we and I guess I questioned if it was something common because I think from an enforcement stand point if later on down the line it is zoned a certain way and then a new owner comes along

and sees what is permitted and its use they will be made aware of the stipulations and we have enough legal teeth in this that we would be able to enforce the stipulations if they are not met."

Alex Carter stated, "Yes because the ordinance is the law and the ordinance includes the stipulations and that is actually recorded with the Clerk of Court so anyone who would be interested in purchasing the property would do a title search, this would come up and they would be made aware by their title attorney."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I do appreciate, I know sometimes coming from other areas where you see things where this is more common you bring that here. So I do appreciate that because often times when we have wanted to maybe allow rezoning especially if it is in sync with the uses already in the area but there is some hesitation because you don't want to add a bar or that type of element to the community but we have all of these sort of regular pieces so I like to see that we can accommodate the uses of the property without adversely affecting the residents. So I do appreciate you putting that into perspective."

Alex Carter stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was at that commission meeting and they did ask those questions. There were some questions pertaining to just what Ms. Hotard asked about the stipulations pertaining to what these people are going to do with the land and I know I asked Alex a question because they need to have a buffer wall and a question was asked about that also. So the people that were on the commission asked the same questions that Ms. Hotard was asking and they were looking out for the people in the district also."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-12. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapururu absent.

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

Alex Carter stated, "At the request of with assistance from several Council members, the proposed amendments aim to improve enforcement measures regarding the improper storage of junked and abandoned vehicles on public and private property. It is also determined to be a public nuisance and a health/safety hazard, and the removal and disposal is necessary and desirable to promote and enhance the appearance of the Parish. On April 25, 2017 the President's Advisory Committee on Neighborhoods and Community Development recommended approval of this item. It was also discussed and distributed to members of the Traffic Safety Committee for their input on April 27, 2017. Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Alex I just want to see that this is going to be fairly new to the people when we approve this ordinance and I am sure that your people are very professional but tell them to please explain this thoroughly when they get to the people because a lot of people are going to have questions. This is new to everybody on the East and West Bank because to a lot of people what we think is junk is their car and we have to explain it diplomatically how this is going to work. So please tell your inspectors to handle with caution because I know I am going to have some people calling me."

Alex Carter stated, "I think your concern is well placed and we are going to take the time to make sure that they are trained. We are going to have conversations with our inspectors and for the first time that we are going to implement this we are going to actually be out there with them. So it is going to be a very hands on process for our managers."

Councilman Becnel stated, "That is what I want to see. I am all for it but I want to make sure that people understand."

Councilman Wright stated, "Alex I just wanted to thank you I know we had a lot of lengthy discussion on this ordinance and I actually had a couple Home Association leaders in the last two weeks ask about this. So I did tell them we were voting on it tonight but I just want to thank you for all of your hard work on it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I will echo that. I don't remember actually what year it was but I actually introduced the original ordinance and we pulled some stuff from other parishes because we were starting to deal with more junked, derelict and abandoned vehicles in subdivisions that were beyond the point of I know what you are saying if a resident does have a call they are working on it they may be taking their time based on money and things like that but we had some instances where it was really just negligent and a burden on some of the neighborhoods and as we see how it evolves and implementation we are making some of the changes to deal with some of the issues where it is not as air tight as we would like it to be. I do trust what you said about handling it in a diplomatic way and I share in those concerns as well because you know the first time someone gets a sticker or tag on their vehicle it is new and so we will have some growing pains if you will. I do believe that at the end of the day people will realize that this is for the betterment of their neighborhood and once we get through these growing pains I think it will be okay but I do appreciate this and like I said when we first came into office we didn't even have anything on the books for junked vehicles not long after we introduced it and got it passed we recognized the limitations. So I am glad to see something coming forward that can help clear some of that up."

Alex Carter stated, "This was a team effort. I cannot take all the credit. I have a great group of individuals that work with me and the council participated in a lot of the input on this. So we all should pat ourselves on the back not just planning."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well you know how I feel about this ordinance. A lot of work went into this ordinance and it is a long one and I was looking for holes in it and I read the entire thing one day in between 4-5 cups of coffee and I just couldn't find a hole even though I have to read things 2 or 3 times to understand it but it is a good ordinance that is needed and I know the people with the home owners associations are going to be happy this is going to help them out big time and those like myself in the area that I live in doesn't have one but it will help us out also and I just cannot wait to get this thing started and I think Alex you and your staff did a good job on it and we appreciate all the effort that was put into this thing. Thank you very much."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-13. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time I'd like to make a motion that the council accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

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

OLD BUSINESS:

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-23 - A Resolution in support of Flood Safety in the Parish

Alex Carter stated, "The proposed resolution supports their call for increased flood safety awareness by emphasizing the importance of improving flood preparedness throughout the Parish and in advance of Hurricane Season. Adoption will also provide credit to the local CRS program, which continuously seeks opportunities to lower flood insurance rates parish wide. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R17-23. A resolution in support of Flood Safety in the Parish (1) declaring the week of May 7th through May 13th "Flood Safety Awareness Week," (2) encouraging citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish to purchase flood insurance, (3) stressing the requirement to obtain building permits before construction in the floodplain, and (4) emphasizing the importance of making improvements to individual hurricane preparedness plans; all of which may better reduce the occurrence of death and injury as a result of severe flooding during the upcoming 2017 Hurricane Season. **WHEREAS**, floods can happen anytime, anywhere, and without warning; and **WHEREAS**, flooding has the potential to create significant emergencies for the citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish, including risks of imminent threat to life and property, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and local government infrastructure; and **WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana has received twenty-one (21) major disaster declarations involving flooding, severe storms, hurricanes, tropical storms, and tornadoes since 2000, and is among the top ten (10) states with the most natural disasters; and **WHEREAS**, flood damage is not typically covered under a standard homeowner's insurance policy, so residents are encouraged to review their flood risk and purchase flood insurance to protect and insure their property from flood and associated damages; and **WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service has named this week, May 7th through 13th, as the 2017 National Flood Safety Awareness Week; and **WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service has declared June 1st as the start and November 30th as the end of the 2017 Hurricane Season; and **WHEREAS**, the public is well informed of the dangers associated with flooding; and can make improvements to its preparedness to reduce the occurrence of death and injury as a result of severe flooding; Now, therefore, **THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES:**
SECTION I. To declare the week of May 7th through 13th "Flood Safety Awareness

Week" in 2017. **SECTION II.** To encourage citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish to purchase flood insurance. **SECTION III.** To stress the requirement to obtain building permits before construction in the floodplain. **SECTION VI.** To emphasize the importance of making improvements to individual hurricane preparedness plans, all of which may better reduce the occurrence of death and injury as a result of severe flooding during the upcoming 2017 Hurricane Season. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-24 - A Resolution authorizing Parish Administration to apply for a National Park Service grant through the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development

Alex Carter stated, *"If awarded, the grant would fund 50 (fifty) percent of a professional survey of standing historic structures throughout the Parish in furtherance of the Parish's ongoing historic preservation initiatives. The remaining 50 (fifty) percent will be funded through the Economic Development Fund or General Fund. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R17-24. A resolution authorizing Parish Administration to apply for a National Park Service grant through the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development. **WHEREAS**, the National Park Service, through the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Office of Cultural Development, annually provides and prioritizes funding for preservation-related projects in Louisiana; and **WHEREAS**, this year the SHPO has given special priority to Historic Standing Structure Surveys of properties fifty (50) years and older; and **WHEREAS**, the completion of a parish-wide Historic Standing Structure Survey would provide the Parish with the data necessary to conduct education, planning, and economic development projects related to historic preservation throughout the Parish; and **WHEREAS**, if awarded, the grant would fund fifty (50) percent of a professional survey of standing, historic structures throughout the parish in furtherance of the Parish's ongoing historic preservation initiatives. Now, therefore: **THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES: SECTION I.** To authorize and support Parish Administration to apply for a National Park Service Grant through the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development. **SECTION II.** To authorize the Office of the Parish President and all applicable Parish Departments to support and cooperate with efforts to compile all necessary information and data required for the application and subsequent grant administration. **SECTION III.** To authorize the Parish President to sign any and all documents required for the National Park Service grant application. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

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

Councilman Sorapuru item remains tabled until 6/27/17.

Larry Snyder - EPA letter in reference to West Bank WWTP's Tank rehabilitation project

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I realize that was not enough information for you*

to comment on this but. As you know we decided to give this engineering job to C&S Consulting so that means that the EPA said that because we didn't go with the first person that was accepted that was number one that we would lose our \$68,000.00 grant from them. So we decided to go with the third placed group and the reason for that was because this is a small project as far as engineering is concerned and it is dealing with tank rehabilitation. So there was an opportunity for us to help some small emerging business that was qualified, it just didn't rank number one but they were qualified. C&S was a group that has worked for us in the past. We talked to our engineer and we talked to some other council members in the past that were here when C&S did some work for us here in the parish and they did do some good work so we looked at them as a small consultant group and we looked at them compared to the other groups that came in first and second and the ones that came in fourth and fifth they were just smaller not that they couldn't do the job they were just a smaller group but that doesn't make them any less qualified than anyone else. So we looked at that part and we looked at the fact that they were a disadvantaged business and if you look at what it means and social economic disadvantage if you look at what that means as far as the EPA is concerned it is something to the fact that businesses had to be in a minority, they are 5-6 groups of minorities that you have to be a part of to be economically disadvantaged and to be disadvantaged I think you have to have like 32 million dollars in asset less than that and I think this company had that and you have to be owned or something by an individual that doesn't have 1.5 million in their pockets that is more or less how I read it and we looked at that and said well maybe these people need to get a foothold and help them out a little bit to help them and see what we can do for the smaller emerging business and that was the reason why I brought it to the attention of a couple of people and that is one of the reasons why we decided to go this way now this particular item here is that I spoke with the EPA personally. I spoke with a lady over there who said you don't lose the money you just need to give us a letter saying why you decided to go with the third person instead of the first person. I am saying person so just kind of bear with me a little bit, why we decided to go with the third person instead of the first person. So you turn that in and we will evaluate and you may still get the project and the \$68,000.00 but they also told me that you can also get some of the money for the construction part of the project. The money is still there. We could use money for that and the construction part of it is going to be a lot more expensive than the engineering part of it. So this is why we got to this point right now. We are going to write a letter and we need to get a motion to instruct the administration to write this letter. Mr. Becnel would you do that?"

Councilman Becnel stated, "I will make a motion for that. Do we need a second before discussing?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Mr. Becnel just to clarify and Councilman Snyder correct me if I am wrong but your motion will be to instruct the administration to draft a letter to the EPA placing them on notice that the council took action to select the third ranked firm C&S instead of the first one?"

Councilman Becnel stated, "I will go into more details because when I first saw it I wrote some little notes down on why we want to do this. So my motion is to direct this administration to prepare and draft letter to the EPA which should include the reason or reasons we selected the third ranked responder for the West Bank WWTP Tank Rehabilitation project and that the draft letter

be submitted to the DA's office for review furthermore once approved by the DA's Office we direct the administration to direct SCP to submit the final version to the appropriate person or person with the EPA. Basically like Mr. Snyder said we just want to give this firm a fair shot because like I said the point system is okay but my point is they should have called this individual in an interview him face to face to see what he can do and we just want to give this guy a fair shot. It is nothing against the company that the administration recommended what it comes down to is not being rude or anything but like I always say the administration makes the recommendation but we are the governing body and that is the route that we want to go no disrespect to the administration and I will leave it like that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Councilman Becnel, I have your motion on the floor I will entertain a second at this time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I second it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have a second from Councilman Snyder. Any further discussion from the council? I have a little bit. I hear what you are saying and I definitely want to support my fellow council members. Obviously, this vote came down to 5 council members in support of and I believe we had 4 council members abstaining. My personal decision for abstaining was just because the item had just been presented that way that night but I am a small business owner. I do understand the plight of a small and emerging business. I would prefer if when we send the letter when we have it reviewed and I don't know if it is something that legal has to look at because the entire council didn't vote to award it to the firm do you send a letter from the council members who did. I just want to make sure that it is correct on that aspect with the understanding that I do want to support the wishes of my fellow council members and maybe we will have legal make sure that we get all of that done correctly."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think Mr. Becnel did say that legal will look at it and you still have an opportunity to vote against it now if that is the way you feel about it and whatever the council decides to do I think if the majority decides to go this way or that way I think that is the way it is. We do want legal to look at it to make sure that we have it worded correctly and it says what we want it to say."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "With all due respect, I know you all know the administration's position regarding your decision and you have the right to do that however due to the fact that this is something that you all want to do as far as the administration believes that we went through the proper process and that we selected another firm that met the qualifications and not only that we followed the guidelines by the EPA and I do understand councilman that you had a conversation with a person at the EPA and the fact that a letter is written but the administration wouldn't feel comfortable in writing a letter in reference to the fact that we went and followed the proper guidelines and followed the criteria by EPA and made the selection based on that. So I am just expressing administration's concerns in reference to us writing a letter when we did go through the proper process and selected a firm based upon that as well as writing a letter and having the DA's office to review it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We respect that and how you feel about that but right now I think we all need to get on this one ship that is going down this river here and let's go in one direction even though the administration did

this we decided to go a different way that is our prerogative. Now it is going to cost us \$68,000.00. Well we have to find \$68,000.00 from somewhere that is for sure but that we can do. It is to do what we decide to do. The letter went from the administration to the EPA from EPA to SCP from SCP back to the administration then to the DA office then to us to the council here that is what that letter went through. I mean when we voted for the third something happened between that time and right now where a letter got to the EPA and evidently it came from the administration because SCP knew nothing about it. It went from the administration to the EPA. EPA sent the letter back to SCP and our Utilities Director and someone else. They knew about the letter and then it came to the administration. Now what do we do right now and they told us, I don't know if you knew this, but all we need to do is write a letter and explain why the council did that and that is what we are doing here tonight. That is what we are doing here tonight. So why are we having this issue with the administration still reluctant to write the letter. I don't understand it. It doesn't make sense. We need to get on this one ship and go down the street and get this thing down."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I have a question. Is it possible if the letter needs to be sent to the EPA explaining to them the vote of the council and why the vote of the council took place? Can't we just instruct our secretary to draft a letter to the EPA on behalf of the council and then have legal review it?"

Keith Green, DA Office, stated, "Our office doesn't think that would be the appropriate mechanism to use simple because the council was not involved in securing the grant if I am not mistaken and I think the administration can probably provide the clarification but I believe the grant was actually secured through SCP who had communications with administration so this council had no direct contact with the EPA with respect to how these grant funds were actually secured so I would think that the proper channels would be from the council to make a directive to the administration, since that is who the administration answers to. Administration then make a directive to SCP because that is who they have the contract with and then SCP can communicate to the EPA since they are the ones who actually had direct communications with EPA. I think the letter that Chairman Snyder is referencing was sent to the SCP commission and not necessarily sent to the administration or the council. So I think it would be outside of the appropriate chain of command if you will if the council made direct communication to the EPA since the council had no communications with the EPA in respect to the grant."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Well let me ask you this since you said that it was through SCP, the council we enter into all of the contracts, in case you all don't know, but we enter into the contract with SCP and we have in the past given SCP as a council directives and instructed them to do things. Would it be proper in this case since SCP has communicated with EPA if we give that instruction to SCP to communicate with the EPA the action of the council because I understand from a standpoint of what LaVerne is saying they would be sending a letter, I guess from their position, that is not truthful, this isn't the firm that we recommended this is the firm that the council recommended. When if we don't need them to generate the letter we can generate a letter to SCP instructing them to communicate with the EPA because they were the person who facilitated the grant through the EPA if you think that would be appropriate as well?"

Keith Green stated, "You guys can do it however you want. I just know that the

administration was dealing with SCP and I know that the administration said that they followed the rules that the EPA set up. So if the administration followed the rules that the EPA set up the administration would know what type of reasoning if you will that the EPA would adhere to. Now I know that Mr. Snyder said that he spoke to someone with EPA and the one rationale that he had with respect to it being a smaller business or what have you is that they were agreeable with that. I think within the context of those rules that the administration had to follow that there would be a set of rules or rationale or purposes that the EPA already has set out that would say in the event that you don't select number one these are reasons we would accept for you to select numbers 2, 3, 4 or 5 or whatever the case may be. So with the administration having being the actual entity at least within this parish government structure that worked within those rules and they were the ones who gave directives or who gave instructions to SCP with respect to applying for the grant funds I just deemed it more in line with the chain of command if you will that the directive would go from the council to the administration from the administration to SCP and from SCP to the EPA since that is the way it all went from the beginning."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So we can instruct them to send the letter to SCP?"

Keith Green stated, "The letter would technically have to come from SCP because they are the ones whose name is on the grant. The parishes name isn't even on the grant at this point unless there is something that I am missing."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No. Kevin Belanger told me exactly what you are saying. He said send me a letter. Just send him a letter stating the reasons why and he will send it to the EPA and we will let him handle it from there."

Keith Green stated, "Again our opinion only comes from the documents that we have seen and the process that we understand it to have been council, administration, SCP and EPA."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you Mr. Green."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Council chair I would like to make a recommendation in reference to us sitting down and having a conversation with a representative from SCP because I don't think that we are on the same page. Of course I know that you had communications with the representative of SCP but of course when we speak with him it is something a little different and so I just wanted to make sure that when we speak with him that we have the same communications or understandings."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No problem. I appreciate that. We can have that meeting just set it up."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to direct the administration to draft a letter to the EPA, to be reviewed by the DA's Office, placing them on notice that the Council took action to select the third ranked firm C&S Consulting instead of the first one ranked. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

Larry Sorapur - Update on West Bank Community Center construction

Councilman Sorapur was out sick his item will be carried over.

Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Update on abandoned house at 129 Jessie Lane

Alex Carter stated, "On December 21, 2016 the Parish Hearing Officer ordered demolition of this structure within 30 days. Immediately thereafter, Code Enforcement requested the structure to be demolished and cleared via the CBDG program, should the property owner fail to comply with this judgment. The Parish expects comments by the end of this month. Should there be no comment; the "best case" scenario is to have the structure demolished by late June or early July, 2017."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I appreciate the statement you wrote. I just wanted to know for your information what happened 2 weeks ago when we had some bad rain on a Saturday night and Sunday morning and poor Mr. Bailey he has been through a lot trying to get this house demolished but what happened with all the rain, wind and water it blew parts of the roof of the abandoned house into the street and his wife couldn't even get out to go to church that morning. So I just hope that we follow up on this as soon as we can for their sake. Let's please try to have this done - by June or July because this is bad."

Alex Carter stated, "I have followed up with Royal Engineering on this project and I continue to follow up with them to make sure that they move forward and should they have any problems I will let you know but we have stayed in close contact with them but I would advise, like with Code Enforcement in general that it is a shared burden it is the property owner and the parish working together so should there be problems with the property our first instinct should always be to discuss it with the property owner first but we are also well I have discussed this problem with Public Works with all of the rain that we have been having it is really difficult to address this site in the short term."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I do realize that there are circumstances beyond everyone's control even though it is going into the Highway and the Street so hopefully we can get this done quickly."

Julia Remondet - Drainage in District II - Use of contractors to assist with drainage work

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I just wanted to say this is not a complaint about Roads and Bridges that they are not helping me. Mr. Verdell has been quite patient with me and we do go out and take care of a lot of issues. I was looking at the flood awareness week resolution, which I think is a good resolution, but I recently told the administration that I think we have become an expert on disasters. We have had disaster after disaster. We have flooding and potential flooding where R&B has to prepare for so many things that we are behind on drainage not that they don't want to do it circumstances have prevented them from completing that and it is alright to say we are going to get them on a schedule to try and catch up with all of these but these people can't wait. I have one street, Apple Street in Garyville, that the person doesn't put their floor down because there has been so much water because he doesn't want it to keep coming up and things like that. As I said, I am getting help but I think that they felt behind with so much preparation for disaster that I think they need a helping hand to get things to a point where they can take it from here and it is just a matter of maintenance and that is more my thoughts behind this is that we need some help to catch up. That is what I am thinking about."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well Councilwoman I can understand that and again as we stated earlier we have 10 individuals that are assigned to drainage and particular projects. I do get a schedule on a weekly basis knowing exactly where they are. Today I looked at the work orders and was quite impressed at the amount of work that our department is doing not only in drainage but also with the grass cutting and other items. So again I would ask respectfully to the council, if the parish president would approve, what Mr. Nunes and Mr. Kendrick are recommending and begin to focus on those troubled areas and if you would give us some time to do that and then if we have not resolved the issues then I would ask the council to possibly come back and make your recommendation but if you would just give us the opportunity to do that I think that you will see some results."

Councilwoman Remondet asked, "So you are working on an alternate plan to try and catch up? Like I said they have been very responsive but what do you say to somebody when they won't put their floor back down and that they would rather have concrete then the floor come up again. So it's those kind of issues that we have to solve as soon as we can and it isn't even storm season so I dread the thought of Hurricane Season starting June 1st for a lot of these people but I do appreciate the help that Mr. Kendrick is giving me on a regular basis. He is quite patient with me."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Not only that Councilwoman we were on the phone today with our representative with GHOSEP regarding the Reserve Drainage Phase II project and of course it is moving along. I think we mentioned that a couple of council meetings ago a 3 million dollar project and hopefully we will have that going out for bid within the next 30 days. So that hopefully will alleviate some of the problems that you are being faced with."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I appreciate that and as I said my main concern at this point is the Garyville area it seems to be in really bad shape so if we can concentrate on that I would appreciate it."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Sure."

Councilman Wright asked, "Mrs. Toombs, you said you do get weekly schedules on where those drainage crews are at?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Wright asked, "Can you send those to the council in the form of a report every week or every other week?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Sure. No problem."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How many grass cutters do we have? I mean the people that go out every day and cut grass."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "We have 10 in total."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is that the same 10 that we use for drainage?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "No."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So what do those 10 people do when it's raining?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "They are cleaning drains out."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay so we have 20 people doing drainage?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "We have everybody out there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay I don't know if anyone knows but Mr. Madere was saying something about one of the pumps at Homewood wasn't working the other day when the levels were high. He said that one was working and one needed to be regenerated or something?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Yes when it goes into regenerating we have to regenerate it and if we don't we will lose the pump then we would have to call the contractor to come back out and regenerate it for us because we don't have the capabilities to do that so that is why we have to regenerate it as it approached that phase."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What goes into regenerating a pump?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "It is mandated by the EPA from what I was told for pollution."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Who told you that? I am just trying to figure it out because this is the first time I am hearing about a pump having to be regenerated."

Verdell Kendrick stated, "It is mainly diesel."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So that pump wasn't running because it was being regenerated?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Right it takes about maybe a half an hour or 20 minutes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Well isn't that done every day? They don't check the pumps every day?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "We check the pumps every day. You can only regenerate when it gets to a certain point. We don't just do it. It lets us know when it is time to regenerate."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Okay. Can I come by and talk to you about that?"

Verdell Kendrick stated, "Yes Sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you Sir."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

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

Legal Representation and Prospect of Litigation for Haydel Canal Project

Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc. and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827

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

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

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

17-14 An ordinance amending Ordinance 17-02 relative to the annual Operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Juvenile Detention Fund and Criminal Court Fund for the Fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016. (N. Robottom)

17-15 An ordinance amending Ordinance 16-38 relative to the annual Operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish Airport Authority, Ambulance Fund, Animal Shelter, ARC Maintenance, Communications District, Community Center, Department of Health and Human Services, Economic Development, Office of Fire Services, Health Unit, Gustav/Ike CDBG, Hurricane Isaac, Isaac Recovery CDBG, Public Safety, Public Works, Recreation, Sales Tax District, Senior Citizens, Street Lights, Mosquito Fund, Solid Waste, Wastewater Fund, Water Distribution Fund, Parish-Wide Sewerage Construction Fund, 2009 General Obligations Bonds, 2010 General Obligation Bonds, 2014 General Obligation Bonds, 2015 General Obligation Bonds and 2015 Sales Tax Bond for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016. (N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Good evening. On behalf of the Parish President, Sheriff Mike Tregre, Assessor Lucien Gauff, the St. John Parish School Board, firefighters, first responders and emergency personnel, thank you for voting for hurricane/flood protection in the recent election. Your historic vote moves this vital public safety project - one that has been talked about for decades, closer to reality. As the project moves forward, all efforts will be communicated through our normal channels. Congratulations again to the new District 7 Councilman Thomas Malik. We will meet with you soon for introductions and an orientation. There is one more election to go - there will be a runoff election May 27 between Warren Harang III and Ed Price for Senate District 2. Early voting will take place this Saturday, May 13 through May 20. Thank you to all the volunteers who joined us at Clean Sweep. Over 100 volunteers participated and picked up more than 20 bags of litter. Thanks again to the Clean Sweep Committee for coordinating the event. We will see everyone in the fall, but please continue the cleanup efforts until then. Congratulations to the Office of Fire Services for winning the Louisiana State Fireman's Association Competitive Drills for the fourth year in a row. This is a tremendous accomplishment and only further proves that we have the best firefighters in the state. I'd also like to congratulate Firefighter Michael Whitcomb on his recent graduation from Peace Officer Standards and Training in St. Charles Parish. In addition to completing the course, Michael was also the recipient of numerous awards representing St. John well. I'd like to thank

Pastor Bernard and all of the other pastors and faith based leaders for hosting us for the 66th Annual National Day of Prayer. We encourage you to continue to pray for all leaders and our community as a whole. I'd also like to congratulate "Guys with Goals" and all who helped with the first Aviation Awareness Day at the Executive Port of South Louisiana Regional Airport this weekend. There were hundreds of children in attendance, many of whom had their first ride on an airplane. We look forward to working with the group again. It's Economic Development Week and there is a host of activities listed on the St. John website to encourage residents to participate in the commemoration. This includes Business Networking at Acadiana Cinema on Thursday at 6:00 and a ribbon cutting for T&T Seafood at 3 pm this Friday, May 12. More activities can be found at sjbparish.com. St. John Parish is hosting a Westbank community meeting to present the findings of the Historic Preservation Study Committee. The meeting will take place this Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. at West St. John Elementary School. Attendees can expect a brief presentation regarding preserving historic structures and economic activity within historic districts. Register for the free Ashley Kelly swimming program this Saturday, May 13 at the LaPlace Walmart from 1-4 pm. Participants will undergo lessons focusing on floating, kicking, breathing, arm movement and swimming to the side of the pool. Sessions will be held from: Youth ages (5-17) June 12 - 16 and June 26-30 For Adults: July 17-21. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 652-9569 to register. St. John is again partnering with the 40th Judicial District Children & Youth Services Planning Board & Prevention Committee to host its annual Free Fishing Camp. The event is Saturday, May 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway. Youth ages 8-15 are invited to attend. To register, volunteer or donate, please contact Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. The National Weather Service has proclaimed the week of May 7 - 13 as National Hurricane Preparedness Week and residents are urged to plan for the start of Hurricane Season, which begins on June 1. Families are encouraged to use this week to discuss their emergency plans, review their insurance policies and update their emergency supplies. Visit sjbparish.com for more tips on how to be prepared this season. We want to invite all St. John the Baptist Parish Pastors and leaders from Faith Based Community to an organizational meeting on Thursday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the Joel McTopy Council Chambers in the Percy Hebert Building. This is an opportunity for the Faith-Based leaders to be involved in the hurricane season preparations and recovery. Please call Myra Valentine at 652-9569 for more information. DOTD wants to remind motorists that the westbound, right lane of the Veterans Memorial Bridge will be closed this week through Friday, May 12, 2017 from 8:30AM to 3:30PM. The eastbound lane will be closed beginning May 15, 2017 to May 19, 2017 from 8:30AM to 3:30PM. This closure is necessary for inspection. 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 8:09 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Madere, Perrilloux and Sorapuru absent.

/s/Larry Snyder
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY