

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph S. Sorapuru, Sr. Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Richard "Dale" Wolfe

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

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsel Kerry Brown was present.

Bill Hubbard - PROCLAMATION - Community Action Awareness Month

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "WHEREAS, the month of May is nationally known as Community Action Month; and WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish Community Action Agency has a proud history of providing many types of services to low-income families such as, Emergency Assistance, Food and Nutrition, Medical Prescriptions and Supplies, Minor Home Repair and Utility Assistance; and WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish Community Action Agency strive to deliver services in a respectful, timely, compassionate manner and will strive to provide its low-income residents with the right mix of assistance and encouragement; and WHEREAS, the goals of our Community Action Agency are to improve the standard of living and mitigate the effects of poverty; to prevent homelessness and to assist people and communities in St. John the Baptist Parish to become economically self-sufficient; and WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish Community Action Agency is dedicated to helping people help themselves; NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL HUBBARD, PARISH PRESIDENT in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members do hereby observe and proclaim the month of May, 2009 as: "COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH" in St. John the Baptist Parish."

Elois Joseph, Director of Health & Human Services, stated, "On Wednesday, May 20th we will be having an open house from 11:00 till 2:00. The public is invited and the council is invited. I am passing out invitations right now."

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to introduce Mrs. Merik,

Principal, and Mr. Kline, teacher, at WSJ High School."

Mrs. Merik commented, "We would like to thank the council for allowing us to speak tonight. She explained that West St. John High is moving towards innovation. An innovative high school focuses on increasing career and college readiness through direct connections to technology and project-based learning. She then introduced Mr. Kline to further explain the program."

Mr. Kline commented, "My 10th grade class has done a free enterprise project-based learning activity. The students had to plan and implement their own small businesses. The goal of the project was to teach students how to manage a business and obtain profit. The students presented to a panel of judges at the completion of the project. He commented how he was very impressed with his students and all of them did show a profit. The student presentations were group 1 - Style design business, group 2 - Athletic Chains, group 3 - Roxci Pink and group 4 - X-Pression Tee's. Each student gave a brief account of what their group did and introduced the members of their respective groups."

Bill Hubbard gave each student a certificate of achievement and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes April 28, 2009, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes April 28, 2009, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

09-16 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the Parish President to accept an Easement from E.I. DuPont De Nemours and Company as per exhibit "A" attached hereto and made part of. (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-16. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

09-17 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance authorizing the Parish President to execute a Lease Agreement with Troy Construction, LLC for the lease of approximately two (2) acres near Airport Road in Reserve, Louisiana as per Exhibit "A" attached hereto. (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-17. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

09-18 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 94-74 to rename the following Street. **Trosclair Ct. to DV&D Drive** (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-18. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

09-19 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending ordinance 94-74 so as to incorporate a new street into the St. John the Baptist Parish Address system. **Azalea Drive** (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-19. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

09-20 An ordinance naming the St. John the Baptist Parish Animal Shelter in honor of Mr. James "Jim" Allen. (R. Smith)

09-21 An ordinance to change Wildcat Lane in Reserve to "Giordano Lane" (R. Smith)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:00 the finance committee met to discuss financial matters of the parish. I would ask for a motion from one of my fellow council members at this time."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to award the low bid for the St. John Airport - Airfield lighting and navaid improvements to Diamond Electric at \$550,308.25 predicated upon federal funds being available, approved to award the low bid for Walnut St. drainage improvements to Phylway Construction at a cost of \$197,493.00, approved to move the item West Bank VFD - fire truck - lease purchase to the regular agenda because it will require a Resolution - R09-10, approved administration's recommendation to select the engineering firm of PEC for the Airport Improvement Project, approved to authorize administration to bid the Greenwood Drive Bridge Project, approved authorize administration to bid the Reserve Boat Launch, approved to grant administration authorization to execute an agreement with Municipal Code Corporation for re-codification of the Parish's Code of Ordinance, approved to solicit request for statement of qualifications and cost proposals for administration consulting services - Hurricane Gustav/Ike CDBG Disaster Recovery Program, approved to grant administration authorization to execute agreements for services in connection with Grant Writing (Strategic Impact, LLC & Moore Consulting - \$125,000.00 per year), approved to grant administration authorization to execute an agreement for Program Management Services in connection with \$29.5 Million Dollar Bond Issue (Davezac Consulting Engineers, LLC - fee equal to 3.35% of the entire value of the Program). The vote on the motion was approved with Councilman Wolfe absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Councilman Wolfe was not present at the meeting. This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

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

Councilman Wolfe was not present at the meeting. This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Charles Julien - Cole's Landing drainage/sewerage issues

Councilman Julien stated, "I spoke to Mr. Bean. We have a drainage issue in Cole's Landing. I just wanted the residents to know that we are working on it. We are trying to resolve it as fast as we can. Mr. Bean if you could explain also what is going on."

Ralph Bean, Director of Utilities, stated, "I spoke to Mr. Julien and my manager has spoken to him. There is an issue with a lift station that is close to a resident's house. We are pursuing a couple of different avenues to try and correct this problem. We don't have the solution yet so I can't tell you what we are going to do. We are working on it."

Councilman Julien asked, "Since we don't have a solution approximately how long do you anticipate resolving the issue?"

Ralph Bean stated, "Whichever way we go I would anticipate sometime next week."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat McTopy - Authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with LRA for the Hurricane Gustav/Ike CDBG - Disaster Recovery Program and authorization for the Parish President to sign the agreement

Pat McTopy stated, "As you read, this allows the state and the parish to begin the process of receiving the LRA CBDG funds associated with the recovery from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. We need this to proceed."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with LRA for the Hurricane Gustav/Ike CDBG - Disaster Recovery Program and authorization for the Parish President to sign the agreement. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Hugh Martin - Resolution - R09-09 - A Resolution authorizing the advertising for bids for the purchase of Twenty Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$29,500,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith

Councilman Julien stated, "I would ask that the administration explain exactly what kind of management we can expect. Basically to let the people know how we are spending the money and the purpose of managing the amount of money that they will be managing."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Julien, this is for us to advertise the

bonds. I think what you are asking about is another issue."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R09-09 - A Resolution authorizing the advertising for bids for the purchase of Twenty Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$29,500,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Hugh Martin - Resolution - R09-10 - A Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Four Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$430,000) of Revenue Bonds of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"); providing certain terms of said Revenue Bonds, making application to the State Bond Commission for the approval of said Revenue Bonds, and providing for other matters in connection therewith

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept Resolution R09-10 - A Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Four Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$430,000) of Revenue Bonds of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"); providing certain terms of said Revenue Bonds, making application to the State Bond Commission for the approval of said Revenue Bonds, and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "I would first like to send my condolences to the East St. John Wildcat family for the lost of Coach Troy. I am hoping everyone will keep them in your prayers. I also would like to congratulate the kids from West St. John and Mrs. Merik for doing a great job. Keep up the good work."

Councilman Smith stated, "The reason I am running late is because I have been at the funeral services for Coach Giordano basically all day. I was just totally overwhelmed at the turn out of former players and present players. The church was packed. It was standing room only. My condolences go out again to his family. We are, the students and the faculty, at East St. John High School are going to have a memorial service at 7:30 AM in the gymnasium to honor Coach Troy for all the students and faculty that want to come on Thursday morning. So again thank you."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill Hubbard stated, "Thanks members of the council. I really appreciate us having a good meeting tonight. Just to let the public know during the council meeting the council approved the process of going out for bids for the Reserve Boat Launch. The boat launch is part of the parish recreation program. I am looking forward to upgrading that facility. It has been a long time since the parish has been able to do some work out there. For the hunters and recreational boaters that use the Reserve Canal as an access to the lake it is going to be a great improvement. Also to let everyone know, we now have the capability of paying your water bill online. You go to

www.sjbparish.com we now have that capability. We are very happy about that. A lot of people do pay their bills online and I am glad that we can offer that service. Also we are looking forward to receiving our LRA funds, which is tied with community development block grant money. There is a little process we have to go through. I appreciate the council's support on this. It is going to mean some really nice projects for communities and we are looking forward to doing that for the residents of our parish. Also the muni-code we appreciate your support on that. It is long overdue. Most communities throughout the United States have this. They are taking all of our codes from back in the 80's and comparing them to the recent ordinances to make sure that there isn't any over lapping or discrepancies. They are going to compare them to state and federal regulations and consolidate them. We are going to review it as the administration. We are going to present it to the council. It is going to be available online with a very nice search engine so the residents can just click and then you would have all the information that you would need. The Rotary Club is having their annual car wash this Saturday, May 16th, 9:00 till 1:00 at the Donut Hole right here in LaPlace. So please go out there and support this group. The proceeds will go to the LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department and also the St. John Sheriff's DARE program."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Cable Franchise Negotiations

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:00 PM, Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary