

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Ronnie Smith

Councilman Millet led the Prayer. Councilwoman Usry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsel Barry Landry and Jeff Perilloux were present.

Bill Hubbard - PROCLAMATION - Trooper David Easley for his heroic efforts in saving the lives of three individuals on Christmas morning 2008

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "**WHEREAS**, it is a privilege and honor to give special recognition to Trooper David Easley for his heroic efforts in saving the lives of three individuals on Christmas morning, 2008; and **WHEREAS**, Trooper Easley while on duty responded to the scene of a vehicle engulfed in flames from a fatal crash on I-10 East Bound between the Belle Terre and U.S. 51 Exits; using his fire extinguisher in an attempt to put out the fire and with the assistance of an off duty fire fighter pulled three people from a burning vehicle; and **WHEREAS**, Law Enforcement Officers, just like Trooper Easley, are the guardians of life and property, warriors in the battle against crime, and are dedicated to the preservation of life and property; and **WHEREAS**, our community desires to honor Trooper David Easley who bravely and willingly accepted the responsibility of helping in saving the lives of three individuals; **NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL HUBBARD, PARISH PRESIDENT**, in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members and the citizens of this community wish to express our sincere admiration for the courage and dedicated services of Trooper David Easley."

Bill Hubbard - PRESENTATION - Rev. Forell Bering & Raydel Morris for their years of devotion, dedication and unsurpassed commitment to the St. John Housing Authority Board of Commission

The above mentioned item will be carried over to the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes May 12, 2009, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Bike Tour/Bike-a-thon - June 6th - 7:00 AM - Noon; Permit Approval - SJA Eucharistic Procession - June 14th 6:00 PM

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes May 12, 2009, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - SJA Bike Tour/Bike-a-thon - June 6th - 7:00 AM - Noon; Permit Approval - SJA Eucharistic Procession - June 14th 6:00 PM; Councilwoman Millet - appointment of Lisa Kernell to the Airport Advisory Board. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

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

Mert Miller, LaPlace, stated, *"I have known Mrs. Linda Allen for several years and am currently doing some part-time work down at the animal shelter. While I didn't have the pleasure to meet Mr. Jim Allen personally I know he was an inspiration to Mrs. Linda Allen who has been there for years working under sometimes adverse conditions doing the best that she could do for the animals of our parish and for the constituents. I would like to say that I think this is a good idea."*

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-20. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

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

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-21. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

09-22 An ordinance to amend Section 18:19 SPEED BUMPS, of the St. John Code of Ordinances as follows: By deleting the following:
"SECTION H. Fees: \$25.00 application fee" (J. Hotard)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:15 the finance committee met, we had only one item that being the change order and final change order for the Za Montz lift station. The meeting was then adjourned. I would ask at this time for a motion to approve the finance committee meeting."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The

committee approved to grant change order #1 and final for the Za Montz lift station project. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

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

Councilman Wolfe stated, *"I still need to get with Mr. Hubbard on this. Please carry it over."*

Dale Wolfe/Charles Julien - Appointment to the Housing Authority Board of Commission

Councilman Wolfe stated, *"Mr. Haston Lewis is on this also. I would like to appoint Art Smith to the Housing Authority Board of Commission."*

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to appoint Art Smith to the Housing Authority Board of Commission. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

Councilman Julien stated, *"I also have an appointment to the housing board, Mrs. Paula Mason."*

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilman Wolfe seconded the motion to appoint Paula Mason to the Housing Authority Board of Commission. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Smith) and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

Charles Julien - Overgrown tree situation E. 31st Street

Councilman Julien stated, *"I would like to thank administration for acting on this situation. I thought it would be removed from the agenda. We did a good job. I want to thank Mr. Cliff Bailey and also our Parish President."*

Jaclyn Hotard - Sidewalk repair

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"I just need some clarification from administration on how the sidewalk repair process works. I am just asking because I have had a couple of them that were in back log for seven (7) or eight (8) months. I just didn't know. I have been told that they have to wait until they have so many of them to repair before they will come out. I just wanted to get clarification that's all."*

Clifford Bailey, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, *"On Fairway we had to remove a tree so we coordinated that with Stanley along with Byron Talbot our new contractor."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"So is it not Calderrara anymore?"*

Clifford Bailey stated, *"No ma'am. The tree was removed. We coordinated that effort with Byron Talbot and that sidewalk is in progress. You are"*

right in the beginning he wanted to come down and do four to six at a time but we had a discussion with him and he will come down when we call him or when he is needed."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ronnie Smith - Appointment of L'Observateur as the Official Journal for the year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to appoint L'Observateur as the Official Journal for the year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Lewis stated, *"I have a problem with the law on going into someone's yard and tagging their cars. A lot of people are having a problem with that especially on the other side of the river. They want to know how people have the right to come into their yard and tag their vehicle but when they have trash in their yard you can't go on private property. I would like to see if we can look into that a little closer. If not I am going to see if I can get that amended because we have a lot of people that have two (2) cars. One (1) might be with insurance or they don't have the money to buy the insurance or the kid might be in school or the car might be broken. To go in there and tag the car in their own yard where they have a big yard and nothing is blocking anything. Now they might have some bad cars in the yard like with a hood off or a wheel off I could see that but going into someone's yard and tagging their car is pretty rough."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"You are asking administration to look into this?"*

Councilman Lewis stated, *"Look into those laws and see what we can do to give those people some type of relief. They are going to cause some type of trouble over there. They are not going to let them come into their yard."*

Jeff Perilloux, Parish Attorney, stated, *"I will get with administration and we will put something together for Mr. Lewis."*

Councilman Julien stated, *"I would like to first thank Rev. Forell Bering and Mr. Raydel Morris for doing a good job on the housing board. They served the community well and I wanted to thank them. I want to remind the people of District III that we are also having a community meeting at the library in Reserve on Monday, June 1st at 6:30 PM."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I just want to remind everyone that most of the kids now are out of school. If we could just pay more attention when we are driving through the neighborhoods, I get a lot of calls and I witness it myself, people are speeding through the neighborhoods. Now more than ever is the time to really pay attention to how fast you are*

driving. Kids will be playing all throughout the streets, walking to the snowball stands and everything else. Please pay extra attention to how fast you are driving."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill Hubbard stated, "I appreciate a good, nice, quick, easy meeting tonight even though we had a few technical difficulties. We will get with our audio engineers and we will get that looked into very quickly. I want to remind everybody that we now have online payments for water bills. It is a very easy process if you are accessible to the website. Get on there and you can pay with your credit card. A lot of the other parishes have that and we kind of brought that into our parish. I am very happy about that. Our NANO system has officially been online now for four (4) months. We have had a couple of little issues here and there with the filters but it is going real good. My mom and dad are happy with the water. If I can make my momma and daddy happy I feel like I am doing a pretty good job. My wife too even she is happy about that. I just want to remind everybody that June 1st is the beginning of Hurricane Season. We have been meeting with all the directors and are preparing a better plan than we had last time. We are going to have some guides being mailed out to all the residents in the parish in the next two (2) weeks. I just want to remind everyone that a hurricane is a serious thing. We need to start planning now. Everybody needs to have their own plan put together. We are going to help you the best we can. Let's just try and be prepared this hurricane season. We have met with the grant writers. At the last council meeting we approved the use of contracting with some grant writers. We have them underway. They are looking at some stimulus funds. There are some monies out there that we didn't know about and they are going to do a good job for us. We are really excited about bringing some extra funds into our parish. Mr. Lewis I want to thank you and the Lafourche Levee District. We have signed a cooperative endeavor agreement and I think June 4th at the next meeting of the levee district we are going to get approval to borrow or use one of their marsh excavators and we are going to start in the Garyville Canal. It is a canal that has been untouched for many years actually since before Hurricane Katrina. We are excited to be working with the levee district and using some of their specialized equipment and we are going to also get that over to the West Bank too for some of those canals. We are moving. Things are moving really well in St. John Parish. Thank you."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:52 PM, Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the

motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Smith absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary