

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
**CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
**VICE CHAIR MARVIN PERRILLOUX**

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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Art Smith, Councilman District I, Lucien Gauff, Council-at-Large, Div. A, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II, Michael Wright, Councilman District IV, Jaclyn Hotard, Council-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Perrilloux led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Keith Green, Jr. were present.

**Cheryl Millet - New Business - (Carry Over 5-26-15) Salon Experience - Teresa Boudreaux**

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

**New Business - (Carry Over 5-26-15) Dunkin Donuts**

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

**Lucien Gauff/Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Jermani Thompson**

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

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes - May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration - St. John the Baptist Parish

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration - St. John the Baptist Parish. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**15-17** (Public Hearing Held) An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 13-07 adopted on May 14, 2013, by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, to provide for various terms of the Water Revenue Bonds authorized therein and providing for other

matters in connection therewith (N. Robottom)

Jason Ackers, Bond Attorney, stated, "Just by way of back ground in May of 2013 this council adopted an ordinance to authorize the issuance of up to 6 million dollars' worth of bonds to be funded through the DHH state revolving loan fund program however when we got ready to close DHH was only ready at that time to approve approximately 5.5 million dollars' worth of those projects and that extra project has now been approved so therefore as we were reading back through an ordinance that was adopted two years ago we decided that in order to make things clear for everybody and for your minutes going forward and for the purchaser of the bonds we would like to clarify just a couple of things with respect to that ordinance so this ordinance amends the prior ordinance just for the sake of clarifying that this is a separate series of bonds and totally contained within the original authorization it is not new borrowing in fact it was intended to be done in 2013 it is just that for various reasons DHH wasn't ready to go at that time. They are now so now we are seeking your approval to go forward."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-17. The motion passed unanimously.

**15-18** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval requesting a Re-zoning of Lot 32, Square F, Cornland Addition "B" to show the change in the current Zone of Zone C-2 to Zone C-3, situated in Section 44, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-15-1036) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Keller stated, "This re-zoning was approved at the May 18th Planning Commission meeting with no opposition. Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can you tell me the purpose of this re-zoning?"

Angelic Keller stated, "The re-zoning was for use as a motorcycle sales shop."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "That's what it is being used as now or that's what they want to do?"

Angelic Keller stated, "No that is what they want to do."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And what is it being used as now?"

Angelic Keller stated, "I believe he is currently performing motorcycle repairs."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Exactly where is this?"

Angelic Keller stated, "This is on Central Avenue, it is 405 Central Avenue."

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-18. The motion passed unanimously.

**15-19** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval of a re-

subdivision of a portion of Lots F-2 and G-2 of original Lot 2, Angelina Plantation Subdivision, into lots "H-2A" and "H-2B", which are located both North and South of Jefferson Highway, between Champagne Lane and Tank Farm Road, in Section 3, Township 11-S, Range 6-E, Mt. Airy, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-15-1113) (N. Robottom)

Angelic Keller stated, "This re-subdivision was approved at the May 18th Planning Commission meeting and Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know if there is an intent or something that they are trying to accomplish with the property for the purpose of this re-subdivision?"

Angelic Keller stated, "From the planning commission the representative that was there on behalf of Miranda Aluminum I believe they are selling this piece of property and I believe he said it was used as a buffer they weren't specifically sure because it wasn't exactly their company but he was the one that was responsible for completing the paperwork and the sale of the property. From what I understand it is going to be used as additional buffer for the Pin Oak Holdings."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 15-19. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Michael Wright - Discussion regarding Attorney General Opinions; DA findings and recommendations**

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "Good evening Council Members, as most of you know we have had several issues going before the Louisiana Attorney General for the last couple of years. We had several opinion requests that have been pending for some time those opinion requests were finally answered in the last 60 days or so we received answers for all five of those opinions and we in the District Attorney's office have formulated our findings and offer our opinions and recommendations regarding those AG opinions in a manner to hopefully allow the council and the administration and the governing body to move forward. So I will read to you all the findings of the District Attorney's office:

**DATE: MAY 22, 2015**

**TO: NATALIE ROBOTOM, PARISH PRESIDENT  
MEMBERS OF THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**

**FROM: BRIDGET A. DINVAUT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**BY: KEITH GREEN, JR., CHIEF, CIVIL DIVISION**  
**E. JEFFREY PERILLOUX, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS; FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the recent Attorney General Opinions (13-0151A, 13-0205A, 14-0079; 14-0084 and 14-0085), together with their previous opinions, this office's own extensive research and detailed review of statutory authority and relevant information, the St. John the Baptist Parish District Attorney's office concludes the following:

1. Personnel policies and rules adopted by the Parish Council apply to all employees including temporary employees and/or other non-classified employees such as special assistants;
2. Assuming that funds have been properly budgeted, the Parish President may hire "temporary employees" outside of the classified system but not in a manner to get around the requirements of the Charter. (see DA Opinion Number 15-0001);
3. The Parish President should not appoint temporary employees to fill permanent positions;
4. Special assistants, as temporary employees, do not qualify for retirement benefits under state law until the employee has been employed in excess of twelve months. However, under the existing personnel rules of St. John the Baptist Parish, temporary employees are not eligible for retirement benefits or vacation pay;
5. This office's Opinion Number 15-0001, regarding special assistants should be followed by Administration without efforts to circumvent the advice given;
6. The Parish Council has the exclusive authority under the Parish Charter to employ the Council secretary and set the position's salary. The Parish President has no authority to administer or set the salary for the Council secretary. The Parish President is responsible, however, for staffing the Legislative Assistant Department, and, in accordance with the Declaratory Judgment issued to St. John by Judge Madeline Jasmine in 2000, the Parish Council, "has the right to expect the assignment of employees as legislative assistants by the Parish President";
7. As part of its legislative function and role in budgetary matters, the Parish Council may create specific salary line items for specific employee positions and provide for a limit on the salary budgeted therein. The amount appropriated in such a line item does not necessarily set the salary for the position but rather establishes the maximum funds available to the Parish President to pay for that position;
8. The Parish President may not unilaterally transfer budgeted funds from one line item to another without the adoption of a budget amendment by the Parish Council. The Parish President is prohibited from increasing salary line item(s) without a budget amendment;
9. Under the Parish Home Rule Charter, the Parish Council has the authority to specify the budget format for administration to follow, including the right to require specific departmental

- line items, in the budget preparation process and in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act;
10. The Parish Home Rule Charter specifically authorizes the Parish Council to make amendments to the proposed budget prior to its adoption. As such, the Council may eliminate line items, add line items or modify line item details in accordance with both the Charter and Local Government Budget Act;
  11. Under applicable state law and the Local Government Budget Act, the Parish Council is not authorized to spend budgeted funds or enter into contracts to use such funds through a council vote. The Parish President, as an executive function, is both authorized to, and responsible for, administering the budget as adopted;
  12. The Parish Council may not enter into a contract on behalf of the parish without the parish president's signature, except in the specific limited circumstances authorized in the Parish Charter;
  13. The Parish President is responsible for carrying out the policies adopted by the Parish Council. The President has no discretion to not follow Council adopted policies and valid ordinances. The Parish Charter mandates that the Parish President carry out the policies adopted by the Parish Council;
  14. The Parish Council may amend, repeal or modify the Charter mandated civil service system through duly adopted ordinances;
  15. The 2001 ordinance which authorized annual across the board pay increases is valid, but non-binding, unless the funds necessary to cover the pay increase are included in the adopted budget. This authority is limited, however, to the classified employees and the Council Secretary. The Parish President has the authority to increase the salaries of non-classified employees subject to budgetary limits detailed in the annual duly adopted operating budget;
  16. Parish holidays are set in the Civil Service Rules and referenced in the adopted Employee Handbook as well. In addition to those listed, other observed holidays include any holiday declared by the President of the United States, the Governor of Louisiana or those granted by the Parish Council. The Parish President has no authority to declare any holiday, but has the right to order office closures in the event of an emergency;

Under the existing employment circumstances with the Parish Administration, it is this office's opinion that the Parish is currently operating in violation of both state law and the Parish Charter, in providing certain benefits, including retirement and vacation pay, to temporary employees who are not legally eligible for same. Additionally, there are certain temporary employees who have been hired to permanent positions and which were not created by the Parish Council under the provisions of Art. III (e) (1) (a) of the Charter. Furthermore, at least two departments are operating without a functioning council-confirmed department head as required in the Charter.

There is also significant concern as to whether the Parish Administration is following the proper Civil Service Rules, which are

those duly adopted by the Parish Council through legislation, and not the version adopted by the Civil Service Board in late 2014, as that version has never been adopted by the Parish Council. To the extent that the Parish Administration has either implemented, or is following, the policies from the non-Council adopted version, it is the opinion of this office that such conduct is in direct violation of the law and potentially amounts to malfeasance.

Of further concern is that over the course of the last year, Parish employees have been granted paid holidays in addition to those they are legally entitled to receive. Specifically, it is our understanding that whole day and half-day paid holidays have been granted to employees by the Parish President without Council declaration of these days as holidays. Since the Parish President lacks the authority to unilaterally grant holidays to parish employees, it is the opinion of this office that these holidays violated the law and payments made to employees for these holidays constitute a prohibited donation of public funds under Art. VII of the Louisiana Constitution.

**Recommendations:**

1. This office concurs with the Attorney General's office in suggesting that the Parish adopt a personnel rule defining temporary employee;
2. This office also recommends the immediate termination of any retirement benefits or vacation pay or other benefits being paid to temporary employees in direct violation of either state law or Parish personnel rules;
3. This office recommends the Parish Administration follow the advice provided in DA Opinion Number 15-0001, regarding Special Assistants, without attempts to circumvent the advice given;
4. This office strongly recommends that the Parish President instruct the Parish Financial Advisor to refrain from, and reverse, any funds transferred from one line item to another, one fund to another, or one program or function to another unless same is approved in a budget amendment adopted by the Parish Council;
5. This office further recommends that the Parish Administration follow its legal duty to administer the adopted budget in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Budget Act and Parish Charter;
6. This office further recommends that the Parish Administration comply with its obligation to carry out the policies adopted by the Parish Council, including the obligation to administer the adopted budget and the intent of the appropriations allocated therein. This includes the obligation to execute the authorizations set forth in the budget. As such, this office recommends the Administration to fulfill its obligation to administer the \$10,000.00 line item appropriation for improvements to the Homer "Boogie" Joseph Center. This appropriation should not simply be ignored, but rather the intent of the appropriation should be carried out by the Parish President as mandated by law.
7. This office also recommends that the Parish Administration ensure that the provisions of the Civil Service System duly adopted by the Parish Council, and properly amended by

- ordinances adopted thereafter, are followed in the management of the parish workforce. The Civil Service Rules adopted in late 2014 by the Civil Service Board are of no effect unless and until they are adopted by ordinance of the Parish Council;
8. This office further recommends that the Parish President seek Council approval to declare any future holidays or half-day holidays in accordance with applicable law.

That is the extent of our recommendations. We will not be answering any questions."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Mr. Perilloux and we also have an item in executive session for this. The next item Michael Wright - Mr. Tyronne Creecy; Public Records request I am also being advised that this is going to be an executive session item. At this time I would like to ask for a motion to suspend the rules to go into executive session to discuss legal options for possible parish president Charter violations and Mr. Tyronne Creecy; Public Records request, Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc., and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC, #63827 and Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal."

**Michael Wright - Mr. Tyronne Creecy; Public Records request**

Please see above.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to suspend the rules to go into Executive Session. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss *legal options for possible parish president Charter violations* and Mr. Tyronne Creecy; Public Records request, Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc., and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC, #63827 and Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal. The motion passed with Councilman Wilson absent.

Councilman Wright stated, "At this time first I am going to ask Mr. Michael Coburn, Mr. Vince Lucia and Mrs. Kia Price to stay and Mr. Tyronne Creecy are you here?"

Mr. Tyronne Creecy was called for in the Chambers and outside in the hallway by the Police Officer - there was no answer.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to go back into the Regular Session. The motion passed with Mr. Snyder absent.

Councilman Wright stated, "There was action as a result of the executive session."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion that we accept the recommendations of the District Attorney's Office as read by Mr. E. Jeffrey Perilloux, Assistant District Attorney, and put them in as a policy for the council to accept. The motion passed with Councilman Snyder absent.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to instruct the administration to immediately comply with the recommendations of the District Attorney's Office as previously read by Assistant District Attorney, E. Jeffrey Perilloux. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion that the council opens an investigation more specifically into recommendations #2, #3, #4, #6, #7, #8 contained in opinion 15-0003 of the District Attorney's Office. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to direct administration to come up with a policy or procedure in order for us to procure the Public Records request. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Wright asked, *"Do you want to put a timeline on that request?"*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"By the next meeting they could at least come up with a draft."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Didn't the lawyer say something about submitting what we have and Mrs. Keller said that we already have a process?"*

Councilman Wright stated, *"It is separate. It is asking for us to come forward to approve."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Following that I will offer a motion and we said this in executive session but this is part of it to offer a motion to instruct the administration to contact Mr. Tyronne Creecy, let him know that the CD is available at this time to be picked up with the certain dollar amount and let him know that all of the other information will be worked out between you two, but at least give Mr. Creecy a phone call to say that you do have all of those documents available on the CD that can be picked up at his convenience."*

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to instruct the administration to contact Mr. Tyronne Creecy - give him a call and let him know that the CD is available at this time to be picked up and let him know that all of the other information will be worked out between he and the administration. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 10-13-14) Discussion Lions Water Plant Phase VIII design**

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

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 5-12-15) Homer "Boogie" Joseph Center timeline request for start and completion**

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

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 5-26-15) Drainage on Hickory Street and N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Councilman Madere asked, "Mr. Nunes have you made any progress with Hickory Street as far as securing the permits for the right-of-way I mean?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Actually we haven't moved forward on that yet because we have a whole bunch of jobs we are completing right now so we didn't want to jump to Hickory Street without finishing what we are on right now. Once I get a better schedule of when we will finish the certain areas we are in then I will contact you and we can get with the property owners."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay do you have a time frame, within two weeks or three weeks?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I can't give you a timeline because of the way we work if we get a day like today it shuts us down and we have to finish again what we were on and wait for the ground to dry. So it is really hard for me to give you a timeline on this."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand it depends on the weather."

**Larry Snyder - Recreation Advisory Board**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I think we received some communication from the director and the fact that they are not having meetings like they should and I think we should and one reason for that and we can see that here tonight that they are going to borrow \$174,000.00 from Recreation next year and I was just wondering if the Recreation Board had any input to that or what but my question to you is as Council members have you looked at your appointees and see if they have been attending meetings. If not what are you planning on doing about it? That is all I would like to have. We have a pretty good budget for recreation we can't just let it hang there and everybody just do what they want with it. I did request that you members find out how many meetings did your attendee attend. Did everybody do that? So everybody is satisfied with who they have? He asked the council members if they were satisfied."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I am making a new appointment. I didn't have it on the agenda tonight because I didn't have the name but on the next meeting I will have a new appointment from District IV."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am satisfied with the one I appointed. He does attend meetings. I think he has only missed one. Can we have the new appointees ready for the next meeting then I will be satisfied."

Councilman Gauff stated, "This has been going on for a while now and the director has been asking us to do this and I appreciate him stepping forward to get some communication to everyone but I think he has been asking and has been saying we don't have enough people or if they show up we don't have enough for the quorum. We have to realize that also some of the nights that they have meetings and they have to take into consideration now there are games going on and some of the

members actually coach so maybe they need to pick a different day or do something different as far as meeting times or something but a lot of the people that we do or have chosen on our boards are actually pretty active in the recreation department themselves as far as coaching and helping out. So make sure that we pick people that are dedicated to St. John Recreation and that they have the time needed to aid and assist us in what we need to move our parish and our recreation department forward."

Councilman Madere stated, "This is just my opinion. I think when I received the email from Mr. Watkins concerning the fact that they didn't have enough people to meet. I started looking into it and I think I requested someone send us the actual role call as to how many people are actually showing up as individual representatives. I was able to see when my representative was absent or present I think that is a good thing and my opinion is I think as councilmen we need to check all of our boards, not just recreation, to make sure that the people who are representing us are actually showing up and doing what they are supposed to do so I am glad Mr. Watkins brought this to our attention and opened our eyes to the other boards to make sure that they are working effectively and not being handicapped by the fact that our representatives are not showing up."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I just want to ask a question. Ms. Landeche do you get copies of the Recreation Board minutes or the Advisory board minutes? Who keeps those minutes for those boards?"

Jackie Landeche, Council Secretary, stated, "The only thing I receive is from P & Z and the ZBA. She will send me everything the next day like not the official minutes but what has happened on the motions that night and who attended the meeting but other than that no other board sends me any information."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would like to make a motion that the council receives copies of the minutes for all of our advisory boards to include the roll call as well so that the council is aware of who attended and who did not."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to direct all advisory boards of the parish to forward copies of their minutes to the Council and Council Secretary, including the roll call. The motion passed with Councilman Wright absent.

#### **Marvin Perrilloux - Rental fee reduction for the Civic Center**

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I put this on here and Mr. Madere will make the motion for me, but I put this on here because we have been talking about this building since we all took office and I always did say that we have a building over there that the residents voted in as recreation and I know many times Mr. Snyder has called meetings to change the usage of this building. I have called a lot of meetings to change the rental on this building and to no avail. So tonight I decided you know what I am finished doing meetings. We are going to put it on the agenda and we are going to reduce the fees with the support of this council I hope we reduce the fee accordingly to let the residents of St. John Parish have a third place to use because most of us are going to the Boat club in St. James, the Kenner Pavilion and

various other places around outside of St. John Parish and not utilizing this building over here. So tonight I am asking Mr. Madere to make this motion for me to reduce the fees on this building."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to make a motion that we reduce the rental fee on the St. John Community Center as follows: Atrium \$1,800.00 to \$800.00, Room A \$3,450.00 to \$1,700.00, Room B \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and for this to go into effect at 12:01 AM, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015."

Councilman Snyder seconded the motion.

Councilman Madere stated, "This is something that is long overdue. The taxpayers pay for this building each and every day and every year. We pass it every day and it is not being used for what it was put there for. I understand we make movies. Well some people don't like movies but that building needs to be opened for the people in this community to use and not just pass and look at or walk around in when we have festivals. We actually need to get in there. I think it is a very good move and a very important move and I support it to the highest."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand the purpose behind it and I am 100% behind that my concern is that with these numbers you are reducing everything by half. My concern is insurance, securities, employees. I understand that we are not in the business to just let people use this and not at least pay for the overhead of the building. I am 100% behind you but I would rather make sure that these numbers are in line with what it cost and that is my concern."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I will comment on that but let me get to Mr. Snyder first."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We received a document about 2 years ago and it costs \$1,500.00 to run that building one day. If you remember I brought it to this board and I asked them to look for some bleachers and all of that at the time so that we could put some bleachers in there and use it for graduation and all of that and then we can roll them back up when the movie people come. Now as far as these other things like you said security and the people that have to work all that is extra. I mean I hope that is understood. The only thing that we are doing is making adjustments to the cost to use it there are other things in that policy that says that we have to have people there to take care of the bathrooms, you have to have security to turn on what you are using it for, you need tables and chairs and all of that is going to cost you. I also think that we should in that motion today amend it that it is only for parish local people or something like that we need to specify certain things I think in there. I like the idea but I think we need to specify somethings and maybe we can give it a few more days or a week or so and we can look at some other things that we may have to do because we wouldn't want people to come here with a gun show and pay \$1,500.00."

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "Allow me to interrupt, we believe that this motion is actually out of order. The administration may choose to honor it however it is our opinion that any fee structure should be put together in an ordinance and have the force of law and that you all should come back with an ordinance to allow the ordinance

to be presented properly with the new fee structure and any other changes you all choose to make as far as the policy is concerned in the form of an ordinance. Having said that, if you do pass the motion administration certainly can if they choose to honor it but they would not be bound to."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Didn't we reduce some fees in Recreation and reduce some fees for the rental of the REGALA Gym but I don't think we had an ordinance for that and we reduced the fees."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "I don't recall if you had an ordinance or not but our suggestion on this one would be to put it in the form of law and an ordinance does in fact carry the weight of law that would be our recommendation."

Councilman Madere stated, "I agree because I want it to carry the weight of law to make sure there isn't a loophole. I want to make sure it has the full power that is needed to make sure that the residents get a chance to use this building because \$1,500.00 a day just to let it sit there the same amount will be paid for insurance and security so that isn't going to affect the fact that we are lowering the fee. It sits there and it is fully insured and fully secured so all of that is taken care of what we need to do is put the force of law behind what we are doing and that is to take the advice of legal and to make it legal that we lower these fees so that the people who pay the taxes have a chance to enjoy the building that they put there. I also agree with Mr. Snyder this will give us a little chance to make sure that this is for the people of St. John the Baptist Parish because the movie industry will come in and say they just want to pay this or that so I think that was a good point that he brought up and we want to make sure that this is for the people of St. John Parish."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "In that case I will ask you if you want to withdraw your second and Mr. Snyder withdraw your motion and we will get Mr. Perrilloux to draft an ordinance and we will leave it on the agenda for the next meeting. The motion has been withdrawn."

Councilmembers Snyder and Madere withdrew their motions.

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Jeff can you just clarify, just for procedural purposes the Civic Center policy was a policy that was adopted by the council not by ordinance. So I do understand that we need additional information but why would it be proper to amend a policy that we didn't adopt by ordinance?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "It actually might not be a bad idea for you to adopt the entire policy now by ordinance as well if that is the case okay. That way it has the weight of law and you also have an opportunity at that point in time to create an ordinance that is in place for the future so if any other councils or administrations going forward want to change those policies they would have to come before the council and get the council to vote to do so."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Also Mr. Snyder made the comment about a possible gun show or something coming in this was meant to be, Mr. Perrilloux, for parish residents at these prices and can we do that?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "We are going to do it by ordinance."

Councilman Wilson asked, "By ordinance we can have different fees for outside people correct?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "By ordinance yes."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "We will leave this on the agenda and do it at the next meeting."

**Larry Snyder - Code Enforcement issues and scrutiny of their report**

Councilman Snyder asked, "Well have the code enforcement officers gone back to work yet? The two that we had some issues with the last three weeks, have they gone back to work?"

Angelic Keller stated, "There was one that I was performing an administrative investigation on. I concluded my investigation last week and that person has returned to duty in the field yes."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I saw a report whereas and this is what I was concerned about, we hire these people some of them at \$12.00 an hour some at \$13.00 some at \$15.00 an hour but we expect them to have grammar like lawyers and English majors. If we expect this from them then we need to pay them more money because I saw a report where the only bad thing about it was some phrases that they used and some T's not crossed and periods not put in there and I thought maybe that might be the job of the administrator over there to look at all those files and make sure that they are done right. If they need some T's crossed and I's dotted it seems like that should go through the legal part or the people who are the professionals over there and not these people we are paying \$12.00 to \$15.00 an hour to do work and I was just wondering why we make such a big thing out of the grammar and I understood what they were saying maybe they didn't use the right verb or adjective or put the noun in the right way but I mean as long as you understand what they are saying it seems like that is all that matters to me."

Angelic Keller stated, "I think that is the basic issue. I don't think you have to be an English major to put periods and commas in a sentence but when you do get a report that is an entire paragraph like I am talking 7-8 lines with no commas and no periods it is very difficult to understand. So when a resident gets a notice of violation in order for it to be sufficient notice they have to be able to understand number one what they were in violation of, what you found and what your recommendation is and if it is not written clearly, if you have miss-spelled words or if you use the wrong word and if you don't use basic punctuation it makes it very difficult to understand the actual notice and according to what you said we do have Beverly Milioto, Code Enforcement Supervisor, there are certain type of violations that she does review and she has to review those reports before they go out. I also review certain reports but when you have six people that are generating reports it is impossible, you would have to hire three supervisors and their entire job would be just to revise somebodys report that just doesn't seem feasible. Those are not the only duties that the supervisor or myself have. So yes when we hire someone that was a requirement. It involves a lot of paperwork. Some of your reports go to court and so if you pay a code officer to write a report and then

*you have to pay me to redo the report to me that is just a waste of money."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Who reviews the reviewer? How do I know it is right I just see a lot of red stuff on the paper?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "As the supervisor she has that authority and as the director I have that authority."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "So you are saying that if she puts it on the paper that is how it is supposed to be?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "The ones she reviews if she corrects misspelled words you might use the wrong words, she puts the punctuation where it is supposed to go yes."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Where do they do the reports in the field or in the office?"*

*Angelic Keller stated, "Well the premise of getting the iPad and using the iPad system was for them to take pictures and generate reports from the field that is not necessarily happening on every case so a lot of times they do come back to the office and write the report from the office it just depends on whatever the code officers preference is."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I think that might be the best thing to give these people a chance to get it right and if they do them in the field, everyone that has ever worked in the field knows how tough it is to write a report being in the field and having to make sure all of your grammar is correct. So I think that might be the best way for them to get it right instead of killing these people with this grammar."*

*Angelic Keller stated, "I will give you one better. We actually put together a handbook, this was years ago, there are templates that we wrote for every single type of violation if you follow the template you should get it right. The problem is they are not following the template, a fill in the blank template with the punctuation in it."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I read the templates. I just want them to have a chance to do it right."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "There is another portion of this and before I even became a councilman I always do my own investigation when I have problems at my home and it involves code enforcement and this issue still exists now that is you can use all the proper grammar you want but if you mail the letter to a deceased person I guarantee they are not reading that letter okay. We have a problem with that in fact I have a copy of a letter that was mailed to a person that is dead. They aren't reading it and they aren't going to respond. So we need to find out when a letter comes back to us over and over again is this individual still alive or still in the parish? In fact I got so involved with one when I first got into office I took the address and went to the guy's house in Jefferson Parish because everything just kept coming back. So I went see him myself. When we have those problems how do we fix them? We have a person now that is deceased that has about a \$15,000.00 lien on that property and that person is dead. We even have trailers on property that shouldn't be there that someone*

signed. Like I said I have two letters for deceased people that were mailed out. So how do we correct that problem?"

Angelic Keller stated, "Well I think part of that will be resolved by the review that the District Attorney's office is doing on the code enforcement processes and procedures but the ordinances that were created by the council initially they state that you send the notice to the last person of record on the assessor's tax roll. A lot of times the deceased person is still on the assessor's tax roll because residents or property owners or heirs do not perform successions so you still have the deceased property owners listed on the tax roll."

Councilman Madere asked, "So my question still is that when does something go off in an individual's head that is in charge that the letter keeps coming back that maybe we should look a little deeper and I am not talking about a month. I am talking about 1-2 years with no response when does a bell go off in someone's head to say let's look a little deeper to find out if this person still is alive because like I said I keep my records and from 2005 I walked in the code enforcement office and told the lady that there is a possibility that you have someone signing to put a trailer on a piece of property that isn't theirs. She got highly mad and wanted to scream but she didn't know who she was talking to so I said let me show you my public record. My paper says that these two individuals have been dead since 1944. So I asked her at that time which one came in and signed to place this trailer. So what I am saying is that we have a lot of that still going on in code enforcement. We need to maybe get another department or someone in there when you see a letter come back 15 times that should be a sign that we need to find out for sure is this going to the right person and when do we contact someone that lives out of the parishes code enforcement department and ask them for some help to go and deliver this letter because that is what I did. I got in my car and went knock on the guy's door and it might sound funny but his name is Billy D. Williams and Billy D. Williams is dead and his son is names Billy D. Williams and he said we get these letters my daddy is dead we throw them in the trash can every time they come from Planning & Zoning in St. John Parish. So I just got fed-up and went myself. So when do we have someone in that department that is going to do the same thing, reach out to the other parish or find out because we have a lot of unclaimed mail, unclaimed liens and things not getting done because we are mailing them to dead people. The newest one is on 3179, the house that needs to be boarded up. I just got a copy of that letter and it went to a dead individual. So we need to find a way someone, a supervisor or someone, when the letter comes back, the code officer doesn't know but somebody in the office knows that these letters are coming back."

Angelic Keller stated, "Well initially it is part of the code officer's responsibility because they are managing their workload so they are the ones that actually do the research on who owns the property. Again that is the way it is written in the ordinance. If you would like the ordinance changed but I will tell you we do know when people are deceased a lot of times we get that communication and we know they are deceased but we follow the code as written and when it is time to file a lawsuit I can guarantee you in court we file lawsuits against deceased individuals and their estate and those judgements are upheld that is the way the process works. It is still your property if you are

deceased or not. If your heirs have not been put in possession of the property it is not their property and the assessor doesn't change his tax roll when he knows people are deceased their names are still on the tax roll."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well that sounds kind of funny because when I am dead I am not going to own that property I am just going to want a piece that is 6 feet deep that is the only place I will still own. So what I am saying is that we need to find someone when these letters keep coming back are these people alive or dead because we are not collecting any money from deceased individuals. So that is something we need to add or check into."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I think what is happening is and I think someone else mentioned it, what happens is your name doesn't come off of the record, this deceased person's name doesn't come off of the record it goes to that estate and if they are in violation say it is grass cutting and grass gets high then that notice goes to the address they are no longer alive, there are lien's that are placed against that property so someone whenever they do inquire about that property they will find out that there are lien's against that estate when succession is opened up they may have to pay for it to clear these lien's they won't be able to do anything with the property so sometimes that is how it gets taken off of the tax roll or it may become adjudicated properties and that there may be tax or lien's against the property and then we can do something about it but I think that is one of the reasons why the deceased person's name stays on it because it is still family land that someone may come to claim and if they don't then down the line the legal system takes over and does something with it at a Sheriff sale or something is done through the parish but I hear what you are saying as far as us sending it 15-20 times but I think it is just sent to the address which is the person that even though you are dead and gone it is still your property or your families property so until something is done or until we change the records or laws that is the way it is maintained."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand exactly what you are saying but still we need someone in that department, whether it is a supervisor, who knows that these letters are coming back 15-20 times that should trigger in that persons head, like it did mine, to look a little deeper. That is all that I am saying look a little deeper and then if we find out that the individual is dead then we need to send it to their next of kin so that they will know because when a letter comes for someone who is dead you are not going to open it you are going to throw it in the trashcan and that is what's happening. So nothing is getting done. The grass is not getting cut and the parish ends up cutting it and the lien keeps going up. There is a lien on a piece of property in my district that might be \$25,000.00 and the property is only worth \$10,000.00 no one is every going to pay that lien off and it will keep climbing. No one is going to pay \$30,000.00 on a piece of property worth only \$10,000.00 you would be three kinds of a fool to do that. So that is what happens when you don't check on a letter that comes back 15 times or 30 times. You have to check. I got two things myself investigated two weeks ago and got the Bank of America to tell me that they sold that property to Carrollton Home Solutions. So now the assessor's office has the right information. It took me 15 minutes for the bank to tell me who they sold it to. I contacted Carrollton

Homes and verified that they had it and reported it to Mr. Whitney Joseph. So now that property is on record with the right name and the right owner and it took me 15-30 minutes to talk to the Bank of America, Carrollton Home Solutions and I also got them to agree to cut the grass every other week because the grass was over 6 feet high on that property. So it was never going to get cut this year because we kept mailing it to the Bank of America and they told me they kept throwing it in the trash can because they no longer owned that property. So that is where the break down comes in at where you have letters that go back and forth to someone who is dead or doesn't own the property. So that is what needs to be corrected in Planning and Zoning and not a period or a comma."

**Larry Snyder - Public work order request status for Council District VI**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think I asked for this information. I don't know if they emailed it to me today. I was just wondering what is the status of the work order request in my district the ones that I wrote for sure because I made some passes through there and some things I wrote up are still there, some of them are safety hazards and some people called me about speed bumps or blowing out a culvert or something like that and I just wanted to know what is going on."

Mike Coburn stated, "I think we spoke with Mr. Nunes and he does have a breakdown of the request that you made and in investigating that also at the same time it was brought to our attention that requests that the council does make on certain things that are happening within their district and the information not getting back to you in an appropriate time so what we are planning to do at this time after Mr. Nunes talks about your specific issue we will be issuing monthly reports to you the status of any requests that you are requesting with items with public works within your district so by the end of every month you will be getting those action items. Say you requested 10 things you would get the status of the 10 things that you requested if that is okay with you all."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is fine with me but how are you going to do that my district runs from Riverlands, all of Cambridge and parts of other ones over there?"

Mike Coburn stated, "If you personally submit a request yourself we are going to send back your request to you at the end of each month."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well wouldn't you think it might be beneficial to everybody if the request form was amended and you put a district on there or something and that might help you to sort by districts."

Brian Nunes stated, "We do have that they are sorted by districts and everybody who puts in a work order their name goes on that work order that is why when a resident calls the secretary takes their name and number and it goes on the work order. So this afternoon what we did was we pulled up everything that each individual council member has asked us to do by your name, we searched each name and we pulled that all together. We are almost done with the spread sheet. We should have it done by the end of the week and we will send it to you with the status and then once a month you will get that just showing you what is done

or when it may be done but along with that what I do request that you do is make it an official work order not just a phone call to myself or Mr. Kindrick because sometime we are on the road and we just call someone to get it done and there is no record of it so if we could make it official call it in or email me and we will get it official."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Sometimes I do both but I wanted to know the status of those because to me they are important, if I wrote it up then I want to know what the status is but if Mr. Henry Dent wrote one up do you know what district he comes from? Suppose he doesn't have a phone number how are you going to know the district?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We get the address and these secretaries have been doing this for 20 years they know where everything is."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay it sounds good to me that is why Cheryl gets some of mine and I get some of hers too probably."

#### **Lennix Madere - Code Enforcement Officer contract**

Councilman Madere stated that this has been taken care of.

#### **Lennix Madere - Update on the drainage project in District III - projected date of start**

Councilman Madere asked, "Mr. Nunes do we have a start date?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I met with the engineer on that one today. He turned in a 30% submittal on the design he said he should have his intermediate plans done by August, probably the final bid plans about late October and we will probably be putting this thing to advertise for construction by the end of the year."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well I guess we don't have any choice but to wait on it but I thought this thing was supposed to be started they went out there and marked the street and everything so by the time the end of the year comes they are going to have to remark everything they marked already. What was the purpose of going out there and marking and acting like we are getting ready to do so much and then fizzle out for an entire year?"

Brian Nunes stated, "The marking part was Louisiana One Call which is a survey crew that goes out there and knows where all the utilities are so when they pick up the topographic survey and they turn it into the engineer it has all the utilities on it so that they know already. The survey is completed."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay in those designs are there any plans to cover those ditches like they did in the Reserve area. I know they are going to change the pipes. I am all in favor of changing the pipes to make sure that we all have the right size which is going to help tremendously but what would really help is if we cover all of those ditches to keep the trash out of them because that is where the biggest problem is right now. If you have a street that has all the right sizes and you have a ditch that is full of trash you are going to get the same problem that is why I said that from the very beginning and I said it when I got into office again and the administration looked like I

had shot them in the head when I talked about covering the ditches we should cover them all."

Brian Nunes stated, "This project is a sub-surface drainage project which is going to be all culverts from Perrilloux Drive going towards River Road as far back as the budget will allow. There won't be any ditches as part of this project it is going to be all culverts."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay so that is going to help?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Right."

**Larry Snyder - Field employee's action during rain**

Councilman Snyder stated, "The reason I put this there was because I just had this great idea that came up and I thought I better put this on paper. I was going home last week in the rain and I was so upset by the fact that a drain at the front of Cambridge was solidly plugged and couldn't drain. Now I know why it was like that the piece of property right there they wait for the grass to get 2 feet tall then they cut it and sling it in the road and I have seen that and I have stopped him and told him that he needs to pick that up it clogs up our drains but that was last year. Now that is exactly what happened this time and the water was up to the curb and I couldn't believe that people were driving up on the curb so that they wouldn't flood out. So I got out of my truck and I had a stick in the back of my truck this is the second time that this has happened I know it is a hot spot that is why I put the work order in for the street sweeper back there to help that out. So that is what happened and we unplugged it and another guy came over there a friend of mine, Larry Baker, and he helped me with that thing and we unplugged that drain and the water was flying out of there and I am saying this if it is raining out there we say we have people out there for drainage. I know they go and check the pumps but if people are out there doing work and I am not just talking about Public Works or Utilities I am talking about all of them. If they have something that needs to be done and it can't be done because of the rain then why can't these guys just go ride around and look for these hot spots and see if there is something that we can do to help a hot spot out. If the water is not moving and you see a drain and it is plugged with debris why can't they do something like that and that is all I asked myself and I said I am going to talk somebody about it and I was told that these guys are out there and are doing work but and but and but. So I was just wondering what we can do about that?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Mr. Snyder actually I asked a few of the guys to be here tonight and they are right here in the back."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I see. I hope they are not on overtime."

Brian Nunes stated, "These guys are out there all the time. They were out there all day today. They are out there on the weekends. They are out there at 4 in the morning when it rains."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Doing what? Do they have instructions? Do you tell them to go to hotspots or are they just going what?"

Brian Nunes stated, "They know all of the hotspots the back of

Cambridge is one, obviously Madewood is a problem, all of the pump stations are problems, the back of LaPlace Park is a problem. We know where we have to go when they go there that is the first place they go. These guys are doing it. You might not see them but they are out there."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I agree with that which is why the question was on here as to just exactly what do not these I am talking about all of the field people when one of those days when they are rained out and can't do their work because we know if an emergency happens they are going to be down there in the hole fixing it up but I am talking about other times like doing work that they can't do in a hard rain and maybe we can find some spots then and mark them down and bring that information back to you."

Brian Nunes stated, "We do every Monday during our safety meetings we have to have a notebook in the vehicles at all times especially during rain events because if they see something they are going to try to fix it they are going to get out there, they have rain boots they are not afraid of getting wet they will get out there and do their best and if they can't do it they are going to make a note and when it dries up we are going to send them back out there."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Are these guys all Roads and Bridges?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That isn't all of them but this is a handful of the guys that are out there all the time there were some more here earlier but they went home because they didn't know how late they would be but there are plenty more that do it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well all I am saying is that we get as much hotspots as we can during the rain storms which is why I put this on the agenda so that I could find out from you exactly how we handle it. I am glad these guys are out there. I am glad they go and do their thing and I know that I have seen them out there in the rain. I have seen it. I was just saying that this particular incident here was just too obvious you could see from the Airline all the water on the street and that was from just one drain being solidly plugged."

Councilman Madere stated, "On this same subject I just want to say that most of the guys that are sitting back there I know. I see them. They work hard and they work every day. I don't question the fact that they are out there working. My issue has been since day one you need a department that deals with that every single day and we keep hearing about a branch, I don't want a branch I want a tree. You need 10-15 guys that go every day and do this and you do even on the dry days that is what they do. Now if you want to kick in the rest of Public Works when the rain starts that is fine because it would be back up for them but it would give everybody a chance because if you have a crew that is doing this every single day some of the things that they have to do when the rain comes it would have already been taken care of and we can turn our attention to another spot and then when it does rain like that everyone can work on the other spots and that way it is easier and you get more accomplished because you have someone doing it every single day. Those guys should come in and just do drainage. Then when other departments have issues they can report it to them and they can get it fixed that is what we need a drainage crew that will help these guys

out. These guys are already overworked. They do everything. We have even sent them to recreation to do repairs at the parks and if you are going to have that kind of department you need more workers that is the bottom line. As the parish grows, the department should grow. You see that word public that means they have everything every day and they can't do it every day. If I had the power I would hire 20 tomorrow that is what you need a drainage crew."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just really wanted to commend our Public Works Department, you probably won't ever come back to a council meeting after this long one but we appreciate our own Boys in Blue. I know you often don't hear it enough but we do appreciate everything you have done. Most of you I have been around for the last 12 years so I do appreciate all of the hard work that you do and Brian I know we say it sometimes and we don't say it often enough but I appreciate every time I call you you handle a problem that can be taken care of very quickly. So thank you guys for all that you do."

**Ranney Wilson - Ricky Trosclair - W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street**

Councilman Wilson asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

**Lennix Madere - Update on Railroad cleaning of canals and ditches**

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay Mr. Nunes do you have any new information on that for us because I have passed through my district and this problem is getting worst by the day. I came to a track this afternoon and you can't see down the track because the grass is getting so high you basically have to be on it to see if anything is coming and that is a crossing that doesn't have lights. The railroad I keep saying it and I am consistent in what I say. The railroad is a problem. I know you don't have the authority. I think we need to get with legal to do something with them. They come and change the crossing and leave it piled up on the side. They change the rail and leave it on the side of the road and cross tires just sit there until they rot away. The grass is growing out of that."

Brian Nunes stated, "We did meet with CN last week. I was in a meeting but I sent my superintendent out. They looked at some areas. They are going to do some work. I think they are going to start their culvert extensions I would say within the next 2 weeks. They had something going on in Hammond but now they are moving back here to finish what they started. That is just CN that is what I was told. I don't have an update on KCS at this time."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay and Mr. Nunes like we said it always seems as though I am trying to bring down heat on you but I understand your job it hard but my job is hard to especially when people complain to me about it and I have no other choice but to come here and voice their concerns and opinions about these things. I have just about had enough of the railroad all of them. They can't just come through the parish and do what they want because when someone floods it is directly because of them sometimes. Don't take it personal we are still friends I just have to do what I have to do and I say soon."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I agree."

Councilman Gauff stated, "It is a problem that they do work and don't do any housekeeping after they do the work. As Mr. Madere said all of their stuff lying along the tracks and the cross ties, everything just sits there. So we appreciate when they do work but then they never clean anything up so it just sits there for months and months and then eventually that rolls down into the drainage ditches and causes other problems then grass grows around a lot of the equipment or stuff that they have left so it becomes an eye sore so from that standpoint and I know your hands are somewhat tied they come in and do what they want but when we get them in these meetings they have to be held accountable and I don't know how we do that. We have tried to get Cedric Richmond and all these people involved in this and come to the table with us to help us but it seems like the railroad really does what they want to do and it has our parish looking horrendous especially along the rail systems. So we really need some help."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree with you. The house keeping is not where it should be I agree with that definitely."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Mr. Nunes the sonar testing I got some really good news from the surveyor so if you could tell us some more good news that we are going to go in and dig out some of that stuff."

Brian Nunes stated, "Unfortunately there was a little delay getting it so we had to reschedule with DNR. The meeting is actually tomorrow afternoon in Baton Rouge. I am taking everything up there but the survey does show anywhere from 2.5 to 4.5 feet of silt in that canal."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can we have them survey Gardenia because that is a major problem and even in a small rain event water is getting back into people's sheds in the back of their homes and I know just from being a little kid and being around LaPlace Park that the ditch was a true ditch 20 years ago and now it probably had 4 feet of silt in it that we could dig out."

Brian Nunes stated, "Actually the plan right now is to get the okay to say that this is okay and they accept it. I will know that tomorrow and then I will come back and we will start making PO's for all the other canals that are in residential areas."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Can we clean those in house?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes we have the marsh buggy and can do all the work in house."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That sounds great let me know and Mr. Larry I know we have been talking about it or maybe even just send a little email to the council to say yes this is acceptable and we can move forward."

Brian Nunes stated, "You can expect an email tomorrow afternoon with any results that I get."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay and if we need to identify any additional funds to help keep that program going so that we can clean out some of these waterways we will definitely do that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Just a quick comment, Ms. Hotard brought up Gardenia I had already talked to Mr. Nunes about it and with the okay for the Vicknair Canal that Mr. Snyder is pushing I think that permit will allow us to dig all canals in the parish once we get that permit correct?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It is my understanding that it will let us dig all canals in residential areas."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We always could before."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mr. Nunes when they are digging the canals and I am not an engineer and I don't work in Public Works I just have a little common sense I noticed that the erosion in the canals is making the canals wider which is making the canals more shallow so when we dig are we going to dig these canals deep and put the land where it was I mean people's fences are now in canals and stuff like that because of the erosion issue. So digging deep and putting that dirt back might help."

Brian Nunes stated, "In theory I like it but I don't know if they will allow us to do that. A lot of times that is why they don't let people dig anymore because they would dig and throw it on the side normally what they want you to do is haul everything out."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "But you are hauling their back yards out."

Brian Nunes stated, "I understand where you are coming from I do. I won't have a good answer until tomorrow afternoon but I will bring that up to them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You still have to have some shoring there. I see we are starting to accumulate some cement blocks by the track over there I mean the side that we use to shore up stuff."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is like an erosion control. We could definitely use that and that is something that we could do in house. That is something that we can look at doing even without the permit on erosion control. As far as putting land back that we are excavating I don't know if we can do that but to prevent any future erosion that is something we can definitely look into."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The maintenance on the Vicknair Canal is needed badly. It is eroding trees are going to start falling."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ranney Wilson/Lennix Madere - Drainage and Drainage equipment**

Councilman Wilson stated, "Mr. Nunes I need for you to go look at Garyville Northern and from Anthony F. Monica all the way to the North side between the boat launch and the highway that needs to be dug in a bad way but we need a pump station and I am asking for you to start looking for some money somewhere but Garyville needs a pump station. For over a month this water has been up you can't even see the culverts in some places just by the sewer plant over three feet is washed away of the culverts on top of them and we are going to start having the

side breaking off and falling in the canals but we need some drainage work seriously bad. I have been asking for three years and I guess it just goes on deaf ears. We need some help. It is not moving there is stuff growing on top of the water it is very shallow and under that is mud. I fell all the way to waist in mud so that is 4 feet that is just there not carrying any water it is just plugged up and the water can't drain to the North side of Airline Highway because it is all plugged up. They have grass growing on top of the mud."

**Art Smith - (Carry Over 5-12-15) Overturn trailer placement denial - Brielle Frazier - 132 W. 12 Street - Wallace**

Councilman Smith stated, "I would like to make a motion to overturn this trailer placement denial. This lady needs a place to live and there are many trailers in this area. I don't know why she wasn't allowed to place it there. I am asking for your support."

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to overturn the trailer placement denial for Brielle Frazier 132 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Wallace. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 absent (Gauff) and 3 abstaining (Hotard, Millet, Wright).

Please see earlier in minutes for Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Legal Options for possible parish president Charter violations

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

Larry Snyder - Hurricane Preparation plans

Larry Snyder - Building at Cambridge and Airline Hwy. graffiti removal

Water bill issues - 133 Beechgrove, Reserve, LA

Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc., and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC, #63827

Lennix Madere - Water bills - amoeba update

Water District #1 System issues/State DHH order

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**15-20** An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) of Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2015, of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of such Bonds and providing for the payment thereof; authorizing an agreement with the Paying Agent; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.  
(N. Robottom)

- 15-21** An ordinance authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of Twelve Million Dollars (\$12,000,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015, 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 the payment thereof in principal and interest; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (N. Robottom)
- 15-22** An ordinance to add the nomenclature "Tajh Michael Thomas" to the Existing East 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Reserve, Louisiana (L. Madere)
- 15-23** An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article III of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: Temporary Employees (M. Perrilloux)

#### **PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT**

Mike Coburn stated, "Good evening. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to Parish President Robottom who is home recovering from a severe ankle injury she sustained recently. She is in good spirits despite the injury and is hoping to return to work soon. The Parish President's office held its 5th Annual Academic Luncheon on Friday in recognition of the academic achievements of the 2015 Valedictorians, Salutatorians, Students, Teachers and Principals of the Year, and support personnel. It was a great event made better by our guest speaker, Mr. Artis Williams. I want to thank Artis, plant manager for Air Products for his words of encouragement, and all who attended the lunch. I'd like to congratulate Anytime Fitness, located at 607 Belle Terre Blvd., for their grand opening and recent ribbon cutting. The gym is open 7 days of week for enrollment. Parish public pools are now open and the schedule is posted on the parish website and government access channel or through phone at 985-652-9569. The Ashley Kelly Swim Program information and dates is still being finalized and will be released once confirmed. The Summer Food Service program will continue to run Monday through Thursday until July 16 at **East John Elementary, Garyville/Mt Airy Magnet, West St. John High School, LaPlace Elementary and New Wine Christian Center.** For more information or questions, please visit the Health & Human Service webpage or call 985-536-4955. The Economic Development Department will host a fundraising workshop for nonprofit organizations on this Friday June 12 from 9 am - 11 am at REGALA Gym. The workshop addresses creating fundraising goals, building fundraising teams and using technology to find donors. ED will also host a business development program workshop on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at South Central Louisiana Technical College to help small businesses grow and gain a competitive advantage. To register for either, contact Laverne Saulny at 652-9569 or through email at [l.saulny@sjbparish.com](mailto:l.saulny@sjbparish.com). Recreation now has an Adult Softball League which plays on Thursday nights from July to September. Softball teams can be CO ED and are for adults only, ages 18 and over. Registration is accepted at Regala Gym, 200 Regala Park Dr. in Reserve. Foxwood residents are invited to a groundbreaking for the Foxwood Levee on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Foxwood subdivision. This project has been in the works for some time and we encourage those involved to attend. On Sunday, June 21, 2015 at 11:00 am, the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edgard will hold a Mass of Welcome and Celebration for Bishop Fernand Cheri. There will be a reception

immediately following the mass and all Parishioners and future Parishioners are invited. The church is located at 2349 Hwy 18 in Edgard. The 10th Annual St. John the Baptist Parish Veterans Luncheon will be held Friday, July 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Louisiana Army National Guard Readiness Center 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 in the last two years, it is not necessary to submit a new photo. The deadline to submit pictures is Friday, June 19 at 4:00 p.m. Photos can either be emailed to the Communications Department at [communications@sjbparish.com](mailto:communications@sjbparish.com) or mailed to St. John Communications Department Attn: Veterans Tribute, 1801 W. Airline Hwy, LaPlace, LA 70068. The 15th Annual Independence Day Celebration and firework show will take place on the evening of Friday, July 3 at St. Peter's Catholic Church and the St. John Courthouse. The celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the live broadcast will air at 7:00 p.m. The firework show will start at 9:00 p.m. The East and West Bank celebrations will be broadcasted live on the government accesses channel for residents to watch at home. The Asphalt Road Improvement project is ongoing and residents will receive notification when work is ongoing in their areas. Thank you for your patience during repairs. We want to remind everyone that Hurricane Season is here and everyone should finalize their hurricane plans. Please review your plans and go to our website to register to receive e-news releases and Emergency Notifications to your cell, email and text. I have been asked to read a statement from President Robottom this is dated Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. I have been out of the office for over a week due to the recent injury and have not had the opportunity to review the opinion in its entirety. Although many of the request for clarification were initiated from my office it is unfortunate that this item is added to the council agenda at this minute with full knowledge that I would not be in attendance. The opinions and recommendations have long been requested to address inconsistencies in both the executive and legislative branches of government as well as the District Attorney's Office. I look forward to giving the opinion the time and attention it deserves and I am confident that all of the recommendations of substance can be rectified quickly. Natalie Robottom St. John the Baptist Parish President."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you so much Mr. Coburn and just for a point of clarification for the publics knowledge this memo was sent out on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to Mrs. Robottom and the Parish Council and also the Attorney General opinions were released months prior so this was no new information but thank you for that statement."

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:50 PM, Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Gauff and Wilson absent.

/s/Michael Wright  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary