

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**  
**CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE**  
**VICE-CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, 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:** None

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to go back to regular session. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

Councilwoman Hotard led the Prayer. Councilman Sorapuru led the Pledge.

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Larry Snyder - New Business - Community S.A.I.N.T.S. (Strengthening All Individuals Needing Total Support)**

The above item may be removed from the agenda.

**Larry Sorapuru - Presentation - Andre Brock - LSU AgCenter**

Andre Brock, LSU AgCenter stated, "Thank you. I appreciate you'll time, I'm not going to take a whole bunch of you'll time I know you'll been here already for a little while. My name is Andre Brock, I'm the County Agent in St. John Parish, LSU AgCenter (short for Agricultural). You'll are hopefully familiar with the LSU AgCenter, okay good, I haven't been here very long, I've started to work here in September, prior that I was in West Feliciana Parish as a County Agent, 4-H Agent and Parish Chair (parish chair is just an administrative title we have at a parish level for within the LSU AgCenter. I'm now Parish Chair in St. John the Baptist Parish, I took over from Cynthia Clifton, whom I assume you also know. Cynthia was going to be here tonight, but something came up and had hoped to introduce our other staff member too, who also started in September, Brittany Ivy, who's our 4-H Agent. So just to give yawl a little of bit highlight, you probably at least possibly familiar with the 4-H program, some highlights that Brittany has done, she's gotten involved with some of the kids, got the kids involved with the War Veterans Home over here in Reserve, and have a number of projects with them, she had a bicycle rodeo and decorated Christmas Ornaments,

made Valentines Cards, she's kind of adopted that with the kids and there are a lot of public service projects. Our kids are graduating right now, and we've got 4-H Scholarships we've been giving out and work a lot with the older the kids, especially towards leadership positions. And Horticultural speaking, it's not nearly as visible or community oriented, primarily what I do is answer people's questions when they have something about what they're farming or more commonly as St. John becomes more urban, backyard grass and gardens, and things like that. Come along for a tour, and trying to know everybody over here, all the players within agriculture and meeting a lot of the few farmers that we've got, and doing a lot of work with them and getting everybody settled. Again, Andre Brock, LSU AgCenter, just so I want to make myself available and we're getting financial support from the Council and we'd be more than happy to answer any questions on where yawl money is going. We appreciate yawl support and appreciate yawl taking the time to let me talk to you all a lil bit. Any questions?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I got one. Any relation to Larry?"

Andre Brock stated, "Yes sir, I should have..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I've been knowing Larry since he first came to this parish."

Andre Brock stated, "If I had a beard and little less hair, you'd probably see Larry standing right here. Yes sir that was my dad."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's good, that's good!"

Andre Brock stated, "He was currently in St. John for about 25 years, and then finished his career in the Ukraine. I take it you knew him."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "And you want to let us know where your office is Mr. Brock?"

Andre Brock stated, "And my office is in Edgard, right behind the courthouse."

Councilman Malik stated, "That's actually I think that what everybody needs to know, is where your office is. Lots of complaints about all the invasive grasses and how to you kill for junior butt and weed, etc. etc."

Andre Brock stated, "With a hammer! (Laughing)"

Councilman Malik stated, "I'll expect to see it on my front lawn tomorrow. Thank you sir."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I would also like to say that, we're appreciative of Mr. Brock, because he works with us with Public Safety. He works very closely with our Animal Shelter, and especially if there's a prospect of a storm of some sort, he's in our EOC assisting us with cows, or with our livestock or whatever else with our Director and Animal Shelter, as well as Mr. Perrilloux in EOC."

**Natalie Robottom/Stacey Cador/Vincent Rollo - Louisiana Worker's Compensation Corporation (LWCC) Presentation of Dividend Checks**

Vincent Rollo, Riverlands Insurance stated, "Once again it's my pleasure to come to you and give you your dividend check. We've been doing this for several years, and again tonight, we have two checks - we have one for the Fire Department and

we have one for the Council. Mr. David Duvall had come down from Baton Rouge to present this, but he had to leave because he had some other places he had to be. So again, it is my pleasure to present, we're going to give the Fire Department their check first - Cain, in the past 10 years, since 2003-2017, 14 or 15 years however many that is, we've given you a Million Six-teen Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,016,140), and tonight we're going to give you another One Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand. Alright Council, since 2003-2014 again, we've given you people Two Million Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$2,055,000). Tonight we're going to give you Three Hundred Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred and Three Dollars (\$319,603.00). Again, this is a dividend declared by LWCC, it's a complicated formula. It doesn't have anything to do with our amount or our claims, it's how the ~~parish~~ how the company made their money, and how much they decided to give in dividends. They are paying out Eighty Million Dollars (\$80,000,000) in dividends. So, and like I said, we've been doing this for years and years. Mr. Duvall was going to give you a lot of historical history about these claims and how LWCC decides to give out these dividends, but again, every year you know I tell you every year (this a new phone and I don't know how to turn it off). Again, every year I tell you the only reason why, for some reason why you got these dividends because you got a good agent, you all know that. Again I thank you, see you next year."

#### **Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - June as Safety Month**

LaVerne Toombs read the proclamation for June as Safety Month.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Community S.A.I.N.T.S. - 5K Walk/Run - Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM at REGALA Park; Permit Approval - Mt. Calvary Baptist Church "May Day Fun Festival & Parade" - Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 AM; Councilwoman Remondet - Appointment of Kim Fontenot to the Economic Development Committee

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items to include: Approval of Minutes - May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Community S.A.I.N.T.S. - 5K Walk/Run - Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM at REGALA Park; Permit Approval - Mt. Calvary Baptist Church "May Day Fun Festival & Parade" - Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 AM; Councilwoman Remondet - Appointment of Kim Fontenot to the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**18-10** (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 05-08-18) An ordinance naming the West Bank Recreational Park - the "Juan Anthony Joseph Park" (K. Becnel)

The above item remained tabled.

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

Warren Torres, lifelong resident of St. John Parish. Why would we want to take a fund that's for Levee Protection and put it in the annual operating budget of St. John Parish? And Mr. Snyder talked about a fish, I think this is just an opening to get their hands on this money that's supposed to be dedicated for the Levee

Protection. When this Administration can take Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars out of Recreation Fund and the Lighting Fund and make a Recreation budget, and when they could take the two Fire Departments' tax and combine it together, I think yawl just opening a can of worms, so please don't let this be a no questions ask, or a unanimous vote. Thank yawl."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I'm sure Rob is going to give us some information on that, if he can answer that question."

Robert Figuero stated, "The Levee Fund itself was never adopted into the actual St. John the Baptist Parish budget. When the Ordinance or the Mileage was passed last year, it was never included in the budget. So basically what this does, this allows us just to operate the budget itself. The mileage is very clear that the funds can only be utilized for the Levee Protection, there is a separate checking account that is set up with Capital One. All the funds and all the revenues that's obtained from the mileages are put into that account, and can only consolably be used just for Levee Protection. So this is not an authorization to utilize it across the board, this is just to adopt the actual budget itself (the Levee Fund) into our overall budget."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and just to clarify on that so that the public doesn't misunderstand when you say that the money can only be used for the Levee Protection, that's not totally accurate. The way that it actually read when it went to the people, it include - drainage if you will. So I don't want there to be an expenditure at some point when I'm gone or anybody's gone and they say; oh it was stated it can only be used for Levee Protection and actually can be used on..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "Yes and that's correct, thanks for the clarification."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thanks."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes sir and this is just for the record, there's some people I spoked to. How much that has been taken from this mileage has been spent so far?"

Robert Figuero stated, "Zero dollars."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes sir ok. But your intent is to spend it strictly on Levee Protection?"

Robert Figuero stated, "Per the law itself it sounds that's all we can, what Councilwoman Hotard said as well. Correct."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah, yeah, I know it can. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So the only reason for this, is so we can have it in our budget?"

Robert Figuero stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And then account for it in the budget and we can look in the budget and see it's there?"

Robert Figuero stated, "That is correct. It's a formality that should have done

possibly last year, but because it was adopted in the middle of the year, it just wasn't."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It's a formality. Good thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "So basically its line item in the budget Levee Fund."

Robert Figuero stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Madere stated, "And any money coming out of that line item would have to be spent on the levee?"

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right! Okay, I think that's what they're concerned about, that's it's not going to be money that they can just use for anything."

Robert Figuero stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Madere stated, "And I think they explained that clearly."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-11. The motion passed Councilman Wright absent.

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

Robert Figuero stated, "These amendments reflect actual revenues and expenditures for 2017 and Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-12. The motion passed with Councilman Wright abstaining.

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

Robert Figuero stated, "These amendments also reflect actual revenues and expenditures for 2017 and Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-13. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion

to accept the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 05-08-18) Council withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

The above item remained tabled.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-18 - A Resolution to appoint representatives to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC)**

LaVerne Toombs stated, "In accordance with Ordinance 16-52, the following individuals are recommended to represent the Parish on the RPC: Natalie Robottom - St. John the Baptist Parish President; Julia Remondet - St. John the Baptist Parish Council; Michael Wright - St. John the Baptist Parish Council; Charles Kennedy - Founder of Kennedy Financial Group; Jonathan Perret - Director of Project Delivery - RSD Program at CSRS Inc. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution-R18-18. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-19 - A Resolution authorizing Parish Administration to submit a grant application to the Delta Regional Authority States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP)**

LaVerne Toombs stated, ""This Resolution allows the Parish to apply for funds in the amount of \$250,000 from the Delta Regional Authority for improvements to the LaPlace Main Wastewater Life Station. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution-R18-19. The motion passed unanimously.

**Larry Snyder - Financing of tap water projects in Water Districts 1 and 3**

Robert Figuero stated, "Based on a meeting with Council members Snyder and Sorapuru, the Parish Financial Advisor and the Bond Attorney's, three options were provided for consideration for financing future water projects. Those options include increasing Ad Valorem taxes, increasing sales taxes or increasing water rates. As discussed at the time, the amount of the increase is determined by the costs of the projects and the ability to repay the debt."

Councilman Snyder stated, "As Robert stated, we had a lot of discussion on this and we talked with our Bond Attorney and our Financial Advisor, and from what I could see is that our best option would be a sales tax. I don't like (I mean it's not what just I like) but, I just don't think putting the burden just on homeowners is the way to go here, and you want to finance big projects like this. And according to the, so I like you know to go through the sales tax whereas; everybody pay a little bit and to finance programs like this, so. And that's where I'm at right now, and I don't know if anybody got any thoughts on this, but I do have a need to bring this a little bit further. And that's to finance the drinking water in LaPlace and in Reserve."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I appreciate that, I appreciate yawl

setting up this meeting as well. What I'd like to see, you know obviously we know that these water projects are critical, especially to LaPlace, not that all the other areas are not critical but we've got a supply situation going on in LaPlace, to look at what we can finance, to look at how we can make our systems more efficient. The three (3) options that came out of this with the, you know with the Bond, Financial Advisors, whoever were increasing Ad Valorem, increasing sales taxes and increasing water rates. All three (3) said increase. And I can just tell you right here right now, I personally would not impose a fee increase, a tax increase, a rate increase, an Ad Valorem on our residents for water especially. We've got some major inefficiencies, you know we always want to burden the tax payers first, before we look and see how we can increase efficiency. And I think we're working in reverse a little bit with that, we need to look at what can we refinance, how can we maybe spend their money better. You know if we could do some refinancing, I know Natalie has been real good really good about it in the past, refinancing bonds, so that we free up some bonding capacity, get creative, we've got major inefficiencies in our water system - that needs to be addressed - and spending overall. I think it would be disastrous to ask you know the public, to increase any of those things for, especially for water, with the state of what's going on with water. There has to be public trust and public confidence in what's really you know being done with the tax dollars we have already. And I'd like to see just like what we would do with our own personal budgets at home, if we were facing a, you know a little bit of a crunch, we would say; Ok well where should I spend less? Where can I cut back a little bit, before you know, just asking the taxpayers for more money? We are bled to death you know with taxes, I see it all day on Facebook, I hear it in the community, we have one of the highest sales taxes, if not the highest, I'm not sure but, one of the highest in the state that hurts everybody. Especially with Ad Valorem, we just increased Ad Valorem with the levee that God knows when we're going to get, but we increased Ad Valorem there and then to do a fee increase to put on the water bill, that would be devastating right now for people. Especially we could, well that actually may be good because we can't get a bill out to them on time, so they may not have to see the increase. And I say it jokingly, but it's not! Like now those three (3) options right now, is not the time for that. Those are my personal thoughts, I know my constituents are like taxed to death right now. And some of them even make options to go shop in other parishes, because the tax rates' lower. We can't you know continue to do that. But I do think this is the conversation we need to be having, how are we going to fix the system in LaPlace? Is definitely a conversation we need to have, so I'd like to see some more information back, let Hugh Martin and them know; Hey look, give us some other options. What can we refinance, what can we rededicate? You know we've talked about funds that have healthy balances where we can do some rededication, I'd rather ask the public to say; Hey, we have a healthy fund balance right here operating off of this many mills, let's rededicate that. Let's start there! Instead of, just give me a little bit more of your money. That's you know, that's not an option for me personally for my constituents. Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "I agree with Councilwoman Hotard until the time comes that the Parish Administration and the Council, Utilities Department, can actually show that there is an effective and efficient system, and it's being billed fairly putting additional tax burden on the residents of St. John the Baptist, I think it's not fair, there are better ways to do this. Taking a much harder look at the budget and redirecting funds, rather than putting the burden on the taxpayers."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Well yeah because Mr. Malik you said a good one, so I don't agree with any of these options down here, and I know we talked about

having a workshop once before to look at some of those mileages that go back to voters maybe they'll redirect some of those mileages to some of these projects. But as far as putting more burden on the residents or taxes, I'm not in favor of that one, so I'm passing on that one. That's just my opinion on it."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "I have to agree with all of you there. Right now to tell someone we have to add to your mileage would not be a wise decision at this point. Especially when we haven't seen the use of those funds, which we know that takes time. But to add another sales tax I agree, so many people leaves this parish to work but, people are also leaving this parish because we're getting less for more and I think it's time we get some other things in order before we talk about raising any sort of fees to the public. Thank you."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you and I think everybody, especially Ms. Hotard hit the nail on the head. I think to, even looking strategically in the future you know we are taxed to death, but we didn't start looking at ways to position our self to even lower the current sales tax that we have now, to stimulate the economy in St. John Parish between industry and private businesses coming here, even residents. I think it's healthy for Economic Development, and even rededicating some mileages you know we talk about it all the time. Even with the water bill, before even trying to look at increase rates, the water bills are already too high as it is. You know we're already adding mosquito control, ambulance. All those types of fees we could either rededicate the mileage for or rededicate surplus mileages for other things like water or drainage. So I agree, using what we have is more productive and responsible."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And I just want to say that I would not want to put any more taxes on our constituents than we have to. But I just want to say we need to move quickly at finding another way of getting the finances together. I mean I've only been on the council for two (2) years right and four (4) months or so, but I think this council, the past council had been talking about this for the past four (4), three (3) years, so we had like five (5) years this conversations' been coming around and you're right Jackie, it would be sad day if we had some severe water problems and like the freeze we had, you know the Lions Plant was down, the West Bank Water Plant was down, we had people that were in critical conditions. But again, this is what came back to us, we didn't go seeking out these methods, the numbers came back showing us this, but we need revisit, get back to the drawing board and I suggest we all come together to make a firm decision because it's been five (5) years, and time is passing. I think it is a priority and nobody want to pay more taxes than we have to pay. But if we can refinance something, I think that'll be a favorable way to go I don't know. When I first came on the council that was one of the things that was recommended that we were going to go into that, into that arena of refinancing not bringing on any new taxes. So I want the record to show that this is not anything new that we just brought up the past six (6) months or past year. This has been a pondering issue for the past 4-5 years."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and really quickly in closing. And like I said, this Administration has done a really good job, I know Natalie we refinanced a lighting fund, that was something that we talked about to make sure Animal Control and Recreation (they were both healthy funds). I'd like to ask you know a formal request of the Administration to go back to the Bonding Attorneys and provide us with a recommendation on what funds we could potentially refinance, if that is an option to save some money to increase bonding capacity, and then two; to take a little service level survey if you will of all of the healthy funds and see where we can actually rededicate. So those would be my two

request and then maybe you know in the next 30 days come back, because those would be two (2) options of generating that revenue without asking the taxpayers to pay anything. So that would just be a formal request to come back with those two (2) options."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know I'm glad we're on record that helps the discussion, that's important that we do be on record and discussing this. That's the reason why for my putting it on there I thought, we had a meeting with our Financial Advisor and our Bond people, and these are the three (3) ways we can get some funds. One of these three (3) ways, I've, if everybody whose been on this council for more than two (2) or three (3) years know that, I've been wanting to cut some bonds, some Ad Valorem taxes. I think we're putting too much burden on homeowners, and we need to cut some of the Ad Valorem taxes. And I've asked the Administration to look into that, and they were supposed to get back and report to us on, where are we looking at some funds that we could cut back on the Ad Valorem, on the mileage. And we all know where we can cut back a little bit but nobody want to get up there and say it, it seems like I'm not afraid to say it, you know I got broad shoulders, you understand that? But that seems where we are right now. I remember when, how many days you guys were out of water on the West Bank? Two (2) days, three (3) days?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Three (3)."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Three (3) days, without no water on the West Bank? You got 2500, about 3000 people over there you know. Well, LaPlace got 35,000. We got one well and a half, that one well go out, 35,000 people going to be without water. I really believe that our water system, we need to look at our water system and see where we can help our self-there, I agree with that, I'll definitely agree with that, cause my understanding is, we got the cheapest water in Louisiana what we pay per gallon to get to run it. So that means what, we're not charging the right price for our water? We got Six, Seven, Eight Million Dollars in the hole right now with our water system. Our job is not to play politics here because next year is election. Our job is to look out for our people, that's the only reason why I put it out there. So we can close this discussion, you know we're on record on how we feel about this and that's great."

#### **Lennix Madere - Selection of the Official Journal for St. John the Baptist Parish Government**

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay that was put on the agenda because we have to make this official, make a selection tonight before the next Council meeting I was told..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "Why?"

Councilman Madere stated, "We have to do that, you know by a certain date and that's why it's on there. And we have to make a selection of the Official Journal of St. John the Baptist Parish, right now it's the L'Observateur. But it don't have to be the L'Observateur, you know it could be someone else you know, but I mean they been the Official Journal for last several years. Right Mr. Wright?"

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "Tweet. There are some guidelines, I don't have them to memory, but there are some..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Ms. Hotard."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm sorry I thought he was still Chair."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You got something to say Ms. Hotard?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'm sorry I thought he was still Chairing, my apologies. I don't know by memory, but there are some guidelines and how we can select they're some where's in our guidelines."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Excuse me, the only guidelines is that they got to be someone that got businesses in the parish. Not necessarily live here, but they got to have a paper that comes through here. Like the Times-Picayune, The Morning Advocate, they're big distributors here to, they'll qualify. That's the only thing that I know of, because I looked at that a couple of years ago, that, and that was the only qualification as far as the state is concerned."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'll offer the motion that we name the L'Observateur again as the Official Journal."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I don't have any questions I want to make a comment. Okay and the comment I want to make is a couple of things that the L'Observateur, I know they have to come here and report what goes on at the council meeting, and a couple of times myself and maybe a couple of other Councilmen had a little complaint as to how some things were printed in the paper. Okay and I would hope that they have corrected that particular problem. Okay and like I said, one problem was I don't mind saying it, we took a vote and it was described in the paper by race, you know how many blacks, how many whites. Okay I don't see that up here as a council, I just see a council. I don't see colors I don't see anything, I just see votes. Okay and that's the way I would like to see it reported in the paper as votes and not color, or anything because if we had a couple of Hispanics, so it's going to be a two (2) Hispanic votes, two (2) colored and the rest white. Okay, I don't think we need to have that reported, anybody that watch the meeting can clearly see who's African-American, and who's not. Okay so I don't think we need to be reported in that paper like that and I know I had some strong feelings about that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I heard when Ms. Hotard said we have a guideline, so you mean tonight we have to pick an Official Journal. It has to be tonight?"

Councilman Madere stated, "That's what I was told. That's what I was told."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "By who?"

Councilman Snyder asked, "Why?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Our secretary. She said that it have to be, I think she said I don't know cause it's my first time being the Council Chair, okay she said it's a deadline that we have to have it done by a certain date..."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "What's the date?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Before the next council meeting. Before the next council meeting."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Well I wanted to see what other options were out

there myself. Cause if that was the case then we should of came back at least two (2) meetings ago to say, hey this is coming up. Don't wait till the last meeting tell me I got to do this, I'm not going to do that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And that's the question I had also about. Mr. Madere was the time frame on us having to vote on this and also on the race reporting of how this council vote on items, and how we conduct ourselves I thought that was very, very unprofessional and very inhumane for them to go and label us by race how we vote. And it, I got a lot of phone calls about that, I know a lot of people on the council was very upset about this issue. But to jam this on us right now at the night hour that we have to do it tonight, I think it's wrong, I think we have a lot of other options we need to look at, and I think whatever guidelines that Ms. Hotard say there is in place, I think as a council we should have that in front of us before we vote on picking another newspaper. That's just."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I was just given, it's in the book, it's from the Secretary of the State of Louisiana. That says we have to do it by June the 11<sup>th</sup>. Now that's something that we should have been aware of a couple of meetings ago, okay but according to this paper that's in the book, it have to be done by June the 11<sup>th</sup>...

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting asked, "And if it's not done by June 11<sup>th</sup>, so what?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I don't know what the penalties are. I don't think we want to find out either."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You want to read this, you said?"

Councilman Madere stated, "No. No you don't have to read it. Okay everyone have a copy of it in the book."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's on page 92."

Councilman Madere stated, "On page 92."

Councilman Malik stated, "With in reference to the article, you know what? I didn't like it. But at the end of the day what we're talking about is the First Amendment. We have got a couple of people in here that told the line - put on your pack and go protect the Constitution of the United States. And I don't always agree with what I see in the press, however, I always applaud that they are reporting freely. It's their interpretation, we may not like it, but this also allows us to sit here and do what we do. So the, I think first and foremost, the L'Observateur is a local paper. How long it's been around? A Hundred and Ninety (190) years or whatever? I don't know I'm being facetious, but I think at the end of the day that the L'Observateur being a local newspaper, it is kind of I think it is important to me. I don't always like what they report, but it's you know I'm still picking up and reading it. And I think that (I don't want to say that) cause it's going to contradict a lot of things I already said. But anyway, so anyway that's my feelings."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay look, I don't have a problem with the local paper cause they say shop local. Okay so we always talk about that, so I don't have a problem of voting for the L'Observateur. But, I'm still going to you know voice my opinion when I see something in the paper or anything anywhere that I disagree

with okay and I'm going to let it be known. Okay, I'm going to let it be known, I didn't like it and I still don't like it. Okay and that's Freedom of Press and Freedom of Speech. Okay, so that's the way I feel about it. Okay and I just hope that they're going to take that under consideration. Okay, when we vote we vote as a council, and not as a color. Okay so I don't have a problem with L'Observateur being the paper, I really don't."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Was anybody before me? I'm sorry, I think Julia was."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ms. Hotard, it's your turn."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I will agree with some of the council members are stating. I did read that story, and I did feel like that there was an element injected into a situation that wasn't you know, created by us. And I also you know, get Freedom of the Press, you know I do get that. This is a service we're paying for, so you know it's a lil bit different. But I do agree about injecting things into a vote that wasn't there. It wasn't the reason for voting or anything like that, I think sometimes that can give the public the wrong perception, I've served on this council for a very long time, and I don't believe and I would to believe that none of the decisions that are ever made are because of anything other than we believe that that's in the best interest of our constituents. With that being said, you know I do support this with the L'Observateur, I know that they do bring a lot to the table for us as a community, with running community events and things like that that we do get ancillary to our contract, however, if it's something that needs to be you know revisited we could do that, but those are just my thoughts. Obviously it was my motion but I'm willing to you know listen to the thoughts from the council."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You know I got my opinion about that newspaper also, and it's not all painted pretty, I read the newspaper every time it comes out and because I just where they're going to slant this time, or where they're going to slant next time. So, and that's what I be looking for, things like that, plus information. And it's obvious you know when you read the newspaper what it's all about. I don't know if we need to do this, I don't know why, I see the Attorney General here, Secretary of State, just sent this out - it has to be in by June the 11<sup>th</sup>, so that's where the issue at right there. But I'm not for us having a Special Meeting if we want to look at some other newspaper. I don't have a problem with that, but we got a motion on the floor right now we need to vote on it."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "The only thing that's really bothering me right here, is we're talking about qualifications to pick a paper and we no one knows exactly what the qualifications are. I think the Home Rule Charter states, we have to pick an Official Journal and I believe it states it has to be printed and it should be able to be printed here in St. John, that's the thing that bothers me the most out of all of this is we're picking something and we don't know what the rules are."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know what the rules are, I did it I looked at it a couple of years ago. I'm just letting you know what it is. It's got to be a circulation within this parish, that's what it is. That's the only stipulation it is. This not my first rodeo with this. So we got a motion on the floor."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to appoint the L'Observateur as the Official Journal for the Parish. The motion passed 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Perrilloux).

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

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

The above item to remain tabled.

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

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Chairman Madere. We have all received the information, we can you know remove this item from the agenda. We have received the information from administration, whether or not we you know had some questions about it, none the less, but I am satisfied that they at least provided the information that I asked for."

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Lennix Madere - Update of drainage and road repair in District III from the TABLE. The motion passed Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Verdell Kindrick stated, "We're going to let the Parish Engineer discuss the roads, the streets with more information."

Joseph Savoie, Parish Engineer stated, "Yes as you all, we informed you before, we had a preconstruction conference with the contractor and Mr. Kindrick last, actually two (2) weeks ago. We met with the contractor again this morning, they will be mobilizing tomorrow morning starting at about 7:00 a.m., and it looks like they going to be hitting, they're going to start with the patching and so forth first before we do any overlays of course. But looks like they're going to be in the area of around 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, is where they're going to first start. I wouldn't expect too much work tomorrow, they have to bring a lot of equipment in. We've been meeting with them as far as staging areas, and Mr. Verdell has been instrumental in helping us locate sites with the parish, where we can hold that material. But they are starting and will keep you abreast as their progress continues. Any questions?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes when you say they're going to start the patch or what they're going to do?"

Joseph Savoie stated, "Basically a lot of the designs of the streets that were submitted required what's considered either mill patching overlay - and that's basically removing the top layers surface and then performing patching to any base failures as see fit till we get the base to a solid point, and then we would then come back and overlay or relay the asphalt on the streets. So tomorrow they're going to be going around to starting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street area and marking the areas that would need to be patched, that's all I'm expecting by tomorrow because they have a lot of areas to mark, and then once those areas are marked then you'll see them bring in what's called a milling equipment, they'll start removing those surfaces off, patching those deficient areas, and it's usually a 6 or 8 inch asphalt patch where we actually dig out the base and then dig out the base where it is bad or failing, place a sufficient patch there once we're satisfied that patch is holding, we then come back and relay the surface of the street."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay one other question, when you start repairing these streets, some of these streets have speed bumps, okay and I have asked in the past several times that they mark where those speed bumps was at. So once they finish putting the streets in place, the parish can go back and put the speed bump back where the people who lawfully assigned/signed to have speed bumps down their street. Cause I can tell you on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, they had speed bump they don't have them anymore. Okay and we didn't have any record as to exactly where the speed bump was located at. So I made that comment two (2) years ago, okay we went back and did the same thing again down some streets. For any streets that have speed bumps, we need to indicate where the location of those speed bumps at, so that when they finish repairing the street they can put those speed bumps back. Because the citizens actually want those speed bumps down those streets. So...

Joseph Savoie interrupting stated, "What we'll do since they are located in the patch areas tomorrow, at the same time what we'll do is have them mark or locate where those speed bumps are located, because they will be removed of course in the milling purposes but if we go ahead and mark them now and get them staked out...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Right, right cause see it create a problem for Public Work and it create a problem for me when people ask for the speed bump and they don't have records in the exact location you know, so we'll make sure."

Joseph Savoie stated, "And we also as Ms. LaVerne just pointed out, we also do have before and after pictures that we photograph on each street. So if anything gets left behind or misplaced, we will then attached that with a punch list item and get it taken care of."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well when we started taking pictures, cause I know two (2) years ago they weren't taking pictures. They couldn't find them."

Joseph Savoie stated, "We've now taken before pictures on all of the roads, and so we will then go back to, we can review that footage."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay yeah and this next comment is for administration. Ms. Robottom gave us the numbers of streets that they're doing in District III, like 23<sup>rd</sup>, Melius, 26<sup>th</sup>, and Perrilloux Drive I think, okay as a list of streets. Okay and I wish she was here because she might understand better what I'm talking about. To me it doesn't make any sense if we're going to fix 23<sup>rd</sup>, and then we do Melius and then we do 26<sup>th</sup>. And from 27<sup>th</sup> is not that bad, but from 27<sup>th</sup> all the way to 23<sup>rd</sup>, there's a cross street that goes across, so we're going to fix 26<sup>th</sup>, we're going to fix Melius, we're going to fix 23<sup>rd</sup>, and that connecting street that connect all those streets together, we don't fix. Okay and that doesn't make any sense, if you're repairing an area then you should repair the area. That crossroad should be repaired at the same time that those streets are being repaired. Because we have a situation right now, and Mr. Verdell is familiar with it; where an individual place a flower pot in a hole that the parish had from a connecting street, that should have been repaired when they did the street. So I mean if you're going to fix two (2) streets like this, and there's something that's connected to it, that automatically should be repaired at the same time. You know, everything repaired at the same time, and I don't see any sense in 26<sup>th</sup>, Melius, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a connecting street that connects them are not repaired at the same time."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What's the name of that street Mr. Madere?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Sweet Lorraine and Mr. Farlough, and Farlough Lane. He you just wanted to hear Sweet Lorraine again. That's my girl. Okay Sweet Lorraine and Farlough connect those street together, okay and I don't mind people going to say, I'm being greedy for my District, and I don't mind I don't mind anybody being greedy for their District. So those things need to be connected, and if you could do 23<sup>rd</sup>, skip 24<sup>th</sup>, then do Melius and 26<sup>th</sup>, that's all in the same group, so 24<sup>th</sup> Street should be in there, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, Melius, and 26th and those connecting things. Then you solve a problem, you solve that problem that one time we you won't have to come back, you understand, you know like Mr. Benson he's dead and gone like he said in his dealership (we get it right the first time, so you won't have to come back second time). Okay so, that's my thing, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, Melius, 26<sup>th</sup> and the connecting."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Mr. Kindrick, I know we making on start on the streets, but could we possibly do some coordination with ATMOS, with the gas company cause they've been doing a lot of gas lines throughout the parish and maybe we should delay on resurfacing the street if they have to go down there and do some work, it might interfere with the overlay. And I'm just suggesting that."

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Ok, alright we will look into that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Alright thank you."

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding street servitudes in District III from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

Alex Carter stated, "I would just ask like, I know I think Councilman Madere you had questions about servitudes. Did you have a specific question in mind about them?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I'd just like to know you know what are servitudes. I know what they are, okay but I was one time several years ago that some streets have it on one side and not the other side, and then some streets don't have it at all. Okay, I need to know what is what! You know, what are servitudes and what is the parish responsibility to servitudes?"

Alex Carter stated, "Ok, yeah I just want to make sure were working from the same place. So to answer your question briefly - some streets that were re-subdivided or subdivided officially through the parish process or through Chapter 111. Through that review and approval process, we have it, everything is platted right? It's approved it goes through Utilities, Public Works, Planning & Zoning, we makes sure we have the servitudes shown on the plat. When the improvements are made, the Parish Council accepts the final plat after everything is inspected. That's then recorded with the Clerk of Courts, the RGIS Administrator maps it in our pictometry and in our mapping systems, and clearly we can see where those servitudes are, like we know where they are clearly. Now a lot of subdivisions within the parish weren't done that way, they were done before Chapter 111 was adopted '77. Those areas are much more difficult to ascertain who owns what, and so we have to work with residents and their deeds, we also have to look through the Clerk of Courts records to find out: what if anything was dedicated in the past, we also have to look a history of how the site has been used and developed. So your question I think is a good one, you know but it is very sites specific right? So on older streets that weren't developed with the subdivision

regulations and approved by the council, but we have to look at you know if there are ditches, you know usually those are mapped, they were done later. If there's streets usually those were mapped and those were added, but to the extent to you know, in terms of from the center line of the street how far does the servitude extent or if it's public or private, that sometimes can be difficult to ascertain and it takes some research on our part, and on the property owner's part if they're asking about a specific area of their lot. If there's a servitude, or if there is if part of it is in the public ground. Does that answer some of your questions?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes and the main thing is; what is the parish responsibility of some of those servitudes, like some of those ditches you mentioned in the older area? The parish responsible for cutting the lawn and the edges of those ditches?"

Alex Carter stated, "If the servitudes have been established and if they are in our system, the parish has some responsibility of maintaining some that are along the streets. If those servitudes are sort of in the middle of people's property, it depends. It depends on how they were dedicated, a lot of times like if you think about you know, in your front yard between the sidewalk and the street, people cut that right? A lot of people will cut that and that's the expectations is that the property owner will maintain the servitude. It just depends on how big it is, what the parish is using it for, how regularly they use it. So it's a very site specific, if I could give you a more specific answer I would, but I don't want to mislead the public and you know and..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well the reason why because when we had this drainage project you know I had a little, I wouldn't say confrontation, words with the guy cause he's telling me that he didn't have to put it back the way it was because the parish own that servitude, okay? I said, well if they own that, those people front yard where they had the nice grass at, okay when the parish coming cut it? That's why my question to him was, don't tell me you own it you put it back the way you found it! Okay and we wouldn't have that problem, that's why I want to know about servitudes and the responsibility of it and therefore, you know going forward when someone come to do a certain project, I want them to understand that what they found is how they leave it okay, and don't go back and change it. Okay and then try to be smart about what he own, you don't own nothing you understand, you don't own it. That's what I wanted to find out, you know just make sure that I'm protecting the citizens who have property along servitudes to make sure it get back to the way it was. Ok, thank you."

**Lennix Madere - (Carried 05-08-18) Discussion regarding preparation for Mosquito Season**

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I know I missed the last meeting and I know they had the guy came from the Mosquito area and came and gave a presentation. This whole item wasn't about a presentation from them, okay I didn't want a presentation cause we had that presentation before, we all know about the mosquito problem. The reason what I wanted discuss about this is, this Council do have the ability to take action on this particular problem in the parish and the problem I see is and some people may get mad, I'm not worried about that, you have a situation with DENKA that we don't have no control of, we don't control anything that goes on with DuPont. This Council can vote all night long and we have no say so of what's happening with DENKA or anything that, that's EPA and DEQ. But when you talk about mosquitos okay, and standing water and things we have control of that. We have Ordinances and we have Code Enforcement Officer

that should be looking at certain areas okay, and the areas I'm looking at is all these car dealerships or garages that have tires, old tires stacked up on the outside. We have rain coming, when it rain water accumulate in tires, and what else accumulate in tires? Mosquitos! Okay and we have a big problem this summer, and what really made me put this on the agenda, was reading the paper and then looking on the news where they said; it was an 80% increase of disease from rats, termites (not termites), a help me with this-a not fleas, ticks, ticks, okay and mosquitos. Okay and I don't think we need to have to help the mosquitos out in St. John the Baptist Parish. So I was trying to get the Code Enforcement Officer, cause I called Ms. Carter and asked her about it you know if our Code Enforcement Officer can do something about that, you know I mean write these individuals up and have them cover these tires."

Alex Carter stated, "Right we do around this time of year have our Code Enforcement Officers like knock on doors if they do see open pots, anything that holds water. We've done this in previous summer seasons when mosquitos are out and about. So we do that same exercise as part of like storm readiness, we also go to all the construction sites and check them for being ready for storms and part of that check is..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well that'll be a little bit unreasonable for them to tell individuals you got a flower pot in your and you need to turn that over. Okay I'm not talking about flower pots, I'm talking about big items that you can actually see, okay a large amount okay cause they'll never, they'll being knocking on everybody door, got to go check your backyard, you got a can or a pot. No!"

Alex Carter stated, "I like where you're going..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right cause that's unreasonable. I'm talking about you passing and you see a large amount of tires, or you see a large amount by a business. Okay, ask them to please cover it. Okay, didn't tell you have to remove it, but just cover it from getting the water from getting out of it, from getting in it you know, that's what I'm talking about. Okay but we can control that, okay and if we can control that we can help control the mosquito problem and also maybe save some pregnant young lady from having a baby with Zika virus, okay? So we have control of that, so I don't want you tell your Code Enforcements go tell somebody - turn the flower pots over, No! But if they pass and see a business that have (and we have a lot of places around here that sells tires and work on tires), you understand, just send a memo to them or something you know. If you have tires exposed outside, please cover them. Okay, for that particular reason."

Alex Carter stated, "Yeah, we will absolutely do that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah for that particular reason. That's what I'm talking about and we do have the responsibility to our citizens to do that."

Alex Carter stated, "Yeah last summer that's what we did. We ended up having Code Enforcement knock on doors and ask people to cover their tires and any other..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Forget the knock on doors."

Alex Carter stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Madere stated, "Just the big places."

Alex Carter stated, "We'll see if we can't put in writing and send somebody..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Yeah just the big places, leave the knock on the little flower pots for them. Just take care of the big ones."

Alex Carter stated "Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you."

**Marvin Perrilloux - Update on Haydel Canal crossing (LaPlace Park Levee), and path forward**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'd like to motion to table this item, tentatively a meeting scheduled Thursday and I'll come back at the next council meeting."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to TABLE - Update on Haydel Canal Crossing (LaPlace Park Levee), and path forward until the next council meeting on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding issues with the televised Council Meetings**

Baileigh Rebowe stated, "The Communications Director, myself, has been in contact with the videographer and cable system representatives, to identify ways to improve council meeting audio. It has been anticipated that the audio will greatly improve once production is moving into the new building, because of upgrade equipment and less output interference. We talked about this a few times sir, just every day this week."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah I'm satisfied."

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "You're good?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I'm good, yes."

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "And just quickly, I don't know if I'm out of order Keith. Referring to Councilman Madere's last item, we do have a system in blackboard that's provided by businesses so we can call all the car shops with the message written by Alex's team and save a little door knocking."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah right, cause that door knocking not going to work."

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "We'll utilize our new system, we'll improve tonight."

Councilman Madere stated, "That door knocking wasn't going to work. I'm not in favor of that door knocking."

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "We'll take care of that."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Baileigh."

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay now just a simple question. Councilman Sorapuru

and I have asked several times; why isn't the meeting on the West Bank broadcasted live?"

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "Well actually it's live on Comcast, the majority of the public has RTC, we already know that. However, we just had a production meeting this week, RTC is telling me it takes just a certain dock just to get it going live on Edgard. We actually have a meeting scheduled next week for us three (3) to try and get Edgard live in the next few weeks."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Ok."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Right now it's a button that gets connected to a thing that turns Comcast on. RTC never had cable wires or something ran over there to be able to do that, now they're saying that there's options that we can take with upgraded equipment to get it live, so that is. I know that Ms. Toombs brought that to our attention to and we've been talking about that, so we're on the same page with you."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Ok thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok thank you."

Baileigh Rebowe-Helm stated, "You're welcome."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion regarding Home repair, elevation, incomplete work, demolition and inspection status in terms of manpower and funding for each in reference to the CDBG Program**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I just want to know exactly what's holding us up, we had some discussion on this in the finance meeting for sure. But like for instance, the home repair: we got some people homes that well - I went to a lady house, I mean I'll be honest with you. She had issues at her house I just don't understand. She got kids in her and every last one of her outlets were out of the box, hanging out you know. And I thought it was in there crooked. Actually in there crooked, bolted down, guy never did come back you know. Her air condition disconnect box on the outside is ten (10) feet in the air. You know that thing, if the fire department go there they got to pull them things you see, that thing got to be where they could pull you know, pull the breakers out there you know, things like that. And I mean this is a house that was elevated. So my question is; as far as her is concerned, this lady house is just a mess, I mean it's a nice house but it's just a mess right now. What can we are we doing anything helping these people? Or will be able to do something to these people or is because we're still for this process to come through with OCD?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I stated earlier Councilman Snyder, in regards to elevation the DOB has no impact with those individuals whose homes are being elevated. So if this constituent is having some problems regarding that contractor, we would need to know that person's name and follow-up on that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well she definitely having a problem with the contractor."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Ok. You can give me a call or email me and let me know who that person is, then I will have Ms. Valentine to look into it and we'll get back with you with our findings."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that may help her, but there are many others with some issues like this you know. But, and I don't know them all you know, these people they're waiting on contractors to come back and say, well ok I'm a come back and look at or I'm going to change something this or I'm going to change something there. I mean for this lady here, maybe we might be able to find some help for her, but I guarantee you this one here is, we're liable. We got a liability there, you know with those kids running around the house with all those outlets hanging out. You know and half of the house on with electricity half of it isn't you know, so I'll do that. So, but as far as (what else I had down there)? Demolition is still gone on, am I right?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir that is correct."

Councilman Snyder asked, "That's going on? And inspection, do we have inspection people to inspect these houses? Or the contractor?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Pivotal, we have a contract with Pivotal that does the inspections. They do their inspection, 50% and then 100% inspection."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And they're still in the parish? I mean they're still inspecting for us?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes we're still under contract with them, yeah."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's what I'm asking."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So who they report to?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "They report to Royal."

Councilman Snyder asked, "To who?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Royal."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Royal? And Royal is gone? That's the part I can't you know, it's just seem like we dead in the water here. I feel that way, cause you know my area back there was one of the areas that was very severely hit, and we had the most work going on. And there was some, there was some instances whereas Royal should have visited these people I think and got with the contractor. They can't make the contractor come do the work, they can't do that, the people that own the homes. So what happens with what they have? Do we communicate with those people whose homes isn't complete or those 50 people I think, 55 people we had? Do we communicate with those people?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir, we've been in communications. Ms. Valentine and her staff have been in communications with those individuals. And also on their contract, those contractors are liable. They have to complete the work that they started, and in some cases they had started on someone's home but due to the fact that we were waiting on funding as well as the DOB (the Duplication of Benefits), we had to stop the work."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok alright. So I can have this lady call."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "You can either have her call me or Ms. Valentine."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'll get back with her and I'll send you that information."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And keep in mind again as I stated earlier, we did complete 241 homes, we have 19 that are pending which has not began any construction, and I believe we have about 47 that's under construction that need to complete their repairs."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I can understand that, and that makes sense. But there are some homes that are just sitting there half done. You listen to what I'm saying? That's where the big issue at. You can't put furniture back, you can't put things up against the wall, you know and they don't know what to do some of these people."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And again sir, if any of those residents have issues with their home in that regard, I would ask if you would just contact myself or Ms. Valentine and we will follow-up with them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright I'll pass that on. Thank you ma'am."  
LaVerne Toombs stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And Larry, I'm glad you brought this one up and I know we, it's sounds like being a Monday morning quarterback, but we, whoever's going to be our next Grant Manager or whatever/how we're going to put the RFP out, I think we need to look real closely on how we set the guidelines for them to do the work. I mean I got calls from all parts of the parish about cracked slabs, crooked windows, crooked doors, plumbing, electrical, roofing, anything you can name it. And I'm not the one to tell them how the problem is to be solved, but most of the contractors were telling the homeowners; Oh call your councilman, call your councilman. I mean in and out every day, seven (7) days a week, we're getting calls. But, and I, maybe it's my fault I didn't look at the RFP thoroughly, but I didn't realize that the contract was with the contractor and the homeowner. And I think we need revisit how we're going to lay this out for the next move we're going to make if we got Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) or Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000) left to spend, whatever the dollar amount is. I think the homeowner (this is just me thinking outside the box a lil bit) should have an inspector. That individual homeowner should have his inspector, don't depend on that inspector that Royal hired, because that's the only protection that owner has. So I don't know how we can put this on the books, I think we need to take a strong look at it, because this has been a circus and a nightmare to deal with. Some good things happened, but we have a lot of situations where that homeowner had no idea when the next move was going to happen. Like what you mentioned about those electrical outlets, what if that kid would have got electrocuted? Or that individual in that house? Again, I don't feel comfortable going to a person's home and saying; yeah I know this is wrong or this is not right! I'm not a contractor. I'm not certified to tell that person you know it's right or wrong. That inspector that's going to that house, should have complete communication with that homeowner before any check is written. That homeowner should have their personal inspector to go forward and sign off on that. That's the only protection they have, I know people that's 100 years old have no idea on how they got their houses fixed. And an elderly lady she say, Mr. Larry they did the outside of my house, it looks well and they didn't go inside of the house, she got holes in the floor. So I think we need to take a strong look, whatever muscle we need to put in the RFP, I don't care we got to hold it up for the next three (3) or four (4) months, which I hope that don't happen, but while we're on hold, let's revisit what's in that RFP let's see what we can put

in to make these people do the right thing. First of all, we want to make them do the right thing first of all, and make it safe and get paid for the money they get paid for the work that they do, but also we won't be getting a phone call seven (7) days a week with the complaints. Thank you."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "This is for clarity and regards to inspection. We're under a contract with the inspector which is Pivotal. Which we brought before the council, so the council actually was the one that voted to have Pivotal as our inspector. And the way that this works Councilman Sorapuru, is that they go out do the inspection, and there's some things that they can/can't do, based on policy/procedure, and once they go out and they do 50% of the work from the contractor, then Pivotal goes out and look and see, then if it meets the standards and approval, then they get paid, then they go back out and do an inspection again for 100%. That contractor does not get paid, they do not get paid until they have done everything that they're supposed to do based upon the contractor agreement. Then the homeowner, Pivotal, as well as Royal, all come together and that homeowner signs off on the site that they're satisfied with the work. So that's how that's how that process works. So again, if the homeowner is not satisfied, then they do not sign the documentation, we do everything we can to make sure the homeowner is satisfied with the work, and if they're not then they don't sign. If they do, then they sign the documentation so that's how that process goes."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "And I understand Ms. LaVerne. I just need, I'd like to have a little more oversight on how it's being done. I mean, I had people that said; they came and inspected my home and they didn't make the repairs yet. For two (2) months they hadn't heard from the contractor, you know that type of thing."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yeah I understand that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "So they, I feel like they're just being home alone with this type of operation. Cause when something happens, first thing the contractor says, call your councilman, which is the most ridiculous thing to tell a homeowner and the contract is with you. He tells them to call them to call the councilman. Mr. Becnel, am I right?"

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah I know, I'm glad you brought it up Mr. Sorapuru. Because this lady I was telling you about her house, her service wire is about a foot and a half above her house. And the service wire is rubbing on the house, on the roof, and they got a stick on that box, and Cain know what I'm talking about here. And that's totally illegal, that's totally illegal. That thing supposed to be at least three feet I think above the roof line. And no way it's supposed to cross the house that way, this is the service line this is where all the power come in the house at rubbing on top the house. On the same house I'm talking about. I'm going to send you that address. That's dangerous, that's very dangerous."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Keep in mind, as Mr. Sorapuru stated that the contract is between the homeowner and the contractor. And again, when you all have these types of concerns and residents call you all about things that haven't been done, or incomplete or whatever the case may be regarding the contractors, then we need to know about that so we can address it. I know that you all have never hesitated in the past to contact either myself or Ms. Valentine..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "The homeowner, they have contacted...when I got to their house, a contractor was leaving, was leaving there then..."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "But we weren't aware of it. I mean Councilman, we weren't aware of it. So we can address it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's what I'm saying, these people they just don't know what to do now. And that's where the problem is, they don't know what to do. But I will go back to this particular house, cause they got many dangerous situations in that house. And they got an inspector sticker on the service box. The green sticker sitting right there saying it passed inspection."

Councilman Madere stated, "That answered my question. That's my question to you. Okay we have inspectors, now just undoubtedly this house is not complete. Okay so the inspector actually, so we have inspectors actually go and check on the job before it's completed or they go after everything is done?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "The inspectors actually inspect the house through the whole process. They start from the beginning as far as evaluate what needs to be repaired, then they go back 50% of completion and they go back at 100%."

Councilman Madere asked, "And do they have a record of what inspector is doing it?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir they do. Yes sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well when you get that address, that inspector there needs to be reprimanded to even have that wire going across that building like Mr. Snyder is talking about. And to have a sticker saying it's approved. You understand? That's something needs to be done with that inspector. Okay..."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Just get us that information and we'll look into it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Now, one other thing. I have an individual they came and did some work to her house, and they were supposed to come back for her to sign the completion form, and they never did come back to her to sign anything. Plus she called and said the window that they repaired is leaking and now she have mold growing on that wall. Okay and she called, and called, called, but no one come back out there to fix that problem. Okay and she haven't signed anything releasing them, okay and they haven't been back to her house in couple of months, almost 3 months. So I'm going to have to give you her name and address for you to find out what's going on with that. Okay, everything else is done but they never went back for her to sign, so if they don't sign he can't get paid. Right?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "That is correct."

Councilman Madere stated, "That's how the process work. Okay so she never signed anything, okay and she have a leak. Okay, so that's some of the things that's not operating right. And especially with a wire going across the top of her house."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We'll follow-up on that once we get the information."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes I just wanted to just comment on what Larry said. Basically when you know something is not going right and the contractor will tell them, contact your Councilman. So naturally it's not that we're complaining because I will go over and look, but I don't profess to be an expert, but we will

go and look but I think the contractor should never tell them, you know like, just contact us like we're going to solve the problem. So with that being said, what I do- Ms. LaVerne and you know I do it well- I do it. When that person contact me, if it's Jane Doe- I will email you or Myra, so that works ladies and gentlemen. So I high recommend that yawl do that, you know if you go there and you don't anything, contact them and they work pretty good with me on that. Myra will contact the people or you, I will say that. You know its working pretty good. But we don't mind going over, but we're not an expert. Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Quick question. Ms. Toombs, is part of the process meeting with the homeowner to explain to them the important things and you know meeting with inspectors and things like that. Is that briefed with the residents?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir, that's from the very beginning before they start construction. You have the Contractor, Administration, Royal and the Inspector there to go through the whole process as far as what's going, the repairs, how long it's going to take, so on and so forth. Yes sir! It's done from the very beginning."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok, I thank you."

#### **Larry Sorapururu - Update on Wastewater Tank cleaning on the West Bank**

Blake Fogleman stated, "Thank you Chairman. The Utilities Department facilitated a design meeting with the Engineer and Environmental consultant on April 11, 2018. The project is in the preliminary design phase and the design engineer is currently working on methods of treatment of the wastewater during the project. The Utilities Department is awaiting an update in the design and proposed scope. And in discussions today we understand that by the end of this month we should be expecting that proposal. We went back and forth on a couple of different designs aspects on how to treat water while we're actually doing a project. And I know you and I have had that discussion."

Councilman Sorapururu asked, "So how long before the bids go out to have those proposed budgets?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Again I was just told by the 31<sup>st</sup> we'd have a preliminary design and we would go from there. So by the end of this month maybe we can do a review. The biggest hurdle is this first hurdle, because its single units at every one of those stations, you have to find a way to treat that water. The original proposal was just a haulic to a different location, but that ate up 70% of the construction budgets, and which wouldn't have gotten us very far with rehabbing these the metal and the structural stuff. So if we come back to the table with a reasonable cost for treating this water, I think we'll be able to move forward pretty quickly."

Councilman Sorapururu stated, "Thank you Blake."

#### **Larry Snyder - Ted Legendre - Discussion regarding permit process**

The above item to be placed on the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 agenda.

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**18-14** An ordinance amending Ordinance 16-30; Section 40-8 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances for the Operation of golf carts on public streets. (J. Remondet)

**18-15** An ordinance to grant preliminary and conditional subdivision approval of a partition of a parcel from Riverwood Subdivision into Lots 1-16 and Parcel A, Summerlin Lake Subdivision, Phase 5 - Tuscany Drive, and the dedication of a portion of Tuscany Drive; in the area generally bounded by Summerlin Dr., West Airline Hwy., Hwy. 51, and English Colony Drive LaPlace, LA as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on September 26, 2017 and to authorize St. John the Baptist Parish, through the Office of the Parish President and Council Chairman, to execute a Construction Agreement with Landcraft Inc. for the installment of all associated improvements as shown in the improvement drawings prepared by Andre C. Monnot, P.E. on March 1, 2018. (PZS-18-1188) (N. Robottom)

**18-16** An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 113. - Zoning, specifically those provisions related to driveways and parking with the intent of evaluating the construction of driveways and parking spaces and providing for other related matters. (Parishwide, Docket No. TXT-18-01) (N. Robottom)

**18-17** An ordinance approving a family plot re-subdivision to divide and designate an undesignated portion of land (1/4 arpent by 40 arpents) into Lot R-2 and the remaining parent tract of the Sylvan Tract, located in the area generally bounded by Ebony Ln., the Union Pacific railroad, East 6th St., and East 5th St., Edgard, LA as shown in a survey prepared by John W. Starring, P.L.S. on May 9, 2018. (PZS-18-1191) (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Good evening. First, I would like to remind everyone that Hurricane Season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> - however we are already starting to see tropical formation and possibility of heavy rainfall this weekend. The National Hurricane Center has issued a special Tropical Weather Outlook indicating a low chance of tropical development over the eastern Gulf of Mexico in the next 5 days. Currently, little to no impact is expected across our area through Thursday. However, after Thursday depending on track and speed, heavy rain could impact our region. Residents are encouraged to get a game plan if not done so already which includes identifying an evacuation route and location for storms, stocking an emergency supply kit, clearing yards and drains and signing up for Parish notifications. Please prepare for the tropical weather season and also for the possibility of heavy rainfall this upcoming weekend. Updates will be posted, and sent out on communication outlets. National Economic Development Week was a true success and we want to thank all of the business representatives, our elected officials and the community who participated in the week's events. We are looking forward to hosting more events, trainings and panels in the future. Special thanks to the Economic Development Department for spearheading. The annual St. John the Baptist Parish Veterans Luncheon will be held Tuesday, July

3<sup>rd</sup> at REGALA Gym in Reserve. Residents are asked to assist with the video again this year by submitting photos of local veterans and service members. Photos in military uniforms are requested. Please include the veteran's name, rank and branch of the service with the photo, as well as the contact information and name of the family member submitting the photo. If a photo was submitted already, it is not necessary to submit a new photo. The deadline to submit pictures is Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 PM. Photos can either be emailed to the Communications Department at [communications@stjohn-la.gov](mailto:communications@stjohn-la.gov) or mailed to St. John Communications Department at 1801 West Airline Highway in LaPlace. Congratulations to all of our students who graduated recently, especially those from high school and college. 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. **REMINDER:** All parish offices and government buildings will be closed in observance of Memorial Day this Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe Memorial Day with their family and friends. Thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:12 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Lennix Madere  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary