

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 28th, 2019
CHAIRMAN THOMAS MALIK
VICE-CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, May 28th, 2019, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, 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

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard Gaudet

Councilman Sorapuru led the Prayer. Councilman Becnel led the Pledge.

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

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet arrived at 6:36 PM.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to go back into the finance meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Malik stated, *"We have a motion to go back into the regular meeting, and the system's not functioning properly. So, we're just going to do a, we're just going to go on and vote to go back into the regular meeting. We've got a motion from Mr. Snyder, and second by Mr. Becnel. Go ahead and vote. Voice/raise your hand."*

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, *"Say all in favor."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"All in favor, alright we're back in regular session. Thank you."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to go back into regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Becnel stated, *"Mr. Chairman."*

Councilman Malik stated, *"Yes sir!"*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"I'd like to suspend the rules to move up the issue Larry and I have with the Fire Department. If we can move that up because that's kind of way down there and they got some people traveling from a far. So, I wanted to make a motion to move it up."*

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, *"Maybe right after the Consent Agenda. Would that be appropriate?"*

Councilman Becnel stated, *"That'll be appropriate. To move the Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Update on the repairs of the Westside Fire Station. We're*

going to move it up under/after New Business."

Councilman Malik stated, "After New Business."

Councilman Becnel asked, "What did you say Ms. Hotard, go ahead?"

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Right after the Consent Agenda."

Councilman Malik stated, "Right after the Consent Agenda. So that would be right after #3."

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to suspend the rules to move the item - Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Chad Roussel - Update on the repairs of the Westside Fire Station up after the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Larry Sorapuru - Presentation - (Carry Over 05-14-19) Christopher Gilmore, Corp of Engineers, West Shore Levee Project

The above item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Natalie Robottom - New Business - VeraPro

Lavern Toombs stated, "Yes Mr. Chair, thank you so much. We're happy to have a new firm here that has located to St. John Parish. They're providers of IT Sale and Services they specialize in K12 and Manage IT services for small, medium sized businesses and government agencies. And we have two of the employees here that would like to tell you a little bit about their business, which is located on Belle Terre. Here is the Director of Operation Technology, Joshua Jones and the Business Development and Social Special Project, Delores Montz. Thank you."

Good Evening everyone. We chose to establish our company here in St. John Parish for a couple of reasons...

Councilman Malik interrupting asked, "Could you introduce yourself please?"

"Oh, I'm sorry, I thought she just did. I'm Delores Montz. I'm the Business Development Specialist for VeraPro, we are a provider of IT Sales and Services. We're located right here in St. John on Belle Terre Boulevard. This is Joshua Jones, he's our Director of Operations. So, we actually chose LaPlace for a few reasons. One, we have many employees that reside in the area we are centrally located. Honestly St. John helped us get our foot in the door. We had a few options we could have gone to St. James or St. Charles, but we chose home. Second, we are fully invested in many of the school systems around here, so we also work with Government Agencies as well. So, if you need any help with your IT Services, you can just call us, we're right down the street from you. Thank you."

Councilman Malik stated, "Thank you very much."

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

Vincent Rollo, Riverlands Insurance stated, "First of all I want to thank you for allowing me to come here and give you people monies, okay! Mr. David Duvall had come down earlier to make the presentation but he had to go to another meeting. And he would have explained to ya'll much more detail than I'm going to do, how you got these checks and why you got these checks. Basically, these checks had nothing to do with the operation of St. John the Baptist Parish it has to do with the operation of the LWCC entire company. Once an insurance company determines how much money it made in a particular year, it has to, legally it has to set aside x number of dollars to pay future claims, and legally as they set aside x number of dollars to operate. The balance of that dividend out as much as they want, this year the dividend checks are little bit less because in this period, that's the period for 2018, Stock Market took a big decline and that's when insurance companies make most of their money, in the Stock Markets. But this is the 16th year that we are giving the dividend, and the Parish this year (I need Robert to come see), the Parish this year, gets a check for \$200,964.00, which and then Cain gets a check for (Cain commented, not Cain), here's a check for \$89,962.00. So, give this to money man also, okay! I just want ya'll up here and but I do thank you, and your Worker's Comp, always make it a point when I'm giving you money to remind you that I'm going to ask you for money pretty soon. Your Worker's Comp Premium is coming up in July, but I think you're going to be very pleasantly surprised when we present that also, cuz you got a big reduction. Okay!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just for informational purposes, the Office of Fire Services gets those and the rest is distributed among the departments accordingly. So, no, no, one individual or department or district gets them, it goes back into the budgets from whence they came."

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - June as Safety Month

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for June as Safety Month.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - June 10-16 as Men's Health Week

Natalie Robottom, Parish President read the proclamation for June 10-16, as Men's Health Week.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - May 14th, 2019, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Appointment of Alicia Mender to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (April 2019)

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - May 14th, 2019, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Appointment of Alicia Mender to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (April 2019). The motion passed unanimously.

Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Chad Roussel - Update on the repairs of the Westside Fire Station

Councilman Becnel stated, "Let me speak first before, (Chad you can come up), so Cain going to come up too. But what I want to do, is I want to say this before I start. When I ran for election and I said I was going to pride myself on documentation, I live and die by what I said by that. And what's going prove this

right here, I do things two (2) ways; the old-fashion way and the new way. I have manual back-up and I have a excel spreadsheet back-up. But before you speak Chad, I want to take us down a trip to memory lane and I'm going ask yawl for 5 minutes of yawl time, because I got to let everybody know this is serious. On August 2nd, 2016, 7pm, I met with some of the guys (I think you were there Chad at the time, if not it was David and a few others), about I wanted yawl input of what we needed done at the Fire Station. And Cain wasn't there but I presented to, presented it to him two (2) days later. My notes dictate this. So, I'm going to tell you what we discussed because this is the facts. We talked about the apron, we said this apron in front of the station it has a hole in the front it was never done right, when laying down the concrete by the contractor it is horrible to look at when it rains, and it still is till today. The guys mentioned to us in their opinion, the elevation is lower than Hwy. 18, they said this is bad being that one truck has 1,000 gallons and the other truck has 750 gallons in the tank. Imagine how much weight this is when you are going down in a hole, trying to exit or enter the station. Alright that's one of them. And Cain some of these things I'm talking about, you may have to correct them, but I still for the record I want the public to know what was discussed. But not all of them corrected based on what I saw yesterday. So, at that time washer/dryer for firemen gear at that time, they had to wash they gear by hand or travel across the river and have it cleaned and dried. They should have had a washer and dryer at that time. Kitchen, at that time according to them, it was not Board of Health approved. The stove didn't work, like I said at that time, to full capacity. And the floors needed to be changed, better sleeping headquarters, for example perhaps a four (4) bed facility on the 2nd floor. Bathroom, this should definitely be brought up to better standards, one thing we noticed (when I said we that was Larry and I) on August 2nd, 2016, the shower area is too small. The roof was leaking in certain areas, radios needed to be updated at that time. The guys, despite all that, the guys made it clear to Larry and I that at times the moral is lower, is low, however, they are a group that is strong and united. And they also told me, at times they felt disrespected. Example: Fire Chief Helmond Lumar, found out that a District Chief, authorized by Cain Dufrene, had been going to Pleasure Bend on Wednesdays' without him being notified. We as well as Helmond, feels this is a lack of communication on Cain's part. They guys also mentioned that they should not be given second hand gear. They also said the roof at the fire station had leaks, but overall it was an informative meeting. Now, I don't stop there! August 2nd, I wasn't going rest, August 4th, Larry and I met with Cain and Jobe' Boucvalt at 5:30pm, on another matter it was with Noranda, and Noranda didn't take long. So what we did while I had Cain there I said, Cain look, we had a meeting at the fire department in Edgard I mentioned to you the improvements deemed to be necessary, that apron, your response you will get with Public Works; kitchen, new stove, you say I will definitely will address it; bathroom, you said there will be a \$10,000 renovation to the bathroom; roof leak, Edgard/Wallace, you said you will address this; second hand gear, you said you were not aware of this, you will definitely address this; washer/dryer, you said right now there's one location that all the departments use (now that was in 2016); sleeping quarters, you said you going look into it; and Cain said the radios are the same at all the other stations and you also said you were to bring them a Xerox machine to that facility because apparently at that time they didn't have one. Now, I'm sure you're going to get up here and say what you then did? But I'll say this to you, Chief Lumar told me and he said he had requested a 36-inch blind for his window, which would improve the office and when people would come visit and for rating. He didn't get it, he had to take I think if I'm wrong just I'm saying I think Damon, um blinds to put on his window. That, that is not called for, you know that is not right, he said there's no Fire District Board, they're telling me when they do their own little fundraiser, so if they need a case of paper plates

they have to check with you, or it got so bad they're buying it out of their own funding. I'll give you a chance to defend yourself. But also, I'm going to say this and Larry and Mr. Madere going take over. Chad took the initiative to take us to the four (4) fire stations yesterday, and I was embarrassed at some of them. Well the Wallace one is not too bad; Edgard, one being built in 2004 that's a disgrace that it shouldn't be and that should be brought up to par; Lucy, you could run out of there and throw up after you've seen that black water in the toilet; Pleasure Bend, bees all over the place on top, how them people going to vote there. I mean somebody has to be in charge of this this is a disgrace! I'm going to use the word deplorable. Now I'm done saying what I had to do, but like I said these are my notes so they don't lie, I document everything. So, I'm going let Chad and them; take it over from here but I done voiced my opinion. And something got to be done cuz this is a disgrace, I would've like to take the news media there, compare these stations on the West Bank to the East Bank stations not playing favoritism but, we deserve fair treatment too! I'm done, Larry, Tweet, Chad."

My name is Chad Roussel, I'm a 10-year member of St. John Westside Volunteer Fire Department. Department has been in existence for 61 years, I'm also here with John Frazier, who is a member of the department as well of 33 years. We have some concerns when it comes to the stations on the West Bank compared to the stations on the East Bank. Primarily I'm a begin with our station in Lucy, the station is completely horrible it needs to come down back up, when you walk into the station the first thing greet you at the door is graffiti on the door, you step into the station the first thing greet you is the smell of mold, you look through the roof back in the day the buildings were built with steel beams the beams are completely rotten you can look straight outside, when it rains it rains in the station, the station has no running water, you can't flush the toilets, you have no light in the station besides the bathroom, if there's any emergency where you have to house paid guys, volunteers, national guards, sheriff's office, you can't put them in the building cuz the building is not even livable for anyone to be in. Go back to our station (the newest station) which is the one it's right off of Highway 18, which was built in 2004. We've been having water issues with the building on paper, dates back all the way to 2005. There were 3-4 different Engineers came out and looked at the building, have told the previous Administration, which should have shared it with the current Administration that there will be forever water leaks with the building because the building was not built to manufacturer's specifics, in the past there's been recent attempts to repair the roof but because of several Engineers have already told that the only way to repair the roof is either do a complete roof or burn the station down and bring it back up. As I stated, for years there's been an attempt to repair the station, but basically what it is, is you're dumping money into a sink hole that's going to only patch it up for maybe a year or two and then get back into the same the same situation you already have. The issues we have at the station off of Highway 18 is like Larry said, it's still up until today the concrete apron still have hole in it, the Parish have attempt to botch it up by you know temporarily fixing it, still it comes right back. The exterior of the station supposed to be beige, but its beige with a tint of black because that's how horrible it looks. We have trees, branches growing to the top of the station, there's a make shift drain that comes off of the side of the building, which I don't know I'm assuming that it was the parish that did it or whoever they contracted to make one of the numerous repairs on the roof. The make shift drain just a hole from the soffit on the side of the building, the water just falls on the concrete that they made a little drain for it run off onto the actual concrete where the water then goes into the sinkhole that we have and in front of the station. The issue that we have with our Pleasure Bend station is we don't

feel to believe that the residents in Pleasure Bend which is also residents of St. John that pay the same taxes as we do as well as the same taxes that people on the East Bank does. They shouldn't have to go to a station that again does not have running water, does not have no air, there's numerous snakes in the building, there's numerous cow webs, the inside station is completely horrible and these are the people that have to go and vote for each and every one of you all that's sitting here today! Also, the Pleasure Bend station for some reason does not bear our name of the Volunteer, there's a poster board sign to the front of the highway where the name should at least be on the station. Our issue with our Wallace station should be/the Wallace station is not in horrible condition only for the simple fact that the residents as well as the Wallace Indians use the station, so they clean the station they try to keep the station up, but our issue with that particular station is; as we all know the parish is building a new West Bank Complex in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office on the same property, our only issue with that station is we would like to see our name which is St. John Westside Volunteer Fire Department on that new station. And if we cannot get our name on that new station, we would prefer to have our current station remodeled, and we'll stay where we are. Some other issues we have on the West Bank, for years we've had a in house Secretary, which means when anyone of the residents come to the station there is a Secretary during business hours of 8:30-4:30, that greet the public. After the budget was consolidated for whatever reason we have no clue, we no longer have an actual sitting Secretary. If the residents need a fire report, whatever, we may need as far as paid guys or volunteers, we have to come to the East Bank and deal with their Secretary, which to our, you know feelings is never a priority for them. The other issues we have on the West Bank is primarily a few, maybe one or two possibly 3 years ago, our Deputy Chief Unit which is a Crown Victoria, which we had for years when we had our own budget we took it to the mechanic/the dealer, we kept it up in tip-top shape. When the budget was consolidated we was forced to use the parish mechanic in exchange, the vehicle begins to develop numerous problems we asked the Administration for a replacement vehicle for our Deputy Chief, but as we all know if it doesn't pass the East Bank it doesn't get to the West Bank. So, in exchange of that we got an old vehicle that was used for the District Chief and apparently they got them a new vehicle (that's one of them right there-vehicle shown on slide), we asked them for a new pickup truck which was our current pickup truck the motor went out, in exchange of that they replaced the motor, the truck has had numerous issues since then the truck has oil leaked, the truck has a radiator leak, airbag light on, check engine light on, when we come out the station on 18 the truck wouldn't change gear till we passed Club Grocery. So if you're on an emergency call you'd have to wait until the truck decides that it want to change gear so you can pass 20-25 miles an hour, which I think is not right because if it's your family member or someone or your friends or whoever it may be, you want to make sure these vehicles in tip-top condition, as well as our Fire Chief vehicle. For some reason the Council members can attest to that, when you're going 45-50 miles an hour for some reason it turns into a massage chair, its jerks for you. And we never had any of these issues as far as our vehicles until we began using the parish mechanic when the budget was consolidated. Before we would bring all our vehicles to the mechanic/to dealerships and we would make sure they would be up and running. But for some reason now we have to use the parish mechanics to our knowledge, as you can see check engine light on, airbag light on, in that one. To our knowledge You Tube's everything, so if You Tube can't fix it, we just going have to deal with it until it's fixed, primarily one of our Engines which is Engine 91, been having an oil leak for quite some time, where which you all saw the other day, there's you know some oil on the ground there's a pan that sits underneath to catch the oil and we were promised a fire truck for the West Bank, which indeed the Administration did gave us a fire

truck, I think it was in 2016/2017, they did gave us a fire truck for the West Bank. However, we gave it back, the reason being we gave it back was it was let's make a deal, they gave us a fire truck which was 913 in exchange of taking the fire truck that we bought when we had our own budget when it was Engine 91, which was constructed and built specifically for the West Bank. So, our reasons for giving it back was it was not let's make a deal, you give me what I think I need and I'll take what I know you need and put it on the Interstate to run Interstate calls. It just was a thing we weren't going to fall for. And basically, as I stated before since the budget, been consolidated we can't even get a printer. A few months, I want to say a month/month and a half ago one of the paid guys brought yawl attention that their printer had some issues, when you go to print one page it prints multiple we asked for a printer, however we didn't get a printer but we did got that Xerox machine that you mentioned about we got a few years later, but however we did get it. And we got that, it was like I said it was something that passed through the East Bank before it gets to the West Bank. So our thing is, everything we get on the West Bank has to be used and have to pass through the East Bank first which should not be should not be right, because by the end of the day we pay same taxes that folds on the East Bank and according to the Parish Ordinance that the voters voted for in 1983, they voted for a budget that was strictly for the volunteers, that should not be together with the any of the paid departments."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes Mr. Roussel, I really appreciate you bringing this to our attention, Mr. Becnel, myself and we invited Mr. Madere to come along yesterday to view those stations. Everything, you seen the pictures today if you magnify that by about 5 times, it worse. Those buildings are deplorable, those buildings need to be upgraded/refurbished completely, our firemen deserve better! We have very good dedicated paid and volunteer firemen that really deserve better that saves lives and property in this community. There's no reason, no reason those buildings should be in that condition, I'm going to recommend that we have an Architect, go in and evaluate all those buildings, not just the buildings on the West Bank, but all the buildings all the fire stations in the Parish. I was surprised that we had running water at the Lucy Fire Station, and not having water at the Pleasure Bend Fire Station, at least have running water. But, there's no reason no reason today, with the money that comes in for this Department and the people that we have, the dedicated people deserve better in this parish. And I'm ashamed that this young man, who's a volunteer, had to come and bring this to my attention right now. And Mr. Becnel was right, it was 3 years ago we sat down and we spoked to Mr. Roussel, we spoked to him we spoked to some of the paid and volunteer firemen and I guess perhaps I wasn't up on my game, I should have been checking a closer too. But when I saw some of the pictures I said no, no Kurt, we got to get on the ground and see exactly what's going there, and I'm so glad I went so glad I went, because you guys deserve better. And Cain, I know you're the Fire Chief of this Department you're not the Fire Chief of this department? You're the Fire Chief of St. John Parish?"

Cain Dufrene asked, "Can I address the issue?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well I asked you I'm asking you, you Fire Chief. As overall, the maintenance of the buildings of all the fire stations, do we have any fire station that can be in that condition from what you saw on what we described today, any other fire station in the parish?"

Cain Dufrene stated, "No."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Okay, alright thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "I received an invitation to go and view those fire stations several days ago, and I got up early yesterday morning and made sure I was there on time. I just want to say, several months ago I noticed when I was on/going to the Council meeting on the West Bank, I saw a section in front the new fire station (the most recently built one) on the West Bank, the cement that they are talking about is sinking, I noticed asphalt in the middle. And I said to myself, well they must 'v put that asphalt there temporarily until they can get that cement in there. But then I passed again several months later and that asphalt was still there, so at that time I started to mention it in a joking way, cuz I had no way of knowing that these fire stations were in the conditions I saw yesterday when I went over there. And that's no bearing on the paid firefighters or the volunteer firefighters to me it's a lack of maintenance okay and taking care of things. Alright, when I first got on this Council (I hate to go back) but I always said if it had St. John the Baptist name on it, we should maintain it the same way that we maintain every building that have St. John the Baptist name on it. I don't care how small or how big that building is, it should be in the same condition as a big building a lil building, a medium sized building, East Bank, West Bank, North, South, East, West, if it's St. John the Baptist Parish, it should all be maintained the same way. Okay, Pleasure Bend, that's pictures up on the screen right now. Pleasure Bend that place is in deplorable condition, the kitchen area I took a broom myself yesterday and swept up all the bugs and bees, it took me less than 5 minutes to make the kitchen look 100 times better than what it was when I walked in there. Okay so that's an indication, it's just maintenance it's just taking care of it cleaning up. Someone have to go to over there, I know the way those buildings look like they been locked up for about 15 years, that's how they look in the inside. That's how they smell in the inside. Okay, those buildings should be open up at least weekly, monthly or whatever. And I'm more than sure if I go to any of the fire stations on the East Bank side I'm not trying to compare East to West, but I'm pretty sure I'm not going find those conditions at those facilities. Okay it's night and day! And when they was riding us around to these different fire stations, we went to Pleasure Bend and we passed two fire stations, volunteer fire stations from St. James Parish and I asked them to pull over, and I went took a peep you know at those fire stations, okay volunteers, okay, both of them was in excellent condition, didn't go inside but I peeped through the glass and outside it's clean and cut, some of our facilities in fact not some of them every one of them I know the fire station used to go to West St. John at the beginning of the year on the West Bank and knock down with the hose that they have and knock down everything and clean the front of the school. You know, we have fire trucks with hoses, so no reason the front of the building should look the way they look. Okay mold and mildew on it, okay steel rotten away. Okay, that's steel doesn't rot away in a week, that's years of neglect. Okay and something have to be done to these stations, and like I say if they go back to the name as paid fire station, volunteer fire station, they still carry the name of St. John the Baptist Parish on them and they all should be looking pristine or in good condition. Okay, not what I seen on the West Bank yesterday. If I had to use the restroom in Pleasure Bend, I'd did better going in that field than going in that restroom okay, in fact I would a took a chance in the field than going in that restroom the way that restroom looked. Okay and not just that one, well the other to up in Lucy the same way you understand! And heaven forbid if a female had to go up in there, they'd run out there screaming. Okay all the bugs and everything that's around there, you know. So once again I'm saying, as a Councilman, as a citizen, as a taxpayer, you understand? That cannot exist in St. John the Baptist Parish. East Bank, West Bank, North, South, anywhere. That we have a building that bear our name. Okay it should not be in that kind of condition, I don't know who's at fault I don't know who to point the finger at, but I do know one thing, from this day moving

forward, things got to change those things have to start being cleaned up. Okay, major renovations I know every year when I was growing up during this time of the year, my mamma (I didn't like it) she used to say, boy it's time for spring cleaning okay? Well it's time it's overdue for spring cleaning at these facilities. Okay you need a plumber to go in those restrooms to straighten that out. But I'm just saying, okay what I saw yesterday I mean when you pass by I never thought the Lucy Fire Station was that bad. My sister lives down that street I pass that fire station every time I go there. But, what's on the outside is hiding what in the inside. Okay and some of that area what's on the outside is actually what you are getting in the inside. You know everything just needs to be taken care of, okay and it's not about East Bank/West Bank it's not about that in my opinion. Okay my opinion is, it's about something that belongs to this Parish and it should be treated the same way! East Bank, West Bank, and right now the voters on the West Bank would have to say they tax dollars are not being used you know for the facilities that they have on their side. Okay, that's the bottom line."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yes. After watching these pictures I'm a pall that but not surprised either. Same way with our waste facilities they're falling apart. But, I can remember meeting in 2014 with the Fire Chiefs, I think everybody was there expect Helmond wasn't there, and I gave them my opinion about stuff. And some of the reasons why the budgets, was consolidated cuz at that time they had abused spending. I remember meeting with some firefighters telling me well, if the LaPlace got a new truck, Reserve want another truck or this one got stripe on that side and that one had two stripes on the other side. Totally ridiculous! Or you couldn't use my fire equipment because my fire equipment belongs to Central Avenue so Garyville couldn't use it. That's the foolishness I heard. So that's why it was consolidated for abusive spending. But it seems like the spending wasn't favorable to the West Bank. And, it's I'm glad and I had that conversation with Mr. Becnel today, cuz it's before his time and I forget to call Mr. Sorapuru letting him know it was before his time. But we need to do something about these firehouses. So, with that being said, Cain you could come up to the mic and tell us what your plans are to improve these facilities, because first of all nobody should be sleeping in a mold infected area. The trucks sound like it shouldn't be on the highway cuz the State Troopers stop you it probably wouldn't be fit for the highway. I think we need to just trash it and get another truck."

Please see the complete video of the meeting on our website at www.sjbparish.com.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

19-12 (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 05-14-19) An ordinance to ensure the Parish President provides the District Attorney's office, as legal advisor to the Parish Governing Authority, with appropriate documents and sufficient time to perform a comprehensive legal review and analysis of all proposed agreements and/or contracts for legal sufficiency before they are submitted to the Parish Council for discussion and consideration by the Parish President and administration, thereby prohibiting the placement of any agreement and/or contract on a Council Meeting agenda or Council Finance Committee Meeting agenda that is not deemed "legally sufficient" by the District Attorney's office, to read as follows: (M. Perrilloux)

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

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ordinance 19-12 conflicts with the Parish President's

executive power to administer, direct and supervise all Parish departments, officers, agencies and special districts as defined in Article III, Section B 3(a) and Section C 1(b) of the Home Rule Charter. This ordinance attempts to circumvent the Charter which vests all executive powers to the Parish President. This includes day-to-day operations and scheduling for the President and staff. Both are outside the Council's and DA's authority. The proposed timeline and required meetings are unreasonable and will only further delay the work of the Parish. The workload has increased and so has the need for readily available Legal Counsel. This is not addressed in the ordinance, but the Charter provides other options for legal services, which may be more suitable based on the current pace of government."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to REMOVE Ordinance 19-12 from the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Perrilloux excused himself from the meeting at 10:28 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

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

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to remove Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action regarding combining line items that pertain to drainage, in the 2019 Public Works budget from the TABLE. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Snyder stated, *"This item I'm going take it off the agenda, because the explanation in it is the exact, I will be doing something else with this drainage item. So, just prepare for that one. So, I'd like to just take that off the agenda."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet seconded the motion to REMOVE - Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action regarding combining line items that pertain to drainage, in the 2019 Public Works budget from the agenda. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

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

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to REMOVE Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action regarding increased financing of drainage line items in 2019 Public Works budget from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Snyder stated, *"This one was, was relationship to the one before, and actually just to keep it on your minds is that what I'd like for us to start thinking about is drainage throughout the parish and get a program together"*

whereas we can get together, we can start doing some drainage maintenance throughout the parish just as we do with the streets maintenance and the concrete streets, and the asphalt streets, and I think we've done a pretty good job with that. Most of our streets are in decent shapes and they're getting better, but what I'd like to do with this is and I have it on the agenda for next week again, is to get a program started with drainage, and put some money in there and if we got to use some of this money we use for the highways or the streets, you know let's get another line item in there for drainage and let's do the same thing we've been doing with the streets. Let's just start doing street by street as far as drainage is concerned. If you remember Mr. Madere was talking about 29th Street, just one lil job on days' work over there, save a person's house from flooding. Just one days' work over there on 29th Street you know, and they've been having problems for years. And I know you've been complaining about that for years, but they finally put some work into it and I think our people did that right, am I right?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Our people did that from the parish here. And it was a tremendous difference and we can do that throughout our parish and increase our drainage and that's what this is all about, these last two. So next week I will have something on here, requesting it will be an Action Item, requesting that the/or Directing Administration to get a line item and finance it for next year on the budget to look at drainage throughout the Parish as a program that we use for out street project right now. Thank you. So, with that said, I want to take this off the agenda, I motion to take it off the agenda."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "You know and since he discussed it, you don't really have to vote to take it off."

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

MOTION: Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to REMOVE Larry Snyder - Discussion/Action in regards to the selection of a representative, to attend the Corp of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District meetings and to provide the parish with updates, to train local businesses to prepare for this project and to report back to the Council's input on the West Shore Levee Project to the Corp of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes, a matter of fact Mr. Gilmore was supposed to be here tonight, this the second time I had him on the agenda and he told me on the West Bank he could not make it he was going to send someone else, and he said he would be here tonight. I guess something came up, but anyhow, just for information; there will be a meeting at the Pontchartrain Levee District Office tomorrow and 10:00. I got an email today, I don't know if you'll got the same email but..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It's not public though."
Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well, yeah the Council Members yes."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "But it's not a public meeting."
Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes well..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You're announcing a public meeting."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well I'm announcing to, I'm letting my colleagues know. The public get there they just won't get in that's all. Anyhow, Mr. Snyder the project that you're talking about the interior drainage and spending money in the budget and I think you're right on time with that, you know the Corps of Engineers is preparing to build this \$760 Million Levee, North of the Airline, I don't know who's communicating with who I know they're not communicating with our Public Works Director, I don't think they're communicating with any of the Council members in your district that brought up against I-10. But a, we need to have somebody at the table with some discussions and some communication with the Levee Board and the Corp. We have a millage that's passed right now for, we're putting money on the side to do upkeep on the levees and operate the pumps all those channels haven't been clearly defined yet. And I know the Parish President have made a number of meetings with the Levee Board and the Corp, and every time we go to a meeting that I've been, they were flip flopping back and forth that then nobody was given direct answers. From what I understand the levee alignment is still not clearly defined on what's going to happen, I know they gave out a \$3 Million Dollar contract to get vegetation off a one mile, a hundred-foot-wide eight miles long, that was the first phase. I mean this is a big project, we need I would like to see us have a representative at the table, tracking the monies that's being spent, also working on the engineering side with making sure we're getting water going to the right location, make sure the pumps are placed in the right location, make sure we're getting the right caliber pumps we need, making sure not just giving us cheap equipment and say go head on and run it. I mean we have a lot of expertise that need to be at the table talking to these people. These are our tax dollars that's coming through here."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's exactly right Mr. Sorapuru, and it's seemed like some work have started, and I found out and I think I found out it like everybody else found out through some the newspaper, I think it was in the newspaper where I read it at. It was some place I read it you know, and these contracts and another going be given out pretty soon I think. So, from there, I'd like to get the Administration input on this. What do you think, Ms. Robottom about this whole situation and things like that starting to happen now and we don't know anything about it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There is a meeting tomorrow. I shared with you'll I didn't find them to be as helpful as I thought they would be and it's moving slower than I thought it would move. However, we do have people at these meetings and just for informational purposes there's a new Colonel, you know they change them every 3 years, so the one we've been working with is going to Afghanistan and Colonel Murphey will be replacing him in June. So, they're trying to get them up to speed on the project which I think they start a year in advance so he has some familiarity with it. With regard to the vegetation, I think Cain had presented that to you all that that was going to happen. Now you're right, the alignment the final alignment, is going to be determined by their surveying results and the soil borings, okay so it's not defined yet because they need to do some work in that area to determine what is the best alignment. So that first step was to remove vegetation. However, we'd shared with yawl there was also a contract in place and you know the Corps has some people already preapproved - that's not what you call it but they already do work for them they're on their list. And those people were doing the property I guess ownership, and all of

that, they were in at our Clerk of Court asked some permissions to get them in there to determine who owns the property so they could start getting the rights-of-ways to go in and survey and soil bore. So that was an existing contract, and then there's this one. What I spoke with the new Colonel and the old one, and they said Mr. Gilmore would be responsible, I spoke with Mark Wingate about the importance of having our people participate in this project. And they have committed as we said to hosting an event here specific to West Shore for our contractors, but again in my conversation, there are processes for Federal Funds, and according to the Colonel, he's directing people to their website, because he can't circumvent that. You know he's getting names of people with different things and he's referring them to the process. Now, there's two tracks moving; 1) we want our people involved, so we're going to facilitate that meeting, and again keep in mind this is a large project, we're looking for larger contractors and smaller contractors maybe we can do some partnering. You know yourself, that our small contractors aren't going to be able to do this they're, aren't going to be able to cash flow it, they're not going to wait for their money, we experienced that in our lil project. You know we lost some of our local contractors cuz they can't wait, they're not large enough they can't you know flow this money. But we need to be putting them with people who can and making sure that they're prepared to be a part of these projects. So that's our goal is to schedule a workshop in St. John's specific, not all the Corps projects, this project. Because \$50 Million Dollars of it is our money 18 miles of it is in St. John Parish, and we want to reap the benefit of not just our \$50 Million but the \$760. When I spoke with the Colonel, nobody was against that. They actually thought it was happening you know it was already underway. The other thing that I was told was, they have a mission, and you guys that's been in the military you work on missions. And their missions, mission is to get this project built by 2024, and that's their #1 Mission! And so, they're going to be bringing people along and they can't wait for you to get certified, you to get your truck or you to get your excavator whatever. They're moving because this needs to be built in accordance with the law that was approved by 2024, so that's their #1 Mission. But they fully understood our request, you guys have made it I've made it several times, and we're going to facilitate that meeting to try and get our people to the table. Now that's what we can do, they're going to have to do some things on their own. Now we have a small business training center that again, is available to them to help them get the things they need in place to be able to do this work. But there also going to be other partners that we think they're going to have to partner with. Again, this is a much bigger project than our CDGB and our folks struggled with that, you know, they need their money as soon as they turn in their invoice and these projects don't work like that. You know you have to wait a certain number of days before you're paid and you have to be able to do that. So again, that's our pledge that we're going to continue to do that. I agreed with all of you when you came to my office, that I thought capacity wise we were going to need some help. But I've continued to tell you, I don't know what we need help in yet, because that's not defined. And I'm not going to tell you just hire somebody with no scope or the scope that they say they want to do for the amount of money they want to spend. When we have people at the table that's coming to you with information, you need to bring something to the table. I can tell you what we've brought we know what happens in this Parish when it rains. So, we can engage in a conversation with them if they're looking at modeling and drawings, and thinking the water flows this we have evidence of what happens when it floods. We know where our areas are we've met with them and we're working with the Parish Engineer on those canals that we need to clean. There're some things we need to be doing and they're working on that with us. And we think there's funding available in our existing dollars without going into the millage to be able to do some of that, because they've gotten the permits. We're actually trying to get

one amended or some of them amended because they did approve and Hope Canal to be able to I think chip the spoils then throw them on the banks, which you can see on one side there is a levee that obviously been built up from doing that. But they didn't allow that for our other canals, which that's a cost savings. If you don't have to haul it out and go dispose of it that helps us to get more done for the money we have. So we're working with Joseph to try and see if one, we can amend those other permits, cuz they only gave it to us for one, and that was Hope, but we think we're ready for that we're working with you know we've had some proposals, we're trying to look at what other parishes are doing, what's the quickest way to get that work done. We think the number was a good number if we could do more of that, but again, that's with chipping the spoils and not hauling them out. So, we have things we need to be doing, that's one. Okay, because they've told you and they've told us they're not doing that for us. Okay they're not doing out internal canals, our canals need to be able to flow to where they need to be and we know what those are which is why they're permitted. So that's where we need to be right now, we need to have that meeting, we will be in attendance tomorrow at the meeting, again I've shared with them you'll concern and the fact that we don't want to hear the decision at the monthly meeting okay, that's not participating. But I also shared with yawl, unfortunately our partners are doing a lot of that work and they're the ones that signed that agreement. Okay it's our partners through the Levee District and CPRA, and again they're all committed and they fully understand and every time I talk to them this is important to us. And we need to be a part of making off of this project that will benefit us in the long run and that's their commitment. I can't write a scope and not know what we're responsible for, it's unfortunate, but I'm not going to recommend to you all to pay somebody to do something that we don't even know if that's our responsibility."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Does the Corp have regular meetings to discuss that themselves except it's not up here?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's not that one. It's not the meeting where they come there, they have a team and a Project Manager, Mr. Wingate, and Chris Gilmore, who actually is our person who we deal with, but we haven't gotten to the point where we're engaged enough, as far as I'm concerned. We have two tracks: 1) our engagement administratively and 2) how do we get our business community engaged? And they've committed to both we just haven't gotten there yet."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Would you think it would be beneficial for us to request a liaison person between the Corp and our Administration here to kind of keep us what's going on? They may have someone that does that for them."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Supposedly again, you know we'll be there tomorrow we will make sure this is clear, supposedly Chris is our person. Now I don't know why he hadn't come, you put him on the agenda twice, but when I talked to the Colonels in charge, they say that's our person. Ok, Chris Gilmore. He did come before and spoke to you all, he's the one that's on this agenda, again, I don't know why he didn't come today, but he'll be there tomorrow."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Does he communicate with you?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah, we you know again, I speak with him often, Cain speaks with him they ask us for data that we have based on stuff that we've done during rain events. They're using everybody's data to try and get the best plan. I think Belle Terre has some records of some things that they've done back there that they're sharing with the Corp, cuz it's going to affect them too! They own a

lot of that property in that area, they know things and how that works and how it's worked over years that they can share with the Engineers who are like I said, running models but they don't know the landscape. You know where is that's our input we know that we know what happens, and so that's been our input in to what they're doing. But I'm not saying I'm sufficiently pleased either okay, I'm just telling yawl and I expressed that concern when I met the new Colonel, that it's not moving at the rate we thought, the engagement is not what we thought it would be and the priority is 1) to get it done, but 2) also make sure we have folks that are participating in this project."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "One of the questions I had was the agreement with Pontchartrain Levee District and the Parish. Why are we not, why we're not united with that part of how we're going to spend the money for the upkeep on the levee and the pumps? Look like that's being side tracked a lot."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Um, he's still here but, we are looking at the current agreement with St. Charles, because the Levee District has that agreement..."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Right!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There was an agreement signed years back, before we even got the money. There's an existing agreement with regard to funding and percentages that was signed by the Parish (not me) but a former President with the Levee District on how this is going to work. But again, what we know now is - that's negotiable. Because what happened in St. Charles, you know there's a level of water that you know they referred to before they'll start the pumps that might be different for us. You might have a different level in St. Charles versus what we have here, but you have to know what our conditions are to be able to negotiate that. But that is a process that we're working on, we're using what they currently have with St. Charles, as our basis for you know for an agreement, but there's a basic agreement already signed between St. John and the Pontchartrain Levee District, about this project and the cost sharing and how it's supposed to work. With regard to operation and maintenance, we haven't gotten there because we don't even know what we're getting. Okay, we don't know yet! We started out with four (4) pumps, and 18 miles of levee, they've already since said it might have to be six (6). So, what we were thinking might not be what we have, so it's difficult to put that in agreement when your design is not finalized, you know and your cost is not stabilized. But what we know is there is an agreement for maintenance and operation, they typically have a contract with somebody who maintains the actual pumps, and we cost share that and then you know and the same with grass cutting and maintenance of the area. But you know it's still a little bit out from that because we don't really know what we're getting yet to be able to set-up an agreement on how we're going to maintain it because they're still finalizing that."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "As far as Hope Canal in Garyville, the water diversion is going to come in to Hope Canal part of that diversion, I don't think they've been communicating with much of that either with us, cuz that's going to tie into the Federal Levee..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No we actually have, we've hosted meetings here on that. They didn't initially get together on it, which was I don't think they actually realized their alignments were buttoned each other, but Malik you were in those meetings that we you know when he was working at Pin Oak, we've had meetings and they're alignments have to agree, they had to make some changes where they were close to each other from a T from the earth and levee to a T-

wall, so no, that is clearly in process and the size pump that's going to be needed to pump it into Hope Canal, all of that communication is under way. And then CPRA is the same entity that's doing the diversion. They're the entity, they're our non-federal partner on the levee, so they're you know they're engaged in both of these projects and we've brought 'em all to the table, again to see what is your plan. Yes, it's the two projects close to each other, but they were both trying to take charge. Of course, the Corp took charge, they said our project is congressionally authorized, so we take priority over your project but we are going to work with you, but our project is the one."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well I'm a little concerned about not having someone that you could pick up the phone and get a report daily or weekly on that operation without you having to wait for somebody to call you back or go through a chain of command, and not find out who's the next person in line and all that. I'm just saying as busy as you are, and Ms. LaVerne..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I'm not the one but..."

Councilman Sorapuru interrupting stated, "Shuffling papers in the office all day, I know you guys have a lot of stuff going on. But as far as the Council..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I'm not the one, but Chris Gilmore is the person. And we have staff, you know I've spoken to him myself when I need specific information, but we also have people who attend these meetings who keep in contact with them, and the person who's over the levees in St. Charles Parish."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "Who attends the meeting with them?"

Natalie Robottom asked, "With us?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yeah, no with the Corp. You said we have people attend the meetings with the Corp."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Cain attends it with us."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well I'm not talking about the updates. I'm talking about to get involved with the design and everything, the whole shooting match."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No I don't..."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well I..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Nobody from our office can go sit in Corps of Engineers meeting and do design, and again, that's not picked by us. You know that's part of their team, that is a Corp of Engineers project, they use their own Engineers and the firms that are on their preapproved list or whatever."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "No I was thinking in terms of us having a point person involved with that project on a daily basis, just and give a report back to us besides the report that they're getting once a month with them. They put the bids out on that job, they told us at one meeting the bids were going to go out at the end of the year, and we found out through the newspaper the bids went out for the/they gave a \$3 Million Dollar contract out."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think the construction. The information we got the construction bids are going to be led in 2020, this one was a vegetation removal

contract. But, we can...are you going tomorrow?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I'm going to try to make it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok. Well we need to have that conversation then. Not in the public meeting after the meeting."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Correct! And we need to find out what's the set aside, there's a set aside involved with the federal dollars that I haven't heard anything about that. So that's this is something, I hope some of my colleagues can come to the meeting tomorrow and we can really all get good information from them."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That's where we are Mr. Snyder. As soon as, I mean I'm not that comfortable, and it's not moving as quickly as we'd like. That's what I can say, and hopefully there won't be too much of a delay, there are a lot of people who been with this project for a long time that are still there, although we're getting a new Colonel in our Region. But a lot of the staff that's been there a longtime are still going to be there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well, what I'd like is that if you know when you get an update, could you pass it on to us so we can know what's going on also? And you know not have us finding out in the newspaper or whatever?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right!"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Alright, thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Thank you and I'll try and be really brief I know it's late. Would it be possible or do you think it would be I don't know I don't know whatever the word is I can't even think? But to have a workshop and have Mr. Gilmore come then. I think the last time he came to a meeting it was pretty late before we got to the discussion, so it may be you know just better to have a workshop with all of us here and put him on that agenda so it's the only thing that we're discussing, we may you know get him here you know better that way. Secondly, just from a contractor perspective, with hauling dirt I mean I did it for 6 years, and Larry you're right there are set asides, but when it's a Federal Program and you have these you know 8a and Db and all these set asides, it's still a big contractor that will be, I don't know well like a Phillips & Jordan will be a big one and you'll have layers and layers of subs. And what our folks will have to do, is the insurance is the main thing and the Corp it's probably still a million-dollar requirement of Workman's Comp. So, people will have to ready with that insurance, but your set aside still usually get met through a higher Tier because Natalie's right, you have to cover the payroll. But that doesn't mean that our folks won't be involved because like I said, I did it for 6 years in New Orleans. And you still get involved you just have to make sure you have your paperwork ready that is the main thing. You won't have time once the contracts are let, to try and get your paperwork in order at that time. You'll be passed over, so you'll have to make sure you know insurance or anybody who does reach out to you and I'll be more than happy to send them my way. But making sure that insurance and Workman's Comp are up to date, that's a must. If it's not, it's just it happens so quickly. So, you know I just wanted to share that with you. But I think a workshop might be better to get Mr. Gilmore here where he knows this is the only thing on the agenda, we can only discuss that. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think that's a good idea about getting Mr. this guy here on a workshop. I think we ought to maybe ask him at our next meeting and that's at 5-5:30 or so. You know let's get him here and have a discussion."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "Yeah, if we had had him here tonight it'd be 11:00..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "That's right. I think that's a great idea. Let's do that."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "I see why he's not showing up. He's probably saying I'll wait 5 days and then they'll get to my item."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We need to put that in a form of a motion or just request it from Administration. Could you get him to come by..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We'll talk to him tomorrow. And again, whether he can come to the next one or whenever, we'll schedule it and you'll want it before a Council meeting or want it on a separate day?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Before Council meeting would be fine we already going be coming out here to me."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I think we ought to do it on a separate day."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "I would do a separate day."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, that's fine, I don't have no problem with that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Only because we know we're going to be here till eleven anyway. So, 5 to 11 versus 6 to 11 is different."

Councilman Malik stated, "But still I think 5..."

[CROSSTALK between Council members]

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay, we'll work on something for them on a separate day, but 5:00, 6?"

Councilman Malik stated, "5:30, 6 o'clock I think, I think it's better because it can give..."

Natalie Robottom interruptingstated, "Okay we'll try we'll shoot for 6."

Councilman Malik stated, "It can give a larger portion of the residents the opportunity to attend."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And I think it would be helpful and I know you guys do it, if yawl could submit your things to Donna or Jackie, so when they come they can answer your questions. So, we have some basic ones obviously that you guys have brought up that are consistent, but if their other ones it would helpful if they could know what they're coming talk to you about so they can come prepared to answer you. So, if you have things, please submit them and we'll make sure that they get that and we can create an agenda so they'll know what they're coming to talk about."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Who is this guy? This guy is the Engineer?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "He's the Project Manager for this project."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Project Manager. There shouldn't be any questions that we can't ask him that he shouldn't be able to answer."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I know but Mr. Snyder, it's like again you might have to look up something, again, your meeting will go quicker if they know what you want. You know what I'm saying, you don't have to sit and think through it but you want your answers right! So, if we can provide him at least topics or you know what it is you're trying to address, your meeting can go quicker if he can prepare better. And if he might need to bring somebody else with him, like he might need to bring the vegetation person or whoever depending on your questions, he may need to bring the person who does the workshops on small businesses. But again, it's just trying to allow them to be prepared and come and address your questions in this special meeting."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay I'm good."

Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet stated, "It could also be daytime, it doesn't have to be 5:30, I mean whatever's convenient for them to make sure they're here."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We'll see."

NEW BUSINESS:

Thomas Malik - Discussion/Action regarding having our consulting engineers, C.J. Savoie Consulting Engineers, Inc., study the possibilities of enclosing the well North of Ruddock

Councilman Malik stated, "We have HESCO baskets around Ruddock!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We do."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yes..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "On three sides until there's a deep end and then..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Until there's a possibility right!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Malik stated, "So I think at the end of the day what my concern is, is to ensure that they were set-up properly, if they weren't re-addressing that, I mean let's face it, these things when they're properly stacked, they can hold backup tons and tons of water. They do a good job! But anyway, I think that'll be prudent just for having C.J. run out take a look at them just to ensure that they are set-up properly. And then any other deficiencies..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And we'll share with yawl, we have an Interim Plan and actually National Guardsmen helped us set that up. When, for the August floods we had their help in setting that one, the Waste Water Treatment Plants and whatever. But, there is a plan that involves the Levee District, again keep I think Verdell's been accessing sand, we usually get sand in from the

Spillway, well that's not possible, so we've been you know getting sand in in the event that we need it, that's a lot of problems with what's happening now with the river, the Spillways that's going to be problematic for us. Like the road was under water again."

Councilman Malik stated, "Oh very much so the, I don't think there's a real chance that the river is gonna start descending any time too soon..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "All of that is problematic."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah it is, and it's getting into a very bad time of year for us with Hurricane Season coming along..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We'll get C.J. out there and make sure they're familiar with our Interim Flood Protection Plan, which we needed to do, because we didn't have a levee and we did it with our partners who were the Corps, the Levee District to help us and they're part of our plan, like when we have to activate it, some of them are part of our plan."

Councilman Malik stated, "Ok."

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage throughout the Parish

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Verdell, don't need to come up. I already had a discussion with him. (Turn my mic on) I already had a discussion with Mr. Verdell about this, so we don't need to even discuss this tonight."

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

Robert Figuero stated, "Utilities has multiple projects in progress that will add to the efficiency and financial viability of the department such as: financial/operating audit, new water meter project, and new utility billing software."

Councilman Sorapuru asked, "And what about the deficit that we have Robert? How is that being addressed and what are we doing?"

Robert Figuero stated, "So again a lot of these projects will help us collect a lot of the funds that we haven't collected in the past. One of things that we're going to start here and I'm going to send the memo out here to the Council shortly about disconnects, we've finally gotten to a point where I believe we're staffed up enough to start the disconnect process to start ensuring that we start collecting the funds that are due to us. As far as the programs, again we've got the new billing software implementing as we speak, we have a team here from the Consultant Team (Tyler), that's going to be here the rest of this week with us, they'll be here for the rest of the year or at least once or twice a month, for three or four days a week, installing and helping us install the foundational software and so forth for the billing. The new meters, once we get that project off and running again that's going to help increase our efficiency. As far as reading the meters, as well as is collections is as well. So again, just all the components together are going to allow us to start these collections, we know we've had some issues in the past with utility billing, once we get to a point where we're again, we're a lot more comfortable with what's going out, we're

going to be able to collect the funds that are due to the parish. And again, unfortunately it is going to get a start or not unfortunately, but fortunately it's going to start with the disconnects for people that haven't paid. Again, you all will get some information on that very shortly. We finally have the staff in place, again when we lost Blake, Utilities Director, we kind of had a shuffle and we remixed everything, I came in with a little bit couple of different viewpoints, but I've gotten some temporary help some temps that we've got in to the department, so I think we're ready to start enacting that and move that process forward. Again, with the collections and so forth and again just go back to the software, then new meters, they're going to make us a lot more efficient. We're going to be able to see exactly what needs to be collected, when it it's not collected, unfortunately the software it's just a tad bit antiquated and it's really difficult to get the reports that we really need to get out of them."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "When I mentioned deficit, I wasn't particularly talking about cut-offs, people not paying the water bills (I think Mr. Ross Gonzales was here) he mentioned that we could have maybe a million dollars that could be collected with uncollected water bills, not necessarily residential water meters, we're talking industrial water meters that we maybe could not find at some point. I'm just throwing this out as a conversation that he had before he had left..."

Robert Figuero interrupting stated, "It's a collection of both. It's a collection of both, that we're having some difficulties with. We have found the majority of meters, I give Blake credit, he increased the efficiency as far as reading the meters, and just by the nature of the fact that we were manually reading more meters, we were finding those meters that we quote on quote couldn't find at one point and time. So, we are making progress, we do have the Utilities Department read, he's got a team that goes out on the weekends and try and uncover some of these other meters that we have had issues with in the past, which will assist us with the implementation of the new meters as well. They kind of go hand in hand, you know if we can find those meters with the contractors that we have on the job we won't have to pay them you know additional monies to unearth these meters or to find these meters. So again, little by little a lot of these projects are going to work hand in hand, but yes I mean it's a combination of both the commercial and industrial but we've made a lot of progress, especially over the last 6 months I've sat down and talked with a lot of the industrial businesses that had some concerns, we're moving forward with these collections, we're getting people comfortable with the processes that we have in place now with the meters, we're giving them more confidence, we've educated a lot of residents as well as commercial businesses on the meters and the issues and concerns and how were getting around them, and a lot of people are feeling a lot more comfortable and they're again they're making their payments and things are getting better, but unfortunately it's not going to solve itself over night. You know and a lot of these new programs are important, we do have what may lead into the next one, we do have Stantec, you'll heard about Stantec, that's the financial audit that's happening right now with the Utilities, we've been working very closely with them, I anticipate a report next month, in June, with a final report being due in September, it doesn't as you can expect it's not great news as far as what we need to do in order to be more self-sufficient, however, going back to my original statement with the new meters, the new software, those things will allow us to be more efficient which will increase our efficiency of collections, which again will help the department itself sustain in itself. But again, that report is due sometime next month a preliminary report it's due next month with a final report due in September."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Alright thank you."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Robert..."

Robert Figuero stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You say that we going to start with the disconnects pretty soon?"

Robert Figuero stated, "Very soon. I'm going to get a memo out to you all as you all has requested, and I know this was requested way back when and that Blake was on top of it, and then when he left it was just a little chaotic getting my feet underneath myself, but we've got a process in place, now we got to get the staff in place that we can go out and start ensuring that residents are paying the water that they're using..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "And that's exactly what I'm concerned about, the residents and to make you know to ensure that we you know we handle this thing in a way whereas you know, because there's going to be a lot of people that's not going to be able to pay, and not going pay. Do we have people trained to be able to deal with these people, or just going be one person making all these decisions?"

Robert Figuero stated, "No, we got several individuals right now that we have trained over the last 3 to 4 months that I purposely put in place, giving the guidance as far as how we're going to approach these cases. We're going to give these residents every opportunity to make good on their water bills. I can assure you that, we're not going to it's not going to be the rough and tough process, we're going to give them every opportunity whether it's through a payment plan, or something like that. We're going to make sure that we give them the opportunity that they need in order to catch up on their bills."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay because the biggest, some of the thoughts I thought I mean some of the comments I've gotten back from people, is that you know when they come here they need to, they come in here with feeling shame anyhow you know, and sometimes sometime we don't do a good job of a kind of keeping the esteem up you know and I think that's where we're having some issues at. That's why I think w4e need to have some training in that area you know."

Robert Figuero stated, "I can tell you a fact, over the last several months I've talked to a lot of residents that walked out of here talking to our people and a lot of them expressed gratitude with the way we've helped them out, set them up taken care of them, which is a good thing trying to figure out, so yes I've got several people in place that understand what the goal is and how to get there. We're going to assist these residents we're going to make sure that we do everything we can to help them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you."

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

The above item was combined with the item - Discussion regarding financial status of the Utility Department.

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 05-14-19) Update on abandoned houses throughout the Parish

Councilman Madere stated, "The paper that you have, okay and I going to look it over real good, but the one that I'm really concerned about is the one I mentioned to you on the phone on Chad B. Baker, it's not a house it's a shed behind the abandoned house, and that was written up a while back and it don't appear on your sheet. Okay, that's the one I'm really concerned about and I'll come over to the office and talk to you about that one. It has a lot of little beasts living in it, animals. Okay and the only thing holding it up is some of the debris that they have around it. Okay so that's the main, I saw the explanation you had on the chart on the other ones. Okay so, we can I can handle that one with you probably Thursday, if it's convenient for you."

Rene Pastorek stated, "Absolutely."

Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Chad Roussel - Update on the return of the Volunteer Fireman's Budget

Councilman Becnel commented he is satisfied with 14-42.

Lennix Madere - Explanation of the process of putting down and picking up Speed Bumps throughout the Parish

The above item will be carried over to the June 11th, 2019 agenda.

Julia Remondet - Update/status of Bike Path extension from Reserve to Garyville

Natalie Robottom stated, "I know a lot of people are interested in this, I try to cover it at Public meetings. But all of our projects along the Mississippi River are on the only and 1500 ft. away from the levee, are all on hold right now until the water level ceases. This project though has been let the contractor will be Magee Excavation and Development, LLC. The contract amount is \$2,315,583.17, that's funded through DOT, we had a partial match, but that was awarded, this is an unusual year we've been dealing with high water since October, we thought we'd be able to start, we haven't. As you know the longest process is design and permitting, once we get started it's usually not that long a process, but this will fund the project from West 10th Street to the St. James Parish line. So as soon as we're able to construct, we'll be doing that one the same with Phase I of the Lucy Project."

Councilwoman Remondet stated, "It's been great seeing everyone along the levee mom's with strollers and toddlers riding their bikes. It looks nice. Thank you."

Kurt Becnel/Larry Sorapuru - Discussion regarding the replacement of the old West Bank Community Center

The above item will be carried over to the June 11th, 2019 agenda.

Lennix Madere - Discussion regarding constituents having to make an appointment to discuss water bill issues or to speak to a Director

Councilman Madere stated, "This shouldn't take too long, I had a resident that was supposed to show up but I don't know what happened. He was very upset when he came, took some time off from work to talk about his water bill and he asked to see the Director, Mr. Young, and he was told he couldn't see him he had to have

an appointment. And you know I know the Directors have a big job, all the departments have a big job but, when you have a situation when residents have a concern about a water or something that have been going on for a while and they asked to see a Director, I don't think they need to be told they need to have an appointment. If they were told that he's in a meeting or something and he'll see you after he come out the meeting you know or something like that, I just think that they should be allowed you know to see this individual. And you know I just I had a person told me as a Council person, if I wanted to speak to her or something I needed to get an appointment and I told her - hold your breath and see how long that happen. If I'm going to have to get an appointment to see you, okay I'm a Council person and I'm not going come and make appointments to see an individual okay or something like that. You know so I understand how a citizen feel sometimes you know and sometimes they can't afford but that one particular day to take off to come and address a problem that they have. So sometimes I think we have to take into consideration those obligation cuz they're working. So that's the only reason why I had that that individual was supposed to be here tonight, but I don't know exactly what happened."

Robert Figuero stated, "And Councilman I completely understand your point, and I agree with you on a lot of what you just said. One thing that I notice when I took over that Curtis was meeting with residents all day long. And his other job duties were suffering a little bit, so I needed to kind of mold him and restrict him as far as how often he met with residents for the simple fact that he wasn't getting other things done that were very important one's the billing cycles, etc. But with that said what I also tried to do is train additional individuals to help resolve a lot of the resident's problems. I did a little study when I got there and I met with I was meeting with probably about what, 10-15 residents a day for a couple of weeks. And just to try and understand their problems and I felt like 80-95% of their issues could have been resolved with our frontline individuals, you know per say. However, they weren't given the tools and the means as Mr. Snyder was talking about the proper training to handle a lot of those problems. I think we've put that in place, I think they've got a lot more confidence they understand what quote on quote, what our mission is and where we're trying to get to, I think they're resolving a lot more problems now there's lot more frontline individuals, they know the expectations they understand the problems they understand to know how to resolve those problems, so I think a lot of those are getting done. We're not about not meeting with the residents by all means, but I try to schedule certain amount of meetings a day for myself and for Curtis, cuz again, he's got other requirements he got to submit to me and take care of as the Utility Billing Manager, and I just think then or I thought early on he was spending a lot of time meeting with residents and then his other work was suffering and his other deadlines were falling he was falling behind on a lot of other deadlines, because again he was trying to meet with all these residents when again to Mr. Snyder's point, I thought a little bit of training with our frontline people per say would be able to solve a lot of their problems and I believe that's happening. Again, you got a couple of them that fall through the cracks and for that there's no apology for it there's no excuse for allowing that to happen and I apologize for that, but again I think we're solving a lot more problems now with our frontline people. I think they're more confident they've been given the tools and the means to take care of these customers, these residents, and their issues and again I've been pulling them as they walk out the door and most of them are getting showing a lot of gratitude, they're happy with the way things are getting done, but I go back to we do need this new billing software, we do need these new meters to go on the ground cuz that will help relieve a lot of the pressures that we're falling under. But again, I think it was just a little of training, spending a little more time with those frontline

people, giving them some tools giving them some confidence to handle these problems they're starting to resolve those problems and the meetings are starting to drop and again we're answering about 150 phone calls a day, on average we're about 15-20 meetings a day, not all those are Curtis not all those are myself, a lot of times those are with the frontline people. My people understand that if they can't solve their problems within a handful of minutes, then they do need to escalate the issue, I'm not interested in having any resident come back twice, if they come the first time on a scheduled meeting, their issue will get resolved on one way or the other cuz I'm not going to make them come back. But just dropping in and requesting a meeting, is a little bit difficult sometimes because again due to schedules and so forth. So, I implore if they feel that the frontline individuals can't handle their problems just set up that meeting and I assure you if they have a meeting scheduled, cuz I know Curtis has gone out sick with his child with a couple of other things from time to time, and I know he has meetings that day, I'll take the meetings. You know cuz again I'm not going to make a resident come back twice. So again, somethings have changed and then the mindset is change and I think we're making progress, I feel like we're making progress, but again we'll continue to address those as best as we can but again, the bottom line is our frontline people I think are very well capable now of handling those problems and they're showing it. I can see it in the log books that we're taking that, before it was only a handful of issues now I can see the number of issues that they're resolving in a day on their own because now they have those tools."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

19-17 An ordinance granting Final Planned Unit Development (PUD) approval, as per SJB Code Sec. 113-289 for Phase 1 of a PUD, including the re-subdivision of an undesignated portion of Glencoe Plantation into Lots D-1 and D-2, Glencoe Plantation, being a portion of the area commonly referred to as the Garyville Parish Housing Authority (PHA) site, located in the area generally bounded by South Fig Street, Museum Street, Anthony F. Monica Street, and Historic Main Street, Garyville, LA, as shown in the survey drawn by John W. Starring, PLS on November 14, 2017 and as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-17-1081) (N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. Yesterday and the entire Memorial Day weekend we recognized our fallen servicemen and their families for their loss. Not only should we express our appreciation on Memorial Day but all times of the year we say thank you for your sacrifice. I was honored to attend the annual Memorial Day breakfast at the KC Hall in LaPlace. We can never do enough to acknowledge those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country but thank you to the Brady brothers and all who helped prepare the food as well as Harold Keller and his family for continuing the tradition. I also attended the Memorial

Day program at the Southeast LA War Veterans Home in Reserve. In addition to honoring residents of the home who are no longer with us, we also acknowledged those loss throughout the region. Special to the program this year was a unveiling of a new statue of a female soldier to honor and remember the women Veterans who played an important role in granting us the freedom we have today. Thank you to Dow, the War Veterans Home, the Louisiana Office of Veterans Affairs and all who made this tribute possible. Commander Jamie Smith joined us for the ceremony. She was recently installed as the first female commander of VFW Post 3337 in LaPlace. Congratulations to Commander Smith and all the females recognized last Friday. We look forward to inviting her to a Council meeting in the future. I'd like to congratulate Marathon Petroleum Corporation for receiving the Lantern Award last week at the Governor's Mansion. The award is sponsored by LED and its partners in Louisiana's eight Regional Planning and Development Districts. Marathon was selected from the Bayou Region for excellence in manufacturing and outstanding service to the community through involvement of their business and employees. Congratulations. The new Waffle House, located at 1922 West Airline Hwy in LaPlace, will officially open its doors tomorrow, Wednesday, May 29th. We will celebrate the grand opening with a ribbon cutting at 8:30 am. The public is invited to attend. Waffle House is offering employment opportunities that include flexible schedules, full or part time and benefits. For more information please go to mywafflehouse.com or call Parish Harris at 504-655-5605. Graduation for our Spring Fast Trac program is Thursday at the River Parish's Community College in Reserve. This year there are 17 graduates of the program bringing the total number of graduates to 174. I would like to remind everyone that Hurricane Season officially begins Saturday June 1st - however we have already seen heavy rainfall and severe weather the past few months. Emergency leaders, department heads and essential staff met to review operational plans for emergencies and weather threats the area. Additionally, staff have attended numerous training exercises with GOHSEP, the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center in preparation for Hurricane season. WWL TV Meteorologist Dave Nussbaum served as the guest speaker at last week's meeting and provided a 2019 Hurricane outlook and forecast. Residents are encouraged to get a game plan for hurricane season 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 the possibility of severe weather at any time. We are requesting assistance from residents in cleaning out drains and catch basins and clearing yards and driveways of limbs and debris before and during rain events. Please do not throw tree limbs on structures in ditches, this is not where they belong. Please gather them in a pile near your driveway or residence and call the Public Works Office at 652-4815 for pickup. Do not place the close to mail boxes, fire hydrants or other structures that may be damaged during their removal. If your organization or group would like to schedule a hurricane preparedness presentation, please call the public safety office at 985-652-2222. The River is extremely high, and we remain in a flood fight. There CORPS is scheduled to begin operating the Morganza Spillway on Sunday June 2 to provide some flood relief to the region. This is only the third time this has taken place and the last time was in 2011 - This is a significant request. Residents and contractors should be aware of restrictions within 1500 feet of the levee - this includes no digging, excavating or construction. Construction of some of our projects has been delayed due to the river level and we are hoping that it will recede in upcoming weeks. The annual St. John the Baptist Parish Veterans Luncheon will be held Wednesday, July 3rd 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 21 at 4:00 p.m. Photos can either be emailed to the Communications Department at communications@stjohn-la.gov or mailed to St. John Communications Department at 1811 West Airline Highway in LaPlace. Again, Congratulations to all of our students who graduated recently! Best of luck to each of you while you move into the next chapter in your lives! Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT :

At 11:45 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed Councilwoman Hotard Gaudet and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Thomas Malik
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY

Please see the complete video of the meeting on our website at www.sjbparish.com.