

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
**CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
**VICE CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Art Smith, Councilman District I, Lucien Gauff, Council-at-Large, Div. A, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II, Michael Wright, Councilman District IV

**ABSENT:** Jaclyn Hotard

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Wilson led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Keith Green, Jr. were present.

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

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month.

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as National Older Americans Month**

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for May as National Older Americans Month.

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes - April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Eucharistic Procession - 6/7/15 @ 6:00 PM; Councilman Perrilloux appointment of Brian Bertrand to the Animal Control Board; Councilwoman Millet appointment of Leonce "Lonnie" Haydel, Jr. to the Water, Drainage and Sewer Board; Permit Approval - Sings and Strings Festival - 5/17/15 from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM; Councilman Madere appointment of Barnel Charles to the Water, Drainage and Sewer Board

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Eucharistic Procession - 6/7/15 @ 6:00 PM; Councilman Perrilloux appointment of Brian Bertrand to the Animal Control Board; Councilwoman Millet appointment of Leonce "Lonnie" Haydel, Jr. to the Water, Drainage and Sewer Board; Permit Approval - Sings and Strings Festival - 5/17/15 from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM; Councilman Madere appointment of Barnel Charles to the Water, Drainage and Sewer Board. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wilson absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**15-14** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to add the nomenclature "Willi-Cecile Hall" to the existing South Elm Street in LaPlace, LA. (L. Gauff)

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-14. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wilson absent.

**15-15** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval of a re-subdivision of Lot 30, St. Martin Subdivision into lots herein designated as Lots 30A & 30B, St. Martin Subdivision, situated on land formerly batture in front of Section 20, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-15-1111) (N. Robottom)

Mike Coburn stated, *"This re-subdivision was approved at the Planning Commission's April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-15. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wilson absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wilson absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Blake Fogelman, Utilities, stated, *"I know we have a lot of projects going on right now so I am going to touch on a few waste water/water projects that are in different phases of design. In the wastewater side you approved the change order for the Airport Road project that has since then or during that time they were already ordering material construction has started on that project and we will give you updates as that goes regarding the process or the construction. The twelve lift stations is I think a more visible project because we are bouncing around my understanding is that they are working on Cambridge #4 and #5, they plan on working on River Forest #2 and the contractors themselves there is going to be a temporary road closure on 5/14 which is Thursday they are currently working with the residents that is on Lancelot between Somerset and Devon and the contractor is handling communication with those I think there are only 2-3 residents and they are going to accommodate them during the day when they come in and out but they are going to try to stop through traffic on that street during the construction. We had a pre-construction meeting on the telemetry project. We received shop drawings that contractor is ICE they are going to be doing a radio survey here in the near future so they will be dragging around a small antenna and popping it up in different places when they are in the area. I have already spoke to the*

communications department and when they do plan on coming we will be certain to let you all know as well as the residents know just to be aware that there will be somebody running the streets and it is a contractor of ours that is working on that project. I think those were the main ones in construction. Moving into the design we are looking to see the preliminary drawings for the oxidation pond in mid-June some of the waste water department is actually going to make some site visits to some other area facilities that have the same equipment and different types of equipment to make sure that before we go into any further phases that we are getting the right equipment on this project. We are working with Mr. Savoie on extending a Riverside force main. It is a small extension 800 feet into the Riverside lift station rather than into the manhole right in front of Riverside Academy that is being designed as well. The I&I on the West Bank the engineer which is Mr. Gerald Babin is still in review of the Lucy and Wallace manholes and as soon as he gets that review completed we will be moving into the construction phase on that. So that is the waste water side of things. In construction on the water the river crossing as you know the river being above 13 feet has put us on hold they are doing some miscellaneous housekeeping items, they are in and out trying to be prepared for when this river does drop. They have to do a little bit of piping and then they are going to actually it is going to take a little bit to clean that line and test it before we get anywhere close to putting it in for operation. So that is the main portion of the remainder of the work. The UV disinfection we have a pre-time set for May 14<sup>th</sup> which is also Thursday that is Mr. C.J.'s project and they are going to be ordering the equipment but that again is on standby there is no ground breaking because that is at the plant site on the river and because it is 800 feet from the levee so if the gauge dropped below 11 we won't be able to work there. We are 95% complete with the design on the Lyons raw water pump station so we are looking at that and I believe Mr. Savoie has seen those plans and has made some comments and I think we are just waiting on the final one and we will be approaching the council to go into advertisement once everyone has seen and approved it on our end. The elevation of Ruddock we are in review of preliminary plans and that is working with Mr. Savoie as well and we should be moving into the next phase of design on that. I know that is a lot of information in a short period of time I just kind of wanted to touch on a few of the items that we had going on."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "We are going to have DHH approve all of this before we do anything right?"

Blake Fogelman stated, "Yes that is stipulated in part of the design with our engineer."

Councilman Madere asked, "I got some complaints and information from residents that we would no longer be blowing out 4" lines is that true?"

Blake Fogelman asked, "Can you elaborate on that?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Like the clean out lines towards people's homes."

Blake Fogelman asked, "On people's property?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes."

Blake Fogelman stated, "We have been advised that we couldn't do that type of work on private property between the liability as well as it not being public right-of-way we have been advised not to."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay but what I am saying is when was this going to be made known to the council and to the individuals in the community because this process has been going on for years and years blowing out their lines if something was wrong and the information I got was based on a couple of complaints or a lawsuit that this decision was made."

Blake Fogelman stated, "I believe it had something to do with that and I was advised not to speak on that in an open meeting."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so I mean who basically has the authority to make that decision as far as something that has been going on in the community for years and not even notify an individual that they may have to start saving money to blow something out."

Blake Fogelman stated, "I understand that Mr. Madere and I would love to speak to you in a closed meeting but I don't believe that we can speak on it here."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You know this is what Mr. Madere is talking about the parish does have clean out lines."

Blake Fogelman stated, "We have a 6 inch clean out at the property line and that is what is the responsibility on paper for us to maintain."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And those will be blown out?"

Blake Fogelman stated, "Yes sir in fact we do that a lot of times we go out there and do it regardless if it is our line that is stopped up or not just to make sure it is not."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't know I know I have one for my water heater and it is a 4 inch line but it is right there by the water meter and it is just to blow out."

Blake Fogelman stated, "Correct new construction has a 4 inch at the home and it runs across the property and then at the property line we will have a 4 inch to a 6 inch and actually new construction has a back flow preventer which is required so that if we come through that 6 inch or if a contractor would come through the main line and blow out that main line it would not allow any backflow into anyone's toilets or sinks or anything like that."

Brian Nunes, Public Works, stated, "I just have a few updates I wanted to provide since the last council meeting first is concerning roadside ditch cleaning as previously stated in the council meeting the public works department continues to clean roadside ditches in the parish. We began a few months ago in Mt. Airy and are working our way towards the east. I believe with your administrative report you received a map there are a bunch of roads indicated in blue those are the roadside ditches that have been cleaned by public works to date. The map will be

continually updated as work progresses and a copy will be emailed to the council on a regular basis. The fact that they are all colored that means that they are done we may have come to a ditch and decided it didn't need to be completely dug out so we just sprayed it to kill the vegetation or if it was culverts we went ahead and cleaned the culverts but that is what has been done to date well actually as of May 5<sup>th</sup> I haven't updated it yet I will probably update it again at the end of May or beginning of June and maybe monthly we can send you a copy just to keep you updated on where we are but from where we are in Garyville now we are going to continue moving towards Reserve and then into LaPlace after that. There was a second map that was included in the admit report which has the canals on the East Bank listed in red those are the ones that were cleaned in a project by Three Deuces so we continue to clean those. They haven't been dredged because we still don't have the permits but we do maintain those as best as we can which leads me to the canal spraying. The first round of canal spraying has been completed under the contract that was awarded to Roussel's lawncare. I spoke to them today because they are going to ride the canals next week to look for any areas that require touch ups and then round 2 will begin early in the summer. The next item I have is the Foxwood drainage project."

Councilman Madere asked, "Before you go to that, the map you said the blue lines are the ones that they have cleaned already right? Is this going on every day?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes if the weather is good."

Councilman Madere asked, "So this is something going on every day until we reach all the way to the LaPlace area?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That is correct."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mr. Nunes I am looking at this map and I would like to get with you after the meeting because there are a couple of them that are not marked on here and I would like to talk to you and find out if they are marked somewhere else."

Brian Nunes stated, "Okay. The Foxwood Drainage project the contract for Foxwood has been executed we are currently working with the engineer and the contractor to schedule a pre-construction conference with everyone and we expect to issue the notice to proceed within the month. The construction time for that is 180 days. The next items is the Vicknair Canal sonar survey unfortunately there were complications with the sonar equipment last week and the survey was not completed according to the original schedule however I was informed that the survey work will be completed by tomorrow at the latest and there is a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday morning with the survey company where they are going to drop off all the deliverables and explain the survey and the results following that I am going to set up a meeting with DNR so that I can go up there and present the results and if they are agreeable to allowing dredging based on that sonar survey then we are going to move forward with more surveys on canals in other residential areas of the parish. The asphalt road repairs Barriere construction indicated to me this morning that they are finalizing their plans for the patching crews and they are scheduled to begin asphalt work on May 26<sup>th</sup> which is the day after the Memorial Day

Holiday. The concrete contractor that process is ongoing he is still out there and again as always if council members have any new things to add to the list please feel free to call me so that we can get things done while they are out here. The last thing I have is the canal and roadside ditch debris. Mr. Madere we talked about that speaker we got that one out of the ditch and we continue to remove additional debris on a regular basis however we still want to strongly encourage our residents to properly dispose of garbage and not throw it in the canals or ditches and large items say a speaker or things that can't fit in your normal garbage can be dropped off in the public works recycle yard the hours of operation for the yard are 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday."

Councilman Madere stated, "One other thing Mr. Nunes in Scarlett Oaks we have that canal that runs parallel with Central and there was a question if we had servitude or if it is their property and we have access to it then we are bound if we tear it up that we have to fix it back also if it is just parish servitude we really don't have to fix it but I think and what I did find out was that parish servitude is behind those houses so really if we tear it up we really don't have to fix it but I think us being good neighbors if we mark it up on a wet day and most of the residents behind those houses they keep it cut themselves so they are actually doing us a favor when they cut up to the ditch line so if we go over there to reach over to cut the other side and we mark it up I think we should go back and level it off if it is our responsibility. So I called and spoke to Rebecca in P&Z and basically she said it is parish servitude. So I think on our part as being good neighbors we should go back there and straighten it back up for them."

Brian Nunes stated, "We can take a look at it. I mean like you said there is no obligation for us to do that but we want to make everybody happy as best as we can."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh yes and this was pretty bad."

Brian Nunes stated, "I will take a look at it tomorrow."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am looking at this map you got here with the red lines and I see what is going on with the three other canals there between Riverlands, Carrollwood and Colony the three big canals I see there is nothing on here do you plan on doing those?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Those weren't included in the contract. I know we had cleaned the Vicknair Canal in house, the Ridgefield Canal we had cleaned in house. I think that is why there were not included in the original scope."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What original scope are you talking about?"

Brian Nunes stated, "This was a project that Royal had done they went ahead and did those years ago with the Gustav/Ike grant they did the design for cleaning of all the canals that are indicated on the map. Three Deuces was the contractor that did it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "If I am not mistaken I believe the ones he is speaking of and the Vicknair and Ridgefield Canal were under a different program that has not been done yet."

Brian Nunes stated, "I will have to look into a different program but they weren't in this project right here."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I see they did Lasseigne Canal and that is on the east side of Colony and I see you did that one so I was just wondering why? Is there someone from Royal in here who can answer that question?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Mrs. Robottom just brought up they did the assessments after the hurricanes and they judged the project based on damages and I wasn't here for Gustav/Ike."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually none of us were here for Gustav/Ike but when we came on there were already projects submitted and funds received for Gustav/Ike and part of it was a canal cleaning project and again following the storm FEMA identified certain canals that they would allow for us to clean with the funding they provided. So although this may not be every canal these were the canals cleaned with the Gustav/Ike grant that was done by Three Deuces and permitting was acquired by Royal and the project was managed but this was all done before us these canals were selected and approved by FEMA who was the funding agent that is not to say that there weren't other canals done through a contract and I know prior to 2012 there was an annual excavation contract that was used so there are other canals that were cleaned but they may not have been cleaned as part of this grant."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I want to get with you to discuss some canals that need to be cleaned in my area not right now but we need to set something up."

Angelic Keller had to leave she was ill so we will skip her Department Report.

Rhonda Lemons, Health & Human Services, stated, "The Health and Human Services will be hosting the 2015 Parish Summer Food Service Program. The program will begin on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and will end on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The program days of service are Monday through Thursday only. We are closed on Friday for restocking. Hot nutritious meals will be provided to all children in the parish ages 18 and under and at no charge. The site locations and times the meals will be served are ESJ Elementary in LaPlace, Monday through Thursday, breakfast is at 7:30 AM through 8:30 AM and lunch is from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Garyville/Mt. Airy Magnet School in Garyville, Monday through Thursday, breakfast is at 7:30 AM through 8:30 AM and lunch is from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. New Wine Christian Center Fellowship in LaPlace, Monday through Thursday, breakfast is at 7:30 AM until 8:30 AM and lunch is from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. LaPlace Elementary School in LaPlace, Monday through Thursday, lunch only 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. WSJ High School in Edgard, Monday through Thursday, lunch only 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Anyone interested in free transportation should contact the department of health and human services at 985-536-4955. Also in keeping with the school district policy we are only able to transport school age children who are ages 4 through 18."

**Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 10-13-14) Discussion Lions Water Plant Phase VIII design**

Councilman Snyder asked that this item remain carried over.

**Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 4-28-15) Update on permit for canal Sonar and cleaning in District VI**

Brian Nunes stated, "The start date for the sonar survey was delayed due to broken equipment. BFM has since repaired this equipment and should be finished with the survey by end of the week. A meeting has been scheduled with the Director of Public Works to deliver results. Once reviewed and received will be utilized to complete the permit application with DNR, which is needed to dredge the canal to its proper depth. Once we hear from them and see if that is good enough for them and if it is we are going to move forward with more surveys on other canals and submit for permits."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So they started the work?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes the survey should be done tomorrow. I think they started Monday because their boat broke last week and I talked to them and they said it would be done by Wednesday afternoon at the latest."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So you have to go over it with them?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I would like to instead of him just sending me something. I requested that he come and sit down and explain everything and show me what I am looking at so that I can speak intelligently on it when I go to DNR."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is it possible that I can be in that meeting just to get the information and ask a couple of questions?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Sure it is Tuesday morning I will send you a calendar invite."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I just have a comment about permits going in areas where we have subdivisions and drainage. I want to ask you not to do that anymore. If it goes into the wetlands or something or north of I-10 it is a different story or like Reserve and Garyville Canal those are different stories but within a subdivision this should have been done that job should have been done two years ago. I just don't want to see us get in this type of a situation again."

Councilman Snyder stated, "While I have Mr. Nunes up there I just wanted to let him know that there are baskets again in the canal. I know you have taken about 1,000 out of there already but they have some more out there right by Ascension of our Lord Church."

Councilman Madere stated, "I have a question concerning Hickory Street have we made any progress with that?"

Brian Nunes asked, "The private property issue?"

Councilman Madere asked, "Right we haven't gotten in contact with the individuals?"

Brian Nunes stated, "No I have not."

Councilman Madere asked, "How soon do you think you might?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Maybe next week I can talk to them."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Do you have anything on the issue on Anthony F. Monica by Mr. Rome and Mr. Cashio?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That was the other private property issue no I don't anything to comment on that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That is a parish ditch that has been there for hundreds of years and there is nobody out there that will complain get a contractor out there and I just want to get this thing done please."

**Marvin Perrilloux - (Carry Over 4-28-15) Status of Haydel Canal Crossing**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would just like to comment on this as promised the LaPlace Park residents. I did have a conference call with Mr. Nunes and Mr. Shread the engineer in charge and we talked about some alternatives and Mr. Shread is going to go back out there and look at the project again but I want to tell the residents that the project is 95% complete. We still have to acquire some land acquisitions and I understand it has been turned over to the DA's office and the process is ongoing and the project is moving forward and I just wanted the LaPlace residents to know it is moving forward and I am staying on top of it."

**Lennix Madere - Homer "Boogie" Joseph Center timeline request for start and completion**

Councilman Madere stated, "They have here that a meeting is being scheduled with Councilman Madere okay that is the response. They can call me as soon as tomorrow I would be willing to take that phone call and set up that meeting because this item here is something that we need to take care of. So I am more than happy and willing to meet to discuss this item and we can have this removed and it is settled."

Councilman Wright stated, "We do look forward to your follow up as we have been talking about this for some time and we hope for some expedited results."

**Larry Snyder - Path to streamlining the permitting process**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I put that on there for discussion amongst the council. I think that we can do some things as far as getting this process a little better streamlined. I am sure all of you have gotten the horror stories about trying to get a permit in order to just put a shed up and I got a couple of letters from some people who have a lot of investments in the parish and one guy wrote me a long letter and he just seemed disgusted not that P&Z are doing anything wrong it is just our process of doing this thing. I think we as a council need to figure out something maybe we will have to appoint a committee or a group of people that might be good at doing things like that like the people who

did this work in the beginning and unless we do something it is just going to get worse I think and people hear about it and they don't want to come to the parish with businesses and I think that is hurting us right now for sure because I had a friend of mine who was trying to get a license for something and he just couldn't get it. It took too long they wanted this and that so he went to St. Charles Parish and got it in two weeks you know just a permit. I am not pointing fingers and I don't think it is anybody's fault in here but it is the process that we have there. We have to stream line it a little bit. I don't know if we have to make it more liberal. I am not sure what we have to do with it but we all need to look at it and if you have any ideas don't be afraid to put those forward because they have two hotels coming up in LaPlace and they have an office building and these people just can't wait and wait to try to get permits in so we need to try to do something. I was just putting it on your mind if you have any ideas let's do something."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We have been talking about this for years now and I think it is time for us to take some action. We need to form a committee, form a workshop and get it done. We have lost too many businesses. We have all had the complaints and the phone calls about how businesses are 2-3 months behind because of the processes that we have them go through that may or may not be necessary. I think I need to make a motion that we form a committee to have this taken care of now and stop losing businesses that would be beneficial to St. John."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I thank you because I have been asking for help with this since we got on this council. The rules need to be changed in some cases and we are the only ones that can do it and it is not the people in P&Z the employees are going by the book and we need to change the book because I don't know where some of this comes from. I don't even feel like I'm in the same state after being out of office for 8 years but there is nobody that walks out of that building that doesn't feel like they are sick to their stomach and again we don't want to lose any more businesses not anywhere, not just in LaPlace but anywhere in the parish."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think Mr. Wilson makes a good point in that it is time for us to do something about this. I think often there are times when residents aren't prepared also. I am just saying this because I have had them meet me there to walk through the process and the process is laboring but often our residents aren't prepared and I think that is where we have to do some sort of awareness or give them some way to come there prepared to be prepared for the process and bring the proper information needed to get permits. Our system as I said, it takes you back and forth, to get a permit you might have to go to 2 or 3 different places and we need to try to get the one stop shop to where it is all centrally located that may not happen immediately but that is what we should be working towards. This committee sounds like it is a step on the right path or in the right direction but we really have to look at the ordinances themselves because the people working in P&Z are trying to follow the rules and we want them to help businesses and to help people because that is what we are here for to help people but then again you can't break the law you have to have the proper information that is needed. There are a lot of times that people come in and they want things done and from the stand point of not wanting to spend more money that is all of us none of us want to spend any more money than we have to but if you don't own the land then you

have to get signatures, if you don't have signatures than you have to do something else and go to a notary and get something notarized. Any time we do things it cost money and most times and I am included in that I have built, I have had to get permits, I have been rejected and had to get variances all of that it is a tedious process but in order for us to move forward some of these things, rules or ordinances have to be looked at and streamlined just as you all are suggesting they have to be looked at but yet residents also have to realize that there are laws and rules that have to be followed and that sometime no does mean no, it doesn't mean maybe and let's bend the rule for you this time or bend the law so that you can do it that cannot happen."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Also as far as businesses are concerned we have an Economic Development board these people own businesses as far as businesses are concerned they should be held by the hand to go through this process and have everything done within a week. I mean that is how it should be with businesses you welcome them we have an Economic Development fund that we are not using for economic development and that is what it is all about and it is helping these people and helping business get started but with the process they have to go through and the people leaving the parish and going somewhere else that shouldn't be happening. They should be held by the hand and walked through that process and get everything done within a week and a half at the most."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just a comment and I know Laverne Saulny is here we have been working on several things with some of the business owners and developers who work in other parishes and taking some of their input additionally it is a twofold problem. One of the cases Mr. Snyder that you brought up we will be happy to discuss that with you I think we brought a few things before the council and changed some ordinances trying to work with some of the businesses but Mr. Gauff is correct there are certain rules you can't build lot line to lot line. There is a reason for having servitude. There is a reason for requiring certain parking and there are processes involved and typically architects and developers get copies of the ordinances and when they do they submit permits and properties that go through very quickly but when you are constantly trying to circumvent the rules then it does take longer. When you don't follow the directions or instructions or the rules that are given to you it takes a little bit longer but I know for a fact that Ms. Saulny has been meeting with individual business owners and doing exactly what you are saying. When there are problems working with them to get them through the process especially if it is things administratively that can be handled that is something that is taking place now and we are going to continue to do that. There are a group of people that are meeting together who had some issues that are making recommendations but they have also acknowledged that some people are trying to circumvent the rules so it is very difficult for us to comply with them when they are constantly trying to avert rules that are that either need a variance or can't have a variance or can't be done period but our goal is to try to help them do what they want but we can't at the expense of other property owners and residents. So we appreciate whatever you give us. We are glad to take a look at that. We are going to continue to gather information from other parishes and business owners to do exactly what you are saying. In the meantime Ms. Saulny will continue working with individual businesses to walk them through the processes as soon as we know about them that is our goal is

to have them come before they get started to get all the information but when you start out incorrectly you are going to have missteps. If you start without having all of the rules and regulations you are going to have missteps. You have a system set up called an administrative meeting when projects are coming to the parish our staff calls meetings with all the utilities, public works, public safety everybody is at the table so any questions they may have about their development or their design can be answered in that one meeting and they are given direction in terms of what is necessary to move their project forward. So we encourage any of the businesses that are starting to do that first and get a handle on what the requirements are, what the timelines are because you are right there are some things that we can't avoid for example notice we have to advertise in the paper for so many times and just sometimes advertisement is a month so if you come at the last minute you are going to have trouble getting your project through because there are requirements for advertisement that we cannot circumvent. The L'Observateur is our paper. We have to get it to them so many days in advance. So there are other things that drive how quickly things take place but our goal is the same as yours to expedite those, to continue to have the businesses that we have opening opening and continue to attract the ones that we are attracting."

Councilman Snyder stated, "My only concern is that I am not trying to be liberal as far as letting people do things that they are not supposed to do to push this thing through but there has to be some ways or things that we can look at in our ordinances and in our procedures that we can change a little bit. You know if I have an old shed in my backyard and I want to change it and build me another one back there with no water, gas or light. I have to get a drawing and if they don't like the drawing then you have to put more numbers on it. You have to pay \$60.00 to get that one torn down then you have to pay another \$100.00 to get the other one built then someone has to inspect it to make sure and all I want to do is put the same footprint that was there already why is that necessary. Why can't a guy come to the office and say look I have an old shed 10x8 and I want to tear it down and put a new one there. Well how far is it from the fence? It is 2.5 feet. Well that is too close if you are building another one in the same spot then you have to conform to the new codes. So now I have to wait until we have a board of adjustments meeting to go over there and do all of that more money and more time now the other shed is falling down about to fall on my dog back there and I want to change it. So that is what I am talking about little things like that and look send one person out there to inspect it build the shed, tear it down and make sure you get that garbage out of here and let's do it. We can do the rules whereas and some of the ordinances whereas we can remove some of the steps in there but still be legal and get the job done that we want to get done. Now if you have water, gas and lights to it then we understand you have to get the inspectors out there to check it out that makes sense, but not just a little raggedy shed back there that has my lawnmower in it that is what I am saying. I'm sure we all understand. We know about this and we don't need all these speeches telling us to do this and do that or we can't do that we know that we understand that let's move on and get this thing done."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I would like to kind of respond. We are asking people to clean up or we are trying to get people to clean up and just as you said with the building of the little shed that is

falling down. Us making or asking these people pay to do that to me is ridiculous and it is this council sitting here a dog house was used as an example this council passed that and there were two of us that voted against it Mrs. Millet and myself but that is something that we can fix by the next council meeting and we can put it on the agenda because I don't think we should charge people to clean up. I mean that is a little ridiculous to ask them to pay to clean up if they clean up to make the place pretty but they are not going to pay to clean up some of them can't afford it."

Councilman Gauff asked, "What do you mean by clean up?"

Councilman Wilson stated, "Just like I said this council passed an ordinance just because of a dog house."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I wrote an ordinance because of public safety. If you want to tear something down I think the neighbor next door to you needs to know that there is a possibility of a gas line or electrical line. I think when you are tearing down a property or tearing down a blight then yes there should be a minimal fee and that is the way it was written up and that is the way it is that is the way that most municipalities need to know that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I am saying that it needs to be changed. You used an example of a dog house you can go back in the meeting and look at the tape a dog house if you want to take a dog house down you have to get a permit. If you want to put a new one up you have to get a permit. These old sheds that we are looking at and talking about are probably 70, 80 or 100 years old in some cases in areas where I live but it is ridiculous to ask these poor people to pay for them to clean up and that is all I am saying and it doesn't have anything to do with gas, power or anything else because none of them have that. I mean some of them can barely take care of their homes with their finances but it is not right."

Councilwoman Millet called for a question.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to form a committee to look at and work on the permitting process of the parish. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

#### **Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding overtime**

Councilman Snyder stated, "What brought this to my attention was that I was looking at some of the overtime and then I put some facts together that some people came to me and there was one on here and I hate to do it this way but to me it was just completely out of whack and it just so happens that the particular department that it was in was where I got the complaints from. So now I'm wondering is this what is really happening. I guy told me his water bill used to be \$49.00 and now it is \$194.00 and I saw this. There is one person living in a house with no children in Reserve and his bill is \$194.00 from \$49.00 he said it went up for 2-3 months but here we have people out there putting 132 hours in overtime reading meters. So is there some correlation between these things happening and that is not the only one they have some other people and I am sure some of you have gotten complaints the water bill

jumped up and mine jumped up last month and I take the same amount of baths, once a week and my water jumped up \$20.00 so I just said I will wait for one more update and it went right back down to where it used to be. So I am just wondering do we have a correlation here. Are we looking into the complaints about the water bills about people's water bills just going up? We have a problem here. When you call the first thing you hear is you have a leak. I don't have a leak. I know how to check a water meter most people know how to check a water meter and this guy with the problem is a plumber so he wants to know where is the problem with this I think he went to the office to get something done. I don't know if he was helped. I haven't spoken to him again since. He might be waiting on me to try to do something he brought it to my attention you know and he lives in Cambridge back there so that is what I was concerned about and that is why I brought this up and I see all this overtime we have down here you know we have \$76,000.00 in overtime last month and I look at the people out there with the shovels and the machetes and there is hardly no overtime. So the overtime is someplace else. Why do we have to have 2 managers out there when somebody calls for a water leak? Anytime the managers go out there that is overtime for them and if those guys work out there for 5 hours that is 5 hours at \$30 something an hour or probably more like \$50 something with overtime you see and that is what I am talking about. Why can't the guy on duty get called to go out there and look at it and if you have problems call your manager then? I am talking about little things like that can help with all of this overtime because this is our responsibility guys. It was coming around one time but it looks like it is going south again. We have to do something we just can't keep this up."

Councilman Madere stated, "The only thing I'm concerned about is whenever I get a complaint that someone's water bill went up and most of the time there is no leak that can be found as far as why the water bill went up and then when we question about the meters, the meter is always right okay nothing is always right. I think maybe sometimes we do have a problem with some of these particular things but we need to look into that and see what is going on especially in our area."

**Larry Snyder - CDBG contractor's eligibility directives from Royal**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I spoke with Mr. Coburn on this and he straightened me out. So thank you for that."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment**

Councilman Wilson asked that this item remain.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Art Smith - Overturn trailer placement denial - Brielle Frazier - 132 W. 12 Street - Wallace**

The public was put on notice that the council will be taking up the item of the Overturned Trailer Placement denial at the next meeting.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R15-23 - A resolution of the St. John**

**the Baptist Parish Council authorizing the Capital Administrator as the person to oversee the installation of the West Bank Security cameras as required by the Office of Facility Planning and Control**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution is related to the capital outlay that was provided to St. John for security in this facility. This is a required resolution in order for us to move forward with that for those funds."

Councilman Snyder asked, "When I read this I just have one question. Why wasn't our safety director involved with this, Mr. Boucvalt or Mr. Perrilloux?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a project it is not about the actual cameras themselves. It was part of Mr. Cooper's responsibility for doing this building and the engineers that designed it so it is being handled as a renovation or construction project and it is just a matter of who will manage the project installation it is not about security needs from the public safety director. It is a construction."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I read that from the construction point and that is fine but it seems like it is another entity for the project and this project here is complete and this is something else being done so I thought why wasn't the safety department just a part of that? I don't know why. It just seems like they should be a part of it or involved in it or maybe working under the administrator of the project."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is only a requirement to spend the dollars that were awarded to the parish by our legislative delegation. It is a state requirement in order for us to get the money that we assigned somebody it could have been anybody however it is the person who is actually over the construction of this facility that has identified the locations and is working to get that done."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution R15-23. A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council authorizing the Capital Administrator as the person to oversee the installation of the West Bank Security cameras as required by the Office of Facility Planning and Control. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R15-24 - A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council thanking Mr. Burt Cashio for his service as a member of the Economic Development Board**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution was voted on and approved by the EDC with a request to the council to approve the resolution acknowledging Mr. Cashio he served I think a year on the EDC board but has also worked in the assessor's office for some 10 years and prior to that he was actually a code enforcement officer and for his service, to the community as a whole as well as in the position as a volunteer on the EDC."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I want to thank Mr. Cashio I know he has been sick and I will be replacing him shortly."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wilson moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the

motion to approve Resolution R15-24. A resolution of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council thanking Mr. Burt Cashio for his service as a member of the Economic Development Board. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

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

There was no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Legal Options regarding litigation against the Parish President for Charter violation and the hiring of special legal counsel

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

Larry Snyder - Hurricane Preparation plans

Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal

Water bill issues - 133 Beechgrove, Reserve, LA

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

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**15-16** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 14-41 relative to the Annual Operating Budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014. (N. Robottom)

**PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening - Let me begin by thanking those of you who voted in the recent election for your support of the millage renewal. This renewal allows the parish to continue collecting approximately \$450,000 annually for maintenance and operations of the Edgard Courthouse, the Percy Hebert Building and the parish jail. Thank

you to all who attended the Town Hall meeting last month in Pleasure Bend. It was a very well attended and educational meeting covering important topics and issues for the area. My staff and I as well as Councilman Smith were in attendance answering questions and addressing concerns. The DuPont Near Neighbors meeting held in Reserve last week was very informative and I appreciate the invitation to give Parish updates regularly. We were honored to visit with Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne during National Tourism Week last week and represent New Orleans Plantation Country. Last year, Louisiana attracted 28 million visitors, a 5 percent increase from previous years. Our Parish and neighboring Parishes contribute to this success through our rich corridor of plantation homes, swamp tours, eateries and historic churches. Over 75 participants gained important knowledge on writing grant proposals at the Economic Development Department's recent grant writing workshop. Covering federal, state, local, non-governmental, and private sector grants, participants walked away understanding the entire grant writing process. Kudus to Ms. Saulny and the Economic Development Department for a successful workshop and please be on the lookout for Fundraising 101 scheduled for June. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in Relay for Life "Searching the World for a Cure" despite numerous other events. Over \$50,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society and we look forward to participating again next year. I want to commend the 300 volunteers who participated in our Spring Clean Sweep and park dedication on Saturday morning. The dedication ceremony was held to rename Hwy 51 Park to Thomas F. Daley Memorial Park in memory of the former DA and anti-littering and community beautification advocate. Tom was an outstanding public servant and dedicated leader of the Keep St. John Beautiful initiative and the park re-dedication is a true reflection of his life. We thank the Daley's and all who attended the ceremony in support of Tom's legacy. We also thank volunteers from government agencies, churches, schools, community and neighborhood organizations, council members and Parish employees covered the Parish picking up trash and other litter during our annual spring clean-up. Congratulations to Riverbend Imaging on their recent grand opening and ribbon cutting. The new facility offers MRIS, Bone Density scans, CT scans and more. Please visit their office at 490 Belle Terre Blvd in Laplace or by through phone at (985) 359-7226 for more information. We also want to congratulate the owners of BeasMaw Café on their opening and ribbon cutting ceremony held this Saturday. The new café is located at 1400 Airline Hwy in LaPlace and offers home-style, Southern cooking as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner specials. They can be contacted at 985-359-6120. Parish Officials recently presented Hurricane Preparedness Information and tips to the Mt. Airy/Garyville, Wallace and Reserve Community Advisory Panel or CAP. We want to remind our residents that Hurricane Season is right around the corner and urge you to get a game plan together for your family and for your business. Please visit our Parish website to review the 10-Step Plan or [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org). If your organization or group would like to schedule a hurricane preparedness presentation, please call the public safety office at 985-652-2222. Title Stream residential and commercial closing services will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony at 12:30 p.m. for their new LaPlace office this Wednesday, May 13, at 117 Belle Terre Blvd. Ste B, LaPlace. Dunkin Donuts will also be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony and will open to the public on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments and special offers will be available. Dunkin Donuts is located at 1334 W. Airline Hwy, LaPlace in the Riverlands Shopping Center. A Public

Meeting will be held this Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. for residents to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and provide input on the proposed roadway from Reserve to I-10. Written comments may be submitted at the hearing, or may be mailed to the following address to Mr. Bruce Richards at 2750 Lake Villa Drive, Metairie, LA 70002 by May 25, 2015. The St. John Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Tregre will host a Candlelight Vigil remembering our fallen St. John officers on the front lawn of the Percy Hebert building at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow. Please join us in remembering our brothers in blue including fallen officers Deputy Jeremy Triche and Brandon Nielsen. St. John recognized National Small Business Week last week and wants to continue encouraging our residents and businesses to shop local. As part of National Small Business Week, St. John received the Louisiana Economic Development Collaborative Excellence Award for collaborating with Louisiana Economic Development and the Small and Emerging Business Development Center to create the Small Business Training Center. St. John Parish is the first municipality to receive this award. The Business Training Center is open for use, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Businesses interested in participating in upcoming workshops or would like to have a one-on-one consultation are encouraged to call the Business Training Center at 985-497-1247. St. John Parish 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 this Saturday, May 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To register, volunteer or donate, please contact Bernell Charles at 504-570-4885. The Garyville Timbermill Museum Association will be holding the Sings & Strings Festival on Sunday, May 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. along Museum St. and Historic Front St. in Garyville to benefit the reopening of the Timbermill Museum. There will be live music, crafts, cook-off, and fun for all ages. Come pass a good time with friends. If you enjoy playing unplugged, you are invited to bring your favorite instrument. Adults are \$5 and children under 12 will be admitted free if accompanied by an adult. We want to continue to encourage residents to contact our legislative delegation and any legislator to fight against repealing the inventory tax because of the devastating effect to parish government, the school system and the sheriff's office. We continue to work on an alternate solution, but cannot support this action without a guaranteed source of revenue for local governments. Regarding the Garyville Traffic Signal- the concrete foundations have been poured and the signal poles should be erected this week. The signal should be turned on in about 3-4 weeks. Congratulations to all of our students graduating from high school and college this month. Best of luck to each of you while you move into the next chapter in your lives. May it be filled with happiness and success. Good luck! To receive information on parish government and emergency notifications, please visit [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) and click Stay Connected."

**ADJOURNMENT :**

At 8:55 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary