

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 9th, 2013
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD
VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparau Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 9th, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Perrilloux led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux, Vercell Fiffie and Billy O'Regan were present.

Natalie Robottom - (Tabled 06-25-13) Appointment of Purchasing & Procurement Director

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to remove the appointment of Purchasing and Procurement Director from the table. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I think the information is attached again although we forwarded it the last time right before the meeting and then again for the special meeting and our recommendation remains the same. We continue to need assistance in that department. We do have other directors and the CAO and CFO attempting to try and manage it and it is just not possible. Again our recommendation is the same for the appointment of director for Purchasing and Procurement. The appointment would be for Kia Callender Price."*

Councilman Perrilloux asked, *"Is she here?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Actually she is not but we will let her know and be happy to get her to come meet with all of you before but obviously she has to give notice to her other job which she had decided not to do until she was approved."*

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to appoint Kia Callender Price as the Director of the Purchasing and Procurement Department. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes June 25th, 2013, Regular Meeting; Approval of Minutes June 28th, 2013, Special Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes June 25th, 2013, Regular Meeting; Approval of Minutes June 28th, 2013, Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

13-14 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to add to nomenclature "Michael Carter" to the existing Phoenix Lane and Highway 44 in LaPlace. (J. Hotard & L. Gauff)

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I would just like to go on record that I think this is a good thing. Mr. Carter was a resident of this parish his entire life and he has always been a part of this process in government whether he ran for office or supported certain candidates and he has always been active in the public. I knew him personally and I think this is very nice and thank you all because he was a friend of mine also."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"Mr. Carter was a lifelong member of St. John Parish and as many of you know he put in a lot of time, he loved politics and he was very active with every administration whether it was one that he supported or opposed he was always willing to work towards the betterment of St. John the Baptist Parish and being a resident of the Miesville area I think it is more than appropriate that we recognize him and his service in our parish and in Miesville on Phoenix Lane."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I have known Michael Carter, he used to joke with me and say he knew me before I was born, my family is from the Miesville area, my grandmother still lives there. He was very involved you could find him at every council meeting, he was a very giving and dedicated person no matter what side of politics and I think this is a really good gesture and I do thank Councilman Gauff for authoring this ordinance and I think it is a definite good way to memorialize someone like Mr. Carter."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-14. The motion passed unanimously.

13-15 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval of a re-subdivision of the M. P. Barre Lot, Lot B & Lot D to the 40 arpent line into a lot herein designated as Lot B-1, situated in Sections 3, 33, & 77, T-12-S, at 3135 Highway 18, Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-1059) (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-15. The motion passed unanimously.

13-16 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval of a re-zoning of Lot B-1 from the current zone Commercial One (C-1) and Residential One (R-1) to Rural, situated in Sections 3, 33, & 77, T-12-S, at 3135 Highway 18, Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

(PZR-13-1025) (N. Robottom)

MOTION: Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-16. The motion passed unanimously.

13-17 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 02-06 to adopt that revised St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Said revised Civil Service Rules and Regulations attached hereto and made part hereof (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Mrs. Cadour is not here so if you need specific discussion about the document she is not here at this meeting. I know we sent it I think in April and it was approved in April by the Civil Service Board but if there are any specific other questions I am not the person so if you want to table it."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I would like to ask that the items that I do want to discuss I would like to do it at the next meeting."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Sure."*

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to table Ordinance 13-17. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"At 6:15 PM we had our finance meeting and I would ask one of my fellow council members to ratify the actions taken at that meeting."*

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Councilman Wright asked, *"Mr. Rayneri I sent an email to you and Mr. Savoie on an update on these sewer lift stations just where we are at as far as design and construction and estimated completion time. I know we were originally told sometime in July we should have completion on that. I just want to get an update from either of you guys."*

Virgil Rayneri, Director of Utilities, stated, *"The PW was written by FEMA and the information that was given was in their design and when we looked further into it the PW didn't address the design and specifications that we gave them. We are in the process of redoing that at this time so we have to go back to FEMA with the proper information that it wasn't included in the PW by the FEMA representative because if you start doing what you are going to do with it and then come to find out that it wasn't what the PW said it was supposed to be then we can get into a serious problem with the location so Royal Engineers is assisting us in working with the situation right now we are working diligently to make sure they understand that what the FEMA representative who wrote the original PW cannot be done because of the dimensions of the size of it."*

Councilman Wright asked, *"So how long do you think are we set back on*

the project completion or at least starting the construction phase because I know I have been getting a lot of calls from residents who are still on temporary pumps and a lot of residents are actually having problems with the noise so how far do you think we are set back?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "We have addressed some of the noise problems in some of the locations however this is a nuisance and it is a problem not only for the residents but for us also because it is costing us every month to maintain and fuel and run but to give you an answer I had a discussion this afternoon with Royal Engineering to tell them that I am really not happy with what is going on at these lift stations and it is not our fault and it isn't Royal's fault it is the individual that wrote the PW misinterpreted the information that they were given but now you have to make sure that when you go through it they understand why what is written cannot be accomplished."

Councilman Wright asked, "So we are still in the design phase correct?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes the design is done."

Councilman Wright asked, "So again how far do you think we are from the construction phase?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "If I tell you a time frame right now I will miss it but let me find out some more because I am meeting with Royal tomorrow and they will give me an idea of the time table that it will take for this discussion to get cleared."

Councilman Wright asked, "So I can't get any kind of rough estimate or even an idea?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "I can give you an estimate that it will probably be in the first quarter of next year but am I close to that I am not sure. We would have met that before had we not had this glitch and it isn't caused by us or Royal or anyone else it is caused because it was misinterpreted by the representative and regardless of what I say we still have to do it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I am going to apologize for this one because I feel kind of ignorant but what does PW stand for? You said it fifty times."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It is a work order that FEMA issues, a project worksheet."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Because everything I came up with didn't fit PW and because I couldn't get past not knowing what PW was I probably missed half of what you said because I was trying to figure it out so we are saying it isn't our fault, it isn't Royal's fault, it is the consultant from FEMA."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It was designed to install submersible pumps and they put dry pumps the measurements and sizing of those pumps is not what we said that we basically needed and really it went through and when we started looking into it then we realized that it was written wrong."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I have to say that Mr. Rayneri really wanted to move forward anyway however part of the problem is that we won't be reimbursed for it and that is them reimbursing us for our temporary pumps that we have been using since that time plus the construction because if we construct something that doesn't match what the project worksheet was written for then there will be a conflict and it won't be reimbursable. So again part of needing the expertise is knowing early on that that had to match and it had to match identically in order for us to move forward but it wasn't really until we had a consultant who started checking everything against each other and said don't move forward with that because we were about to do it and we wouldn't have been reimbursed but for informational purposes I can tell you and I know you guys were there our staff has been working extremely hard and during that process we have never had to deal with that type of disaster, that number of project worksheets, the rules and the rules change, FEMA changes rules so there wasn't an expert in our business to be able to deal with that and so FEMA who again we have tried to continue to say that FEMA was not always writing for our best interest FEMA was writing for FEMA but they wrote this project worksheet that in the end had we moved forward we would be fighting to get our money back because it would not have matched. So rather than moving forward with something we knew didn't match we are trying to write a justification and I know Chuck has been working very hard explaining why we it cannot be used, it doesn't match the design and it doesn't match what we need and then it has to go to FEMA and they have to inspect it we are in an appeals process now for more time because a lot of that happened. Those of you who know where Peavine Road is, it was under water, a lot of our roads were under water. One of the FEMA representatives looked at it and said it wasn't affected well you know what now we have to appeal that because we say it was. We say our pipe to Ruddock was damaged it is underground, they didn't go underground to check it they just said no it wasn't damaged but we have had to make several repairs since the storm. So again we are fighting for what we are eligible and entitled to and that takes time but we don't have the dollars in the parish to expend it and take the chance of them denying us because we would be in trouble and running a deficit so as we work through this process we feel very strongly that we have a good team but there are several things that we are going to have to appeal because we think there were mistakes made, not necessarily on our part, but the three different FEMA representatives assigned to us during that short period of time were very consistent. So we are trying to work through that as well."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "You know I just heard something and I am a little concerned about this so in other words if FEMA doesn't reimburse us for this the residents are going to have diesel pump noise for the rest of their lives. Are we ever going to replace this? If FEMA says no we are not paying for it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We already know it is eligible they have already told us that. It is an eligible expenditure. What doesn't match is our design with their worksheet. They have already told us that these are eligible projects but you have to complete them according to their guidelines and there is going to be a cutoff this is not going to be forever ending we have asked for some assistance from our congressional delegation with moving some things along as well as GOHSEP who has to work with us on this as well because they are our go between."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand what you are saying but my concern is the residents who have been ten months now with the generator at their bedroom door with the generator running 24 hours a day. I understand that it is a problem but the rest of the residents don't have it in their window don't hear this."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is one thing Mrs. Millet we understand that but we have lots of projects ongoing so if we say let's just do this one and let's just do this one we are going to be in a deficit. We really can't afford to fiscally jump out and do that. As Mr. Rayneri said it is a problem for us. It is a problem for his employees to have to take care of those pumps and this is a problem for our system so please if you can share with them we are trying to work through this as quickly as possible. It will be repaired however we already know it's eligible so it is a matter of getting the right information to them and the justification and the justification they are going to pay us for this."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Why don't we make a temporary loan to go ahead and get it done and then use that money to be reimbursed with and that way the residents don't have to still deal with this for the next 6-8 months."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have several items like that so we are talking about a huge loan so again Mr. Rayneri will come back to you all with a better time frame. We are going to continue to push with all the things that you are saying in mind but keep in mind we have been advised that other people have done what you suggested and have gotten in trouble. So we are not trying to put the parish at risk by putting ourselves in a hole."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Okay let me ask you this and I know some of the lift stations that we are talking about I have seen them and they have orange tape all around them the systems do not work anymore, they were damaged in the storm and that is why they are on temporary right now?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "First you made a statement and you really don't understand it, the pumps don't run 24/7. They run on a level control system so one of those pumps might cycle once an hour depending on flow rates."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Does it run 24 hours a day?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "They click on and off."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "24 hours a day?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "They kick on and off."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "24 hours a day, 7 days a week it may not run continually 24 hours but during a 24 hour period it is running?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It may start 2-3 times yes that is correct but not all the time running now if we addressed some of the lift stations that were close to the residents and have taken decimal readings which

is noise levels and we had rent the lower noise compressor type pumps to help alleviate and drop the decimal points by 15 that doesn't make it right and I am taking this opportunity to ask the residents to be patient. I know how they feel but now it is 12 lift stations and we have 156 in the parish so and we are fighting it and we are trying to make sure that we get the right amount of dollars that are coming to us now that is what we have and yes you can say let me make a loan for this but be patient that is all I am asking. The next six months are critical and I think you are going to see more clicking down the road."

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Do we have priority as far as the ones that are affecting the residents being addressed first?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"Yes whenever we get approval the first ones we are going to handle are the ones closest to the residents."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"I am not trying to be combative or anything but if this was in backyard and it went on all day long I would be moving."*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"You are preaching to the choir. I have never been very patient but I have become more patient dealing with FEMA. I just went through a meeting with Royal about that because I was very upset not only about the lift station but about Ruddock because yes we do have money, yes we have it there it is all on paper."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Because it is a very complicated process and we have hired Royal to help us get through this process to make sure that we don't have the problem that you just mentioned right now someone didn't catch it and now we have to wait until it is redone. So do we have someone who can make sure that what we are asking for at this point in time going forward I'm talking about someone dotting the I's so that we don't have another 6-8 months to wait again to go back and redo it?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"That is the reason we have Chuck and Royal and the rest of the people because I want to make sure that they get it the way it is supposed to be and get our pumps back in service and go because this is utilizing a lot of our time."*

Councilman Wright asked, *"When you do have the discussion with Royal could you please forward that information to the council?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"Yes I will."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"There is a pump on St. Andrews that looks like it is coming out of the pond by the country club."*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"That is not our pump."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Mr. Rayneri do you all take these decimal readings on these pumps when they are on the high end what do we do about it?"*

Virgil Rayneri stated, *"We took readings by the pumps of the residents that had these closest to their windows and the ones that are at certain levels are not a safety hazard they are more just aggravating"*

or something like that we have replaced those pumps to a super insulated type of diesel pump which reduces the decibel. We originally purchased the pumps just to have them in place then we realized we were getting the noise level complaints and we went and looked at it and surveyed."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You and I talked about one on the corner of St. Andrews and you were supposed to go and have it checked and that was a large pump and not so much the decibels but over a period of time it can affect your hearing."

Virgil Rayneri asked, "Are you talking about Cambridge and St. Andrews, that area there? We can go look at it. We had a problem with one of the lift stations today."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Please go look at it because that one is really loud and it is only about 20 feet from the ladies home."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "We can take a reading and see what we get."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I received a call yesterday from a resident in the Crevasse area and I know we had this item on the agenda before but he mentioned to me that the problem is still ongoing and hasn't been addressed. Can you give me some information on that?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I spoke with him myself earlier this week and we did try to put culverts down there but we had problems with the elevation there was just nowhere to put the culverts because the canal is too high so our next course of action was to investigate buying a pump and leveling off that canal and getting the water down so that it can drain and then pump it out. We did receive one quote for the pumps the price was somewhere around \$75,000.00 to \$90,000.00 but at that level we would have to get at least another two quotes on the same exact type of pump and I have some feelers out right now trying to get that information."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know when you will be submitting those or calling for the prices?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I've talked with a few but there are certain people that make these pumps but I would expect that I would have quotes by the end of two weeks I should have some numbers then we can order the pumps."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you have an estimate of how much this is going to cost?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I am assuming if we do the work in house and with two pumps because we are going to do the Redbird area also with the same type of solution it could be from \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Okay so we have money in a line item in the budget?"

Brian Nunes stated, "My drainage line item I don't have in front of me but we did have some earmarked."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay thank you and the last item that I have the repairs I know we were holding off on the concrete repairs at Ormond Blvd. and Airline until the Shell station is complete it is really bad and actually the same thing is happening when you come out of Cambridge Drive onto Airline it is really bad right there too. If we could add that and get that taken care of I have gotten calls."

Brian Nunes stated, "I will have to check at Cambridge and Airline but as far as Ormond and Airline I spoke with the contractor late last week and he is intending at the end of the month to be able to do that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Mr. Nunes this past weekend we had a lot of rain. Did we have any crews out there to see where the issues might be at?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes sir we always have crews out during rains."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Did you find any major issues?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Nothing that I would call major but we always have issues."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Mr. Nunes we have a drainage problem and it is not your fault. It is partially the peoples fault because they are not taking personal responsibilities for drainage but I do think that when it rains like that we should have a crew that should be scheduled to go out and look at areas that might need help. I did make some rounds Sunday and I did see some spots that were flooding where water was supposed to be flowing but it wasn't something that you could have done. I don't think you could have done anything about it unless you had someone right there because I went back the next couple of days and it was there. We just need to clean the catch basins out. You need help because what was blocking that particular catch basin was just grass and they had a foot and a half of water in that area and they had to go through two catch basins to drain and that really isn't what catch basins are for. Now I called P&Z they are supposed to send some people out there to look at the situation and I think that is what has been hurting us a lot. I don't know if we have done that or not send people out there to look at that but that is our problem there is high grass behind the gas station, they cut the grass and it all goes into the road. I passed yesterday and they had grass out on the highway that is blocking our catch basins. Now according to the ladies over there we have an ordinance to govern and fight that and penalize people for doing that. I would like to use this opportunity right now to pass that on and let's start enforcing that particular ordinance. I asked code enforcement to do that myself and they did. There was nobody out there yesterday but they said they are going to start enforcing that and it is a problem. My only other issue is that I was told about a system to tell us if the pumps are running or not. Is that system working?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It is working. I don't have access to it yet but we do have that but at the same time we like to have our guys out there because we do get things you know telemetry is not going to tell me if there is a big stick blocking the grate so we do have people at the stations. The telemetry is helpful."

Councilman Snyder asked, "The telemetry will tell you if a pump is

running or not running and that goes through the 911 system?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes it will and the telemetry goes to our offices and comes to my cell phone."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Going on what Mr. Larry said it doesn't rain on just weekends, it rains all week long but we have 65 vehicles on the streets every day and a lot of them have 2 people to a truck and this is not the first or the second time I have stated this. While those people are riding around it doesn't take a few minutes to write it down, turn it in to Public Works, Tracy will make sure that it gets where it needs to go but they are on the streets and this is what the people see them riding around. That is what I get from people they see these people riding around. It isn't rocket science. I don't know why administration can't make these people do a better job and help take care of some of the problems before the people have to call and not let it get that bad."

Brian Nunes stated, "I understand their concern and that is something we address every Monday morning in safety meetings. We make sure that there is a notebook inside of every truck with a pen and we always tell them to keep their eyes open and write things down if you can't write it down then call it in."

Councilman Wilson asked, "How long ago did you start that?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Since I have been here about a year."

Councilman Wilson asked, "How many notebooks have been turned in?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I wouldn't have that number off the top of my head but I am sure it was being done before I got here there is a state of policy for us to reinforce that every Monday."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I don't care what department they work for our workers should be writing this down."

Councilman Madere asked, "I always ride through my district during storms but I want to know about the pumps in Homewood, neither one of the pumps were working at that time and I did look at the canals leading to the pumps and the water was really low and on the other side of the pump the water was all the way up so that hard rain we had it didn't have enough coming through so I don't know if there was a restriction holding that back because usually when we have that amount of rain we have a lot of water coming through there and on that particular day there wasn't much. I know if the level isn't high enough the pumps won't come on. So I was wondering if there was a problem because that was the first time I saw that little amount of water going through the culverts."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is something I can't answer right now I am going to have to go and take a look at it and send a crew out there tomorrow."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One last thing I'm sorry I just thought about it on the 500 block of Greenwood there is a really bad concrete panel that probably needs to be replaced."

Councilman Madere stated, "One more thing that canal behind Homewood I saw where we sprayed to kill the grass but we need to remove that grass out of there because the water is restricted with all of that grass in the canal. I know we sprayed it and it laid down really nice almost like a mat but we need to get that grass out of there and I brought this up last year to clean it out and we didn't do it last year so we need to try and get it out."

Brian Nunes stated, "We are working on it right now but I will send a crew out tomorrow to check it out."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I brought up the Lasseigne Canal before did we get with the contractors so that they would go back and do the other side of the canal?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I thought he would have been out there already this is the first I am hearing that he hasn't been out there so I will make sure to call him tomorrow."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The canal is starting to grow again with half of the grass on one side of the canal. It is only about 20 feet wide a pressure washer could get the other side I just don't understand that why they just couldn't get it. Please get those weeds out of the canal for us."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "One last thing that I would like to add to what Mr. Snyder said about spraying, ideally you would want to cut the grass first and then spray it when it is shorter because you will waste some of your spray into the length of the grass. If you cut it down it will get more into the root of the grass and then you wouldn't have the problem like Mr. Madere said with all of the dead grass laying down."

Brian Nunes stated, "We actually did address this problem with the contractor so this year instead of 3 passes they are making 4 and the initial pass was going to be one and come back to do it again."

OLD BUSINESS:

Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 6-25-13) Comcast

Councilman Madere asked that this item be carried over.

Ranney Wilson - Drainage and Drainage equipment

Councilman Wilson stated, "I think this meeting makes three months that I have been having drainage on the agenda and nothing is happening. They are going out and spraying right now which is supposed to be a big deal but like you said it kills the weeds in the canal and then it stops everything up but I am not worried about canals. I am worried about ditches getting cleaned and dug to get to the canals. I got 7 calls this weekend with flooding the people in Mt. Airy nothing has been addressed. The people in Garyville have problems they are calling. They haven't addressed it at all. Am I going to have to battle with this? What kind of equipment did we purchase?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We ordered a new excavator."

Councilman Wilson stated, "The kind of equipment I need you can't get an excavator in that would be too big."

Brian Nunes stated, "I understand. We are aware of the problems."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Yes but these people have been having problems for over 20 years it is the areas of St. John Parish that have been here since the 1,700's are the ones that are having the problems."

Brian Nunes stated, "That's not the only people you get 7 calls I probably get 700."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I am not worried about those I am worried about District II that has been ignored since I have been on the council, since 1984 I'm talking about and I can understand now how those council members that sat across from me felt because I am sitting on that side and nothing happens. I am asking this council to give me some help with this. I am going to come back with something a way to get some money and get people out to do the work. I am just asking for support. I am going to come back with it because it is time something happens. We have been ignoring these people and their problems for far too long. Speaking of ditches there is a ditch behind my house when you go further down the street it is about 6 feet when you get to my house it is 25-26 feet. The entire servitude has run in the water because they sprayed weed killer on the back too and now it is going to erode even more and I am getting fed up with that also."

Brian Nunes stated, "Mr. Wilson we don't ignore any part of the parish. You received a handout earlier today of the recent work orders that were completed by public works and you can see it runs from LaPlace to Reserve to Garyville."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Brian since 2012 this problem has been here. We have people out there. It is simple work."

Councilman Madere stated, "I agree with Mr. Wilson since I have been on the council I realized that drainage is the number one problem in St. John Parish and Mr. Snyder I know has the same problem and he is very passionate about the drainage issue as I think is all the rest of the council and I have come to realize it is a really big problem and something that isn't going to be taken care of overnight. It took a while for it to get this bad and it is going to take a lot of work to get it back because what has happened over the years is that the water has crept over either because of the lack of equipment or the maintenance of these areas and we recognize these problems and are trying to turn back the hands of time and clean out these canals and make sure we have a regular schedule to maintain them but right now you are fighting a battle of trying to get everything under control and trying to get back the years of neglect and it is going to take a while and the residents in District III have been really patient just like I am pretty sure everyone else has been but sooner or later patience is going to run out so we have to start doing some things that are going to change some of these areas and one thing that I think the previous council or whoever passed the ordinance that you had to have a certain size pipe but I don't see grandfathering in a problem. I think we grandfathered in a problem because if you recognize that one of the problems was that the pipe wasn't big enough and anyone else who built

a home or a driveway had to put the right size pipe in according to the ordinance then 4-5 houses down they have the little pipe then my pipe doesn't do any good you still are going to have the problem so it was a great idea but you don't grandfather in a problem you eliminate that problem. I thought somewhere in that ordinance we should have said within 5 or 10 years of the date everyone would have to come up to that size pipe. Until we can get those smaller pipes out along with everything else we are fighting this problem is going to be ongoing. So we have to correct that ordinance where we have to get rid of the little pipes but we can't let that stay a problem. We are cleaning the canals and if all the canals were clean we still would have a problem based on the size of the culverts that were grandfathered in. You don't grandfather in a problem. You solve a problem and we are going to have to do that."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "I see the response that you ordered two dump trucks and one excavator. Have we thought about ordering an excavator that is say bobcat size to get into the tight areas? I think that is what you need a small piece of equipment because the big ones with the arm can't get into the tight places wouldn't it be best to get a smaller one?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I do agree we have looked into that and actually Mr. Wilson has been pretty helpful with that. It is just something that we need to work into our budget. We do have a smaller bobcat right now and we do use it but that is something that we need to look into but if you don't solve the big problems you can't fix the little ones."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That is why I am asking for that piece of equipment. They are only \$48,000.00 but they also can do a great job if you have to reach 17 feet out. Something has to be done we have so much water in Reserve I saw an alligator in front of St. John Theatre get run over this morning on my way to work. It is because the water is sitting in the ditches all day long."

Brian Nunes stated, "We do realize drainage is a problem and we are not ignoring it. We are still working on it every day."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Mr. Nunes is there anything preventing us right now from buying a small piece of equipment that could access the small areas?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Actually yes our capital outlay budget item is used for this year."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "But we have other items in the budget we know we do this all year long. We do things and transfer money. Have you made that request to the administration to purchase any smaller equipment?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Actually we had to transfer a whole bunch of money just to buy this bigger equipment because we used that money for the property on Capt. Bourgeois that came out of public works as well, the sheriff office equipment and two cars for code enforcement as well."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Mr. Lucia do you think in our entire general fund we don't have money to buy a small piece of equipment?"

Vince Lucia stated, "The only way we can do it is to amend the line items but we would have to evaluate the sales tax district account which some of the sales tax money is transferred to the water department, the waste water department and roads and bridges and we are in the process of redoing some amended budget items in the very near future after we prepare our full audited fund balance numbers."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you I would like to ask maybe since this was your item Councilman Wilson if you would offer a motion on my behalf to instruct the administration to locate the funds to purchase a smaller piece of equipment to get into some of these areas that we can't get into with the big equipment. I hear what you are saying but I know every day I get emails and memos of things we are spending that wasn't in the line item and everything else and I just think that if we are going to do that we should also do that for some of the things that we will actually see some fruit of our spending from. So if someone would offer that motion on my behalf."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I motion and also if they can't get it done I want to know how long it is going to take for them to do that I talked to Mr. Hugh Martin and I can come back with the source of where we can get the money."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We have the money in the budget and in my motion I ask that they come back to us within 2 weeks."

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to instruct the administration to locate the funds, and return to this council in two weeks, to purchase a smaller piece of equipment for the public works department to get into the areas that the bigger pieces of equipment can't get into. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to the hiring of Special Assistants

Councilman Snyder stated, "There has been a lot of discussion it seems like on the hiring of special assistants but I asked the question and have never been given a good answer on it about the number of special assistants that we have and how many of them went on to be permanent employees and I have a problem with that because what that does is give another qualified person less of a chance to be able to compete for a job. If we get on the job training as a special assistant then I have the pipeline into having the job. So that is what I have a problem with that part of it and I know we need people in recreation, I know we need people in other areas so why are we hiring special assistants that is what I don't quite understand. Why are we hiring special assistants? Special Assistants to who the parish president and we can't get grass cut on our property because we don't have the people or the equipment. So I need to know that part of it. We have got people that are supposed to be monitoring contractors. I ride through my district and I see where they are dumping dirt and concrete on Woodland Blvd. why? Who is supposed to be monitoring these people? These are contractors doing that and there is no construction going on back there it is contracting material that is doing that. So if we are going to hire a special assistant to do nothing why can't we hire people to do work in the

community and cut the grass not to monitor people we have enough supervisors now?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually there has not been an arranged approach to special assistants and the people who are recommended for hiring are in certain departments. For example there was an over concern about public safety and the possibility of some retirements that would impact this community by several of you and what would happen when that wealth of knowledge would be gone in addition to those of you who attended the workshop for elected officials. It was very much put to you that all of the funds and funding through GOHSEP and FEMA comes through emergency preparedness so all of the paperwork, the PW's, the projects all of that is being monitored in public safety. There is potential retirement. We are very much aware of it and the institution of knowledge that was a concern from you all that we needed to ensure public safety."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Point of clarification I don't know what you are talking about when you say retirement and public safety."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well I know there are several of the council members I can name them Mr. Gauff, Mrs. Millet, Mr. Perrilloux and Mr. Madere out of concern for the office and how it functions besides the additional work as a result of the hurricane besides us having to go back and do audits for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and Katrina and close those out again with none of us being here responsible for it but we are responsible for it in addition to all of the Isaac PW's and we are fortunate that we have a number of them but the dollars that come with it we just talked about 35 million dollars in CDBG dollars, 11 million in hazard mitigation, 2 million in Gustav/Ike besides all the dollars that we did not spend on Gustav/Ike all of that comes through public safety so there is a funding opportunity that is called that it is direct administrative costs that you can bill for anyone who is working towards any of those disasters you have to identify exactly what project or what disaster you are working on and your salary is reimbursed. So to assist our public safety and emergency preparedness office that is what they are. So there is nobody coming to work for me. The other area is projects. Our project administrator has been out since September due to illness. We don't anticipate him returning soon unfortunately however when you talk about projects our manager there is also the facilities manager who is also responsible for all the facilities damaged during Isaac who is now responsible for all of the projects. So when we talk about facilities and grounds I agree with you they are not looking good at all but somebody has to take community service workers that are assigned to us and not have them sit in the back yard but take them out to do the kinds of things that we need. We need somebody out checking our facilities and the grounds that are supposed to be monitored and maintained by contractors when our one manager is not available to do that because now he is by himself. So the appointment is there, the director is in a department where there has not been one. So there is not anybody coming to work for me. These people are being assigned to departments because there was a need, there is funding and as I have said I think you knew there is three times the amount of work and based on our audit with fewer people working in this parish. We have three times the amount of work with fewer people on payroll in this parish in addition to the list that I have given you all with the 19 who are not gone but they are out on

extended leave or they are retiring or whatever all of that has an impact on the amount of work that we can get done and when you are doing three times the amount of work with a third less people we needed help. So the three people who were appointed, were appointed for specific cases with regards to recreation you are right, they needed help and thank God WIA provided us with temporary workers that have been with us since the spring and some of them are just leaving now fortunately some of the directors found people in those staff who did a good job and recommended that we extend them as temporary workers because they still need the help and out of the people who came in it is a good opportunity to see the ones that are worth hiring and the ones who needed to be cut. So from that group they found some who were doing an excellent job and they recommended that they stay on to help because they are productive and those are the kinds of people and the opportunities we get to see we want to get people who want to work, who can contribute. So by having these temporaries we can see who has something to contribute and hopefully when they apply for the jobs that are open, which they do, we stay in a hiring mechanism because people do retire and people do leave and so those positions are filled. People do move up they apply for the positions. So it is a constant challenge to make sure that we are staffed properly but again there is nobody that is coming to work for me. These people were assigned to departments where there is funding available and as a matter of fact there is funding that has been available and we are doing the work. So now we need to fill some of those positions to get some of the work load off of those of us who are trying to carry 2 and 3 departments."

Councilman Snyder stated, "According to the definition of some of those things the special assistant reports directly to the parish president."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And wherever they are assigned."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It says only. I read that in the ordinance."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And that is how it has been, it has been that way since the beginning."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is what I am talking about those people report to you."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Everybody reports to me."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Except me."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Everybody on my staff reports to me okay I am the top again but they can be assigned just like Mrs. Faulk and Mrs. Becnel are assigned to the council they work for me but they are assigned to you and it is the same thing with special assistants they are appointed by me and they are assigned a special task with a job description that specifies what it is that they do. It isn't new. As a matter of fact we are using some of the job descriptions from the previous administration, the one for community service, the PIO those were written and drafted by the Hubbard administration and worked just fine then so we are using them. Most of them are in temporary positions or until we can create a job description that goes through the civil service board that is approved and comes to this council and is added to the list if it is something new. There is a time limit in doing that

and we have done that and the four you are interested in one of them was Angelic Sutherland, she replaced special assistant Mike Henderson who worked for the Hubbard administration but she was appointed as a P&Z director. Mr. Virgil Rayneri who replaced special assistant Arnold Labat, who when he left Virgil was appointed temporarily then appointed as the director. Paige Falgoust who came in as PIO replacing Buddy Boe and this council voted to create a department and she filled that. So again it is not anything new. What the difference is we are creating the positions that we said we would just like we told you. You wanted to reduce the number from 7 or 9 to how many that is what we did to 2."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Because they start working for the parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "As they should there are positions and they continue to work for the parish they are just filled it in the way that you guys directed us. We could have left them as special assistants but you wanted the number reduced. It doesn't say that you don't need the help, we still need the help because just because they are a special assistant doesn't mean that we don't need a P&Z director but the previous one served for three years, maybe four in that position so we decided to make the director a director."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have no problem with that but this is under our watch here. I don't know about what happened in the past because there were a lot of things that happened in this parish in the past that a lot of people didn't like and our charge now is to slow some of that down and hiring these special assistants to do no work just so you can be working and first of all if I hire a special assistant it is going to be somebody who knows what they are doing. If I am going to hire a special assistant to supervise it should be somebody that has supervising experience. If I am going to hire a special assistant to open up the job it better be somebody who knows something about that job so if that is what they are going to be doing and they don't know anything about the job and we are going to end up paying for it because mistakes are going to be made or they could cause us to get sued or something like that because of their lack of knowledge on doing any job."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well Mr. Snyder all I can tell you is that I don't hire people not to work. I work too hard to hire somebody not to work. So that isn't a part of any of my criteria and the people who work for me know there is a very clear job description and each manager and supervisor and director or responsible for holding them to that job. So I am not looking to give anybody a job not to work. I work too hard to let people sit down and get paid and not work there are qualifications, the job, the need, the funding available determines where they are going and that is what I have done and that is what I am going to continue to do not just for special assistants that is what takes place for all of our hires. We get applicants. We get resumes. We interview and we put you in the position we think you can best handle and we give them an opportunity and sometimes it doesn't work out and when it doesn't you may need to leave."

Councilman Wilson asked, "How many employees do we have?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Approximately 250."

Councilman Wilson stated, "And we have about 50,000 people in the parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "46,000 people."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I had a man that put an application in for operator three times. This man is licensed; he worked for the Corp of Engineers for twenty years. He is certified on 20 different pieces of equipment and has certificates and he has a DCL and he never even got a call. Three times he put in an application and you are talking about hiring people who are qualified and this man is somebody who is willing to work."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You know I can't really discuss anybody's application without any names."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I gave the name and I gave it to Mr. Randy Vincent already too and I mentioned it to Verdell also when he had the applications in his hand."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And all of that is good I can tell you that we will get 40 to 50 applicants per job and what I rely on and again we have had this conversation is our directors and the interview team to select based on the applicants who they will interview and make a recommendation. Once I get that recommendation that is who I hire the people who are on the interviewing team they do some researching and that is who they recommend and that is who we hire."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Well evidently somebody is not giving you the information because with all of the qualifications that this man has and he hasn't even been talked to it had to go in the garbage or somebody did something wrong somewhere."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well we have had that accusation too and that was disproven."

Councilman Madere stated, "With the hiring I said in the past that we need more employees and just now when Mr. Wilson asked how many employees we had and you weren't exactly sure but they quoted a figure of maybe 250?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually the number is projected at 285 it is actually 2 down from 2012 which was 287."

Councilman Madere asked, "So we have 287 people working for us right now?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "285 now I am looking at this book and there is a whole list of folks in here that I don't think are ours but they are in our system. It is 268."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay here we go another number so it is 268 I still think we need more people and I think everyone here agrees in the drainage department. We need more people in the recreation department to take care of our parks and I have been saying that we need to hire more people on the down side instead of on the top side because that is one thing that I disagree with the hiring practice we

advertise for what we call a grade III operator and I definitely believe in promoting from within and we do that twice I had a young man who was a grade II operator and he put his application in twice he didn't get an interview and what happened was the grade III operator that left the grade II operator was promoted to III and then I was promoted to II so I understand promoting from within but why do we advertise for a III when we should be advertising for a I if we know we are already promoting from within and this guy is constantly putting in applications every time he sees a grade III he always puts in but he never gets interviewed because they tell him we promoted from within. I understand and agree with that because I like to see employees move up so why not just advertise for an I."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You know this really isn't the time to discuss all of that what I can tell you is I have had discussions with public works with the director and assistant director we want the most qualified employee. So if a III can operate more equipment then that might be why there is an advertisement but on the other hand we do want to give our employees who have worked for it and have taken the test and saw an opportunity to apply for the position as well so we do both. Sometimes we will advertise just within the current system and sometimes the application goes internal and external again we are trying to get people who can operate the equipment. We just discussed there are 19 people out at any given time your best not operator would not be at work and that doesn't help us if we have a piece of equipment that nobody else can operate. So we do encourage them to get additional certifications. We encourage them to apply for additional promotions but we also go out to get additional trained workers because we need them in both departments. We need skilled operators in those departments and again it isn't just about having one person per piece of equipment what happens when that person isn't here and the equipment is ideal because we don't have anybody to operate it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well the one thing I am saying is that I really am 100% behind promoting from within and I understand that maybe they have someone and I think that is up to the director who is actually over these people to know if we have a II that is capable of going to a III and if we don't have anyone that is a II right now that can go to a III then advertise for a III but if we have someone who is capable to move into the III position and someone who is capable to move into the II position then I think we should try to promote I just have a problem with how we advertise that is the problem that I have."

Councilman Wright stated, "I guess I just want to say as somebody who has worked in administration I have worked with some of these special assistants and some do an exceptional job and go above and beyond a lot of which have exceeded the six month period. I guess my question and I guess most of the council members too their question is geared more towards the procedure and the number of special assistants allowed. If it is okay with Mr. Snyder I would like to have this item carried over to have the District Attorney here to discuss the process and procedure as far as what is allowed and what is not allowed if that is okay."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "You know I just listen to this council and it seems like every meeting it is a battle with someone. If we just had some communication and some open dialogue maybe we wouldn't have this every week the same thing over and over with you defending, we accusing

or we defending and you accusing. If you would just give us some open dialogue and let us know what is going on prior to and then maybe we can solve all of this and not have this open all the time."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Wonderful suggestion and I think Mr. Vincent we have done that repeatedly and we are still up here. So we will continue to work..."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I have to disagree with you on that one."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We make the rules."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have had numerous meetings which I think are now questionable which you missed that meeting."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I wasn't invited. There is a difference."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But we can't have those because of open meeting laws so I don't think that that worked well for everybody so I don't think those are going to be happening anymore. So other than the emails and the written information that I provide you I am not sure how else you would like to get your information."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I think even with the most recent hire the council had at one time made a motion or sent a request that we are notified and we weren't notified when the most recent special assistant was hired. I didn't know until I saw an email about it and the person was already hired. So if we could get notified..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually they haven't started so I am not sure what you are referring to."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Have you sent them for a drug screen?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right so they have not been hired yet."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "But the intent is there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes it is a recommendation for hire that until they complete all of the pre-screenings they are not hired."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "But once the pre-screenings is complete your intent is to hire them?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So I mean let's just be clear about that."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I am not exactly sure how to jump in. We are all asking for help. We are asking for employees to help in public works and recreation and we are asking to get more work done. There is a larger work load. There is more work to be done and to be completed. I see that we get special assistants or whatever the terminology is you want to use to me it seems like it has helped. It has helped along the way. Maybe I am naïve in thinking that this hasn't happened before. I think it has happened with every administration. They all hire who they want, when they want as the need is there. Today and this has been

going on for a while as you all have spoken about there has been special assistants that we had in the past. I don't remember reading about all of this discussion about the special assistants that we had for whatever reason that they came on board. They were all there to help. It seems like Mrs. Millet said we sit here and we go back and forth accusing and defending and the bottom line is I think in every administration there have been some appointees and special assistants and jobs that have been filled that we all think that we need to have a say in maybe for the most part the council should have a say in everything but then again there are positions and power that the parish president has that we don't have a say in. If it were me sitting there or you sitting there or Mrs. Millet sitting there that comes with the territory. As there is a need we should have those needs fulfilled and as long as what Mr. Snyder was saying is that getting someone that is qualified and as long as they are qualified and fulfill that need and the budget is not affected that is the thing that guides everything that we do. We have already passed the budget. We voted on the budget. So if the administration isn't sticking within the guidelines of the budget then we should throw the flag. If they are within the guidelines of the budget and we have our say so we approve we agree that is good. If they are outside of the guidelines or if there are grants or some funding that we don't know about or that she has used or administration is using then yes we should be communicated with so that we are a little more intelligent in our discussion or in debating what is going on but I don't see this as something new that any administration or any leader doesn't do to help out with the parish and with the needs of the parish. I mean we are sitting here saying that we need help in public works. We are saying that we need help in recreation and I know you are saying more so with the grunts, the people that actually do the work but some of this communication has to come across to say how does that trickle down to get more work done and maybe we are just missing or we are not understanding that eventually this does get more work done for us. So as Mrs. Millet said it just seems like we sit here all the time and we go back and forth for hours and to me it is a waste of time because that is not when this should happen but I don't want to undermine and say that it is not important to have it is just that it seems like this is not the purpose that we should be in a council meeting. This should happen outside of this arena and it seems like we are all fighting for the same things but we are fighting in different directions and if we are fighting for special assistants or because it is called a special assistant then call it something else but I think every administration has done this and I could be wrong but as long as we are guided by that budget and we are within the guidelines of the monies and we are responsible for our parish and what our constituents want and need and that is to get this work done then I think we are doing our jobs and they are doing theirs maybe I'm wrong but I will learn more about this but I think we are fighting against each other in a way that we shouldn't be."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Councilman Gauff I would just like to add something to the statement, there were a couple of things you said with the special assistants you are correct it is a practice that has been done in the past actually when I came on 9 years ago the first special assistant we had was president Robottom. It was problematic the time with the way it was done and it has been problematic ever since so as we said and even this current administration has said just because the previous president had done it

that doesn't mean that we are going to continually do that. The idea of moving forward and not going backward but we are going forward. So it has been done in the past and it has been a problem. It has been abused and it has been expanded upon outside of the limits of the Charter, outside of the limits of the Civil Service rules and regulations. So that is part of the problem there. It is not something that has gone on without question or without rejection or without even concern from the District Attorney and he sent some communications on that and unless you have a committee to discuss it this is the proper forum to discuss it because it is something that the public should be entitled to listen to some of the discussion. You know we cannot meet somewhere else and talk about it this is the time. Now if we want to have a committee formed to discuss all of the hiring practices, civil service, what makes you civil service and all of the procedures we can do that so it is not in the form of a council meeting but that would be something but just for clarification it was done in the past and it was always a problem. There isn't any clear definition anywhere this term special assistant doesn't exist. It does not exist. So I just wanted to add that to it."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Okay so you say there is no clear term.."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Can I interject before you get into that just for clarification purposes you are right I was the first special assistant again it wasn't about the person or their qualifications it was about fighting the president at that time.."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No that is not correct.."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is what it was.."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No the president wanted to have two CAO's and the council said we are not going to let you have two. You are either going to have this one or you are going to have this one. We will allow you.."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I wasn't finished.."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "But if you are going to say something you need to say it correctly, we could pull the minutes.."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I was the special assistant and what the parish president asked for and a group of council members newly coming on agreed to transition that they allowed for a period of transition which you couldn't have two CAO's because you were allotted one. So the parish president asked for in the transition during my new administration I would like to have someone come on before my CAO leaves and at the time this legal counsel and the other assistants found a section in the Charter that they felt allowed for it. The then council challenged it and an attorney general opinion was requested very specific to my case because the CAO was only going to be here 5-6 months so the request was written for 5-6 months and it was very clear that the CAO was leaving and it was a temporary appointment in that position for transition purposes before he left so that there would be a smooth transition in the new administration. Now let's talk about the second one there didn't seem to be any problem with going from 2 to 7 not a problem at all of course on my inauguration night it became a

problem again. So that is why I say I think it might be personal because it was a problem with the then president who made an appointment that was temporary and everyone knew it was temporary. The next administration made 7 or 9 without a problem and again on inauguration night the then council who was opposed to my presidency decided they wanted to limit the number again going from one president who had unlimited numbers to one that now you wanted to limit and of course we agreed to limit and we agreed to reduce it and we did and the reduction was just in the title because you still needed the person and the help. We had a special assistant running utilities so instead of putting another one there we hired a director which was an approved position. We had a special assistant running P&Z so instead of putting another special assistant we put the director. So you are right those are Charter specific positions and I hear you Mr. Gauff because there are things that we are talking about that I am sure that those of you who are familiar with the Charter, the Charter is very clear on who hires and who fires and who the council is responsible for your one employee sitting up there but over the years the parish presidents have agreed to give you two more based out of need when you created the job description of Legislative Assistant we agreed to continue to fund it. The same thing happened the parish president is responsible for all other employees for the hiring and firing of all of them now that process I didn't determine it civil service did with regards to a civil service employee. The appointments that you have a say so in are the directors you vote on them you vote to approve them and to terminate them. So rest again as unclear as it has appeared to be since 2010 didn't appear to be very unclear until 2010."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The problem that happened in 2004 is when Nickie wanted to bring in you..

Natalie Robottom interrupted, "I know the problem..

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Well I am going to state your side of the problem, my side of the problem and I'm sure somewhere in the middle there is the truth but we can go to the minutes of the discussion that was had and the problem that the council had was because President Monica at the time would not tell us when the then CAO was leaving. He would not give us a date and in the minutes if you look we would not agree to say we are going to have two if you are not going to tell us how long we are going to have two and then we said okay if you want to have two CAO's then you split whatever the salary was between both of them because he could not tell us when he was only going to have one. That was the problem. It wasn't against anyone. I actually supported you coming on at the time so it wasn't anything personal go read the minutes. Also to say that it wasn't a problem with any other administration I had a problem at that time because the Charter was very clear that all employees are either Civil Service, CAO, CFO or department head. Now the attorney general opinion that was written was specific to your situation but if you go back in those same minutes our legal counsel stated that those special assistants could not exceed a period of more than six months because the civil service rules state that after six months you are a civil service employee. I have always had a problem with it. When Bill did it I had a problem with it the difference was Bill brought people on that I didn't know about but you came in and you told me about some of the special assistants that were there I had no idea about them or I would have had something. When Pat

did it or any of them it was a problem because it is circumventing the Charter and it is giving us unlimited authority to bring on as many employees as you want. An ordinance was introduced at the time to limit it I didn't even agree with limiting the number because there still has been no clarification on what is a special assistant, how does it exist, how long can they exist there has been no clarification. Judge Daley has stated that he does not believe that they can exist for periods that exceed six months and you disagree with Tom Daley. So there is no real clarification and the problem also that I see is that if there is no way to control the special assistants then we can just keep hiring more and more and I don't know where the money is coming from for the most recent special assistant but if there is no control mechanism and the council ultimately is in charge of the budget but you can bring on as many special assistants as you want I mean you don't advertise for them I don't know how we find them but they are there and we don't know about it until after the fact, until they are hired and until the money is spent but we are accountable for the dollars and I have always had a problem with it no matter what administration has done it I had a problem with it. So if it was done in the past and it was wrong I thought we were going to move forward. You know we keep using these arguments when it fits us that oh you let the previous administration do it but you don't want me to do it but then on the next argument you say oh well that was what they did and we want to do it right. We can't be on both sides of the fence we either want to do it right and move forward or we want to continue the bad practices of the previous administration. We can't go both ways."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am not agreeing to pretty much most of what you are saying. You guys approve a budget. We have been working within that budget without directors and people filling so there is an ample amount of money in the current budget..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You just told us we didn't have enough money to buy a piece of equipment..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is in specific line items, if you have money in emergency preparedness you can't move it to public works."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We transfer money all over the place..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You can't in public works you can't take the money that is set aside for pertinent things and put it somewhere else. Okay again it is a budget issue. We are not exceeding the budget as a matter of fact by us doing all the work we have actually saved the parish money without filling the positions. So again the budget was approved by the council. The positions are there..."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to take a recess. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Michael Wright - Sunken Gardens

Councilman Wright stated, "I have been sending emails since January of last year on this piece of property. I sent one when I saw we had just

recently hired someone to do the front of the parish building I didn't get a response from that but I did talk to Mr. Vincent and I did see that you guys are having Progressive looking into adopting the property however I want to know short term something that has been ignored for at least the last year and a half if we can just get someone out there and again I had this conversation with Mr. Kendrick in public works. I would rather public works be out cleaning out ditches and culverts rather than pulling weeds so if we needed more people for us to go and hire somebody to do that until we can get the adoption."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually Progressive has made that commitment to take care of the initial cleaning."

Councilman Wright asked, "So we should see something in the next week or two?"

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Have they given us a date of when they actually are going to start?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "They are actually contracting someone to go out and take care of the initial grooming and problems that we have had obviously there are some other efforts in maintenance that we were looking at to accommodate them as well as community service but not our public works employees we cannot afford to have them weeding."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Have you seen the pictures?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I did."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know why we let our own property get like this?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually there are lots of properties like that, the front of our building was one of them which is why we called someone in to do it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The front of your building was done but actually the front of some other properties weren't done. Your office was done but I know the front of the council building wasn't done."

Natalie Robottom stated, "All of that is done."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So now it is all done?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "You know looking at these pictures we site our residents for having their yards like this, who is siting us? This is unacceptable. This is our parish. We should have pride and we should never allow our public property to get in this type of condition. We have employees and yes we have a lot of them and yes we need more of them but to allow this to happen to our areas. You what this promotes? It promotes litter, trash, rodents and theft. When you have a pretty area people enjoy it. When you have a place that looks like a dump, it is going to be a dump. We site our residents. Who is siting us?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again one of the positions appointed is for

facilities and grounds and without the people responsible to help and take care of that it happens. Our building was deplorable okay. So again we have needs and things like this have to change. We didn't have the people. We were told we could take care of it and we couldn't because we had to pull the contractors and again following up with an agreement that was previously made it took from October to last month to approve the inmate agreement to get them to start cutting and trimming that was part of their responsibility to cut the grass. So again there are a lot of problems Mrs. Millet and we have a problem with all of it just like you do but there is a process and we are working through it."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "You know the grass isn't waiting for the process. We have the equipment. We have the employees but there is no reason for our property to get in this condition absolutely none. We are expecting our residents to maintain their properties then we need to maintain our own."

Councilman Madere stated, "I made this comment several times and a couple of times people may have thought I was just clowning but I have said in the past anything that is owned by St. John Parish, the properties, buildings, etc. it should look that way. It should look like it is owned by the parish and we definitely should have everything on a scale of 1-10 if it is owned by the parish it should be a 10. If someone passes these buildings they should be able to say well we know this is owned by the parish and I agree. There may be some problems as far as where it got out of hand as far as the contract with the Sheriff's Department taking care of it because the property by our school board got out of hand a little bit so hopefully moving forward we don't have this type of problem. Also we are going to go one step further because we ask individuals and I have said this since I first got here, we ask the individuals who have trailers to put skirts around their trailers and I made the comment that we have trailers on our property and they don't have any skirts around them. So my thing is like Mrs. Millet said if we require our citizens to do certain things then I think we should skirt our trailers too. There are many trailers on St. John property that are controlled by the parish and we should have skirts on those trailers and I have said we should move to have skirts put on our trailers. Like I said we can go back to what the old people said and what is good for the goose is good for the gander so if we are asking our residents to cut their grass then we should make sure we maintain ours and if we ask them to skirt their trailers then we should skirt our trailers. I don't think we should ask our residents to do anything that we won't do ourselves and that is the way I have seen it from the beginning. We have to do what we ask the residents to do and as far as the process with the grass I am not going to call any individual names but I am going to check on it tomorrow and he said if the grass isn't cut by his property he was going to go somewhere else and I can definitely understand what he is talking about I will be checking the property tomorrow because I am six feet tall and it is probably to my chest so it is overdue so our process has to change. It is too lengthy and we need to make some adjustments in it."

Councilman Wright stated, "Just for clarification, thank you Mr. Madere and Mrs. Millet I do agree with you both. A process was put in place some time ago. I don't know what it was but the property was maintained until January of last year. Since then I have been asking to not have

money dumped into plant but to just groom and maintain a major parish corridor. It is an eyesore. I had it on the agenda last year in February and I was told there wasn't a funding source. At the end of last year when we had budget meetings I noticed the beautification line item was cut from \$90,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in the EDC budget. I asked why and was told that we didn't use it. So to say a process was never put in place or that there was no funding source is not true. It was simply ignored, simply ignored."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Also in Garyville, the welcome to Garyville sign is not being maintained. Mr. St. Pierre and the police chief Mr. Duhe take care of it and I have asked numerous times if the parish isn't going to take care of it then take it down because I'm tired of cutting the grass around it because I maintain the property all around it. So if the weeds are six feet high and you can't see the sprinklers out there they get run over. Somebody needs to be hired to maintain these and take care of these. If we have money in the budget we should do it. I was told that money was given by Marathon who donated the sign to help with the maintenance. I also have one other thing to tell this council. We, other than what the Charter states, we make the rules. It is our budget and it can be changed at any time. I just want you all to understand that. When we go to approve the budget we need to open our eyes a little bit more and be a little bit more careful with what we do."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We have a lot of public properties in the parish. Our welcome signs are maintained by private citizens, this is not their property but they take their time and they give their time. We had an adopt a road program and it went by the waste side years ago. We may try to get it back I really don't know Mr. Haywood did a really good job with that but he is no longer with us anymore so that program doesn't work anymore. I think at this point in time because this administrations employees are so strapped and busy and I am not saying they are not because I know that the employees are working their behind's off because there is a lot of work that needs to be done in order to accommodate the needs because of Hurricanes Isaac, Gustav and Katrina still and I understand all of that. So since we have these issues and since this is our parish that we should be proud of I want to make a motion that we hire a contractor to maintain these special garden areas to keep them in the beautiful condition that they should be and the welcome areas to the people that come driving through St. John the Baptist Parish."

Natalie Robottom stated, "For clarification purposes can I get a listing of all of these."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Mrs. Robottom you have a list."

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

Councilwoman Millet asked, "You don't know the areas of the parish?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The ones specific to the ones you want contracted that is a financial obligation..."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Areas that you no longer can maintain. Everyone in your district make a list of what you need done and get it

to Mrs. Robottom."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to direct administration to hire a contractor to maintain the listing of parish properties not currently able to be maintained by the parish. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have a request from the administration to suspend the rules to authorize administration to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Charles Parish for the East Bank Waterline Interconnection."

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to suspend the rules to allow the item to authorize administration to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Charles Parish for the East Bank Waterline Interconnection. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom - Authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Charles Parish for the East Bank Waterline Interconnection

Natalie Robottom stated, "This agreement which was recently received from St. Charles Parish, allows the parish to move forward in constructing a waterline interconnection for use during emergencies. The Mississippi River level has receded below 9 feet allowing the project to proceed. Water usage will be measured and billed in accordance with the St. Charles Code of Ordinances. This will allow us to connect to the St. Charles Parish waterline should we lose water at Ruddock. Additionally once this council approves it the St. Charles Parish Council has to approve it. We have been ready to go. We have been waiting for receipt of the permit. There is a contractor that this council approved and we will move forward with. Our legal counsel recommended that there be an official agreement between the parishes not only for allowing us the connectivity but also for our use of the water should it be necessary and that is also in the agreement. It is listed as draft because the St. Charles Parish Council has to approve it. What we added was and of course what their ordinance says the water will be metered and we will pay them for their cost and they have not seen that portion of it but again this is for emergencies and there is a sense of emergency and we would like to move forward with making this connection as we are currently in Hurricane Season."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "When is this going to be on the St. Charles Parish Council agenda?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am not sure but I spoke with Mr. St. Pierre today and we just got it and want to make sure that they get it as quickly as possible and if there is an opportunity for them to waive policy we are going to ask that they do that but we do think this is an emergency situation."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "What is the time line for the completion?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The time frame is 60 days for the contract but there is some trenching that is required so it will be a complete

construction project."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I seem to remember that we gave authorization for this once the river went down."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You did."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Did something change in our original authorization?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "You authorized us to enter into a contract with a contractor to do the work. Our legal counsel said that since we are going to be connecting to another parish they thought it would be appropriate to have an official agreement with that parish. So this has nothing to do with construction. This is the agreement with St. Charles that will be on paper allowing us to connect to their system with the knowledge in advance that they will bill us for any water that will be used. That was a verbal agreement and our legal counsel suggested it be in writing."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Charles Parish for the East Bank Waterline Interconnection. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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 - Personnel Matters - discussion regarding Executive Assistant/Special Assistant

Parish Buildings - Security

St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Roussel Welding and Metal Works, Inc., et al. Case No. 64187 Div. B

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

13-18 An ordinance amending Section 14-6-Animals, Fees (1)C and D. (N. Robottom)

13-19 An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of St. John the Baptist Parish, as follows: by adding Article V - Demolition Work (L. Gauff)

13-20 An ordinance stating the Parish President and/or any Director of a Parish Department and/or any Parish employee, shall not solicit or advertise for Request for Professional Services (RFP's) or Request for Professional Qualifications (RFQ's) for

any Parish work without Parish Council approval (J. Hotard)

PRESIDENT' S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening - We hope all enjoyed their Fourth of July weekend. Thank you to everyone who attended the Veterans Day luncheon and to those who joined us for the firework show later that evening. Approximately 400 veterans and their spouses attended the luncheon at the La Army National Guard Readiness Center in Reserve Both and over one thousand gathered on the East and West banks for the firework show. We were excited to be able to offer new additions to both events. As always we will look for improvements to make next year bigger and better. Congratulations to Pastor Devin Mason of New Rescue Mission Baptist Church on being inaugurated as President of the Second District Missionary Baptist Association. Pastor Mason has been Pastor of New Rescue Mission Baptist Church in St. John the Baptist for over three years. The St. John the Baptist Parish Public School System is hosting a Meet and Greet with Mr. Kevin George, the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools. All are welcome to attend to speak with the Superintendent on Monday, July 22 between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the New Wine Multi-Purpose Building located at 1929 W. Airline Hwy in LaPlace or on Tuesday, July 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the West St. John High School cafeteria located at 480 Hwy 3127 in Edgard. St. John Parish public pools are open for summer. The East bank pool at REGALA and the West Bank pool on Castle Dr. are open Tuesday through Thursday 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Friday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Hours are posted on the Parks & Recreation page on website. As the 2013 regular baseball season comes to a close, several parish teams are gearing up for the 2013 Dizzy Dean Baseball World Series Tournament in South Haven, Mississippi. The 11-year-old Warriors finished their regular season with a record of 2-1 at the Dizzy Dean State Championship in Belle Chasse qualifying them to compete in the 2013 World Series scheduled for July 12-18. The 8-year-old Warriors were also named Louisiana Dizzy Dean State Champions after defeating Plaquemines 11-2. They will now head to the World Series Tournament scheduled for July 17-23. The 6 and 9 year old teams qualified to compete in the World Series on July 12-18. This past weekend, the 12-year-old Warriors won the state tournament at Mel Ott Park in Jefferson Parish and will advance to play in the World Series on July 19-25. Congratulations to all of the teams for their continuous hard work and success throughout the season. DOTD announced last week the launching of a 2.8 million project to raise I-10 near LaPlace to address flooding issues as a result of its closure during Hurricane Isaac. Work will begin sometime this summer to raise I-10 about 15 inches and is expected to be completed by September. The I-10 ramps at Belle Terre Blvd. are scheduled to be raised in 2015. In addition, DOTD is replacing the scale platforms at the scales on I-10 between mile marker 206 and 209 in LaPlace. As a result, I-10 eastbound right lane is closed tonight between 7:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. The westbound right lane will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, July 9 from 7:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. One lane will remain open during construction. Motorists can use US 61 as an alternate route. St. John the Baptist Parish is happy to announce the addition of Public, Education and Government (PEG) programming for AT&T U-Verse customers. All information is broadcast on channel 99 providing access to emergency information, upcoming events, public meetings, and announcements. Residents interested in posting

meeting announcements and/or upcoming events should contact the St. John the Baptist Parish Communication's Department at 985-652-9569 for approval and posting. Congratulations to Advanced Marketing & Promotions (AMP) LLC recently held a ribbon cutting on Thursday June 27, 2013 for the opening of their new location at 948 Cambridge Dr., Ste 101. AMP offers a selection of over 850,000 promotional items including bags, pens, cups, sports bottles, wristbands, table cloths, brochures, etc. as well as printed products such as flyers, postcards, menus, newsletters. AMP also offers printing service for all wedding printing needs. In addition to the new location in LaPlace AMP also services the Slidell area. For more information, please call AMP at 985-359-7848 or online visit their website at www.ampyoursalesnow.com We served participants in the Summer Food Service Program at Fifth Ward Elementary as I know a number of our council members have done the same. Currently the program services approximately 1,000 children per day. The Summer Food Service program is running Monday through Thursday through July 18 at **West St. John Elementary School, Garyville/Mt Airy Magnet School, LaPlace Elementary School, 5th Ward Elementary School, Emily C. Watkins School, and New Wine Christian Center.** To date 17,836 lunch meals and 3,235 breakfast meals have been administered. For more information or questions, please visit the Health & Human Service webpage or call 985-536-4955. Currently, the Public Works Department is collecting tree limbs and branches throughout the parish on Mondays through Thursdays and Hurricane Isaac-Related debris on Fridays and Saturdays. Residents should call or submit a work order for collection through the Public Works Department by calling 652-4815 Monday through Fridays 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. or through the Public Works webpage on the parish website. This ensures the request is properly documented and added to our pick-up list."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Smith stated, "I just want to say thank you for everyone that prayed for my health and I am coming along very well now so thanks."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Unfortunately I had never had a chance to see the firework show at St. Peter's but for the first time ever I saw the ones at St. Hubert's on July 4th and it was a very good show. I saw Mr. Vincent out there and it was a great show."

Councilman Madere stated, "I also agree with Mr. Wilson the fireworks were very nice and the residents really enjoyed themselves and it seems to be getting a lot bigger. I would also like to congratulate the recreation department our little team is going to the world series and a special thanks to the St. John Dodgers for the nice photograph they sent us. I am going to frame it and put it on the wall, other than that have a safe trip home."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would also like to echo a congratulations to the St. John Dodgers. Councilman Gauff and I were there to hand out the trophies to the coaches and the kids and they were very excited. It is so good to see the smile on the youngsters faces. Also thank you to the administration the Veteran's luncheon was fantastic everyone was talking about how nice it was and the tape that we put on about the military residents in the parish I thought it was a

very wonderful tribute and the fireworks show all I can say is that it has grown from Connie's Grill all the way to W. 10th Street the people came out."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just want to say great job to the administration and all those who participated in putting together the fireworks show and the annual veteran's luncheon. It was a bigger and better turn out this year. I want to encourage everyone to go out and see The Producers at St. John Theatre, I was also a board member so I have witnessed firsthand the hard work that goes into these productions so I encourage you to go see the show."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to thank everyone for the Fireworks show it was great and the parish president said that next year she will get more portolets and also for the work that we are doing on Capt. Bourgeois the people out there are very happy about that and my nephew that I asked for prayers for the good Lord didn't take him he decided he didn't want him so he is still here and he is doing a lot better trust me and all the prayers that were sent out we know that is what kept him here and brought him back. The veteran's luncheon was beautiful. I really enjoyed it and when you see things like that and think about all of the guys and some of the ladies of what they had gone through, the wars they have been in and how lucky they were to get back and we all knew people there that have passed and when they started calling all the branches out that is what got me excited and I think it is something we should never stop."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to say that the celebration was great and I want to echo everyone. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It is something that the parish has been doing for years and I think I have attended all of them and enjoyed all of them they are all special because the residents really enjoy it. It was really well done this year and I want to commend administration for that. Also I just want to remind our residents hurricane season is coming and people are cleaning up don't put your tree branches over the culverts, put them on the servitude and call the parish to please pick them up. Check your drains and make sure they are clear. We need to make sure that the flow keeps going we cannot expect the parish to clean up your mess be responsible."

Councilman Gauff stated, "Excellent message Mrs. Millet as Mr. Snyder said I would like to say continued success getting healthy to Pee-Wee. Unfortunately this year I had to work so I missed out on the Veteran's Day luncheon but as all of you have said and I have heard it was a really nice event so congratulations to everyone that worked hard putting that event on and many of you also said that the fireworks show has grown tremendously and it was a big success and hopefully we can continue to get bigger and better and improve on St. John the Baptist Parish and bringing good quality family events and functions because that is what was out there and that is what we showed with that event that it was a good family event and those are the things that we need to be promoting so continued success with that. Also I would like to say congratulations to my wife, I am not going to say what it is about but she did a heck of a job and congratulations."

ADJOURNMENT :

At 9:18 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary