

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, June 09, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Julien led the Prayer. Councilwoman Hotard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux was present.

Bill Hubbard - PRESENTATION - Honoring Felix Simoneaux's 104th Birthday

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "I am very honored today to present this plaque to Mr. Felix Simoneaux. He is 104 years old. He has been a resident of St. John the Baptist Parish his entire life. It is a great honor for me to present him with this plaque."

Felix Simoneaux, Jr., stated, "I would like to thank our Parish President, Bill Hubbard. I would like to thank everybody who had something to do with this. I want to thank my family for helping me and most of all my children."

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

Bill Hubbard stated, "Thank you Mr. Chair. You have pretty much said everything that needed to be said. Once again it is an honor to present these plaques to gentlemen who are committed to helping the community and we truly do thank them for all of their dedication and many years to the service of the community. We really do appreciate it."

Rev. Forell Bering stated, "Thank you Mr. President and of course this Council and this waiting crowd. I have no great moment without my wife. I want to thank her for being here. I am honored to have the privilege of serving our parish. God bless you is our prayer."

Raydell Morris stated, "I would like to give my thanks to God for enabling me to serve on this board with my health. I would like to give my thanks to the Councilmen and Councilmen-at-Large for appointing me and for having the confidence in me to serve on this board. When I was first appointed to this board it had some problems. Now I can say when I am resigning, we were in the process of spending 2.2 million dollars capital fund. They had no funds in the reserve. Now they have a reserve fund built up. I felt it was the proper time to leave. I couldn't do it without the other members. I had a great team. We put it together. We put the agency back on it because at that time it was a troubled agency. It stayed in the newspaper and stuff and now you only hear positive things. So I felt it was a great time for me to leave."

Charles Julien - INTRODUCTION - Carmelita Pope Freeman - South Western Regional Director - US Department of Justice - Community Relations

Councilman Julien stated, "Carmelita Pope Freeman is the South Western Regional Director for the US Department of Justice Community Relations. We want to welcome her. This is a courtesy introduction. Welcome to St. John Parish."

Carmelita Pope Freeman, South Western Regional Director for the US Department of Justice Community Relations, stated, "Thank you. As Councilman Julien mentioned this is just a courtesy to introduce my agency and say hello to you all and share with you that I may be doing some business here in this parish. My agency is one of a kind. We are part of the family of the United States Department of Justice. The agency is called community relations service because of its responsibility to connect the community with the various officials local, county, parish or state or across my five states. Louisiana is one of them. I also service Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. I tell those regions on the east coast I could take six of you all and sit you inside Texas and still have a lot of room to spare. In spite of that we are a pint size organization with a mega responsibility. It is our job to help communities continue to flourish and prosper the way it kind of looks like you are with the honorees and all the commotion out there. I pulled up and I said oh that is a beautiful building. I don't often see facilities like this in many of the small areas that I serve. I brought my 8 1/2 by 11 business card. It gives a snap shot of who we are and what we do. We were birthed during the civil rights era. We are actually part of the civil rights bill. If you ever see the picture of President Johnson just signing a particular document and over his right shoulder is Dr. Martin Luther King. He is turning around with the pen in his hand and at that moment he had just signed the bill at the place that created community relation service. So obviously the significance of that particular moment was that in those times, it was troubled times. It had issues driven by conflicts, fed by race, color or national origin. A mayor, governor, schools, colleges or universities anybody can call on community relation service to say help. We need you to help us get it back together. So I am here to do an assessment meeting. I will be meeting with a group of community leaders following this meeting. The two notices that I have to give anywhere that I go, a notice goes to the US Attorney who has jurisdiction over the particular area that I might be visiting. A notice goes to the congressional parties who service this area. The first thing I try to do is to meet the local officials to say I am in your city and I look forward to coming back to meet with you in other ways. The good thing about what

we do when we respond to what might be a conflict there are a lot of benefits because it is our job to help things to come together even better than they originally were. I might have come because there was some conflict. So that is why I am here. I will leave my information with you and I look forward to coming back to talk to you next time. Thanks."

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes May 26, 2009, Regular Meeting;

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes May 26, 2009, Regular Meeting and adding Councilman Lewis appointment of Mr. Leroy Mitchell to the Economic Development Committee and the appointment of Mr. Herbert Smith to the Library Board. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

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

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just wanted to mention that I introduced this ordinance. It is just a house keeping issue on the process for placing speed bumps down on roads. We had it in there that there was an application fee for a resident to request to have a speed bump which we are placing the speed bump on a parish road. So it is not really appropriate to make them pay a permit fee. So we are just removing that from the ordinance."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Ms. Hotard I wanted to thank you for this because it probably shouldn't have been there to begin with. I understand and maybe I need to check with administration on this. I understand that there is a hold on speed bumps right now. Is that because of this pending ordinance? I have had several people go to try to bring a petition and they say they are not accepting any right now. I didn't know if that was because of this or not."

Bill Hubbard stated, "To my knowledge there is no hold. We have an ordinance in place. If everything is followed we do what we have to do. At this time I really can't say yes or no but I don't think so. Why would we put a hold on it?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "It was just comments. People had called me and told me they tried to bring in petitions and were told that we weren't accepting any petitions right now."

Bill Hubbard asked, "Who?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Residents."

Bill Hubbard stated, "If you give me some names and numbers I will call them just to make sure that when they do come here..."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I will get together with you after the

meeting and give that to you."

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-22. The motion passes 8 years and 1 absent (Julien).

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

09-23 An ordinance to re-zone a portion of the Celestin Jacob Tract from MHD to R-1, situated in Sections 41 & 89, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (B. Hubbard)

09-24 An ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of \$430,000 of Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; designating the date, denomination and place of payment of said Bonds; providing for payment thereof in principal and interest; authorizing the agreement with the Paying Agent; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (B. Hubbard)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, "At 6:00 the finance committee met. I would ask at this time for a motion to approve the actions taken by the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to take the four bids for the 400,000 gallon Potable Water Ground Storage Tank that being ATEC Steel, LLC - Option #1 - \$947,300.00, Southeastern Tank, Inc. - Option #2 - \$770,595.00, Civil Construction Contractors, LLC - Option #1 - \$730,963.00 & Option #2 - \$625,255.00, BLD Services, LLC - Option #1 - \$854,500.00 under advisement, granted administration authorization to renew Workman's Compensation Policy with LWCC for 2009-2010 in the amount of \$278,291.00, granted administration authorization to renew the fiscal agent(s) contracts (Capital One & Omni, granted administration authorization to execute a contract with Buchart Horn, Inc. for design work on Airline Highway, granted administration authorization to execute a contract for potable water services with Delta Beverage, grant administration authorization to amend the contract with C.J. Savoie for design work at the Lions Water Treatment Plant to include additional improvements, and granted administration authorization to begin the process to sell Parish owned land on Cardinal Street. The motion passes with Councilman Julien absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

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

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I still haven't had a chance to get with Mr.

Hubbard on that matter. I understand that some of the code enforcement officers that we have some of them want to work part-time and some of them want to work full-time. Of course in Division A we surely need full time people because that is where we have most of the problems. So Bill I will get with you some time this week or next week or next month."

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ronnie Smith/Whitney Joseph - Discussion on assessed property value tax increase

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Whitney Joseph was contacted. I requested that he come down and address the public. What happened was we were getting tons of phone calls when the letters went out for Mr. Joseph. He is not able to attend tonight. I can assure you that he and I have had conversations also Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Julien. We are contacting Mr. Nickie Monica and several of the other state reps. We are trying to get a meeting together to see what can be done about the taxes. So we are going to come back to you later and he is going to have a meeting or something put in place where he is going to address the public and let you know exactly what is going on."

Pat McTopy - Resolution R09-11 - A Resolution authorizing an agreement for services by and between St. John the Baptist Parish and Choice Title, Inc. for the establishment and implementation of policies and procedures to sell adjudicated properties

Pat McTopy stated, "For the benefit of the public I am going to briefly explain the procedure for these taxed properties. When individuals do not pay property taxes on the property it goes to sheriff sale. The sheriff duly advertises it. He accepts bids. If no one purchases the property at the sheriff sale then it becomes adjudicated to the parish for non-payment of taxes. The common layman would take it at its face and say well the parish owns it, it is a lot next to me it is growing grass and trees and I got to maintain it. I want to buy it. Over the years, several times each year, and I am sure you all get calls, just as we do, people wanting to buy the property and I have to tell them that we cannot sell it. We do not have a perfected title whereby we can sell it. This would be the first time that St. John Parish would set up a procedure and a policy that would authorize placing these properties back into commerce where they can generate revenues and be an asset to the community as opposed to a liability where citizens can acquire them and put them to use. So we are requesting that the council consider this and allow us to move forward on marketing these adjudicated properties."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Mr. McTopy one time you could send a letter on the property description or the size of it to the state. I think it was the Human Resource department and had to wait maybe five or six years. Is that still in place?"

Pat McTopy stated, "I didn't go into all the particulars but many years

ago the properties instead of being adjudicated to the parish they were adjudicated to the state. Sometime fifteen or twenty years ago, the law was changed. It was taken away from the state and adjudicated to the parish. Perhaps that is what you are referring to."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I remember at the time when Formosa was buying property over there some people hadn't paid their taxes. I think the land was tied up in the state for maybe over twenty-five years. They were staying on the property without having to pay taxes. They were still able to recover their property with paying the fees to the state."

Pat McTopy stated, "It is interesting. One of a person's most important rights is his property rights. The courts protect those rights very judicially. That is why there are specific procedures for notice and due process that must be given prior to disposal of any of the properties."

Councilman Julien asked, "Exactly what services would be provided by the proposed company?"

Pat McTopy stated, "First we have to develop the procedures. As I said earlier the courts very judicially protect people's property interest rights. So we have to make sure that whatever policies we adopt comply with the state law. So we have to develop our procedures, subject to council approval of course. We are going to establish procedures as part of that to notify the debtors, the prior property owners of what actions are going to be taken. We are going to have to do abstract work. We are going to have to examine titles and make sure that we are proceeding in accordance with the law. So abstracting or title research is going to be an important component. We ultimately are going to have to decide on a procedure to market the properties and there are hundreds of them. By far most of them are useless valueless properties. By far most of them are properties in what we call paper subdivisions that were never built that are usually in the wetlands in the swamps. In back of LaPlace Park for example also in the back of Ruddock, back of Peavine, there may even be some in Mr. Lewis's district back over by Pleasure Bend. There are some valuable ones."

Councilman Lewis stated, "I am glad you brought that up. I think a lot of property back there by Pleasure Bend is owned by the School Board in this parish."

Pat McTopy stated, "Well than it would not be adjudicated to the parish because they are exempt from property taxes."

Councilman Julien asked, "If an individual is purchasing a property isn't it up to the property buyer to have the title search and abstract and all that work done?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Well in a sense it is buyer beware and any sales that are made will be made without warranty. That would be to protect the parish from any legal liability. One of the things that we are considering is an auction. There are hundreds of properties involved. We are going to start off small but one of the things that we are considering is an auction just like the sheriff has his public outcry auction when he auctions property."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just wanted to say really quickly that I commend administration on this. I know several years back we talked about this adjudicated property thing. We were going to sell them all. We just thought that this was a simple thing. We got the list from the assessor's office. I had a huge box and I said wow I guess I am in over my head. You have to have a company that knows about title researching. You have to have someone that just knows this in and out. I think that is what we are doing here tonight. This is something that we probably should have done a long time ago. I really commend the administration for taking the bull by the horns with this thing. It is something that we really need to do. What goes into figuring it out, sometimes you can't even tell from the adjudicated properties list where the property is located or if it is a real property or if something is on it or not. Unless you are a professional experienced title/abstract person or whatever they do, you really don't even know what you are looking at when you look at this list. So I am just glad to see that this is finally coming before us and we can try and get rid of some of these properties that have just been sitting here."

Councilman Lee stated, "Ms. Hotard basically expressed my feelings. Just to refresh some of my fellow council member's memories, for a number of years Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Lewis and myself sat here and we would get frustrated over the derelict properties. We would address it at this meeting. We would move forward. We would think that we were taking a step to tear some of these properties down to have them cleaned up for the good of cleaning up our parish. Just to come back six months later and realize that it hadn't been done yet because the process is that complicated. So like Ms. Hotard, I want to thank the administration for seeking out a professional and a program to have it done. We have been able to do this through the administration on one or two occasions in my twenty years on the council. Meaning it is so detailed and so difficult to accomplish that we basically got bogged down in it and we let it fall by the waste side. So a program and a procedure to deal with these derelict properties, it is here. I strongly support this. I think it is an excellent opportunity for us to really take charge of our parish and clean up some of these derelict properties."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just have one comment. My concern is that I really haven't had a chance to review this contract. It is no ones fault but my own. I am not going to vote on this. I am going to abstain from voting. My question is that on these properties is there any type of a sliding scale or is it a flat fee for all of them each piece of property, each parcel the same fees will apply?"

Pat McTopy stated, "There is a standard fee for the services. You can look at page 75 of your booklet the abstract fee is set forth in the agreement, as well as notice fees and recordation fees at the clerk's office. Those fees are set standard. In addition to that there may be occasion where other type of research may be necessary and there are hourly rates for those services."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Is it going to be cost efficient for the parish? Will we always get more than what it is going to cost us to adjudicate?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Well it is hard to say because we have never done this in the past. I can tell the council that it is not designed to be a money making deal. I would be deceiving you if I led you to believe we were going to be making tons of money. That is not the purpose. The purpose is to put the properties back on the tax roll and to get them back into commerce."

Councilwoman Usry stated, "I understand that but is it going to cost us to get them?"

Pat McTopy stated, "I don't expect when it is all said and done that there would be a significant cost. You can be sure that we are going to monitor the cost on a monthly basis to make sure that it doesn't get out of control and to make sure that it meets our budget constraints. If it gets out of hand than we would have to evaluate it."

Councilwoman Usry asked, "Is there a time line on the contract?"

Pat McTopy stated, "There is a two year term on the contract with a thirty (30) day notice for cancellation."

Councilman Lewis asked, "Would we be notified if there are properties in our districts? I am sure there are properties in all of our districts. If there is some property around me and I know the people then I can let them know what is going on so they don't end up losing their property by not paying the taxes. Sometimes some people don't pay their taxes."

Pat McTopy stated, "Well we are going to have to develop a mechanism to get your involvement. For the council members that want to be involved there will be list that will be marketed. As I said earlier, we have to come to you all with ordinances before we market them. So there will be ample opportunity for council review."

Councilman Smith stated, "Mr. Lewis, if I am not mistaken, also in this procedure the person that owns the property has to be notified before that property can go up for auction or anything."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Mr. Smith sometimes the guy pays the taxes and he happens to pass and the rest of the family might be out of the parish and they think that everything is alright and it isn't. I have seen property get caught up like that. A lot of parishes, especially on my side of the river, I have seen a lot of land go up for sheriff sale because nobody knew what was going on. It might have been an old aunt or uncle and when they died the property left."

Councilman Julien stated, "I am sorry I am not sure if I understand. Are we in a situation where they will do title searches on properties that have already been seized by the parish?"

Councilman Smith stated, "That is actually why we are trying to hire this company to set the procedures."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand the procedures are being set up. We will be notified of what the procedures are when they are finished, prior to when they are enacted?"

Pat McTopy stated, "It is my understanding that the council will adopt the procedures."

Councilman Julien asked, "So we will sign the contract before we adopt?"

Pat McTopy stated, "We need to have a contract before any work is done. Part of the work is development of procedures."

Councilman Julien asked, "What about work on our behalf? On behalf of the tax payers and than we come up with procedures and we say can you all meet these guidelines and if they say yes we can, than we engage in a contract."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Council I am just going to interject just a little bit here. This is something probably after the second or third week, so let's say a year and a half that we have been working on. I have talked to Jeff Perilloux in length about this a year and a half ago to try and get this thing rolling. The previous administration, probably the administration before that just wasn't able to get this thing rolling. It is complicated. There are state laws involved. There are laws that we have to enact and for us to do that we had to wait for the state legislature who just passed a law this past year which complicated things a little further. So it has taken us this long to get this far. It is not something that is really easy. There are a lot of technical aspects of this project. We feel that it is time right now to at least get this part moving. The council will be involved as far as what properties are being sold in their districts. Just like when the tax assessor, when I don't pay my taxes, notifies me and lets me know, Mr. Hubbard you forgot to pay your taxes. So we are going to have that part. All of these properties, they are invisible. They are just legal descriptions. It might not be something that we can just go in Belle Terre and see this vacant lot that is grown up that hasn't been taken care of for many years. These properties are in the swamp. They could be right next to you house. It is very complicated. We have to develop the procedures of our own. We just don't have the in-house personal to come up and look at all the different laws. So what we are doing is getting this company to develop the procedures and bring it back to the council. So the council will be involved basically from day one. This is something that we need to move on and like Pat said and some good points were brought up. We will monitor the cost. We don't want this to be a hindrance to the parish budget. We want this to be a money maker for the parish. Hopefully it will be. There are hundreds and hundreds of properties out there. So hopefully we can turn it around to take these hundred years of negative and turn it into a positive. That is our goal. It is always our goal."

Councilman Julien asked, "When we look at this, how can this benefit the communities that have blighted housing?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "If the blighted housing happens to be one of these parcels of land, the process would be expedited that there would be a private investor that would buy a blighted house or a vacant piece of property and do something positive with it. You know the people that buy these properties they go to these auctions and they turn these blighted homes and blighted properties around so that they can make money."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "It is kind of hard to vote on something that I am just looking at tonight and I don't know any details. I would ask that we delay this for two (2) weeks that would allow us to look into it and make sure that we are doing the right thing. Make sure that we develop a process and a procedure whereby we have control. If I vote on this tonight I don't know who has control. I am not comfortable with that. I am just asking for two (2) weeks so that I can understand and see what is going on."

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "I just want to point out for the benefit of the council. I have been involved in the effort to try to deal with these adjudicated properties for sometime probably three (3) or four (4) years quite honestly maybe even more than that. In the last year, we have made more progress in trying to develop the process that will need to be put in place to allow this council to vote on and accept a formal process to deal with these adjudicated properties. So the purpose of me talking right now is to let you know that I have been very involved in the process working with the administration. I am comfortable and have reviewed the contract with Choice Title and will be working with them quite closely on behalf of the council and the administration to make sure that the process that is ultimately presented to the council for adoption is one that we believe will pass legal muster and will benefit the parish. Secondly and perhaps more importantly to keep the council in the loop in terms of adopting the actual process, there is no formal process that exists now. We are going to bring that process back to you all once we develop it based on the criteria that the state has set with this new set of guidelines and rules and upon presenting it to the council at that point have it adopted and then move forward and hopefully get these properties back in the stream of commerce."

Councilman Wolfe asked, "So tonight if we vote on this, what would we be voting on?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Tonight you are voting on a contract to implement bringing Choice Title on board to develop the actual plans, procedures and policies that this council will adopt and have to adopt before we can go forward and actually implement the program. In other words, you all have to adopt it first. Tonight you are essentially saying we want to bring you on board to develop these programs and policies and procedures that will be presented to the council for approval in the form of an ordinance. Upon being approved by the council and signed by Mr. Hubbard as Parish President, then and only then will we be able to go forward and start to try and get these properties back in the stream of commerce through the auction process if in fact that is the route that is ultimately presented to the council."

Councilman Wolfe stated, "I understand that. I still need two (2) weeks. What you are telling me tonight I understand and I appreciate that you all have been working to develop this. I need to see it and go step by step to make sure I am making the right decision. I don't want to get into something and have to crawl out of it. I am not comfortable to vote on this tonight."

Councilman Lee asked, "I would like to ask the administration, we have

been working on this for sometime, are two (2) weeks a deal breaker or maker? If it is I am prepared to vote. If not I certainly want to yield to you and give you two (2) weeks. I want to go on record saying I am a strong supporter of the program. I think it is long overdue. I am glad the administration put this together. I will support this if it is tonight or two (2) weeks from now. I feel that strong about the program. If two (2) weeks doesn't hinder the administration or the company who has put forth this proposal I would be happy to wait and to vote to table."

Bill Hubbard stated, "No as a courtesy to Mr. Wolfe and any other council members that feel it is necessary to table this for two (2) weeks. We have been working on this for a year and a half two (2) weeks is no big deal. Like Mr. Perilloux said we are voting on tonight basically so that we can come up with the procedure to present to you. It is sort of like a baby step. For sure as a courtesy we yield to the council."

Councilman Julien stated, "Well as Mr. Wolfe has asked for two (2) weeks I think that us having a contract to look at and having something more concrete I would agree. I also agree, like Mr. Lee does, that this is something that we certainly need. I have a lot of blighted houses in my district as do some of the other council members. I would be prepared to support Choice. I don't want them to think that this is anything against them but the two (2) weeks I think is a good thing."

MOTION: Councilman Wolfe moved and Councilman Lewis seconded the motion to table R09-11. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We have Father's Day coming up so I wanted to wish everyone Happy Father's Day."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "This Sunday is Flag Day. It is one of those forgotten holidays. So wave your flags proudly."

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to congratulate the Louisiana Magic 15 and under AAU basketball team that is based out of St. John Parish. They recently went 6-0 in the state tournament and won the state tournament. They are going to represent the parish I think very well in the national championship in July in Clarksville, Tennessee. Secondly and most of all, my anniversary is Friday. So I can't hesitate to tell my wife nationally or locally anyway that I love her and I want to wish her a happy anniversary on television."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill Hubbard stated, "Well Ronnie on behalf of the parish we wish you and your wife a great anniversary. I would like to remind everyone that we do now have our water bill payments online www.sjbparish.com. It is an easy way to get it done. Also in the last week or so booklets should have hit all the residents in the parish that have a mailing address. Try to use them. Go through them. We are now in hurricane season. Please be prepared that is the best way to avoid all the hazards that the season can bring to us. Like Ms. Hotard said and she beat me to it June 21st is Father's Day. We are encouraging everyone to try to

purchase your Father's Day gifts in St. John, shop St. John local businesses. The animal shelter is a little bit delayed. I toured it this morning. Construction is going really good but the river is up. We are delayed with installing our power poles because you cannot excavate around the Mississippi River levee at this time which is slowing things down. So they are doing things with portable generators with painting and preparing the floors and different things like that so we are expecting the animal shelter to open up in July now. Thanks for a good meeting."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:14 PM, Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary