

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JULY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE  
VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Sorapuru Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** None

Councilwoman Hotard led the Prayer. Councilwoman Remonet led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel present were Keith Green, Jr., and Law Clerk Kennilyn Schmill.

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to recess to go back to the Finance Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go back into Regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

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

*Thank you, Mr. Chairman. David Cavelle, here on behalf of Congressman Graves, the members of the Council, Parish President. I just want come here with some great news to inform all of you, I'm sure all of you have heard it by now. The Congressman was able to deliver \$760 Million for the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Charles Parish and St. James Parish for the West Shore Project. Just want to thank you for all your timeless effort and advocating on behalf of your constituents, our constituents, to advocate for their needs and the infrastructure for the parish that's absolutely needed, and we're happy to let you all know that we've been working for the last 15 months, behind the scenes and closed-door meetings, with Administration, as well as the President and his members, and his team, to secure these funds for the West Shore Project. So, 4 years in the making, Parish President I know you're extremely excited, I just kind of love to entertain any questions, but I really want to emphasize, the reason why Congressman was in the room at these negotiations, was because the gavel that he has at the Sub-Committee Chair of the Water Resources and the Environment. I cannot emphasize that enough, because without that Chairmanship, he's not in the room at the negotiating table negotiating these funds for the folks and good folks of St. John the Baptist Parish. So, just want to sincerely thank you for all your tireless advocacy and efforts, it paid off and longtime comings. So, thank you all very much."*

Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "1118 Main Street, LaPlace, LA. I need to bring something to the Council's attention. From my understanding that prior to the existence to this Council there was a Police Jury..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Excuse me..."

Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "It's according to this agenda..."

Councilman Madere interrupting asked, "What's the agenda item you're referring to?"

Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "To this entire agenda."

Councilman Madere asked, "No, what item are you are speaking about?"

Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "The item that I'm speaking on in reference to the comment that you made in reference to legalities."

Councilman Madere stated, "No, that's not, if it's not a legal agenda item that's written in black and white on this paper, you can't speak on that."

Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "It is though it's relevant."

Councilman Madere asked, "So I'm asking you, no, no, not relevant. It has to be this agenda item, so what item do you have on this agenda that you're referring to?"

Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "The item on the agenda, that I'm referring to is a particular item that establish the jurisdiction of the authority of this Council..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "That's not..."

Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "Let me finish please..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Wait hold on. Show me, give me the name of the..."

Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "I'm giving it to you right now! It's under Section of your Home Charter."

Councilman Madere stated, "No, no, wait, wait, wait, understand..."

Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "It's under Section Six, Legal Matters..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Understand what I'm trying to tell you, you're not allowed to speak about the Charter. The Charter is not on this agenda!"

Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "But that part of the Charter is contingent of the agenda..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Ain't no but. There's no but about it. If you want to speak about the Charter, you contact a council member and have you put on the agenda..."

Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "Well as part of my public comment, can I ask request the Council to..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "No. No you cannot do that here. You do

*that at the, you cannot do that at this meeting."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "I didn't even finish to what I'm having to say. It's regarding the 2 minutes. The 2 minutes still, the 2 minutes public comment that you've given, my Council member has stated in the past that it was a concern back to the Jim Pro Law that we should be given..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Oh wait a minute, hold on, hold on. Wait a minute wait, wait. Now I'm going to tell you one more time, then I'm going to ask you to be seated. Now if you want to have that discussion about the Charter or anything, now you contact a council member it doesn't have to be your Council member, and have it placed on the agenda..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "I don't think you get my point..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Oh no you get my point..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "No I got your point..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "You better be seated you better be seated."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "Because you're thinking that I'm asking about something pertaining outside of this agenda, but it does apply to the agenda..."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Alright..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting stated, "It's the 2-minute public section..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Alright. No, no, it does not comply. Look, I'm not going to have a comment, just have a seat and you're going have..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux interrupting asked, "Can I request that my Council member pass a motion to at least entertain what I'm about to say because it's regarding the 2 minutes..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "There's no motion..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "As a constituent, I have the right to request from my Representative to allow me to address the issue..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "And you can do that at any time other than this meeting..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux asked, "Well what's the purpose of the 2-minute comment/on comments then if I can't express something that's relevant? What's the purpose, so you're not going to pass a motion on it?"*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Have a seat..."*

*Shondrell Perrilloux stated, "Yawl got to get it together because I need to speak to somebody..."*

*Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Get it together and make your comment to your Council member..."*

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

There were no businesses to introduce.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEMS:** Approval of Minutes - June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve consent agenda items to include: Approval of Minutes - June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**18-10** (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 05-08-18) An ordinance naming the West Bank Recreational Park - the "Juan Anthony Joseph Park" (K. Becnel)

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 18-10 from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Becnel stated, "*Councilman Becnel read Ordinance 18-10. An Ordinance naming the West Bank Recreation Park of Edgard, Louisiana - the Juan Anthony Joseph Park.*"

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-10. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion for a 5-minute recess. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to return to Regular session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**18-23** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of property belonging to Perry M. Bailey et ux (proposed Tracts 1 and 2 of the Perry M. Bailey et ux Tract), located in the area generally bounded by Hwy. 18, Hwy. 640, and East 4<sup>th</sup> St., containing municipal address 2293 Hwy. 18, Edgard, LA from the Residential District One(R-1) and Commercial District One (C-1) to the Commercial District Two(C-2) zoning district, as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-18-1107) (N. Robottom)

Alex Carter stated, "*This request aims to facilitate the development of a retail store on proposed Tract 2, which is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Land Use element of the Comprehensive Plan, specifically about encouraging new commercial uses accessible to West Bank residents. Administration recommends approval.*"

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-23. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**18-24** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of property belonging to Perry M. Bailey et ux into Tracts 1 and 2 of the Perry M. Bailey et ux Tract, located in the area generally bounded by Hwy. 18, Hwy. 640, and East 4<sup>th</sup> St., containing municipal address 2293 Hwy. 18, Edgard, LA, as shown in a survey prepared by Keneth L. Rembert, P.L.S. on April 17, 2018 (PZS-18-1190) (N.

Robottom)

Alex Carter stated, "This request aims to re-subdivide the property into 2 lots to facilitate the development of a retail store on proposed Tract 2, which is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan, specifically about encouraging new commercial uses accessible to West Bank residents. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Becnel moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 18-24. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Councilman Wright absent.

**18-25** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the rezoning of a portion of Lots A1, A2, A3, A4, B-1, and B-2 of the Bonnet Carre Crevasse Tract (proposed Lot A4-B), located in the area generally bounded by Jouty Ln., Hwy. 3217, Garden Gr., and Hwy. 628, LaPlace, LA from the Residential District Four (R-4) to the Commercial District Two(C-2) zoning district, with the exception of that portion of the Subject site that is within 100 feet of the property line Abutting Garden Grove, which is to remain zoned Residential District Four (R-4), as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-18-1105) (N. Robottom)

Alex Carter stated, "This request to rezone the subject property will enable the development of a retail store on the site. The Planning Commission recommended denial at the June 18, 2018 meeting (7 for, 2 against). However, in consideration of the comprehensive plan, the surrounding land uses, existing and intended character of the area and Land Development Code, Administration recommends approval with the stipulation that a 100-foot deep portion of the site (abutting Garden Grove) remain zoned R-4."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to discuss Ordinance 18-25. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes, I was glad our Commission denied this, and for what reason did they deny it?"

Alex Carter stated, "The denied it for several reasons: One was a proposed or the impacts to the neighborhood, increased commercial development in the area. You know we do send those results and meeting minutes to the Council, so I'd hate to reiterate their concerns, we did discuss the matter extensively in two separate meetings. But we will have a public comment period, so I would say you know in response to the citizens' concerns, no sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So, wasn't there some discussion on, I know we don't have anything to do with that as far as ownership of the property. Have that been settled yet? Is that part of the reason why they denied this?"

Alex Carter stated, "So, what we've been advising the Planning Commission and what I would advise the Council this evening, and I'm not a Legal Advisor but, the authority of the Council and the Planning Commission in on land use decisions. We do not determine if there is a Title dispute, who is the correct owner of the land use. At this point in this case, Dollar General or the applicant has submitted a Title abstract and has submitted an opinion from an Attorney, that they do have a clear title. We have not received any other information from opponents that would suggest otherwise at this point that would cause them to remove or question the legality of the application."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So is this something that we should let our Legal

people look at as far as us having to approve this and on those contingencies?"

Alex Carter stated, "This information was sent to Legal for advice on I want to say, maybe over two weeks ago, and then when the issue was first in approached in May. And you know we were advised, you know if Legal was here this evening, I would say with that with our Planning & Zoning Attorney, we were advised that this plan site is out of our jurisdiction. On all our reports and on our site plans, we clearly see that the parish is not responsible for reviewing or validating titles and that any action taken by Parish Council on a matter that involves, rezoning or re-subdividing land, that it does not validate that they do have to make sure that they be a dispute that's held after."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I'm cautious, I'm cautious a lot about this because I was at that meeting and I did hear some discussions around those, and I also for a fact that you know, the Council before us approved something similar to this on 51. I think it might have cost the Council Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) if I'm not mistaken, back in the day on 51, cause of something we did or the Council did, or Police Jury did back in the day with Planning & Zoning. So that's why I'm concerned about this, to find out whether or not we should go forward with this or let them take care of that problem first and then come back to us with this part of it. And I realize we can't, we don't have anything to do with as far as ownership of property, but as far as what they're trying to do they're perfectly legal, that's what you're saying? But our Planning Commission said, they denied it. That was the last thing they voted on right, to deny this?"

Alex Carter stated, "They recommended denial to the Council so they made recommendations. We're required by law to take in lead applications, and for all intense purposes between the ownership, to prove ownership that's been submitted and then later validated by the abstract, this is a complete application that we have to process within a certain period of time. So, you know the Planning Commission was required to make a decision within 45 days, at 60 days based on the rezoning for the re-subdivision. For you all, you are under the same type of time constraint, but it is a complete application. And so I would advise that you make a decision to either; defer, deny or approve, which is within your authority."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just, I know that or I believe there's some members from the public who may want to comment on this item and you know to help me with you know some of the decisions, I'd like to hear some of the dialog. So if there is someone from the public who would like to comment on this item, I would you know if that's okay with the Chair to welcome some of that discussion at this time."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes it is."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And Mr. Chairman I know that we have you know, sometime we limit it to two minutes if it possible and it goes over a minute I'm just asking you know..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Yes no problem."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you."

Good Evening Council Members. My name is Edwin Voltolina, I represent the

developer for this project and with Dorsey Development Companies, and what we have, one of the things that was commented on was that we did have an opinion from an Abstractor and Title Insurance was given out on this property by a Title Insurance Company so if there is any issue that would come up in the future, that Title Insurance would have to pay out to anyone in it. But with that being said, I think there was confusion by virtue of how these things are advertised. You know how they have to get general boundaries, they can't give you lot numbers just lot numbers cause no one would know where it is. From the start I think they thought this was part of their property because it was within the boundaries of the, of what was advertised. I've blown up some, a couple of things for the Council members to see. This is basically from the Assessors' Office, information, the property that we're talking about is in the green, the Clement's property is to the, is in the blue I guess kind of teal color. So I think that was the confusion cause at the Board Meeting they started talking about buildings and so forth on the property, homes. The property we're subject to has no nothing on it, it's vacant completely vacant. So I think that's was where the confusion, and I think we've down to right here today, I think we had a meeting with a couple of Councilmen did attend and we, I think that issue was been put to bed, but I'm not 100 percent certain as far as I know it has been. The only other issue that was brought up at the meeting was that in the past I think that property had been used as a dump of some kind, and it was question of whether or not it would be environmentally safe. We've had Terracon - who is a National Environmental Testing Lab, come out and do some test, they poured down I think down to 12 feet, 6-12 feet deep and they found nothing, no nothing that would cause any kind of problems or cause alarm to them or issues. And as the developer, we want to know if there is going to be an issue with that property. We don't want to build something on a property that's going to have an issue later, so that's why we contact these National Companies, Dollar General has two companies they build with Terracon or (gosh I just went blank on the other ones) (Laughter), PSI, yes PSI and Terracon. And so they, and Terracon is the one we chose for this, they did it, we have no concerns, they gave us a clean bill of health on that property also. So thank you all, if yawl have any questions we'll be happy to answer them. I just have my colleagues Mr. McClanahan and Ms. Amy Simms here with me also if you all have any questions."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you. Any further questions, any comments from the public?"

Good Evening. My name is Carolyn Jouty, I live on Highway 628. Just to say something about who owns the land. We had problems with the same people that Mr. Falterman bought the land from, they claimed that they owned part of our land we had to go to court it costed us Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000), but we proved it was ours, so I just want you to think about that. I didn't know I only had two minutes. I have a lot to say here, so I don't know if I could condense it all down tonight. But first, let me say that what I'm about to say I'm not referring to this Administration at all. I don't want anybody to take offense it's only previous Administrations. We do not want a Dollar General Store in our community. I moved there 44 years ago, it was a peaceful, quiet area, the quality of life is then has since gone downhill, and all of this of what the Parish has allowed to happen. They talked about the landfill that was on our family property. The family allowed this because they were told by then Parish President Arnold Labat that did for him. Because they were that naive and trusting, they believe Labat's promises and nothing was put in writing, just a hand shake. This was done without a dime in profit to the family. No promises were kept, nobody cleaned the ditches nobody put a proper topping of dirt and clay, we know have flooding problems, a pump was eventually installed, but we were told the ditches were on private

property and the parish would not clean them. Because of this we had to raise our house, put dirt in the yard, costed us thousands of dollars there too. Second, now we have Bayou Steel. Now we have noise, dust, 18-wheelers flying by my house, explosions coming through the recycling unit (shakes your house) loud speakers from the river, barges banging along the river at all hours, now we have a Mobile Home Park next to us! And it'd be okay if it was just a regular mobile home, this is mostly travel trailers, people moving in and out, and I'm no longer feel safe, because of these strangers that are moving in and out. I'm sure everyone hasn't forgotten that this where Deputy Triche was murdered, just a few feet away from his grandparents' home. And fourth, we also now have a parking lot that holds hundreds of cars, which is for a company that's not even in our parish, which has caused a terrific amount of traffic that makes it almost impossible to get out of your yards at certain times of the day. And heaven forbid if you get into that traffic and try to get into your yard, which is either; you're going to get yelled at, you're going to get horns blown at you, hand gestures, and rear end collisions. And like I said before, again we do not want a Dollar Store. There are already two in LaPlace and one on Airline in Norco. Also I'm sure you're aware that Dollar General sells beer. Can you imagine all the men, coming around after work, standing outside knocking off from Bayou Steel, the parking lot in Little Gypsy and all the people coming through the Spillway from the plants from St. Charles, seems like a total nightmare to me. I'm sure when I say, we, the community, feel that we're not cared about and I'm sure you'll say this is an ignorant thing to say, I hope that now you've heard my statement, you'll understand why I say this. I have been asked by many people, why am I doing this? You know this is a done deal, and I told them I could not forgive myself if I didn't at least try to stop this, and this is so far out of my comfort zone. The Parish has misrepresented itself to us and lied to us, I hope with all sincerity, that things have changed, I hope instead of mistrusting, we can look up to you, be our heroes like you should be. I'm asking you to please vote against this business coming to our community. Thank you."

Good Evening everyone, I'm Charles Jouty stated, "I'm the husband of that young lady, (Laughter) she's a pretty tough. Anyway, I was born and raised on that property that's family property. We've been there over a 100 years. That area has been dispute for property lines for as long as I can remember. We're already in like talks, (well I have been) in talks with the trailer park next to my sister's house where the Jouty property stops. They say they're two feet on our side, we're two feet on their side, Mr. Flynn the Surveyor, did for both of us, and when I went to talk to them, his son told me well we can't do nothing for you, you got to go to court for this. So I don't know, I told the guy don't be putting up a fence along that, you don't know where the property line is, so don't do it! So he stopped. So now we're in limbo who owns what! So that goes, if you measure from one direction coming this way, it's on my side. You measure it from the other side coming this way, the line is on his side. Alright! So where is it? So how did these people know where the property line is? That all goes downhill that all goes to the, to the, towards the Steel Mill, to that land to that street, 3115, 25 whatever the heck that is. So how can you say, I got a definite survey right here, you don't really know we don't know where ours is. We had property markers, the LP&L come and put a big giant powerline behind our property for right-of-way, they knocked the marker property things down. Now how we're supposed to find out? So how can you say this is the right property line? So for me, that's right there that's it. You know, you can't decide on that what you're going to do. Nobody wants to make a final decision, and I don't see why we need a, any kind of business there. We've been doing real good without anything. We already go to put up with that Steel Mill, I don't work there, nobody I know works there. What's it doing for me? I'm not getting no advantage out of it, I'm

not getting any advantage on any of that parking lot. I'm not getting advantage out of anything! So what's the future for our family property there? What's going to happen? Who's looking at this thinking about what they're going to put on property that we've been sitting here for 100, 20, 30 years, since the late 1800s. Just like the Cortez' that's next to us, I wish they were here but they're not here. So I don't know, what's happening with them, but we don't like it but we don't want it. We don't really care who wants it, it's not going to help us. Okay, I'm not a public speaker. (Laughter) Thank you!"

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I did attend two of the Planning & Zoning Meetings, and the people that I saw that showed up at the meeting in favor of not having a Dollar General in their community, there were quite a bit of people that were speaking out against that. I wasn't clear of the Title transaction of the property. I think there was some discussion about having a clear title. Its residential property right now and they're asking to be turned over to a commercial site. I think the people in that community deserve to sort of have some understanding of what they want in their community, if you going take a Dollar General you're going to take houses to be built there so, I want, I'm a let you know right now, I'm in favor of not having this property re-zoned, but the property owners living around that community, you're going to have houses, something is going to be built there one way or the other. I'm going to respect your wishes tonight, my personal opinion Dollar General would be good for that community it's very isolated, but I don't live in that community. But yawl voices came to my ear you're telling me you're not in favor of having Dollar General in your community. So, I just want to make for the record, know where I stand, but they need to know where they going to stand with this residential property if it's not voted in your favor. That's all I got to say."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yeah I kind of feel like Mr. Sorapuru. I'm going to support the Planning & Zoning Commission, because we appoint that commission and they had questions, and they're pretty liberal about things like this, and they had questions so they recommended denial. So, and I was at that meeting Mr. Sorapuru is talking about, and that was some opposition there and the Planning Commission asked many, many questions, and they voted for denial and that's how I'm voting."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'd like to make a comment about this. The way I look at it, I don't think this Council should deciding property line on who owns what. I think when someone comes to Planning & Zoning, if there is a dispute on who own this or who on that, that's between the two property owners to go to court and get that settled before you ever come to Planning & Zoning. We are not a department that decides disputes as to who owns what okay, so that's number one. Okay if you don't have clear title, then you should not come to Planning & Zoning and ask for us to vote to put something there okay, you must have a clear Title. Any type of dispute, if I say I own this chair and she say she own it, we have to go to court before I can get permission for someone to sit in it. That have to be decided in the court of law exactly who own it, because if this was decided in court of law, we would not have two dueling side of the argument. It would be only one group of individual here, the one that legally have been ruled upon by court. So it's not our job to make that decision, so I cannot support this."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you. First I want to thank the residents for coming out. You know your voices are heard, and I can assure you I can't speak for previous Administrations, previous Councils, but we can speak for this one. Like I told you guys at the meeting that I attended and I intend to keep that. Regardless of what happens with this, your voices will be heard. You do have

drainage issues back there, I agree! I was out there today. We do need to look into that, there are some other zoning issues that need to be looked at. So I don't want you to think with this Administration and this Council that you are unheard, it does take a lot of courage to come and speak out against something. I want to thank the Developer, because they did put a lot time into this to actually sit down with the residents to discuss the plan and to even reach maybe some sort of compromise, that isn't heard of a lot. Ms. Carter, I did have a quick question for you; the properties is currently zoned R-4?"

Alex Carter stated, "You're right."

Councilman Wright asked, "So based off of that zoning, what could currently be built on there now?"

Alex Carter stated, "R-4 permits multi-family housing, mobile homes, mobile home parks, I don't have the list in front of me but I can get that more to you, but for the most part, it's a multi-family housing division."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I'll agree with what Councilman Wright said and we've encouraged that from the Council to appreciate residents coming and speaking, especially when you said you were out of your comfort zone. Sometimes it looks easy what we do here, but often times I feel like I'm out of a little bit of my comfort zone too. So I can definitely relate to what you're saying, but I appreciate whole heartily you coming out here, because your concerns are very genuine, they're very real, and so I do appreciate it. Especially coming to Edgard, you know it's a longer drive and I would agree with Councilman Wright to applaud the Developer for attempting to iron out and address some of the concerns with the residents. Often times you're right that doesn't happen. You know development just comes into a small community without the concerns of the community. And my normal course of doing things, I like to lean on the Council members and their area you know your Districts better. Of course, we have two members that represent each District. But I do feel that you know the residents do have a concern, I get also with the R-4, it may not be Dollar General but that was a concern about mobile home parks with travel trailers, that's also a likelihood in that zoning district that this property is located in. For me the bigger issue isn't about who owns the property, because even if it were a free and clear Title, the only thing we're being tasked with is whether or not we want to rezone it. No matter who owns it, five owners, one owner, unsure owner, it's just the rezoning, so there are some concerns. Again I'll yield to you all, to maybe seek some guidance. I do believe that area though could be impacted maybe in such a way with a commercial development right there on that busy corner. I'm not an engineer or an expert, just from what I've seen over the last 16 years, but I will you know yield to my Council members. Thank you."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I just wanted to say, I attended/I was at the Planning & Zoning meeting too, those folks came out there and they were very passionate about not wanting a Dollar General. Like one lady said, they don't have one not far from them, it's not like they not going to shop at Dollar General they don't want that one right there. And I have to respect that you know, but and I do understand Dollar General, I have to respect the people because I was there at the Planning & Zoning meeting, two meetings, and they made it clear of where they stand."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you for sharing that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yeah, I was at that same meeting too, and you know

*I talked with the Clements' and that time. They were not against the Dollar General. They just thought the store was going to be built on their property. And as the Developer went outside and explained to them, they realized it was not going to be built on their property and they were coming back to the Planning & Zoning to let the Chair know, but before they can have speak again, they had voted on the issue. That's why it was denied. Had they came back and explained to it themselves and say, hey we had come to a compromise we know this not their property, I think that Planning & Zoning would of voted differently. But they, at that time they was out in the hall lobbying, discussing it and they agreed to meet the next day and said that they was going to discuss it more, but they were satisfied it was not going to be on their property. So I don't know how we could just deny a store, that's the part I'm trying to understand. How they could just deny a store where they met all the permits, the land use, they met the/everything Planning & Zoning gave them as far as a requirement, it's all legal. So I can't how they can just deny a store for that reason."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you, Alex let me ask this. What types of businesses are allowed in the Commercial C-2 Zoning District?"

Alex Carter stated, "The C-2 was required because it allows retail stores over 3,000 square feet in size. So they could've done the C-1, I think they would have but it limits the size of its blue print. It permits things like: skating rinks, restaurants with holding bars (they're not stand alone bars) but, if you have a restaurant you have a small bar, that's the type of use we're looking at, so like a little bit larger retail stores, restaurants, skate rinks."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I think that's always the question you have to take into consideration with the rezoning, because you are forever changing the potential use of that property. Thank you."

Councilman Wright stated, "I want to make sure the Council and the public understands this, we're not deciding whether or not a Dollar General can relocate here, that is not within our jurisdiction. And the public needs to understand this also. This is a zoning issue, period! That's the matter we have before us. So regardless of what the Council decides we can't choose what goes on that property. They have to apply whatever is bound by the current zoning laws. So and that's why I asked what the current option was, because we could put a trailer park there, multi-unit family housing, oversee to we can have a retail store there. And that's the issue right now, not a Dollar General. As Mr. Sorapuru and I represent that area, I will say I was torn on this decision. However, given the circumstance and reasons given by the community, I will say that I do understand what you're saying with the redevelopment or the rezoning of the area having a certain impact on the area and the community. So with that I will make a motion to deny."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to DENY Ordinance 18-25. The Ordinance was denied by a vote of 8 in favor of denial and 1 abstaining (Perrilloux).

**18-26** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the re-subdivision of Lots A1, A2, A3, A4, B-1, and B-2 of the Bonnet Carre Crevasse Tract into Lot A4-B of the Bonnet Carre Crevasse Tract, located in the area generally bounded by Jouty Ln., Hwy. 3217, Garden Gr., and Hwy. 628, LaPlace, LA as shown in a survey prepared by Louis C. Hartmann, P.L.S. on March 29, 2018 (PZS-18-1189) (N. Robottom)

Alex Carter stated, "At this time the applicant request to redraw the request."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 18-26 from the agenda at the wish of the ordinance author. The motion passed with 1 abstaining (Perrilloux).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I would like to make a motion to accept the minutes from the finance committee."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to accept the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 05-08-18) Council withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

The above item remained tabled.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Lennix Madere/Larry Snyder/Larry Sorapuru/Kurt Becnel - Direct Legal Counsel to proceed with drafting paperwork to call an election in December to rededicate certain mileages**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you. Tell you what I'm going to do. I'm just going to make a motion, let me do this. It's going to be a motion and we can discuss it after that. I'd like to make a motion directing the Administration to give Legal Counsel to proceed with drafting paperwork to call an election in December to rededicate certain mileages to be determined."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah, I think you know just to make a motion without any sort of explaining what everything is about. Okay, it's about rededicating some of the mileages, okay and that's not increasing any tax or anything, it's going to rededicate some of the mileage you know money to be used for other aspects in the parish. Okay it's not an increase in tax it's not a decrease in tax and it's definitely not an increase. It's just moving some money around with the mileage. Okay and to you know I guess whatever it is that's best for the community."

Councilman Malik stated, "I think certainly that the, a just explain which mileages you know later on so that a, but yeah I was going to bring up the same thing as Mr. Lennix over there."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I'd like to bring up our Financial Advisor. We had a meeting with, on the mileages that we're referencing to. Mr. Akers' also, we had a meeting these two guys, had some discussion some strategy behind on what we're trying to get to."

Jason Akers, Bond Attorney, stated, "Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Mr. Acting Chairman, Bond Counsel for the Parish. We were requested to attend the meeting with a few of the Council members, and some members of the Administration to discuss opportunities that may be available for rededication for election to send money that's currently dedicated by a proposition, and just as a Reminder: a Proposition is approved by the voters carries a force of law by the Parish, with money that directed to a particular location by voters may only be used for that particular purpose. However, there is a procedure called a Rededication - that

will allow the parish to put a proposition back out to the voters to say; we have been collecting with your permission x-amount, however, we would like to change what we're doing with x-amount and send a portion of it to a different purpose. With a rededication election, all you're asking is for approval is to rededicate that particular portion. If it is unsuccessful, if it fails at the, if you choose to call the election and the election is unsuccessful it fails at the ballot box, then it doesn't affect your ability to levee and collect the taxes already been approved. It is only a request that the voters approve the rededication of what's already there. In consultation, the discussion if you like me Mr. Sorapuru, I'm happy to go a little bit further."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Sure."

Jason Akers stated, "So the discussion is centered really on two mileages. One was the Health Unit Mileage, that was requested to be used slightly broader, (and Robert please help me out with this if I start to say it a little bit incorrectly), but currently the Health Mileage is authorized to be written as, it's authorized for the purpose of maintaining and operating public Health Units in the Parish. And the request was to provide a little bit more flexibility in the use to maintain and operate and in improving medical and other health facilities and services in the parish. Just because there are times, there are instances that arise that seems to difficult to fit within that tightly confined Public Health Unit, definition - that if it was a little bit broader, it would give the parish a little bit more flexibility in using that mileage. For purposes we think it really was intended in the first place. That tax has been around for decades, it gets renewed every 10 years, I'm not sure exactly when it began but it's been around with that same public health unit language since it very first came about and that with the requirements of the parish it just changed over the years. The second tax that was discussed is the Library Tax. The Library Tax is currently being levied at the rate of 9.94 Mills, and the idea was to rededicate a portion of that for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating various capital improvements within the parish. Including purchasing equipment and furnishings, therefore, at this point it was not determined how much of that 9.94 Mills would be rededicated for those capital improvement purposes. And I believe there was some discussion about what those, at least initial capital improvements would be. The idea of being that we would also, in order to fund the various capital improvements and provide flexibility to those additional bonds, that mileage would be extended for an additional period so it would run a total of 30 years from the day of the election, as opposed to the 10 that it cost and that it currently is and has to be renewed. So Nnamdi would like to discuss impacts of the, you know the dollar amounts, I'm sure I'll be glad to turn it over to him or answer any questions that you have."

Nnamdi Thompson, Government Consultants, stated, "And piggy backing off the last proposition that Jason just discussed, the Library Tax or the Library millage. Currently the Library millage is being levied at 9.94 Mills and when you look at the Library expenses for the last three (3) years, I believe approximately 8 Mills can cover the expenses of the Library. So the thought process would be to rededicate 1.9 Mills for those other purposes. Again, what the purposes are, are up to the Council here, the thought the initial thought process is to rededicate a 1.94 of the existing 9.94 for other purposes again to allow for more flexibility for the Parish."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "What's the millage rate for the Health Unit, I didn't catch that?"

Nnamdi Thompson stated, "So the Health Unit it is .96."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And let me just, to give the public an understanding. The 1.94 that would potentially be rededicate or the .96, how much revenue does that generate annually?"

Nnamdi Thompson stated, "One Mill is estimated about a little over Four Hundred Thousand (\$400,000)."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Four Hundred Thousand (\$400,000)?"

Nnamdi Thompson stated, "Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And as far as procedurally, the item on the agenda is just to direct Legal Counsel to call the election to rededicate certain mileages. Don't we have to know exactly what we're rededicating and where we're sending it to before we put that forward? I've just never seen it done you know this way."

Jason Akers stated, "I will admit and with my experience with the Parish, this is the first time we've done it this way. And it doesn't necessarily mean that that's incorrect. As you know we've been through the process a number of times before, either for renewals or for rededications of other mileages. The first thing we have to do to comply with the Statutory Requirements is you have to provide a, and what we call an Announcement, it's you're announcing your intent as a Council to consider adopting a Resolution calling an election to rededicate certain mileages. In order to meet the deadlines, it would be required to hold an election in December, that announcement really needs to be given either at the next meeting, the second meeting in July or the first meeting August. So as I understood the motion, it was to direct us to begin the announcement. Now the adoption of the resolution calling the election, which Council members when you would actually have to have the proposition language ironed out, actually would not take place until August, probably the last meeting the second meeting in August."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So when you would call the election before you iron out the proposition language and then there's..."

Jason Akers interrupting stated, "I'm sorry, excuse me for interrupting, but..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting asked, "That's what we're doing tonight right? We're calling?"

Jason Akers stated, "No tonight I believe is merely asking us to proceed with preparing a Resolution, or first of all preparing an announcement and then secondly preparing a Resolution to come back before this Council for approval. And that's my interpretation of the motion and then I'm sure I would invite anyone to disagree with me."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Just as directing Counsel to proceed with drafting paperwork to call an election in December to rededicate certain mileages."

Jason Akers stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Would the motion have to be direct your staff cause it's the DA the way I interpreted it, with Legal Counsel was the District Attorney's Office. So if we're engaging a firm, I'm sure you're going to charge

us to do this right?"

Jason Akers stated, "Actually no."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay."

Jason Akers stated, "We don't bill you for election services, just for expenses, out-of-pocket incurred for those."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Would there be any expenses incurred for this?"

Jason Akers stated, "Typically for rededication election our out-of-pocket expenses are in the neighborhood of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), and that includes you know Bond Commission approvals, State, Secretary of State approval, all the other matters that have to be undertaken in connection with the legal requirements to hold the election. Now, you do have other expenses that are outside of us, thus they have to the polling places etc. that would be required, but those aren't our cost."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So would it be proper if it says, 'Direct Legal Counsel to instruct you all' would that be proper?"

Keith Green, Jr., DA's Office stated, "This is the first meeting, we're not that engaged in this process at all."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay."

Jason Akers stated, "This is a role we fill for the Parish for a number of years, and if you prefer to change it from Legal Counsel to Bond Counsel, I think that would be reasonable to do."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And then have we looked at this and I've talked about this in the past and I think some of us, since we have this .96 and this 1.94. We just added the millage for the Levee and I know that we had some conversations with that, that once we collected enough to build the levee then we would roll back to what it was going to cost to maintain it. Was it explored in the meeting that you had with some of the Council members that we could possibly even rollback some of this to provide some relief to the taxpayers and maybe still rededicate so we can accomplish some of the goals that we have while also allowing our taxpayers a little bit of relief of the rollback?"

Jason Akers stated, "It wasn't discussed so much, primarily because most of your mileages at least is, as we understand and as Nnamdis' looked at and we have as well. Most of your mileages are being used at their full capacity, and you probably could use more right now. I can say that cause I'm not elected (Laughter) but..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Right! (Laughing)"

Nnamdi Thompson stated, "He said that, I'll step aside. (Laughter)"

Jason Akers stated, "But I don't think I'm speaking to far outside the box at that point. So I'll actually turn it over to the Parish President."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have had this discussion before, actually was when we identified that that were appeared to be some surplus dollars in the Library

mileage. However, the original request was to rededicate to sure up some of our problem funds, I think in last year by law we were required to notify you all of the projected decreases in tax collection, and also we identified some problem funds. Now we looked out in the future with you know some of the end of some of the larger industry rolling on to the tax rolls that would provide some relief, which is you know why it's kind a questionable to add too much right now, because we anticipate somewhat of a windfall that we think will help our parish. However we do have a couple of trouble funds that we really are having difficulty continuing to operate right now. And our initial request administratively (our request) was to look at possibly rededicating to help relieve the stress we're under as our Bond Counsel said. You know we barely have what we need to function, and two of our funds are problematic, I must say and I thank you all for the support. We have dedicated mills over the years, you know the only tax we passed was for the Levee and I do think just, you know from my information and that having that money and those funds I did receive a call from the Congressman, asking what do you have as a Parish on hand for this project. And I could say, we passed a mill, we collected our first funds and we anticipate collecting another, so we have something that I think helped us move this project forward, but we do have a couple of funds that are struggling and our initial intent was there. Now I apologize I wasn't at the meeting I think it was held when I was out, so I'm not sure you know and there seems to be some cloudiness about what actually is trying to happen here that we'd have to get straight, but our initial meetings were related to utilizing those extra mills to sure up the parish's current funds. With regard to the Health Unit, I'm going to be very clear on what we're asking for that, and I appreciate Jason how he explained it. The Health Unit fund is very restricted to just Health Unit. But we provide assistance in manage the building, where we provide health services through TECHE, we also Mosquito Control, which is a troubled fund, it's costly we have to do things like we're doing now. Which is fly overs and we collect a certain amount of money and to maintain that level of service, it's difficult for us. As a matter of fact, you know it's costing more than we're generating. So as a public health issue, it is a health issue, we want to be able to cover some of that under the Health Unit Fund. The other area that we continue to have problems with is the cost associated with the Coroner. We're having more autopsies, they are more costly, there is not fund for that, we wanted to be able to include that into the Health Unit Fund as it allows more expense. So again, we're not looking to increase it, but we would like to use it on public safety and health issues like - Mosquito Control and the Coroner. The other again, today is my first day back, so I really don't have all of the details on what was talked about, but that was our initial discussion, was to rededicate, to help sure up some of our problem funds that we will need to figure out a way to sustain."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you."

Councilman Malik asked, "You said that the Library could operate on 8 Mills?"

Nnamdi Thompson stated, "In looking at the previous three (3) years of the Library's expenses of the audits, there expenses could be covered by what is generated from 8 Mills. So right now they're levying 9.96, and so the thought process would be to use that additional 1.96 to rededicate it for other purposes."

Councilman Malik asked, "But that's based on their expenses. So actually looking to find out whether or not they're spending money wisely, is not part of your scope on this?"

Nnamdi Thompson stated, "No sir. All I see is what their expenses are and take out some of their capital projects and made a trend of exactly how much they were spending."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And I just want to address that, because I don't want to insinuate that's what we're saying. However, the Library, the mileage approved at that level before we had a State of the Art Libraries. Over the last several years we built a new LaPlace Library, we built a Garyville Library, we built and renovated the Reserve Library, and we just recently completed upgrades to the West Bank Library. So those expenditures over the last several years may have included some, and I think that's what he said they took out capital projects. I think what they're at is what is their general operational expenditures, how much is necessary for them to continue to operate. I don't anticipate, but I can't say definitely that there is a need to complete additional capital projects right now. We just finished and upgraded all of the libraries, expanded the LaPlace one, which is great! So I don't see those needs being as great as they were with when the mileage was initially passed. But I have not had any conversations with any Library Board Members, I'm not sure if you have or any of the staff, to say that, we just looked at numbers in their audits, and knowing factually what the money was used for and I know it was capital and construction projects over the last several years which I think they should be completed now."

Councilwoman Remonet stated, "Yes I know you said we had some discussion I think they had a meeting with a couple of council members but, before I vote on anything, I'd like to know what we plan to do with that money, more firm plans because we're not hearing from the general public, no one's interested in seeing us rededicate anything if we don't have a firm handle on where's it's used. Health Unit is different, that makes sense healthcare has changed. (Inaudible) Whatever we're taking out of that Library fund, they are going to want to know it's earmarked. So I'd like to see a sit down before the next meeting, before we make any formal commitment to the Bond Attorney and settle that as soon as we can. What we'd like to use that money for, so when it's out there we have the answers. That's just my suggestion."

Councilman Wright stated, "I agree with Ms. Remonet, I do think we obviously do need to this, but I think we need to have a more healthy discussion on where the money is going to go, what our plans are. You know I do think sooner rather than later because you know if we can't get something on the December ballot, when is the deadline to get something on the ballot?"

Jason Akers stated, "August."

Councilman Wright asked, "August?"

Jason Akers stated, "We would suggest that the Council adopt the Resolution calling the election either in late August or the second meeting in August or the first meeting in September."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But you'd have to have an announcement by..."

Jason Akers stated, "You'd have to do the announcement before, the announcement can be broadly worded, doesn't have to say which mileages are being rededicated, but it just has to indicate that there is going to be a Resolution considered to call an election. So, it has to be properly worded."

Councilman Wright stated, "I support this only from the standpoint of us sitting

down at the table deciding when we're going to attempt to ask the public to rededicate these funds, because even as Administration said, even if some of the current departments not having a healthy balance, we also have to be responsible and make sure that we are properly funding the departments. And we also have to make sure on the flip side that we're spending the money appropriately. Not saying you guys aren't, but just looking at it from a holistic standpoint. You know drainage and water is another issue that is at hand. So I would rather either we can vote on it tonight, with the intent of having it be a workshop later on in August to discuss it with Administration on actually where we're going to put this money or ask the public to rededicate."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes I totally agree Mike, we need to vote on this tonight. I think we all know the issue that we're facing with the water, situation we have with the Community Center has to be rebuilt, that was stripped down and they can't repair that building, so I'm in favor of moving forward. Those issues affect the whole parish that we're talking about, wells, water issues at the Lions Water Plant, I mean this is, we're here now these guys have taken their time they gave us the numbers, those are the numbers that we just (inaudible). That Library Board have about \$12 Million Dollars they're sitting on, okay I attended that meeting the other day too. They're trying to find places to (inaudible), but we're not going to take anything away from that money, we just going to rededicate those funds and it won't cost the taxpayers any other money. So that's put on our big boy pant and move."

Councilman Wright stated, "Mr. Sorapuru I think we all wear our big boy pants, and my comment was more to not questioning whether we should rededicate but where we're going to put that money, which is being responsible to the public."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I just told you..."

Councilman Wright interrupting using the gavel.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I'll say the same thing. I think we need to call a workshop to discuss this, so that we can all sit down the entire Council, and not you know have any more meetings to discuss it. I think we have to get all the in the room together. So a workshop would be in order Jackie, if you want to go ahead and set those up so that we can iron all that. But if tonight the only thing we're doing is just calling it or potentially having it kind of slated if we do put the Resolution together and we're not you know bound to anything, then I'm okay with you know that at this time, I can support that at this time."

Jason Akers stated, "I will also commit that this will be no cost if you decide not to go (laughter) forward with an election. You're a tough negotiator."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I trust what you're saying Jason, it's just the way it was worded..."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to amend the language to direct the Bond Counsel and not Legal Counsel. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Akers stated, "With the approval of the amended motion, we will provide an announcement that will be read into the record (Jackie's done it a number of times) be read into the record at the next meeting, but we don't have to determine the language of the proposition until the meeting, the second meeting in August, on August 28<sup>th</sup>. So we'll have the workshop sometime before August 28<sup>th</sup>,

*but the announcement will still appear next week so that we stay on target. Just want to be...okay. Thank you!"*

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to direct Bond Counsel to proceed with drafting paperwork to call an election in December to rededicate certain mileages. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 03-13-18) Council's possible withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

The above item remained tabled.

**Lennix Madere - Update on drainage and road repair in District III**

*Verdell Kindrick stated, "Paving of all streets listed in the 2018 Road Improvement Program is complete. A punch list has been prepared by the Parish Engineer and the Contractor is currently working on completing the punch list items. Estimated completion is within the next three weeks, weather permitting."*

**Larry Snyder - Update on Vicknair Canal Pumping station**

*Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a very short update. We received three options for Vicknair Canal, all three exceeded the budget funds for this project. As we were looking back at what was being done, at the same time we were looking at interim flood protection plan for LaPlace and in combination with St. Charles Parish. So we kind of wanted to make sure that we weren't duplicating efforts and doing that project and then would superseded. At this point with the project being approved, that would actually have pumps and pumping stations North of the East/West Canal and the I-10. I think we need to revisit this plan. When this project was initially put in place we nowhere near levee protection, and hadn't really done as much work as we've done recently to see how the work flows, what would happen, we also had a discussion in our meeting in regard to the effectiveness of that design, and we had some concerns about that or the whole time with regard to what would happen to the East/West Canal will the water recirculate, would it come back on the area that we're trying to protect, will it go in other areas and I think one of the conditions for not having full funding for it, we also have some concerns about what adding pumps and locations that's being proposed would do to the rest of the area with regard to circulation, cause of elevation of some of the surrounding areas and the fact that they have all the culverts going under the interstate."*

**Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to water billing, meter location resolution and strategy going forward for the next 16 months**

*Blake Fogleman stated, "As discussed during the water meter workshop on Tuesday, June 26th, Utilities and Finance are communicating/negotiating with a third-party contractor for interim meter-reading services until a new meter system is in place. Once finalized, this information will be provided to the Council."*

**Larry Snyder - Update on the LaPlace Transit Station**

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "AECOM is conducting Phase I of the station planning project, which includes collecting and analyzing data (site, traffic, economic modeling, rail service projections) and drafting basic principles for the proposed station. Phase II is also in process and includes testing these*

principles through public involvement via a formal press release, website, online survey (378 people responded to the survey, 80% of whom live in the 70068-zip code), and Stakeholder Meeting held on June 27, 2018 with just over a dozen in attendance. Public meetings will be held in the near future, as well as an additional Stakeholder meeting once information is more refined and conceptual plans are completed. Completion of this project is expected before the end of the year."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Cape Horn Investments, Inc. vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Case #72013

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

There were no ordinances to introduce.

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. I am extremely pleased to announce that after years of hard work and tireless effort we received full funding for the West Shore Project Levee Protection at a total of \$760 Million. We brought officials here, went to Washington and back to Baton Rouge to secure funding for this project and years of work finally paid off. Thanks to the leadership of Congressman Graves, a strong will and determination and outstanding relationships with our partners, this project will come to fruition after 40 years. I will mention that levee protection has been my number one priority since taking office and through hard work, persistence and resolve, what seemed to be an insurmountable feat has been accomplished. This is a great day for everyone in the region and I am elated to share this awesome news. As we move forward with the project, updates will be sent out through the Communications Department and posted online. We hope everyone had a relaxing Independence Day. I'd like to thank all who attended the Veterans Day luncheon and Independence Day firework show. Over 400 veterans and their spouses attended the luncheon and thousands gathered on the East and West banks of the parish for the firework show. I would like to thank all of the guests and elected officials who attended and Secretary Pierson and Congressman Graves for taking time out of their busy schedules speak at the luncheon. It was an overall great day and one dedicated to all of those who have fought to give us the freedoms we enjoy. The annual veteran's video tribute continues to grow as we add more photos each year. As soon as the DVD of the broadcast is ready, it will be replayed on the Government Access Channel. Thanks to my Administrative team and all of the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the day a success. It is a team effort and one that does not go unnoticed. The Summer Food Service program for school aged children will run through July 20<sup>th</sup>, Mondays through Thursdays. Breakfast and lunch are being served at East St. John High School and Emily C. Watkins Elementary School and lunch is served at Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School, New Wine Christian Fellowship and West St. John Elementary School. Breakfast is served from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM and lunch is served from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information or questions, please visit the Health & Human Service webpage or call (985)536-4955. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Andouille Festival is slated for October 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> and applications for craft and food vendors are now available. Please return or mail

*your application to St. John Economic Development, 1801 West Airline Highway in LaPlace. Forms can be picked up at our office or downloaded at [www.andouillefestival.com](http://www.andouillefestival.com). Reminder to residents that it is hurricane season and the summer wet season which means heavy rainfall can occur at a moment's notice so please review your game plan. Remember to sign up for Parish emergency alerts by visiting our website at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com) or calling Communications at (985)652-2222. These alerts are customized and are very important in the event of emergencies. Also as we have been experiencing higher than normal temperatures and are asking that you prepare for the excruciating temperatures. We have also made preparations and are monitoring our employees that work outdoors. Please be on the lookout for heat advisories by the National Weather Service. Residents and businesses should also learn about and watch for the symptoms of heat illnesses, and take proactive steps to protect yourself, fellow workers and others. Thank you."*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:44 PM, Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Becnel seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard, Councilwoman Remondet and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Lennix Madere  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary