

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 14th, 2019
CHAIRMAN THOMAS MALIK
VICE-CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX

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 14th, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Lennix Madere

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr., and Christopher Cortez was present.

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

Carrick Buckner was present to comment on Larry Sorapuru item - Discussion regarding the disposal of tree branches within the Parish cost effectiveness of Incinerator vs. grinding into mulch. Please visit the parish website for its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Jaclyn Hotard Gaudet/Kurt Becnel - Proclamation/Recognition - In Memory of Haston Lewis Sr.

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation in Memory of Haston Lewis Sr.

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet presented the family with a token from the Council. "In Memory of Haston "Lipper" Lewis Sr., for 34 years of dedicated services for the people of St. John the Baptist Parish."

Larry Sorapuru - Presentation - Christopher Gilmore, Corp of Engineers, West Shore Levee Project

The above item will be carried over to the May 28th, 2019 agenda.

Natalie Robottom - Recognition - Retirees Kay Ross (Public Works) - 30 years; Joseph Stockman (Public Works) - 35 years; Jimmy Kindrick (Planning & Zoning) - 31 years

Natalie Robottom stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman, I definitely wanted you to read that into the record. Unfortunately, there are other plans tonight and they couldn't make it, I think the Athletic Banquet at the High School or one of the schools is being held tonight, and so they asked that we mail their plaques. All three of them, were long time employees of the Parish. And when you talk about

service, that's what they did they served. They didn't just serve the West Bank, like Mr. Lewis you know, they served the entire Parish. And when you ask for help they were there to provide it. So again, we want to acknowledge and recognize our retirees. Obviously, all of them in excess of 30 years we try and bring before the Council. However, we do acknowledge their service at our staff meetings for their Years of Service - 5, 10, 15, 20, up until this point and it's something that I think they enjoy, they receive momenta's of each level of years they serve and this is just the finality of the service for these three employees, and I'm glad you were able to read that into the record. They asked that we mail those."

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May 12-18, 2019 as Women's Lung Health Week and Turquoise Takeover

Natalie Robottom, Parish President, read the proclamation for May 12-18, 2019 as Women's Lung Health Week and Turquoise Takeover.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as Mental Health Awareness Month

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

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - May as Senior Citizen Month

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - April 23rd, 2019, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 6th Annual "Sings and Strings Festival" - Garyville Timbermill Association - Sunday, May 19th, 2019 beginning at 11:00 AM; Permit Approval - A March for Environmental Safety - Thursday, May 30th, 2019 beginning at 8:30 AM near Fifth Ward Elementary

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - April 23rd, 2019, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 6th Annual "Sings and Strings Festival" - Garyville Timbermill Association - Sunday, May 19th, 2019 beginning at 11:00 AM; Permit Approval - A March for Environmental Safety - Thursday, May 30th, 2019 beginning at 8:30 AM near Fifth Ward Elementary. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

19-12 (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 04-23-19) An ordinance to ensure the Parish President provides the District Attorney's office, as legal advisor to the Parish Governing Authority, with appropriate documents and sufficient time to perform a comprehensive legal review and analysis of all proposed agreements and/or contracts for legal sufficiency before they are submitted to the Parish Council for discussion and consideration by the Parish President and administration, thereby prohibiting the placement of any agreement and/or contract on a Council Meeting agenda or Council Finance Committee Meeting agenda that is not deemed "legally sufficient" by the District Attorney's office, to read as follows: (M. Perrilloux)

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to

remove Ordinance 19-12 from the TABLE. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'd just like to offer a motion to comment on this Ordinance 19-12."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet seconded the motion for discussion on Ordinance 19-12. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yeah I put this Ordinance on here because I know we've been having problems with our Finance meeting, and I TABLED it last time without discussion and I know can't discuss it on an email, so I have to wait until I come to the Council meeting. But I asked the Council members just to review it, a yay/nay or it's too harsh, remove it. If I don't have support, I just want ya'll to look at the Ordinance, read it, tell me what you think about it we can discuss it at the next council meeting. If you don't think it's appropriate for our future Parish Presidents, then I'll remove it at the next one so that was my comment. I just want ya'll to read it and look at it. And if there's no other comment, I'll motion to put it back on the TABLE."

Councilman Malik asked, "Do we have any comments?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have a comment."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet interrupting stated, "Wait Tom, just as a point of order. You have a motion to TABLE it, if he want to discuss it Mr. Perrilloux needs to [CROSSTALK]."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'll withdraw my motion so Mr. Snyder could (I couldn't see him on the other side) make comments."

Councilman Malik stated, "The motion is withdrawn to TABLE."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was just wondering, I see the response from the Administration and I don't quite I can't quite put it together. I'd like a little explanation on that part of it. Because I do have to vote on it and I'd like to understand like in these different parts: conflicts with the Parish President's executive power; attempts to circumvent the Charter; you know I don't see that. I appreciate any discussion you give me on that or clarity you can give me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Snyder you're basically it. The executive powers for running the parish are designated to the Parish President, and that involves scheduling and seeking advice and writing reports and assigning work for their staff. We've shared with you before, if we could get the documents there early, we would. But there are things that come up, that's not the only thing that we do many of you know, when we put something on the agenda, it took work to get there. And after you vote it's usually not over, there's work that we're doing. So, it's a constant cycle and again, possibly if we didn't have as many changes for things that we're writing that you know we've said we shouldn't be writing, then it could move quicker. But our process will not change, so if this is approved, then the work that we're doing will cease. Because it's just not possible to do the things that we do, with the people we have to submit documents 30 or 40 days in advance, for someone to review a one-page document. Now we've suggested in the past and maybe alternatives for Legal Counsel to consider, but our needs are greater than what we're being provided, and the timeliness of it is problematic and we don't see that change on our end. So even if this is approved, it just

will mean we won't be doing any work. Because there's no way that we can again and shouldn't have to. This is our Administration that's run by me to direct, supervise, and you know the timelines are set by the Parish President, not by an advisor, who really is not familiar with what is going on, on a daily basis in our office, whose doing what and of course we try to be cooperative and meet with you all and when you ask, but that takes away from doing these things that they want 30 days in advance, but you know that's all part of doing business. So, we accept that that that's part of it, but I can tell you the timeline set in this ordinance are not reasonable, they won't be met, and unfortunately what will happen is; you know we're already delaying projects and bringing them back three week or two weeks and approving them, it'll just mean that they're going to be delayed for... It's unfortunate, but that's, that's where we are and you know we try we get things back that really...what? Sometimes the day of the meeting, sometimes even when they're there longer...we still don't get a response. And it's just not an effective way of doing business, we're going to continue to try and get things as early as possible, if the template remains the same that makes it easier, but when you continue to change it well then, you know it's hard to keep pace, so that's just my discussion. And I'll be happy to discuss, you know sit with you Mr. Snyder and we will talk about some Charter things, but this is straight from the Charter. And list the rolls, and powers and duties of the President, and powers and duties of the Council, and I think there's one section for the District Attorney's office, our legal counsel. But it's very specific as to who has the authority and power to do things administratively in the Parish, to run the parish on a day to day basis. To attempt to set-up meetings for me, would be circumventing the Charter."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet seconded the motion to TABLE Ordinance 19-12. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

19-15 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of a portion of Parcel B, Bienvenu Estates from the South Right of Airline Highway - U.S. Highway 61 to the North Right of Way of the L&A Railroad, located in the area generally by E. 22nd Street, Homewood Pl., W. Airline Hwy., and Hwy. 44 from the Commercial District Three (C-3) and Residential District One (R-1) to the Residential District Two(R-2) zoning district, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-19-1135) (N. Robottom)

Rene Pastorek stated, "This rezoning request was recommended for approval unanimously by the Planning Commission at its April 15th meeting. Based on compatibility with surrounding land uses, the Future Land Use Map, the zoning district requirements and the intent of the Comprehensive Plan, Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-15. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

19-16 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of a portion of the Perry M. Bailey Property into Lots 1 thru 6, located West of the Mississippi River in the area generally bounded by Highway 18, Highway 640, and East 3rd Street, Edgard, LA, as shown in a survey Prepared by R. P. Fontouberta, Jr., P.L.S. on February 11, 2019 (PZS-19-1210) (N. Robottom)

Rene Pastorek stated, "This re-subdivision request was recommended for approval unanimously by the Planning Commission at its April 15th meeting and by the Utility Board at its April 16th meeting. Based on consistency with the zoning district requirements, the intent of the Land Development Code and the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapura seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 19-16. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes, I ask that the Council accept the minutes of the finance meeting."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the finance meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Larry Snyder - (Tabled 04-23-19) Discussion/Action regarding raising the electrical components at the LaPlace Water Supply Station

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to remove Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action regarding raising the electrical components at the LaPlace Water Supply Station from the TABLE. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, we've discussed this and I know I have discussed this a few times and my reasons, our Hazard Mitigation, the program that looked at this and saw there was a need at our water supply station, and well this is just a raised electrical pipe/electrical components, and we use pumps that could pump under water. What that would do to our stations back there would make them flood proof actually, would make them flood proof. We got electrical power and the pumps were, supposedly pumps were put in, water, pumps already pumping water already on the ground (just got to keep that in mind). That would make this, this area it would make this area flood proof. The issue we have with our water coming from Ruddock was not that system there. The big problem was we had lines that the joints of them gave away, because of the water in the swamps. The joints and that was because we don't any we don't do any maintenance on them you know. A lot of times you can change those joints at times you know or if they start getting bad, but that's the problem we have back there. We've been lucky! That supply of water from LaPlace, 35,000 people get water from back there. If we raise those lifts in LaPlace and we go in with those pumps that would make our water system right there water proof, flood proof. It can get all the water it wants back there, it's not going stop the pump from running it's not going stop our water from coming up here because we don't have any issues. Now, we got the money for this got the money for this, we've we did the Engineering work part of it, the Engineer have come in, and drew up the plans how it's going be done. All that's done! All we need to do now is do it. And hazard mitigation money we have to put some money, but its Hazard Mitigation money. And that's why had it on the agenda, let's go in and do it before we can even if we go to Reserve and put a whole new system in, not a whole, expand Reserve plant it's going cost us at least \$50,000,000.00, it's going cost us \$50,000,000.00. If we do one in LaPlace, its going cost us somewhere about \$60,000,000.00, that's the way I look at it. When you look at time, inflation, and the prices of things, when all these things get we get in positions to do all these things. Right now, we're in no shape to, to invest that kind of money. And this system back up there we've been having that system in LaPlace forever. You know like I say, I want another Well you know, I wanted another Well but we look like we I'm the only one I don't know I'm not I know we need another Well. So, if we not going get another Well, let's make sure we do have the lake back there flood again that we do what FEMA say. Let's raise

your electrical boxes and put those pumps back there and that'll make us make us flood proof. Back there we can assure ourselves of water. And that's why I got it on the agenda, and I'm going to make a motion today, that we go forward with completing this project."

Natalie Robottom asked, *"Is the first motion was for discussion? I think ya'll have a motion!"*

[CROSSTALK]

Councilman Malik stated, *"No."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I just said the motion."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Before he, when you started talking that was the first one? Or ya'll..."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"We just took it off the TABLE, cuz we read it out. And I did have 'Action' by it. And I, when I put it on the agenda I had 'Action' by it."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I just can't remember if you had that one first Mr. Snyder."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"We have a motion on the floor for..."*

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet interrupting asked, *"Can you read out the motion so we're clear as to..."*

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, *"Yeah that's, yeah cuz it's a little bit ambiguous right now. But the, Mr. Snyder your motion?"*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"My motion my motion, my motion is to is to direct the Administration to complete that project of raising the electrical components and installing those pumps back there at Ruddock where our water supply come from."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"I was making sure she had everything written down. Do we have a second?"*

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, *"I don't know who could answer the question. But can you give me a dollar figure on the, this project?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"It's actually \$2.1 million dollars, specifically for the elevation and the submersible pumps, 75% of which is Hazard Mitigation dollars and 25% parish dollars. As Mr. Snyder said, these funds were awarded to the Parish following Hurricane Isaac in 2012. At that point I can tell you as the person who submitted the project, we thought it would be a lot quicker. We thought we could quickly elevate the Electrical panel in the event we had another flood. Seven (7) years later, now that we have a levee project approved that will have this system outside of the levee protection system, it may not be the best project. If we could have done it quickly, right after we flooded, it's nobody's fault it's just how the democracy is sending the plans back and forth to GOHSEP, to FEMA, back with design know constantly changing, once the design is approved we had to wait probably three (3) years before construction was approved. But administratively, we don't feel this is the best use of these dollars. I know that Mr. Snyder said the overall comprehensive plan for water is expensive. But*

there are several items at Lions that can be done to help possibly support LaPlace; 1) we need to change some piping; 2) we need to rebuild another electrical box on Lions property, because the current electrical box has to be torn down (our building) in order to add the additional filters. So, there are several projects that combine with this money and the money in the Bond issue that we think we can do at Lions that would be a better investment to support LaPlace than this. Yes, the electricals may be elevated, it may be high enough it may not be. Our problem is, we can't access it. Last week with whatever we had, a low or high whatever, Hwy. 51 was closed. It wasn't a storm event, it was just a wind, rain event. That occurs regularly. For those of you who were here in 2012, the water system we lost water and the only way to repair it, our staff had to be dropped in helicopters, to get you know to build HESCO baskets around our system to operate it. That's not safe. That's not safe during the day, at night, and that's a recurring problem. So, our request was there are some very specific items it may not be the whole thing Mr. Snyder, but there are things at Lions that we think can be done that improves the capacity and will allow it to support LaPlace during emergencies. We've already had conversations with the Port, who have offered a, I think it's a dollar or a very small minimal amount for 99 years for the property adjacent to the Lions, which part of the problem is; everything's been constructed and lies on top of each other. So, there's not adequate space to have a functional expansion to that plant. So that is why we approached the Port to access additional property I think on the East side, and we have surveys everything's drawn up to do that, the projects are listed in priority order, which definitely you know we have to have another electrical supply. You can't take the one down there without having another one in place, so we know we have to do that first. Then, the filters are part of it and there's piping to supply that water to where it needs to go that needs to be redone and some valving that we think a combination of the dollars that we have, would allow us to do that much. Will it allow us to do the future plan that we proposed you know for years to come? No, but could we deal with this? We think we can, we did have conversations with the Corp and we can ask them at the next meeting, we're responsible for Utility relocation. So, we don't have to relocate the Well I don't think, but we have to relocate the piping, so that's going to be some additional cost for us, we keep out there. So is it the best use of the dollars, or do we want to try and go toward our long-term plan knowing that our water system is outside and we'll be outside the Levee Protection System. I stand with our recommendation in 2012, to elevate the electrical. Had we been able to do it in 2013 or '14, but it is 2019, and we have a levee approved for construction and moving forward, so our conditions have changed. And therefore, our recommendation is changing."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Let me ask this. With the funds that you mentioned for this project. How long do we have before we have to spend those funds, and not lose them? Or is there a timeframe on those particular funds that you referenced?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Unlike some of the others, this one doesn't have a timeframe on it. It's primarily managed through GOHSEP, which we did have a meeting with them, cuz keep in mind all the projects were recommended in 2012, conditions have changed. For example: our Marigold Project, we had modeling done before the terminal was built, well conditions have changed, so we can't move forward with that project until we get another modeling procedure completed and get the current conditions on that site, which we know are different from what it was in 2012. So unfortunately, you know and I made this complaint to the Governor's office and FEMA and everybody else who had listened. These projects take too long. By the time you get to doing your conditions it change of cost

have escalated and you almost have to start from scratch. Because what you modeled in 2012 is not necessarily the case in 2019. So we kind had a meeting with them to look at you know what we had in mind, get some recommendations from them, according to them they have the ability to make the amendments in the Baton Rouge office (it's not a FEMA thing), they did listen and are interested in trying to possibly secure some additional dollars for us to put with these things that we think are critical, but they understood our plight because this was all put together in 2012."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet asked, "And so this will raise the electrical components at Ruddock?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "At Ruddock - Station 3. The one that a, yeah cuz two (2) is not functioning. This will be the one where the farthest, shall I say."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I know we had some discussion about the water plants and such several times, I think what Mr. Snyder is trying to say, you want to try and stay ahead of the curve, because right now we've already paid for Engineers to design those electrical boxes and everything, designed to have it raised that's low hanging fruit we don't have to have a whole lot done or in the backdrop to get this done. To move the electrical boxes and to put submersible pumps. I mean that's, that's a complete no brainer. Compared to going into a Lions plant, like you said Ms. Robottom, you don't have enough room at that plant we need extra land, the piping's tight that's going to be a challenge to go to the Lions plant any kind of way. We don't have a line coming from the Lions plant in Reserve to LaPlace area, there's no water line coming to feed us from that River Road. That's going to have to be done also, but and you're taking a big chance not doing anything right now, I mean it could take, how long would it take to have those electrical boxes raised and submersible pumps put in Joe, Mr. Savoie?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Of course once you decide to move forward and advertise the project, you're looking at 30 days of advertisement, probably another 30 days of contracts and approvals by this Council, and then you're probably looking at 6 to 8 months construction timeframe on that particular project at minimum. Minimum, it could be longer than that depending on weather and so forth."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And that's just my comment, my input into this. I know we have talked about this for the past 3 years and 4 months I think since I've been here, and I do know how important it is for this parish to have good drinking water, if we don't bite the bullet now we're going to bite the bullet later. So, I think Mr. Snyder is trying to drive this to the point where going to be proactive and you know move forward. Because if we just sit, you know we're going to run out time. That's just my opinion where I'm at."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes, I've been adamant about even putting a Well back there at one time a few years ago. And I heard what Mr. Savoie said, I know we have to do something now because we've been waiting since 2012 I think the last time we were supposed to do the filter at the Lions plant we did not. To do a new pump house, we talked about over there by the Crevasse and work on under the sig to Woodland would cost us about \$50,000,000.00, which we don't have. So, the ideal thing and the cushion right now was to do the raising of the electrical at the Ruddock but put the pumps in and it'll buy us some time. And yes, it was always going to be outside the levee. But we got to remember, just because

they're putting the levee back there, don't mean once that levee built somebody just going open the valve all of a sudden there's going be a lake behind there. It's not. It's just in case we have a storm, we may not have one. But we need to have that cushion right now. Mr. Savoie, how high was this electrical supposed to be? You have an idea?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "It's been a while since I've looked at the elevation but I can tell you there was minimum, a height set by FEMA and we went well above that. So..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting asked, "As in what? 10, 10 foot, 12, 14?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "I want to say it was in 10 to 12-foot range."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And a I'm still going get 12 foot of water back there, but I'm no Engineer but I think we need to do something and the cushion and to protect the 35,000 residents that's relying on those Wells because the other project Ms. Robottom talking about, that's about a 5-6-year plan..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I'm not talking about the LaPlace system Mr....we had..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "No the system at the Lions plant."

Natalie Robottom stated, "At Lions plant. And these are going to be things that have to be done anyway. So, we either do them while we have some money, it's like we're talking about capacity and adding filters. You can't add filters without having an Electrical system."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Right."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The filters have to go where the electrical Box house is. So, you're going to need money to move the electrical, and so we would prioritize that as the number one thing that needs to be done at Lions, and the piping to allow them to do the filters. It wouldn't make sense to put filters on top of other filters and we don't know how they would work because our current electrical panel is in the house that we have to tear down. So, all of our recent improvements at Lions, we put all the electricals in the electrical house that we now have to tear down and move somewhere else. So, we're trying to sequence the things at that plant to make it produce more, we think the additional filters will do that, we already have connectivity to LaPlace that we use during emergencies to feed just as we feed across the river. So, all those are things that we think can be done at Lions, and we're hoping not for long term. And I understand fully what yawl are saying, but this is reactive, we've had several floods and invested money in Ruddock several times because of Hurricanes. Regardless of what it was. And this elevation project is a reaction to being flooded, so we're already in a reactive mode. What we're not removing is the risk associated with having our water system between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurespas at the end of a road that floods with every wind blowing. Like, you're right we haven't had a Hurricane, but how many times has that road been flooded it closed!"

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Sunday."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Sunday! That's what I'm saying it just happened. We didn't have a, even a major event it's a regular occurrence. You guys probably

read about it just in us we're closing the road, but that affects our ability to access our plant, when it's under water. So, yes, the electricals may be elevated, but if you can't get your operators back there and they have to go back there. They have to replace you know chlorine, they have to make sure that the materials necessary for it to run are back there accessible, it doesn't run by itself. So, you still have your access issue even if the electrical panel is preserved and not flooded, our ability to access and operate that plant during a surge event, and I did check with our folks at the Corps of Engineers, and what they said was, they're going to close those gates. And they're not opening them for us to go back there and check our water system, because then that lets the water in. So, we're going to have to have plans and mechanisms for accessing our water system outside of our normal pattern, because they're going to close those gates when a surge is projected."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "I have a question and I, right and I get both sides. And to what Butch said, if we know that the system is outside of or will be outside of the levee protection system. So, what do we do in the meantime to protect those electrical panels if we don't elevate them because we know that for now and for some significant amount of time in the future, the water system will be outside the levee system, so how do we you know protect us in between now and the day that our water system isn't outside the levee system?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "And I think somebody has an item on here. We have an interim Flood Protection Plan, to protect all of our critical infrastructure that was actually created with the assistance of the Levee Board and the Army Corp of Engineers, and their components of that process to protect that infrastructure. And we had to do it we had to do it, it wasn't a hurricane but you know we had a flood back there and had to activate the interim flood protection plan which called for HESCO baskets, and you know we usually keep three sides closed, we just had to close the front which we opened for access in the meantime. And a pump would be in place to keep the (what do you call it), to keep the area free of water and you use HESCO basket and then you have to pump up all the water out to activate. Again, if you get back there, like how we're getting back there, to do any of that? If it's flooded! So, you know we're not dealing with the whole problem, we're dealing with yeah, the electricals might flood. But who's going to operate it, if you can't access it? And we have those problems, which again, you know we're trying to get as many systems as possible in place to be able to remotely monitor and manage things like that. We're not there fully, but you know that's something just because of the location of that water system, even without a flood it's not safe. We know that, we had our employees I guess threatened, kidnapped, you know again, it's not a safe place to have your water system and having people go back there. And unfortunately, during events it's usually at night, its dark, and we've had the experience of not being able to travel that road to access our plants. So, we made a list of the priorities that we thought could get us farther at Lions, that we know we already have some plans for filters, but the other components we think need to be done as well to be able to supply LaPlace with water on a temporary basis until we you know have a plan and funding to have a comprehensive plan for water. But right now, we don't, the plant that we think that can supply LaPlace during an event, is Lions."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet asked, "So you're saying that instead of putting the money and elevating the electrical panels at Ruddock, we should spend that money in improving Lions so that if we do have a problem with the system and we can't access those panels, then we can put LaPlace on the Lions' system temporarily until the Ruddock is accessible?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "That's what you're saying. Okay!"
Natalie Robottom stated, "That's what our plans. That's what we think would be the best use of these dollars. In addition to, there's money in the Bond issue as well, so it will be a combination of this, plus I think there's \$4 million dollars left under water in the Bond issue. And we were trying to request some additional money to go along with this, because it's critical for infrastructure, this is like you said, water for our 35,000 residents. Unfortunately, you know the process took a long time and as I said our conditions and our risk changed, so were trying to change with that."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "I'm done, thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you. That was some good discussion, Ms. Robottom we put chlorine back on Woodland, that's where the chlorine is injected at. That plant that Reserve plant that Reserve plant couldn't handle Edgard last time. Edgard lost water for three (3) days? Reserve plant was running, it couldn't give them no water we got a line we just spent \$6 million dollars putting a line under the river cuz that Reserve plant is not equipped to do that. If you think it going handle 35,000 people in LaPlace, there is no way. To run a line from Reserve to LaPlace, it got to be at least an 18-inch line and you're looking at a few million dollars, like about 10. I think we did some paperwork on that..."

Councilman Sorapura interrupting stated, "Eight."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Eight million dollars just for the line, going to LaPlace. And that's if you get that 18-inch line I think, and that may help. But even if you put \$18 million an 18-inch line out there tomorrow, you'll still get some problems in the plant here. You need at least three (3) more filters over here to take care of LaPlace. You know and if and we know that if even under emergency, if you use what you got right now at a certain point they going to shut all the towers off, because of safety things. And that's what's going happen if we have if Reserve got to supply LaPlace with water, cuz you just can't do it. We got a line coming from we got a line coming from St. Charles Parish right now. Is that doing any good? That's just a like a drop in a bucket when you're trying to supply 35,000 people with water up here. And all we're saying is let make ourselves more flood proof by raising the elevations of the electrical things and putting those submersible pumps in there. We, FEMA say that's we need to do, it'll give us some money to start doing that, we done did the engineering work already so let's do it you know, let's do it! We can talk, talk, talk about this and that, all we want to, but that Reserve plant can't help LaPlace..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Not in its current stage, not in its current stage."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The electrical part of it Mr. Savoie done did that work already. I asked him to do that two (2) years ago, and he done did the electrical part already..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "What do you mean, I'm sorry?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I asked him to look at that and say what we got to do to move the electrical components out of that building over there..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "Are they moved?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Are they moved!"

[CROSSTALK]

Councilman Snyder stated, "You said they got to get done! We got to get a plan for that..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No, I just said it needs to be done. That's the first priority is to move it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm telling you, it's the plans that been looked at already."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay!"

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "So it should be easy to do. "

Councilman Snyder stated, "It's not hard, hard to do, people do that all the time in plants and things like that. When they are moving buildings around they do it all the time. But I'm saying it can be done, and we need to...if you want to use the Reserve to supply LaPlace, we are going need four (4) more filters. Cuz..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It's not permanently Mr. Snyder, like this is for emergencies and we already fed LaPlace from Reserve when we had to change out the pump, and there were things we did through the night that people didn't even feel a difference because we were able to do that and manage it with Reserve water and St. Charles water, in planning. So, there are some possibilities that we're think can be done, and I'm glad to hear the electrical part is already designed and ready, now wait, that has to be done. You know we have a filter project that can't be done until the electrical is done. So..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Well I understand that. I understand what you're talking about..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And so, you know we think that needs to be done first...the piping at the plant. We have lines, you know they may not be as big as we want them for a permanent solution for Lions to feed LaPlace, but for a temporary one...we already connect from LaPlace to Reserve."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You got to throw a baseline depending if it's that large, and at night time you did it at night when the towers were full, you filled the towers during the day, and look, and for 12 hours it might last. But you know and I know at a certain level they shut the towers off, you understand? They shut the towers off for safety reasons..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right, right! For protective measures. You're right!"

Councilman Snyder stated, "And in LaPlace but as hot as it is now, LaPlace don't put in water it's going be more than 12 hours trust me, cuz we got issues down there like you saying back here. The problem we've had back here along on 51, it's not is in the line the line itself come from 51..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No we did we did, we did rehab that repeatedly..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "That's where the problem at. That's where the problem..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It wasn't the only problem. Before you'll got here, we had floods after Gustav, Ike, the system was flooded for that. We've had the breaking of the line since 2012. If the couplings broke we've repaired a line, as we'd fix one another one was broken. But we don't have a Maintenance program, or funding to make those repairs on a regular basis, but there's brackish water, they move with the tide, that's how they were designed. So, at any given time, we've had breaks outside the coupling. Well we haven't had any lately we did work after Hurricane Isaac to try and strengthen the couplings, but that's not to say they're not going to break again."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You got one under the river here, that's not saying that one not going break you know. It's under the river coming to East Bank to the West Bank."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I mean you got to you know we got Engineers, people know how/what they're doing when it comes to these types of things. So, so you know I'm not, look, we need we got the money we need to do this and that's what my motion is. You know, if this Council decides we don't want to go that route, that's fine. Let's live with it, that's my motion."

Councilman Wright stated, "Mr. Savoie can answer these questions. How high is the current electrical at the Ruddock station?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "It's all at ground level right now."

Councilman Wright stated, "Ground level, okay! And if the system were to get flooded, what's the dollar amount on replacement?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Ooh! If you had to replace all three (3) pumps, all three (3) pumps and then all the electrical services you're probably looking at you're probably looking at, I would say three (3) or four (4) million."

Councilman Wright asked, "Okay, what kind of timeframe we're looking at?"

Joseph Savoie asked, "In replacing everything? You're probably looking at 30 to 60 days in design, one you select that to say 6 to 8 months to replace. I mean you're looking at, I would say looking at an 8 to 12-month project from start to finish if you had to replace everything."

Councilman Wright stated, "Okay. You know and the reason I'm asking I agree with administration, both need to be done, but I'm also against looking at it from a risk standpoint because if something were to happen to those pumps, the electrical, what good is the Reserve system if it's going to serve LaPlace for a number of months we hope at a minimum?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "There's not enough capacity there to do it for any..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Well it would be a temporary service, but you can't fully service LaPlace, you can only supplement possibly filling the towers at night we've tried that..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Under the current situation."

Councilman Wright stated, "Under current situation."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Yeah right, with no [CROSSTALK]."

Councilman Wright stated, "And I'm looking at it from a risk standpoint, because even if we do have these interim measures in place to try and protect it, you said that the Corp is going to shut the gates. So how are we going to be able to get out there to even put these interim measures in place?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No actually, you know that would be in advance. You know it's like now, most of it is already set up. We've had time before we've done it before. We've implemented the Interim Flood Protection Plan for the, I think for the floods of 2016, the ones that flooded Baton Rouge. We actually had National Guardsmen out here helping us to do that, so you do it in advance of that you don't wait until the event. But based on projections you need to not just do that one, but you know there's a list of critical infrastructures that you need to protect, and the plan was to do the HESCO baskets each time. But we have partial setup already where we just have to do the enclosure should an even occur."

Councilman Wright stated, "I guess you know should that interim measure fail, you know we can't get back there, I guess too is a concern? I'm just asking you these questions from a risk standpoint, because looking at the dollar amount and time that LaPlace could potentially be out of water and that does concern me as well. But I do agree, we have to make some upgrades to the Lions plant. So, I just wanted to compare both instances. So, thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Wait Joseph."

Councilman Malik stated, "Mr. Perrilloux."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'm good. My questions were asked and I heard the answer."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Thanks. Joseph while you're there and you've heard some of the discussion, you know and so it is kind of you know you're trying, well at least this Council as a Council member, I'm trying to decide as far as; do we make the improvements at Lions, is that a better way to go so that if something happens, then we can make sure that LaPlace has water, or do we spend the money raising these electrical panels, you know you're..."

Joseph Savoie interrupting stated, "I think to shed some light on [INAUDIBLE], again it may not be an ultimate decision or not. I agree with the administration that the improvements need to be done at Lions regardless. Okay, there are improvements that need to be done at the plant in across the river in Edgard. So, either both of those improvements need to be done. The question in my mind if it's coming down to a risk factor, just from an opinion standpoint is; what kind of time are we looking at? As they've stated the road goes under quit frequently, we don't know you know it doesn't take a major storm and necessarily flood those areas and why it is true they cannot be, it's difficult extremely difficult sometimes impossible to access. If those items were raised and operational above the flood stage, regardless, then the necessary need they could be remotely controlled by SCADA. Now that doesn't, they gave fact that they may have to go out there to do some maintenance that will always be. But from a risk standpoint, if that were elevated and in a more secure position, it's kind of looking at like

looking at a burned hand. Right now, you have the money in place to do that, and get it replaced. While things need to be done at Lions and need to be done at your Edgard plant, that money is not necessarily in place. We have been working with administration and yes, they have plans they have set-up plans in place, very good plans, to say hey we need to move the electrical we need to our office spent much time last year with them mapping out where all of the existing lines were at Lions to move forward in those directions. Where I stand right now and talking to you prior to help you with the risk assessment is; you're looking at money in hand to raise electrical. It will it will, can I stand here and tell you that it's not going to safen or secure your system? No, I can't. Cuz you are raising it and putting it in a safer position. Is it the long-term plan? Probably not."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Well let me ask you this. You know you talked about the funds. If the money that we would be using to elevate the electrical, could also be used to do the improvements at Lions, then would that be money better spent that you know to go that route with Lions instead of spending the money to raise the electrical?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "If it could be done on a timely manner."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet asked, "And so why can't it be done in a timely manner, if we do have funds available or do we not have enough of the funds available?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "As I understand it, I don't know that enough of the funds are available to do all of the stages and steps that would need to take place. As they said, I think it was eight million dollars to put the line going from LaPlace, and then you're talking I think the filters, we were in the six-million-dollar range for the filters, somewhere in there and then you're talking still relocation of piping and electrical. So, you, I'm not sure that all of your funds are in place at this time."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Ok, thank you."

Councilman Malik asked, "About how long would it take to facilitate the repairs at Lions?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "The repairs, everything at Lions at full stage you probably looking at a 2 year, if you had the money in place today I think you're looking at a 2-year process."

Councilman Malik asked, "So as it stands right now, it would be by March 2020, is when the electrical would be raised?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Correct."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder motioned and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to direct the administration to complete the project of raising the Electrical Components and installing 2 or 3 Submersible Pumps at the Ruddock Water Station, where the water supply comes from. The motion passed with 8 yeas, 1 against (Wright) and 1 absent (Madere).

Larry Snyder - (Tabled 04-23-19) Discussion/Action regarding exploring the option to replace the pumps at the Ruddock Wells with submersible pumps

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Chairman, just a point of order, you need to either, you need to remove the item from the table and then take it off of the agenda or leave it on the table."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "But I believe what Mr. Snyder saying is we dispose of that item [INAUDIBLE]."

Councilman Malik stated, "We dispose of it."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "So I'd recommend removing it from the table and removing it from the agenda."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We've discussed it already. I'd like to motion to take it off the table."

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Remonet seconded the motion to remove Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action regarding exploring the option to replace the pumps at the Ruddock Wells with submersible pumps from the TABLE. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet seconded the motion to remove Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action regarding exploring the option to replace the pumps at the Ruddock Wells with submersible pumps from the AGENDA. The motion passed with Councilman Madere absent.

Larry Snyder - (Tabled 04-23-19) Discussion/Action regarding combining line items that pertain to drainage in the 2019 Public Works budget

The above item will remain TABLED.

Larry Snyder - (Tabled 04-23-19) Discussion/Action regarding increased financing of drainage line items in 2019 Public Works budget

The above item will remain TABLED.

Larry Snyder/Larry Sorapuru/Lennix Madere - (Tabled 04-23-19) - Discussion/Action in regards to the selection of a representative, to attend the Corp of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District meetings and to provide the parish with updates, to train local businesses to prepare for this project and to report back the Council's input on the West Shore Levee Project to the Corp of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District

The above item will remain TABLED.

Councilman Madere arrived at 8:06 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage throughout the Parish

Councilman Madere stated, "I talked to Mr. Verdell and just want to report that,

the young lady I told you was 85 years old carrying sandbags, Mr. Verdell went look at the area and they fixed it and she no longer need any sandbags. You know so that's a great improvement. And that's just a testament to you know we can drain if we have the equipment and everything and we do have the equipment but we just need the time to get the work done. And we're happy to report that you know we're not finished with that street, but that particular area right there it's taken care of you know and I want to thank Administration and Mr. Verdell and his crew for handling that situation and it's an ongoing situation. Okay so I think that's about rap that up on the drainage so far. But like said, it'll be on there every week."

Larry Sorapuru - (Carry Over 04-23-19) Discussion regarding financial status of the Utility Department

The above item will be carried over to the May 28th, 2019 agenda.

Larry Sorapuru - (Carry Over 04-23-19) Discussion regarding possible forensic financial audit for the Utility Department

The above item will be carried over to the May 28th, 2019 agenda.

Thomas Malik - Discussion Hurricane protection for Ruddock Well

Councilman Malik stated, "This has a lot to do with this other portion and it wasn't two separate items, because I actually looked at the initially as actually building a clay levee around it. I didn't see that as the stop gap measure. I think it would be a little bit quicker doing that other than in addition to raising the electrical. I spoke with Engineer who actually gave a relatively low funding to do this, which would also include the person to do it, geo-specs and then come up with a plan but I think it'll be a little bit quicker. I don't see I think protecting Ruddock and improving Ruddock which will also improve the second Well, is a priority because the amount of time that it would take to get the Lions' completed renovated, the new project is 2 to 5 years away from this point. So...

Natalie Robottom asked, "Is this not what you wanted? You want, I thought we thought you wanted to know what our Hurricane Protection Plan was."

Councilman Malik stated, "Well the HESCO baskets are nice but..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I mean that's the plan. That is the Interim Protection Plan."

Councilman Malik stated, "I know and actually it wasn't. It wasn't."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But that is the plan."

Councilman Malik stated, "Well yeah the baskets themselves I mean they're going to leave eventually. And let's put this in perspective. How many times has actually had the water risen high enough to cause problems to Ruddock?"

Natalie Robottom asked, "Lately? Not since the storm. But prior to that we've repaired Ruddock at least three times. Following storms, like Gustav, Ike..."

Councilman Malik asked, "Three times over a period of what year?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I don't know, a 2005!"

Councilman Malik stated, "Since 2005."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This'll be the fourth. Because we had to repair it after Isaac, and um this would be you know this isn't a repair this is a project to elevate the electricals. But in the interim we have a flood [INAUDIBLE] we've not had the water to go over the baskets, lately, you know in the events that we've had, we had to close them we had to use them, we had trouble accessing them but the baskets worked."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah, so that's about every 3 years or so, every 3 or 4 years."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We've been lucky."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes, oh yes. No, I agree."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And again, it wasn't a storm the last time. It was the flood..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Right if get 3 inches of rain in a short period of time, that's going to close off the access roads."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And then the wind direction has a part in that too. The tide and the direction the winds blowing, all those are things that we deal with outside of Hurricane Season."

Councilman Malik stated, "So anyway I just want to bring to just to hear what your thoughts were. But once again I think that the, you know God forbid we should have another hurricane, we could have a problem with Ruddock that would disable it for an extent period of time. My initial thought was to could actually construct a clay levee, a permanent levee system, which I think which according to the Engineer would be a lot easier, it would cost roughly a half a million dollars, and this thing can actually be expedited in constructed prior to the raising of the electrical. It would be able to do a lot quicker, okay! But anyway, just wanted to hear what your thoughts were."

Lennix Madere - Update on abandoned houses throughout the Parish

The above item will be carried over to the May 28th, 2019 agenda.

Lennix Madere - Update on road repair list and startup date

Natalie Robottom asked, "Can I just make one comment?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah, you could answer it but I just got one comment to make. Okay I read everything on that list but as you recall, at the end of last year, there was some streets you know that was supposed to be put on this year list, and you put each one of them on there, you missed one."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We might have to take it off."

Councilman Madere stated, "24th Street."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually put as many as we could, for the money we had. And then we started our list for 2020, so we kind a based on the estimates

from the Engineer, try to figure out, we have \$800,000, 90% Engineering cost and contingencies. So, we only added the amount of roads that we could afford. So, if it's not on here, which I thought most of them were on there...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well you didn't, cuz we had that conversation in your office at the end of the year, and it was Hickory, the little street and then it was E. 24th Street, and also I think it's Cedar, all of them on there, except 24th Street."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And Mr. Madere, we tell you this all the time. Now, if these come in under what we projected and we have money for 24th, you know we'll move on to it, but it would be on top of next year's list. And you know this all a lot of roads. And I think we systematically gone through your District fixing them, as well as everybody else's District we'll keep trying but some of the other wanted some roads done in their District this time."

Councilman Madere stated, "I don't mind them fighting for their District."

Larry Sorapuru - Discussion regarding Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) in St. John the Baptist Parish

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are currently 5 DBE certified firms in St. John the Baptist Parish who are engaged in \$17.2 million of work in and outside of the Parish. Administration recommends caution when developing a DBE program that may exclude the intended companies."

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

Larry Sorapuru/Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding the disposal of tree branches, within the Parish cost effectiveness of Incinerator vs. grinding into mulch

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

R Bend Estates II, L.L.C. et al v. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket #C-69795

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances to introduce.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at www.sjbparish.com.

ADJOURNMENT :

At 9:22 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Thomas Malik
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY