

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
TUESDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2016
CHAIRMAN MARVIN PERRILLOUX
VICE-CHAIR MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, June 28th, 2016, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remondet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

ABSENT: Marvin Perrilloux

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilwoman Remondet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux was present.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

There were no new business to introduce.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - June 14th, 2016, Regular Meeting; Councilman Sorapuru - Appointment of Betty Joseph to the Economic Development Board; Councilman Perrilloux - Appointment of Lesley McCune Ash to the Animal Control Board

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items: Approval of Minutes - June 14th, 2016, Regular Meeting; Councilman Sorapuru - Appointment of Betty Joseph to the Economic Development Board; Councilman Perrilloux - Appointment of Lesley McCune Ash to the Animal Control Board. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Michael Wright - Appointment of Raj Pannu to District VII

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion from the council to appoint Raj Pannu to District VII. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Administering Oath of Office - Raj Pannu Councilwoman, District VII

Councilman Wright stated, "Next I'll have Ms. Pannu and Judge Gravois to come to the podium to do the swearing in."

Judge Jude Gravois stated, "Before we get started, I want to say that we have

a fine candidate here for Council. I've known Raj for a few years, we served on the LaPlace Rotary Club together, she's very giving of her time and her efforts and I can assure you, you made a good choice. She's honest hard working and really pays attention. So, she's going to keep you'll on your toes. So Raj if you're ready."

Raj Pannu stated, "Yes sir."

Judge Gravois stated, "Please raise your right hand. I Rajender K. Pannu."

Raj Pannu stated, "I Rajender K. Pannu"

Judge Gravois stated, "Do solemnly swear"

Raj Pannu stated, "Do solemnly swear"

Judge Gravois stated, "That I will support"

Raj Pannu stated, "That I will support"

Judge Gravois stated, "The constitution and laws"

Raj Pannu stated, "The constitution and laws"

Judge Gravois stated, "Of the United States"

Raj Pannu stated, "Of the United States"

Judge Gravois stated, "And the constitution and laws"

Raj Pannu stated, "And the constitution and laws"

Judge Gravois stated, "Of this state"

Raj Pannu stated, "Of this state"

Judge Gravois stated, "And that I will faithfully"

Raj Pannu stated, "And that I will faithfully"

Judge Gravois stated, "And impartially "

Raj Panna stated, "And impartially"

Judge Gravois stated, "Discharge and perform"

Raj Pannu stated, "Discharge and perform"

Judge Gravois stated, "All of the duties"

Raj Pannu stated, "All of the duties"

Judge Gravois stated, "Incumbent on me as"

Raj Pannu stated, "Incumbent on me as"

Judge Gravois stated, "Councilwoman District VII"

Raj Pannu stated, "Councilwoman District VII,

Judge Gravois stated, "St. John the Baptist Parish Council"

Raj Pannu stated, "St. John the Baptist Parish Council"

Judge Gravois stated, "According to the best of my ability"

Raj Pannu stated, "According to the best of my ability"

Judge Gravois stated, "And understanding"

Raj Pannu stated, "And understanding"

Judge Gravois stated, "So help me God."

Raj Pannu stated, "So help me God."

Judge Gravois stated, "Congratulations!" Chairman I have checked with the Secretary of State's Office and they certified to me that if the Council properly presented and voted Ms. Pannu as the Council Member for District VII, that she would be authorized to immediately take her own vote for her oath after she takes her Oath of Office to sit and vote from sector immediately until her successor is newly elected and sworn. So I ask you to invite Ms. Pannu to take her seat."

Councilman Wright stated, "Great thank you Judge and congratulations Councilwoman Pannu, if you would come and take your seat."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "Thank you, thank you everybody. And I promise you I will do my best to serve this community and this great State of Louisiana. Thank you!"

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "At this time I'd like to ask that the council accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee meeting. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - Resolution - R16-41 - A Resolution replacing resigning Councilman Buddy Boe with Councilwoman Julia Remondet to the Board of the Louisiana Super Region Rail Authority (formerly the Louisiana Rail Compact)

MOTION: Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R16-41. A resolution replacing resigning Councilman Buddy Boe with Councilwoman Julia Remondet to the Board of the Louisiana Super Region Rail Authority (formerly the Louisiana Rail Compact). The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R16-42 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to apply for the Passenger Rail Station and Surrounding Area Planning and Construction Grant opportunity through the Southern Rail Commission

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution authorizes the Parish to apply for a grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study and conceptual plan for a Passenger Rail Station and Multi-Model Transit Center. The document is in your booklet and administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution R16-42. A resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to apply for the Passenger Rail Station and Surrounding Area Planning and Construction Grant opportunity through the Southern Rail Commission. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Sorapuru/Chermaine Roybiski - Update on West Bank Splash Park

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I've got a number of calls from people on the Westbank that was wondering how come the Westbank didn't have a splash park. We have two splash parks I understand that's in the parish right now and I just want to get some clarification and everybody understand why the Westbank does not have a splash park at location. I hope that Administration would convey that to the community?"

Councilman Wright asked, "Does administration have a response?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "As we've discussed Mr. Sorapuru with both you and Mr. Becnel as well as some of the other council members, all of the components of the recently completed Recreation Improvement Project was selected from the Recreation Master Plan. The plan was completed and approved with input from the public in 2013 and a copy has been provided to both of you in the division and the district representing the Westbank. Also provided to you all was a list of the public and private meetings with residents, boards and council members discussing the plan and that list I think all of you have. In addition to those meetings, any meetings with council members and of course all the adoptions and approvals at the council level. This was the first set of projects as I indicated to all of you, there's over fifty million dollars' worth of projects in the master plan, and the 2014 bond issue \$2.5 to point six million dollars was allocated toward recreation. So the project as completed and it is completed, included items that were recommended from these public meetings. Specific to the Westbank was playground equipment at all the facilities, also a Mississippi River Trail which is in the works and design beginning in Lucy, the sidewalk construction that you're seeing outside was also a result of that meeting and the Westbank Senior Center came out of input from the community. So although there wasn't a Splash Park in the plan for the Westbank, the plan itself was put together and approved with residents, the Recreation Advisory Board and Council Members and at that time those projects were completed. Now again, there's fifty million dollars' worth of projects,

were hoping at some point to get additional dollars, it's a lot easier when we have a bond issue and we can complete millions of dollars of projects at one time, that's not say it can't become part of the master plan, but it wasn't at the time these projects were selected, the bids were put out and again it was not an individual decision it was a collective decision as to what went in all the parks and everyone had input into that decision."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you President Robottom. I see we do have a member of the public to comment on this item. If you could please state your name for the record and there will be a 2 minute time limit."

Chermaine Roybiski stated, "Yes my name is Chermaine Roybiski and I asked Larry that be placed on the agenda because I had a problem with the concepts that comes about especially when I hear that we had not brought any idea as far as a Splash Park is concerned. At least 6 or 7 years ago, I brought that before the administration that I thought a Splash Park would have been one of the things that was necessary for our community, we were looking to have a park in Lucy and we had asked that we have a Splash Park there. At the time nobody to seemed to have an idea what a Splash Park was. Ok, so we asked that we have the Splash Park, we were told it was not going to happen, money was not available land was not available. Well hey, if that's the problem I don't have a problem with that either. We went out and we tried getting land, I checked with a this company Kaboom that does Splash Parks or parks for communities especially low income communities and I've been in contact with them for the last 6 or 7 years. When we learned that EuroChem was coming to the community and we were told to start getting our little wish list for the community, I was told don't ask for a Splash Park, okay I had a problem with that. My biggest concern is that we're supposed to be a government for the people okay and its majority rule but minorities have rights. And I think that the Westbank has just as much rights to enjoy some of the amenities that everybody else does. I did not come here to argue with anybody, I know that you know some people might have come with their guns loaded thinking that I was going to come here to argue, NO! We are a community, St. John Parish, everyone deserves the right to be able to enjoy those things that everybody enjoys. The Westbank has to always be the one that's at the end of the totem pole. If there are activities going on, we're told we've got to come to 51 or we've got to come to REGALA. Okay we don't look at the fact that it cost us money, but when it came time to vote for a recreation, if you look at the numbers, it was the Westbank that voted most or often for whatever goes on in this parish, we beat the streets and let people know if we want our community to progress, we've got to be the ones out there giving them or giving the parish government that ability to be able to do it. So we're never going to go out there and go against it, but if we've got to always be the last whenever it's time to get something, then hey there's going to be a change because people get tire of it. So, and that is the only reason I came here, I just need to get an understanding of who makes those decisions because when we were having a community meetings, we went to those meetings and I know, one of the things we had was the Splash Park. I don't know when it came off the list or you know we had the land use plans and all of that we came to all of those meetings. We put our input, we talked about one parish one future, we were a part of that and we made it a point that anything that government asked us for, we tried to do it. But we're always the last and I just want some kind clarification from the council, from the administration as to why those things happened, okay..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Thank you Ms. Roybiski. We are over

our time, I do thank you for your comments. Mr. Sorapuru this is your item, did you have any further discussion?"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I would like to add that we ask administration to look at the funding for the budget for next year and we put as a top of the list, one of the things with the Recreation Department, but I want to thank Ms. Roybiski for coming in tonight and I know she has a lot of phone calls she's been getting so has Councilman Becnel and myself, this was not a figure pointing agenda item, this was an item for complete verification, I just want everybody to understand that. And to put a smile on a kids face, under some cool water in these hot days means a lot. So anyhow, that's all I have to say at this point."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you Councilman Sorapuru."

Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Update on CDBG funding/Housing repairs

Scott Reddoch, Disaster Recovery Manager, Royal Engineering stated, "On March 28th we had been given clearance by OCD to go ahead and begin construction activities on the CDBG Program. I'll give you the progress of the last 3 months and I have an executive summary that I will go through and it's basically just going to give you an overall view of the program statuses to date. So, for the Homeowner Rehabilitation program is on schedule. The pre-construction activities are ahead of schedule. Royal has completed 234 coordination meetings, 124 contractor site visits, has received bids for 124 projects, developed 117 grant and construction agreements, 98 notices to proceed for construction have been issued, 28 houses are under construction and 10 houses are complete and have received final inspections. Elevation program is delayed due to early bids exceeding the grant cap amount, later bids have been within the grant cap amount and are being awarded. The pre-construction activities are on schedule, however construction is not. Royal has completed three coordination meetings, two contractor site visits has received for two projects, there has been one notice to proceed issued and construction will begin after the construction permit has been received. Small Rental Rehabilitation program is on schedule. The pre-construction activities are on schedule. Royal has completed three coordination meetings, one contractor site visit has received bids for a project, there has been one notice to proceed issued and construction will begin after the construction permit has been received. Homeowner Assistance program in on schedule. 114 applicants have completed their applications and required training. The technical workshop was held at REGALA Gym, May 25, 2016 with 52 applicants attending. 50 applicants are currently searching for houses and contacting qualified lenders for loan approval. Small Business Grants and Loans program is on schedule. 14 applicants have been approved for various loan amounts with a total grant amount of \$898,234.00 to be distributed. Application Status, Parish Administration conducted 113 one-on-one consultation meetings from March-June. After hours appointments are still on-going. Please contact the Grants Office to schedule an appointment at (985)359-0555."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and thanks Scott for the update. If you recall the last time that you gave us an update, I've had some questions about the incomplete files and the lack of documentation for; why those files were deemed incomplete or insufficient, there was email correspondence that I received from you that stated that, I believe there were some folks from your office and maybe some of our employees going through the files to document that and so my question which was in the email as well; if we paid a company

to document those files, can you tell me now who paid to actually go through the files the second time when we realized that the product that we had received really shouldn't have been accepted in the manner that it was accepted?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "There are, we had 1188 applicants and out of those 1188, 735 of those files were absolutely complete, all required documentation everything that we needed. There 453 that were incomplete applications, now that wasn't a reflection on the individuals doing intake or anything like, it's just the fact there was missing documentation. The homeowner might of not brought it in it could have gotten lost in the shuffle, just a lot of different things that happened. What the parish decided to do is, the administration contacted the applicants that we had incomplete files on, started conducting face to face interviews with the homeowners I believe those are ongoing to this day and they're still continuing to schedule those and as that's going then we're able to fill in to back fill any files and get those people into the program."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Let me ask you this; was it a requirement from CDBG that we document why files or why individual homeowners were denied?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "Absolutely, we have not sent out..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "So if it was a requirement that it was properly documented, if it was a requirement by CDBG that it was documented, why the files were declined then it would have also been a requirement of the company who was in charge of the intake to properly document why the files were declined. So my question is; now that we've matched A & B together, why did the parish time and money, personnel and resources doing what was contractually required by the contractor? That's what I thought but I'd like an answer."

Scott Reddoch stated, "So when Royal received the files in the condition that we received them in, which was I believe in February, we put administration, alerted them to the condition that we received the files in and stated that, we felt that it was going to take a good bit time to dig through these files, it wasn't part of Royal's job obviously, it was the Program Manager's not the intake firm, but we would go through them and catalog what hours we've spent on that and the parish I believe also cataloged and logged the hours that their personnel spent doing corrections. Some of this, again some of this was required work that was on our plate to do, but any of the corrective action work we had to do because of lack of documentation or whatever, we kept we kept the running total on that and that's information we've kept to date and I don't know how the parish exactly plans on handling that, as far as the you know the expense beyond that."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Let me ask you this. Is the program the oversight, why were the files accepted if you put the parish on notice or you visibly saw that the files weren't in order like they should have been and I would think that that if I can visibly look at file and tell that is not really in order, the actual content of the information is probably in even less order if someone didn't even take the time and make sure it looked good on the surface, okay that's just common sense. So I would ask you and maybe..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "I'm going to allow him answer that. I just wanted to go back to your previous question with regard to why we decided

to move forward and go through those files, because we didn't want anybody who could have possibly been eligible for the program to miss out on the program. So it was our decision to try and go through those boxes and try and contact the residents for information, especially if it was things that or just missing that they can bring in. So that was a conscious decision on our part because we were concerned that who may have qualified or deemed ineligible and that was our decision and I'll let Scott answer."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I think that was the right decision and I guess my follow-up question to that would be; if we know we spent time and resources: One, has the contractor been paid? You know and if they were paid, I guess the question would be: Why did we pay them for something that they didn't live up to contractually?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "Absolutely, to jump back to your question on when we received the files, why did we accept them? I had mentioned before we received those files in February and their contractual application had ended in October of the prior year. It's the parish's responsibility to maintain control of those files at all times and we get audits constantly from OCD and HUD monitoring teams. So without us accepting those files in the condition they were in, we didn't know if we were going to get the files at all for us to be able to start reviewing them and going through to determine what we needed. So basically we accepted them in the condition that they came in because they were late and we needed them. We just needed to get started."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Has the contractor been paid?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "The contractor had not been paid no the contractor had not been paid in full, now we had been, people had been receiving payments all along but I don't believe to this day anyone's been paid in full."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok and so, do we pay them directly, does the parish or do we pay you and then you all pay this contractor?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "No the parish pays each of the sub-consultants directly."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Ok and have we put the contractor on notice that there were issues and there could be you know some payments that I mean obviously if we had to go back and do work that they were supposed to do as part of their contract, are we still going to pay them in full or what are the plans of the parish?"

LaVerne Saulny stated, "We're going to look at the contract and see what the contingencies are regarding that. However, I do know that we have made a partial payment and we going to have further discussion regarding our obligations."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok, I'd like to ask I mean this is a, you know an ongoing issue and my fellow council members who have homes in this area can share and understand and even in some of the areas that weren't most devastated can understand, you know it's a problem because the majority of the complaints and the calls that we got from the constituents it was that, you know they had made application, no one contacted them, they didn't know what was going on and so it seems like there was a systematic breakdown on the intake side and now it's even surfacing more so that we received files that

even didn't look good on the surface, the content of the files were even worse than the look of the files and we have paid a company and may even make additional payments to a company who didn't even live up to the obligation and did such a disservice to our residents who were already dealing with flooded homes and everything, it's was like they victimized twice. And so you know as I sit here as a representative of those people who are in that situation, it concerns me it's a deep concern of mine. Especially since they were obligated to turn over these files in October and we didn't even get them in February, I don't understand why we even made any payments to a contractor that didn't even deliver on time. You know, meeting after meeting after meeting we sit here and we talk about contractors not living up to their obligations and this is another example and so I just um, I'm concerned. I'd like to, before we make any additional payments to this contractor, I don't know if it's something illegal if you want to chime in, that I could put in a form of a motion but the council needs to be notified you know, how were going to handle this situation going forward because we paid for something that we didn't receive."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "This is an issue that I'm not familiar with quite frankly. So my suggestion would be that any legal strategy not be discussed in the meeting until we have an opportunity to get with administration, take a look at the contract, take a look at the issues that are being dealt with currently and then provide some information to the council once that takes place. So I'm sure administration will get with us and let us have a chance to advise them appropriately and then internal so give that information to you all."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok also if it's so appropriate, Madam Secretary if you could place this item on the executive session agenda and maybe Scott if you want to make yourself also available for the next meeting, but any other additional information that you can provide at this time you know I would accept that as well."

Scott Reddoch stated, "Absolutely, as far as anything else on the intake files in concern, what I can tell you is that, currently we've gone through every one of the files between Royal and the parish administration and we have notified the applicants on missing documentation or what we need to get them complete to move into the program and we're working with them because we got, we don't want to exclude anyone and that was the reason why we never did send out denial letters out in the first place was that we didn't want to send out denial letters to someone who should have been an approved applicant in the program. So, we did our due diligence and double checked and triple checked, it took a little bit longer, but we are able to include many more people in the program that deserve to be in the program, they have urgent need, we have some of those houses that are under construction right now and we haven't upset the masters by sending out blind denial letters based on missing documentary or missing signatures, something like that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I do appreciate that and Natalie I mean I appreciate obviously you guys recognizing we had a problem but we still needed to move forward and assist our residents. I just you know my concern is just now that were at the end and all of that is being done, that we make sure that we hold you know, folks accountable who should be held accountable. Okay thank you."

Scott Reddoch stated, "Absolutely, you're welcome."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes I have a question and a concern. One of my constituents, I'm going to use the word, it started off positive it ended negative and I'm not saying it's over. Here's the situation, she signed the contract around the end of May or early June and do you have a Tim who's affiliated with Royal Engineering?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "Tim Gullett is our Consulting Manager."

Councilman Becnel stated, "She spoke to Tim and Tim told her it's looking good for you someone will be calling you sometime..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Councilman Becnel we're not to discuss specific issues regarding an individual."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Well this person had a concern that's all."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "That's fine. Other concerns are okay, we can't discuss their personal..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting asked, "Well I can turn it into a concern? Well this is the concern ok, let me make it short. Ok well they're concerned about what they were told, that someone would contact them by the end of the month. So what she did, she called it's getting around the end of the month, Tim told her to call someone at Royal Engineering. So she called Royal Engineering and the person she was supposed to talk to, she got him but he told her, I'm no longer affiliated with Royal Engineering. So when I say positive..."

Scott Reddoch interrupting stated, "I know exactly what you're talking about, let me clarify..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, "Well I'm just saying what she said..."

Scott Reddoch interrupting stated, "No let, let me clarify the situation. We issued a notice to proceed to a contractor who did not go and pull a permit for that property, we put that contractor on notice and told him we're going to start hitting him with liquidated damages if he didn't start working on the property. He called the homeowner and told the homeowner he was no longer going to work on her property, we since removed him from the program, he's no longer in the contractor pool."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay well that's why I needed clarification, that's all."

Scott Reddoch stated, "And currently what we're doing is were making a, what we do in a situation like that when we have a problem contractor, we go back to the quotations that we received and the second lowest bidder that was reasonable and responsible, we're making a recommendation to the parish to award to that individual, that should happen within the next 10 days."

Councilman Becnel stated, "But I guess you know what she's thinking about; well how long this going to delay me, I don't know when you'll were going to start. So just tell her it's a delay right now?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "Yes sir. It's delayed because her contractor walked off."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I understand I understand."

Scott Reddoch stated, "But we do have a remedy for that and we're actively, she should, she'll get notified by our office by Royal's office within the next week, once we receive word back from parish administration on giving us the authority to go ahead and proceed."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Ok well that's what I needed clarification. I'm sure she'll be happy to hear this."

Scott Reddoch stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes this was a question I brought up and I think I had some discussion with the administration on this and I am concerned about it also, it seems that the contractor who did the intake, which was Providence is it Providence, did all the intake documents, they also did the interviewing?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "They did the initial interviewing during intake, yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "What about the other interviewing and the second interview after the contract after the intake was established and completed?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "Once the intake is established and complete then we have the inspectors go look at the property and ask the homeowners what damages they received and do a work write up."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So in other words, when we you were back at the Civic Center back there and we took all those hundreds and hundreds of applications, those people were called back in then we had to have inspectors in there?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "No sir no sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's what I thought. Providence did the second intake also? Ok great, that's what I'm talking about. Providence, was this something that Providence, because I'd like to see Providence here next time we have a discussion on this cause it seem like the issues we have here and Ms. Hotard was talking about it and we talked about it a couple of weeks ago, is that the intake people is the ones we got the problem with. And now, but Royal is the overseer, more or less the consultant of the whole program and that's where I got a concern at. It seems to me that, I 'ma tell you what it seems to like; our program was moving along smooth, all the intake were taken interviews were taken everything was taken. And all of a sudden here we got some other information from CDBG Program directors and we had to go back and look at all these applications again. Am I right here or am I half way right or what? Cause everybody who had an application in and they were approved had to come back in to recertify or resend other documents or just over other documents?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "No sir no sir. So there's only one intake, they went in and met, now they may have had follow-up visits with Providence to bring Providence documents, you know homeownership letters and tax returns and

things of that nature, but there was one intake. Now beyond intake, they have the inspection where the inspectors are going to go out and look at their actual property and meet them at their property, and then the inspector ask them, but you could consider that a meeting obviously; what damages have you received? Once the inspectors did the work write up on that property, then my construction manager contacts them for us to do a contractor site visit. In the interim doing that, then our project coordinator goes and meets with the homeowner and reviews all the information in the file while we're developing the grant agreement, that's between the constituent and the parish and the construction agreement, that's between the contractor and the homeowner. So it's a continual process, they're seeing new faces and they're providing documentation but there was never a second intake. Does that answer your question?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know there was never a second intake, but there was a second interview where the people had been approved already had to redo, come in and look at their application all over again to be sure that everything was in order or nothing haven't changed."

Scott Reddoch stated, "Absolutely, we make certain whenever our project coordinators are getting ready to issue the grant agreement between the parish and the homeowner. We'd make certain sure that every single document in that file is updated and correct before we issue a grant agreement to make sure it's in compliance with the CBDG program."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well that was done before."

Scott Reddoch stated, "It has to be this is a HUD requirement, it has to be requalified every six months."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Oh! Ok that's the difference of it. So that was the HUD."

Scott Reddoch stated, "That was a HUD requirement that was nothing new, but it's not a new intake, it's just asking the homeowner's you know, if this information still the same? They say; yes we check off a box. They said nothing's changed essentially."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And what the percentage of people that were disqualified because of that?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "We have had no disqualifications yet, but like I stated before, we had 735 complete, 453 incomplete and I don't have a percentage off the top of my head but about half of those that were deemed incomplete before we've gotten them to the completed phase now, they have a good sound application that we can move forward with, so you're looking at maybe 20% that are incomplete right now."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is that in that many had to go to administration or to the grant coordinator, is there any possibilities that we might have some extra cash hanging around that we can look back at applications or can we talk about that tonight?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again, first of all we had a target number and we exceeded the number of applicants. But we also had an amount per applicant that most homeowners are not reaching, so we feel very confident which is why

we want to go through those other applications, that we will have funding available because many of the awards aren't at the limit. So although we have more applicants, they're not reaching the threshold for example and I'm not sure this is the exact number, but if we had a hundred thousand dollars available for each applicant and yours may be fifty or twenty-five or seventy-five, there's money left over. So that's why we want to finish going through these applications, because we think because of the cost of the construction that we will have dollars. The other area that I think we came in under was this small grant and loan program. We only awarded fourteen because the individuals could not provide profit lost or documentation to show they were eligible for these dollars. Well we don't lose the dollars, we just make an amendment to the program and ask that we transfer those dollars to the Home Rehab Program. So we want to finish the applications because we think we'll have dollars to cover everybody who's eligible. That's my opinion."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And my last question is: Do we have a certain amount of time to spend this money?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes we do."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Are we running short on time?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We're going to meet that deadline, we actually have a meeting I think this week or next week, tomorrow morning with representatives from OCD, their top Director to want establish a clear cut timeline, we've made some headway in receiving the money, keep in mind these are millions of dollars, that as we said at the beginning the parish cannot cash flow a home rehab program for fourteen million dollars. We've got a system in place where we're starting to receive those payments and get them to our contractors, we want to make sure that the systems we have in place are going to work, now that we are into construction of all these projects. So we have a real large group of people coming to look at the actual policies, procedures and timelines and get everybody on the same page so that we reach that deadline."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok thank you."

Councilwoman Pannu asked, "Yes my question is: What is the time span from the time the application is received to the time the grant is approved?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's long. Actually sometimes by the time the money is received it's even longer. Unfortunately these are federal programs that are being directed by state agencies, what we're finding and you know it is what it is. They change the rules in the middle of the game, something that was acceptable and agreed to, once you get to a certain point they want something else, so I think we finally fine-tuned a lot of what is taking place, which is why they're moving to construction you'll see some homes being completed, but this took a long time to get this program moving as it should have been. Again, there were new guidelines, Katrina was different from Gustav and Ike and Sandy which includes Isaac is different from the previous ones because of problems they've had in the past. So the strings are a little tighter on releasing their money but for us we can't award things and not have money to pay the contractors. So it's takes months sometimes to get Cooperative Endeavor Agreements approved at HUD in DC and then back to OCD in Baton Rouge and then back to us, which is a concern to us. Which is why we're meeting with the heads OCD to say look; this time frame is unacceptable, we

have to be able to shorten this, we ask for somebody dedicated just to us because they have a process, so it sits on somebody's desk for 7 days and moves to somebody else's for 10 and then there's a problem you go back to the beginning, so we're trying to help them help us and not have to go through this over and over again, by having very specific people assigned to us and our specific programs. But it is problematic."

Councilwoman Pannu stated, "I'm afraid with so much time being taken to process this, some of these people really need the help, ultimately that's why some of the people just leave the city, to go elsewhere because they cannot afford it. So I think it is very important to maybe you can talk to whoever you need to..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It's huge, the whole system is Pannu, is unbelievable. As Scott just referenced urgent need, Isaac occurred in 2012, the urgent need was in 2012 and 13. We're in 2016, so the fact that we are just constructing homes based on the bureaucracy that it takes to get the money to the parish is a problem. And that's a problem that you know I've expressed as a concern not just to our state leads but also at the Federal Government, this system does not work."

Councilman Madere stated, "I've requested a, several meetings ago to get a update as far as my district as to how many homes were being repaired and also I asked for the addresses, for the ones that have been approved and I have yet to receive any information on that. Because the only way I know what is being done in my district, I get a phone call from someone you know like I told you I received two complaints, that's how I actually knew that they were actually doing, I know they're doing work in my district but I don't know exactly where. And I was supposed to get that information."

LaVerne Saulny stated, "Councilman I know that you received the monthly reports regarding, that's broken up by district and so you know you can call us if you have any questions regarding that. But in regards to giving you addresses of constituents or the residents, the state informed us that we are not allowed to give out addresses."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, names nothing?"

LaVerne Saulny stated, "I'm sorry sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "You can't give names nothing no address..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Councilman Madere, we'll actually have the District Attorney's office check into that since we are the governing authority."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, ok."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Scott, we had the conversation earlier, you said you following state bid law on the bids or quotes and my question is; if were following state bid law, do you advertise the time, date and location of the bids that are going to be opened? Is that being done?"

Scott Reddoch stated, "What we're doing is we're following state bid law and we're following the procurement policies for St. John Parish. Being that we developed a pool of contractors, what we do is we email, we do a mass email of

all the contractors telling them when the site visit is, they receive a bid packet to fill out and it is giving them the date, time and the instructions for the bidder or to return the quote back to the parish."

Councilman Sorapururu asked, "Is that being advertised for the public to sit in on the opening of the bids? That's my questions; can the public sit in on the opening of the bids?"

LaVerne Saulny stated, "Councilman we will inform you when those are happening, but we're not actually following what per say the state procurement bid law, what we're doing is a quote, it's not a bid. And so what we've done, as Administration to make it fare across the board and transparency, is that we as Scott indicated, we send an email to the contractors and let them know exactly the place and time when the bids will be open. And those contractors will come, they have a sealed bid, we open those bids in front in the presence of those contractors, we read them aloud, we also take notes just like we would normally do in our purchase and of procurement and then we then inform whoever is the lowest bidder. But if you would like to attend those meetings, we'd be more than glad to inform you when they're taking place."

Councilman Sorapururu stated, "I'd love to be given notice to attend and I would like to have any individual from the public to attend those meetings also, they should have an opportune to sit in on those bid openings."

LaVerne Saulny stated, "Ok well again this is not the same as we do as our normal public, but we will inform you sir and let you know when those bids are taking place."

Councilman Sorapururu stated, "Thank you."

Lennix Madere - Grass cutting Ordinance - clarification

Alexandra Carter, Planning and Zoning stated, "All though the department remains focused primarily on complaints, we continue to proactively write up violations in the field, so the enforcement of the ordinance is ongoing and concerned express by Councilman Madere will be addressed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay we had this meeting and we basically came to an understanding that the intent was not to have the Code Enforcement Officer bypass or neglect their duties. Okay but they take in priority when a call comes in and once that call comes in from the citizen you know, that's priority they write that up, but they still go back to doing their normal procedure which is writing up grass violation."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Right, if when they're out in the field addressing a complaint they become aware of a code violation on their ride to and from or they're on their way to work, we're not asking them and we haven't ask them to turn a blind eye. They've always been proactive, they're just not I would say actively patrolling to patrol for that sole purpose."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right but I think some of them when that was explained to them had the wrong impression and ..."

Alexandra Carter interrupting stated, "We are continuing to send this message, so I'm glad we're on the same page."

Councilman Madere stated, "I mean you can straighten it out with them, it's"

straight with me."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Right hey."

Councilman Madere stated, "Alright, now one other thing. A couple of other information when we had this meeting, a couple of things was given to you that was wrong information. Ok, this parish have never operated on complaint basis for Code Enforcement, okay that's not true. We have always had Code Enforcement Officers you know when we put Planning and Zoning Office in place, I found that information out I dug that up myself. The only parish that do not have, that I know of, that do not have Code Enforcement Officer is St. James. Because I called St. James and St. Charles Parish to find out what they do and St. James have they don't have Code Enforcement Officer, they're strictly on complaint basis, if the resident next call or someone pass and see it, they call to their Code Enforcement Office and they send an employee out there to see it, verify it, they publish it in the newspaper, so that's how they handle their complaints and their fines are a lot stricter than ours are. St. Charles on the other hand have four full-time employees, they write up over a thousand reports and I ask them if they were behind they said; Oh no, we stay on top of it. They have four full-time employees, so wither we're going to have to go eight part-time employees or we have to maybe turn those into full-time because it seems as though we fall, farther and farther behind instead of being up to date because I was asking them how big of a concern it is down there and they said they're on top of it all the way. And in fact, the guy invited me to come over to his office next week, you know and he's going to show me a whole day, how they do the whole thing."

Alexandra Carter stated, "And any information that you collected, we're happy to build on it to better provide options and opportunities for improvement in Code Enforcement."

Councilman Madere stated, "And one other thing that we had a like, it wasn't a disagreement, it's just a misunderstanding when I told you about any property within 300 feet of a building, okay it's right here in our ordinance, what you were quoting was B, B okay, A is the first one that says; Any property okay within 300 feet of a building not necessarily a house, and grass supposed to be cut, so that means if someone have a house and the lot and let's just say like my property, I got a long front yard about 100 feet and someone have some property next to me, that mean they would have to cut 200 feet into their property so I can have that 300 feet according to what this ordinance says. And it don't stipulate the fact that it says, house it's a building and the reason why I'm bringing that up, not to many residents complain about that ordinance, but I do have a couple of people who are caught in a situation where they have grass, damaged property, undeveloped property you want to call it next to their house, okay that's what that is for, if they complain about it, then that property owner next to them have to cut it back at least 300 feet, okay we require that they back up houses from the highway and that's what this is in place. So if you need a copy of it, ok B definitely says what you said about subdivisions, but this one to the top which is A, clearly states; any property in within 300 feet."

Alexandra Carter stated, "I understand what you're referring to. The implications of interpreting it your way are widespread, but I'll say there are a number of issues with the grass cutting ordinance in terms of how you interpret it and there's a lot of gray areas, we're continuing to isolate those issues to eventually bring it back to the council so that all of you can

vote the way you want it to be interpreted. I understand this is your interpretation but it is...

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well no, no it's not it. No, no this is..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Mr. Madere hold on. Ms. Carter finish please."

Councilman Madere stated, "Go ahead."

Alexandra Carter stated, "But I think there is some debate and there was in the meeting that we held between you, I and other members of the council and so for that reason I don't think it's appropriate to change it based on one person's input, and that that's something that we have to look at, that's why we're looking at other parishes, I'm excited that you've looked at other parishes and begun the work for us, but this is one of the issues that we've identified that is unclear and we're being conservative in our approach now because I do believe that the way you're interpreting it is, it would affect more people and cure of higher cost and I'm exactly sure that that's the intent of the ordinance. And so, I'd rather bring it to the council for clarification prior to interpreting it that way."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay but listen, I had this discussion over a year ago and it says exactly what it says. No it's not interpreting, its black and white written on a paper that was told to me by a judge, the district attorney and several other lawyers, it's not a matter of interpreting, it's a matter of reading and understanding. It clearly states; 300 feet of building, it don't have any line in there that say; interpret it your way or my way, it's written exactly, that was approved by the council and it's approved by this council and if someone want to change it, then they have to change it, but until it changes this is the law from Planning and Zoning, this is the law. Wait a minute, this is the law, all I'm asking is until we change it, if someone complain and I have two individuals complaining about it and that is to protect the individuals in this parish, I don't care if it's one that complain, it's in place to protect him. So until we change that, if those individuals complain to me about it and it's written in black and white, I don't see anything that say interpret any other way, then we should enforce it. Now if you think there is a problem with it, then you have to come up and present something to us that allow us to change it. But in the meantime, because I was told one time before by a person that a lawyer thought our law was not right. And my answer to that individual was; until you prove it, then you do what we tell you what to do. So that's just how it is. If it have to be changed then let's change it. What I understand now is no interpretation in this law. I then had, I'm not a lawyer, are you a lawyer?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "I'm not a lawyer."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok that's good. So what I'm having is, I had this interpreted by two lawyers, the district attorney and the judge. And they told me it says what it says. So all I'm saying is; if it says 300 feet until we change it, then we enforce it."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Respectfully I still believe that's your opinion and I think we just..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Mr. Madere, Ms. Carter has the floor."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, ok that's not an opinion, that's an opinion by certified lawyers and district attorney. You have an opinion and I do. My opinion is we need to follow this law, now if you think we need to change it, then give me what you think we need to do"

Alexandra Carter stated, "All I will say is that my office is following the law, that we are interpreting it differently than you're interpreting it and that we will have respectfully disagree at this point. Until we can clarify the code and I'm not saying that it's wrong, I'm just saying that there is a distinction between the way we read it."

Councilman Madere asked, "Alright what is my answer to those individuals who call me? Give me your answer."

Alexandra Carter stated, "Tell them to call Code Enforcement. We will look at their site, we will provide them with an answer."

Councilman Madere stated, "And my answer to you is, what are you going to tell them if they complain and they have legit complaint?"

Alexandra Carter stated, "Every site is different, every site is different and I'm not comfortable giving you any..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "Okay I'm going to cut this off. What I would recommend Mr. Madere, what I would recommend is having a meeting offline with the District Attorney's Office if you had discussions with them, as well as the Planning and Zoning Department so we can talk about not only interpretation but how to read the ordinance. One more comment and then I'm going to move on the Ms. Hotard who has a comment."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'm not going to have this conversation every four years or every three years or every year. This was done and handled in a meeting by the lawyers and Planning and Zoning about two years ago and the results of that meeting, if you need the tape, it says; that they have to enforce what's written. Okay now you come aboard and we interpret, now that law is being interpreted a different way again, which explains by Mr. Carl Butler at the time he was the one handling it, everyone that's except for the three new individuals or four new individuals that we have went through this and Mr. Carl Butler and Ms. Angelic at that meeting came to the conclusion that they have to enforce as written. That's all I'm saying, so I'm not going to do it again."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just really had a comment about with Code Enforcement and it was before you came here. We actually had a recommendation Ms. Keller had put together if we wanted to look of the possibility of having additional or one full-time and maybe that's something we can revisit as we go through budgeting if it's something to consider, but she had put that document together. I think at the time..."

Alexandra Carter interrupting stated, "I have that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok and so maybe if you see a need in your office, I know probably during the summer it's busier with grass and things like that but it's something that we can revisit maybe to help with Code Enforcement."

Councilman Madere stated, "I have a question for legal."

Councilman Wright asked, "Ok regarding grass cutting ordinance?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes regarding what I just said."

Councilman Wright asked, "What's your question?"

Councilman Madere stated, "My question is a; I think you was present..."

Jeff Perilloux interrupting stated, "Mr. Madere I probably was present but I don't remember the discussion."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok well we can the tapes on that. My only concern is, oh I got one question for you then. When we passed the ordinance on these grass cutting ordinances or any ordinance that we passed in the parish, are those, if every one of them up for interpretation or they all?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Every law is under interpretation."

Councilman Madere asked, "All of them?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Every single law is under interpretation."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok and we have to define the intent of every single one of them?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Not necessarily."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay, that's my point."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you, we'll definitely have that discussion offline."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Whose responsibility it is to interpret these laws?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Usually if there's a question about a law that's passed that the council and administration can't agree on the interpretation of it, then you ask the court to do so."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Court?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Yes, if we give a ruling, our ruling is just advice. So our interpretations to you all are based on our best you know available research, knowledge and experience and if you disagree with it, you're free to, the option is to seek either a declaratory opinion from the court or have the court issue a judgement. So there's a difference of opinion regarding the interpretation of a law. The only authority that can give a definitive answer is the court."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Oh so, so that makes a lot of sense. We got lawyers here that's supposed to interpret us on some of our laws on what would we need when we're wrong and when we're right but that's just, I got to go to court to make sure it's right."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Well you don't have to, you can rely on our opinion if you'd like. But if you don't, if you don't you have the right to go to court, that's the bottom line with it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I understand that and I understand that. That's even with the Attorney General opinion, am I right?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Yes that's correct. The Attorney General offers opinions only they don't provide any legal presence."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like for our legal department to look at that ordinance and give us an opinion."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "We will, we will. It'll be about the tenth time I've done it but I'll do it again."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Lennix Madere - Report on drainage E. 15th, E. 26th, E. 27th and Chad B. Baker

Lennix Madere - Update and concerns regarding home on E. 30th Street - regarding health and safety conditions

Parish Buildings - Security

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, 40th JDC, #63827

Lennix Madere - Pending possible legal matter - E. 27th Street

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

16-31 An ordinance approving the rezoning of Lot 7 of Lot Q-2, located in Section 25, T-12-S, R-18-E, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, from the Residential District One (R-1) to the Residential District Three (R-3) zoning district (PZR-16-1049)

16-32 An ordinance approving a re-subdivision of the west half of Lot 3, Hope Plantation Subdivision into Lots 3A and 3B of the west half of Lot 3, and a remaining portion of the west half of Lot 3, Hope Plantation Subdivision, situated in T-11-S, R-6-E, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana as shown in a survey prepared by Stephen P. Flynn, P.L.S. on April 12, 2016 (PZS-16-1145)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Good evening, The Parish President's office held its 6th Annual Academic Luncheon in recognition of the academic achievements of the 2016 Valedictorians, Salutatorians, Students, Teachers and Principals of the Year. It was a great event and we thank all who attended! Thank you to all who

attended the recent hurricane preparedness meeting. I apologize for my absence but I had to undergo a minor surgery. From what I hear the meeting was very productive and the presentations were informative. The meeting serves as a reminder 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 by text. The 11th Annual St. John the Baptist Parish Veterans Luncheon will be held this Thursday, June 30, 2016 at REGALA Gym in Reserve. The honorable Governor and Army Veteran John Bel Edwards will serve as the guest speaker. The luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and all veterans and their families are invited. The 16th Annual firework show will take place on the evening of Thursday, June 30 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 broadcast live on the government access channel for residents to watch at home. We hope everyone can join us for this great event. US Congressman Garret Graves will host a town hall meeting on Thursday, June 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Laplace Library, 2920 Hwy 51, LaPlace. The public is invited to attend to share questions and concerns and provide feedback on latest issues facing our region. The Summer Food Service program for school aged children began June 6th and runs through July 14th on Mondays through Thursdays. Breakfast and Lunch will be served at East St. John High School, LaPlace Elementary and New Wine Christian Center. Lunch only will be served at West St. John Elementary and the St. John Parish Alternative School. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information or questions, please visit the Health & Human Service webpage or call (985)536-4955. Youth are invited to participate in a (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics day on Monday, July 11th, 2016 at 12:00 noon at REGALA Gym in Reserve. Registration is \$35.00 and anyone interested should call the Grants Department at (504)417-6402. St. John Parish Government Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th in Observance of Independence Day. We wish everyone a Happy 4th of July and we hope to see you at our Independence Day celebrations on Thursday! Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:42 PM, Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with unanimously.

/s/MICHAEL WRIGHT
COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY