

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** 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:** Lucien Gauff

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Madere led the Pledge.

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

**Natalie Robottom/Vince Lucia - Presentation - Phillip Rebowe, Carr, Riggs & Ingram - Final Audit of 2012 Budget**

Mr. Philip Rebowe with Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA's and Advisors was present at the meeting and presented a brief report on the 2012 Audit.

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I would like to ask that I get a motion to suspend the rules. Councilman Wilson would like to address the body here."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to suspend the rules to allow Councilman Wilson to make a public statement. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

Councilman Wilson stated, *"I would like to make a statement please allow me to take a moment to address the incident that I am sure many of you have heard about that occurred during this past weekend regarding my discharging of a firearm at my home in Garyville. This incident stems from a long time ongoing family matter one that I regret sadly escalated into events that you have heard about. I am deeply sorry for my actions and sincerely apologize for any embarrassment it brought upon my family, friends, the people of District II and to my fellow council members. I humbly ask for your forgiveness as this is a family matter I will not comment on it again. I am asking that you respect my family's privacy as we work through this difficult time. Again I ask for your forgiveness."*

**Consent Agenda**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I am going to have to ask for a suspension of rules again to add the item Permit approval - New Pilgrim & Beech Grove Baptist Church - Block Party/Back to School Drive - August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM to the consent agenda."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to suspend the rules to add the item Permit approval - New Pilgrim & Beech Grove Baptist Church - Block Party/Back to School Drive - August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM to the consent agenda. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

**Items:** Approval of Minutes July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Appointment of Brenda Anderson to the ZBA; Permit Approval - New Pilgrim & Beech Grove Baptist Church - Block Party/Back to School Drive - August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting; Councilman Perrilloux - Appointment of Brenda Anderson to the ZBA; Permit Approval - New Pilgrim & Beech Grove Baptist Church - Block Party/Back to School Drive - August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**13-17** (Tabled 7-9-13) (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)

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 13-17 from the table. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

There was no motion the ordinance dies.

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

The administration requested removing Ordinance 13-18 from the agenda.

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

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Under this new and I have been reading this I know Mr. Gauff is not here my concern is if I tear down my shed that I had to pay a permit to get it out now I have to pay a permit to get it down. Is that correct? Is that what this new ordinance says?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I want to clarify myself. I think it is a good ordinance because it includes the removal of demolition. I really think that is good but I think we are going a little bit too far if I remove a dog house is that part of a shelter? It is closing something

*do I need a permit to tear that down too? So I think it went a little bit too far and that is the reason that I voted against it. I like the ordinance but I just think it went too close to home."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I can't answer the questions. Was this ordinance drafted by administration?"*

Angelic Sutherland stated, *"No."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-19. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Gauff) and 2 against (Millet & Wilson).

**13-20** (Public Hearing Held) 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)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I just have a question being those are not the correct names for these processes does it matter that it was advertised as such?"*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"The answer that I would give and I did speak with District Attorney Tom Daley right before the meeting he stated that he did draft this ordinance and stated that what we call the RFQ's and RFP's or Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposals."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Yes that is what they are and that is not what this says."*

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, *"It can be amended."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I need a motion to amend ordinance 13-20."*

Natalie Robottom asked, *"Does it have to be re-advertised?"*

Jeff Perilloux stated, *"No it doesn't change the intent of the ordinance."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to clarify Request for Proposals and Request for Qualifications. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

**13-20** (Public Hearing Held) 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 Proposals (RFP's) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) for any Parish work without Parish Council approval (J. Hotard)

**MOTION:** Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve amended Ordinance 13-20. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "At 6:00 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 Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

Councilman Wright stated, "I have a question for Mr. Nunes two items, first can I get an update on the McReine/Crevasse area? I know we have been talking about it for quite a while and we made some progress but there is still a little more work to do. If you could just give me an update on where we are on that?"

Brian Nunes, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, "The McReine/Crevasse area actually late last week my assistant director went out there and met with a concerned resident who expressed some ideas of things that he thought could help and we agree we are going to attempt. We are going to have a crew out there this week there is a canal that we are going to try and dig out a little bit and we have a few ideas on how to help the area and we are going to start that this week. Additionally, as you know, you and I will be walking that area later in the week to make some other determinations and as far as the pumps that I mentioned we have also solicited a few more quotes just to make sure we are following the public bid law correctly. I haven't received those quotes back yet but I am expecting them I thought I would have them by now honestly but by the end of the week I really expect to have everything so that we can take those numbers and then compare them to where the drainage budget is and be ready to move forward with that aspect of the McReine area."

Councilman Wright asked, "Okay so you do see us having some crews out this week and next week correct to at least start on the project?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Right now we are planning on having an excavator out there with a crew this week."

Councilman Wright stated, "And the second item I had for you I had some calls from residents if you could possibly go look at the Woodland Canal behind the Broussard area they said there was some sort of blockage. If you could just maybe check it out and see if the canal needs to be cleaned out or maybe dredged but just take a look at that for me and get back with me."

Brian Nunes stated, "Definitely I will make a note of that right now and I will get out there."

Councilman Madere asked, "Mr. Nunes the canal remember several months ago I brought you down Cedar Street off of the Airline where the snowball stand is at remember we went and looked at that canal several months ago? Have we done anything with that canal yet? I remember there was a tree growing in the middle of it?"

Brian Nunes stated, "No we haven't there was a tree and a shed there also but we haven't moved the shed or cut the tree down either let me look into that a little more and make sure that we are not on private property and make sure that we do have a drainage servitude there before I commit to making any improvements in that area but I will make a note to follow up on that and I will get with you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Brian I have been passing wire over there and I have to give you guys credit you did a good job in cleaning up that property over there on Capt. Bourgeois but there is a little area over there and I was wondering if you all could do anything with that as far as where the metal fence is at I know the big equipment couldn't get in there so they still have a lot of debris in there and what are you planning on doing with that part of it? Is it on the schedule to get all of that cleaned up and possibly when will that happen?"

Brian Nunes asked, "Are you talking about the perimeter of the property?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right the perimeter they have a ditch over there I think because I take a ride over there every now and then and the last time I passed over there it looked like nothing was done on that part of it behind the shed where they have the metal fence I think there was a ditch there you got close to it but I think you couldn't get all the way in there and there is still a little bit of work to be done just in that area."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree there is some work that needs to be done especially around the perimeter. We did spend a few weeks out there with concrete crews and our tree trucks and we had a lot of machines out there that we normally use in other areas so I didn't want to keep them out there just to do the private property while we still have to have our drainage and asphalt crews out but we will go back in there and clean it up and make it presentable as a parish property."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes I appreciate that thank you."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mr. Nunes I know I am not hearing this right there is a shed and a tree in the canal? Is it stopping water from flowing?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That particular area is more of just a swale between property and a resident built a shed on top of it. They put a small pipe there I believe I don't remember how big it was."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So the shed is not in the canal per say it is on top of the canal?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Right canal is the wrong term to use."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay because I hope we wouldn't leave something that would obstruct the water flow."

Councilman Snyder stated, "One other thing I think I wrote up a request for Woodland back there and I have to give you guys credit you did a good job on cutting up those trees back there. Someone called me today

from the neighborhood and said what a good job you all did on cutting those trees. What we need to do now is those contractors that are doing our cement work somebody needs to talk to those guys and tell them to stop throwing their waste stuff on our boulevard. It is still out there on Woodland. They have hunks of cement, sand and traffic direction material the orange and white banners and things like that. It is making our neighborhoods look bad and we need to get that cleaned up. Those guys need to come and get the stuff out of there because they put it there. The contractors put it there. I would appreciate anything you can do to get them over here."

Brian Nunes stated, "You did email me about that and I spoke to the contractor he is actually planning on coming back to the area I believe in the next week or two because that is when we are going to start doing the front entrance to Cambridge that was requested and then the Ormond intersection and Greenwood Drive as well. So he asked if we could be patient with him if he could leave his sand out there and his barricades instead of moving them offsite and moving them back on but if you like..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No we will work with them. I don't have a problem working with them but just don't leave it there. The sand is fine. I can understand if you want to do that but those hunks of concrete there he took that from some other place and brought that there and that has to be removed. I know he doesn't need that. He could have brought that home with him."

Brian Nunes stated, "You are right we can get that hauled off."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I have one question do you know the status on Ormond Blvd that concrete panel replacement right there since they finished the Shell station or maybe just follow up on that and get with me. It is a really bad spot and hopefully we can get to it soon."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is what I was just mentioning, we originally intended to have the contractor here I think it was July 25<sup>th</sup> but he is held up on another job in Houma because of the rain that pushed him back so he said probably the first week of August and I am just going to keep following up on that and as soon as I get a solid date I will let you all know."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Great and we did have a series of rainy days so I am sure that made a difference. Mr. Rayneri I think Councilman Madere had a question for you."

Councilman Madere asked, "Mr. Rayneri I know we spoke on the phone and I would like for you to explain and tell the residents of District III what it is we talked about because I know this project was held up a little bit because of the river and you explained everything to me on the phone but I would like for the residents of the district to hear because this way it will get to them easier than if it is just told to me."

Virgil Rayneri, Director of Utilities, stated, "This was one of the three projects that were being held back because of the river stage and as soon as the stage of the river went down at Carrollton gate we initiated the work again on all of these and particularly the one you

are talking about the I&I in the Reserve area. Mr. Babin is with PEC and he quickly started mobilizing equipment and we are in the process of right now lining piping which is the second stage of the project and then after we finish the lining on the piping we will do the point to point repair which is going to be the more messier than we are doing right now and that should complete the job and I always get help from the communications department because she helped me with my projects and she alerted me what do you think we should do and Paige issued a letter on the 18<sup>th</sup> to all the news stating where the work was going to be done and when it was going to be started and the process. Right now we are working around Chad B. Baker/E.27<sup>th</sup>, W. 3<sup>rd</sup>, W. 7<sup>th</sup>, W. 8<sup>th</sup> and a couple of more streets and I think that Gerald told me today that there is a possibility that we might have two crews who will have two crews working to accelerate the work."

Councilman Madere stated, "Thank you because I was about ready to ask you exactly where you were working at because I want to pass over there tomorrow and just take a look at the work because I was invited the first time when they did the manholes so I would like to go back and see how they are doing the lines in the area. Also I spoke on the phone to you about the area on the River Road by 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Street remember I told you about that pipe that was busted and we couldn't repair it because of the river. I see Mr. Lennix in the audience and I think he remembers what we talked about it and he also told me that when the water went down we would get to it. I know we have a lot of other things that need to be taken care of. It is located on River Road right by 13<sup>th</sup> Street where there is a convenience store."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Oh I remember it now yes we will go and look at it tomorrow."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Did we find out the problems with those lift pumps in front of Cambridge and have we come up with any plans to see that it doesn't happen again?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Well it is very difficult. It is a problem between static and grounding and we had lightning strike that affected the Arcuri Center and also the Cambridge lift station and what it did was the control board that controlled the on and off system of the pumps failed and stopped and that is why they didn't start and you get the overflow. As soon as I got in contact with the people that were on standby on call they went out and trouble shot and replaced the board and started it back up."

Councilman Snyder asked, "There is no alarm system on that that would either be a local alarm system like a red light blinking or something like that?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "That is one of the ones that we are trying to install telemetry on it and that is moving slowly but I am trying to get there yes."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But my understanding is that telemetry will look at the power supply."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It will tell you different variables like on flow, starting of the motors, levels and other things like that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Telemetry wouldn't pick that up because it had the power supply."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes there are five perimeters that they are monitoring."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we did fix the problem and it was an electrical surge that caused the problem?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes a lightning strike."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You all did a good job everything was picked up and cleaned away and taken care of really fast."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I am sorry Mr. Nunes I have one other question I did get some calls I know we had a heavy rain event over the weekend but I did receive some calls in the English Colony/Manchester area and in the back of Cambridge Drive. It seems like we have some blockage underneath in those culverts. Is there any way that we can check that area for some blockage in the culverts and if possible get them blown out so that we can get the water to flow in that area a little bit better?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Absolutely we can go and take a look at it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I will follow up in an email. I just made the note so I wanted to mention it to you but I will follow up in a work order tomorrow so that we can have a record of it."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Mr. Nunes was there something already done in that area to look at the broken pipe underground back there? Wasn't there something done lately or within the last few years or something do you know of anything? Does our engineer here know anything about that? It was my understanding that they did a drainage survey in that area and did find some piping that was kind of busted up in the Revere area back there I don't know if you know anything about that but from my understanding they did find some area back there that needed to be fixed."

Brian Nunes stated, "We can look into that. I am not aware of the study right now. What happened this past weekend the lake was high and we got some water and we couldn't drain into the drainage system."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was back there Mr. Nunes and I can tell you that there was nothing that you guys could do. I am sorry I was back there and the canal was up over the banks and anything that drained from far away just couldn't get into the canal. I mean the drainage pipes had to be five feet under the water level so it was just hard to drain anything in there. The water was getting out of the canal and the canal was pretty clean so it was just the amount of water that fell in a short period of time and I was back there with Verdell and we looked at it for a long time and we drove around but there still was some water over there on the east side of Cambridge and I think that is the lowest spot and the hardest spot to get over there to the west side

of Cambridge and that is why it stayed flooded for so long but I mean I was back there for 15 or 20 minutes and when I went back up Cambridge Drive it was dry. All the way up Cambridge Drive was dry except just this area over there that Ms. Hotard is talking about so it was just that so much water fell in such a short period of time that really gave us headaches."

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, "Councilman Snyder you are correct you had talked to me about that and that was on Revere but that work happened back I want to say 6-7 years ago and that was on Revere and there are a couple of complexes there and so forth right there and I remember going there and we checked the drainage and such and they had a lot of debris that was in the catch basins and we found that and we also found a broken culvert in that location and we had addressed it at that time they cleaned out the culverts and so forth and tried to get them working again but they did experience a problem and I don't know if it is inherent and continuing over there but there was a lot of problems along that street and that was about 6-7 years ago Mr. Nunes wouldn't even know about that."

Councilman Wilson asked, "How long ago was the study done for the drainage?"

Brian Nunes stated, "The master drainage plan was in 2002."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Do you know if they put Garyville, Mt. Airy and Reserve in there?"

Brian Nunes stated, "The entire parish was covered in the drainage study."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I was just wondering because the entire parish isn't getting things fixed that need fixing."

#### **Larry Snyder - Update on Canal dredging, cleaning and spraying**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I am happy with the response here and my investigation is that they are doing what they are supposed to be doing."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and Mr. Nunes on that item I had mentioned at the last meeting if we cut first and then spray we will actually not have all of that loose debris. Did you pass that along to the canal contractors?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I spoke with one of the contractors not both of them but the one that I spoke to said that he was having some problems with what he was calling alligator grass and he said that there is really no way to directly treat that except that if the rest of the stuff the chemicals that he is putting down will treat it because that alligator grass he is going to find another way to deal with it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No I meant the cutting of it first before we spray it so that we don't spray it when it is 2 or 3 feet long and then that creates another problem and I saw the information that you sent and with both of those companies that should be very easy for them."

**Larry Snyder - Update from Planning & Zoning on collection of liens**

Councilman Snyder asked, "So we have gotten an agreement with the assessor to take care of those liens?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "What we did was take all of the 2012 & 2013 liens and we sent those to the assessor's office to be included and we had discussed that a few months ago that we had to send it before the end of July because he books are open I think in August so he needed time to prepare to include those on the tax bill."

Councilman Snyder asked, "When did we send it?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Last week I think."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And about how many liens did we have to send to him?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I knew you were going to ask that I have the total amounts. The total amount for liens for 2012 that we sent was \$52,612.63 and the amount for 2013 and this is just through I think the end of June \$30,026.81."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So that is going to be a revolving account right? Whenever we get through all of our paperwork and go through the process and if it doesn't work for the people who own the property the assessor will get a copy of it and not just wait until the end of July to do it? We have a process set up right that we write them letters, go cut the grass, then we send them a bill?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Right it goes through the code enforcement process and then we send them a bill and if they don't pay we place a lien on the property and then from now on if they don't pay for the lien then they are added to that tax bill every year."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Now who are the ones getting these bills? Is it the property owner or the guys renting the property?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No the lien goes to the property owner because the lien is placed on the actual property so you have to notice the owner of the property."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right thank you very much."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Angelic you might not be able to answer this but how much money in administration have we spent on cutting grass where these liens are involved?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I don't have that right now but I can get that amount for you."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I was just wondering how much we actually spend and how much we are getting for it?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I am not actually sure because these liens don't only include grass cutting, they include demolitions as well."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I want to make sure that we aren't getting to the point with some of these properties that we have more invested than what they are worth."

Councilman Madere stated, "Let's just say with the grass cutting that they cut the grass and a particular property we cut it all summer how much time do they have to pay it for the summer. If I accumulate a bill from July to the end of what we call the growing season how much time do I have to pay that bill?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Every time we go out and cut your grass it is a separate bill and violation. So if we cut it three times you are going to get three separate bills and for each bill you have I think 30 days from the day you receive the bill to pay it and then we place a lien."

Councilman Madere asked, "If I don't pay that lien well in the past if you didn't pay it wasn't there a percentage that goes up every year. I think at one time years back it was maybe 5% or 7% was added to that lien to that bill."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I believe the judicial interest is 7% or something like that."

Councilman Madere asked, "Okay so we have been doing that, the 7% or have we been leaving the bill as is?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I believe we have been adding the interest and whatever other fees we incur."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I think Mr. Wilson asked this question we don't have numbers on how much we have collected on prior liens, am I correct? We just know how much we have spent. My question is last year we spent \$52,000.00 and this year we are at \$30,000.00 do we have a record of how much we have recouped?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes but I don't know that number off of the top of my head but I can get it to you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "If you could get that to me I would appreciate it. I just want to see actually how much the parish is spending. If we recoup most of it then we are not spending all the tax payer's money."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Right but the amount that I gave you for the actual liens that have been sent to the assessor those are the amounts that have not been recouped because those are still the outstanding ones."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So that is not the total amount that we have expended?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No if someone came in to pay for a lien that was placed or paid their bill that is not going to be reflected in this. This is only the outstanding liens that we put on properties that

haven't been paid."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay so last year we put \$52,000.00 worth of liens on the property owners? This year so far we have put \$30,000.00 but that is not how much money we have spent cutting grass?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Right that is just how much that has not been paid."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "How much did we spend? Am I afraid to ask?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We keep a running total of that I just didn't bring it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I have a lien on some property if I paid before my tax comes out but the assessor already has it what do I do?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Once we send the lien to the assessor's office you can no longer come to code enforcement to pay your lien. You have to wait until it comes on the tax bill and pay it with the tax bill."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Back to the grass cutting part how many times did you change the process, how often do we have to write these letters and give them 30 days and we have to wait and the grass gets cut and most of the time it is habitual offenders or the same property but going through the process the way it is how long does it actually take place that the grass gets cut before it comes back and we have to cut it again? What is the process for that?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Okay let me answer your first question yes Councilwoman Hotard was the one who introduced the ordinance to amend the grass cutting and what it did was if you were a repetitive violator the second time in that calendar year when we mail it out we don't have to mail it by certified mail which normally we do and we have to wait for the green card to come back and that takes a while so we mail it by regular mail and after five days then we assume that they have received it so it does shorten the process but we still have to send the notice and then once they either receive it or after the five days when we assume that they have received it the code allows them 15 days to actually cut it at that point. So the inspectors have to go back out after that 15<sup>th</sup> day and if it is not cut then we send a contractor out."

Councilman Madere stated, "We talked about this a couple of weeks ago I think and I told you about the process that is 15 days and you and I agreed that it could end up to be 25 days depending on how soon they go out and cut it and I am going to be getting with some other council members and we are going to adjust that ordinance and try to cut the 15 days down to 5 or 10 days that we assume they have received the letter because as I ride through the district and the code enforcement officers are doing their job writing it up but by the time the second time comes around and all of the time goes by it is just as bad as it was the first time. So I think the whole thing that Ms. Hotard was trying to do was trying to eliminate the grass getting that high again so we are going to have to adjust that 15 days down a little more to try to get exactly what it is we are trying to accomplish and you basically agreed with me about that and I have a property on E. 21<sup>st</sup>

Street I didn't get the chance to look at it but we talked about it now I am sorry I spoke with Mrs. Milioto about it and this is one property that I hope the owner didn't cut it. I hope they didn't cut it on that particular one because it is so bad that if they would cut it they wouldn't do a good job. I know that. So I was really rooting that they didn't cut this one because I wanted to go see it tomorrow because our contractor is supposed to go out there and cut it after the 20<sup>th</sup> and I was out of town. So I am going to be up early tomorrow morning to go and see how our contractor went and cut it because that is the first initial cut and that particular property has to be cut, raked, all the debris picked up and grass removed off of the fence because we talked about that. I have a problem how we go out and cut grass on the initial cut on property that is really in bad condition. When we make the first initial cut it isn't a good cut. It will flatten the grass but it doesn't improve the look of the neighborhood so I am actually hoping that they didn't cut it I want to see how our contractor went out and handled that particular property and if it don't look good I will be there early tomorrow morning to get that contractor to go back out there and do a good job because you agreed with me that the initial cut has to be a good job. So I am hoping that they didn't cut it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Councilman Madere you are correct we want to maybe look at some of the information on the ordinance and even the changes I had forwarded some items to Kristie while you were out and maybe when I get back I will send you the emails to bring you up to speed but we would like to do is on the second notice if it is a repeat violation where we don't have to do that 15 days again that once we send the regular mail if it is in the state of Louisiana it is the five days we can deem that it has been received and then go ahead and get it cut then and another thing I would like to look at is even our system that we are using to track the actual violations it only allows and just like when we get it on the report it only allows for so much room so even when we go out on those subsequent violations they have to start the process it is a new violation again whereas if we had a system let's say when code enforcement went out the second time and it wasn't a repeat violation if they could continue a running report if you will or a journal for that one entry so that you will have that one account if you will, the property has one account and once that grass or anything on the property becomes a violation then we can just add another line to that file instead of restarting the process all over again and it is handled in Kenner I just think that our system doesn't even allow us to manipulate some of the fields to do that but I do think that it would allow us to be much more efficient it would probably help your staff definitely code enforcement to save that time especially when we have someone who is repetitively having these violations to where we don't have to go in and recreate the process once you have the file open and it is assigned an account on that second or third violation in that calendar year call in and the grass is 12 inches or we have another abandoned vehicle add that item you know a journal entry into that item and then go out again so hopefully now that you are back that is something that you can look at and I will forward some of those emails to you as well."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I agree with what you are saying about the grass violations. Councilman Gauff actually forwarded me some of the information that you had received from Kenner and I looked at it and had some suggestions as well and the current work order system is the

same system that public works uses and it doesn't allow you to do that because once the grass violation has been satisfied it is closed in the system and once it is closed in the system you can't reopen it but South Central right now and I know Mr. Wright is looking for this the new system that we are looking into with South Central Planning they are in the process right now we have given them a bunch of information so right now they are actually developing a program specifically for us with our violations and the type of violations that we write so I don't see it being much longer before we have this and I am not sure but I think this system will be able to do that because it tracks it by address and then you can actually go back into that same address and add to it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Good just keep us posted and I will send you the information that I have and I appreciate you working on that so diligently."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I had mentioned this once before. I don't know why we can't cut the grass and then spray weed killer because people don't mind looking at the dead grass. They don't like the tall grass that has the rats and snakes coming out of it. It has got to wind up costing us a little bit of money because if you kill the grass then you don't have the same problem going on every week. They get their letter and then 15 days and after all this time another month has passed by but I think we really need to look into getting some pricing and getting the stuff sprayed once it is cut so that we don't have to keep going to the same problems."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and I had mentioned that even to code enforcement just about spraying along the fence line because once you get into spraying Mr. Ranney it is a specialized license that you need to do that and also part of those agricultural and forestry regulations may even caution you against just totally going spray and killing grass all over the place and adding all of those herbicides into the ground but I definitely think it is something that we can look at on the initial cut spraying along the fence line and around the house so that it doesn't infringe on the neighbors."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Councilman Madere ask that we remove this item from the agenda for now and he will come back in a few weeks with something special for them.

**Ranney Wilson - Drainage and Drainage equipment**

Councilman Wilson stated, "I think I have had this on the agenda for three months. What is happening with equipment?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Are you specifically asking about new equipment that we have ordered?"

Councilman Wilson stated, "Yes you have ordered some?"

Brian Nunes stated, "Well we ordered the stuff that we made you aware of earlier which is 2 dump trucks and the excavator and we have

actually gone and looked at some other products now, some smaller machines like you have asked us to and we have been actively shopping but we haven't ordered anything yet."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We didn't have too much shopping to do I gave you everything that you really needed with the pricing and it is all state contract items so I mean I don't know how long we are going to keep this up because nothing is getting done and the people are getting tired of it and I am getting tired of it."

Brian Nunes stated, "I wouldn't say that there is nothing getting done. We actually took some site visits today we went out and looked at some new equipment that just come in the yards around the area and we are trying to decide what we want and what size we want, what size arm we want, we want to make sure before we spend any parish money that we get exactly what we need and I think Verdell and I know what we need better than anybody does."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I don't know it has been three months and we haven't come up with anything yet. Okay just leave it on the agenda for the next meeting."

**Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 7-9-13) Discussion relative to the hiring of Special Assistants**

Councilman Snyder stated, "You can just remove that item."

**Natalie Robottom - Clarification - Open Meetings Law**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This item was addressed at our special meeting and I think it ended up generating some additional questions. Mr. Daley wasn't able to attend but he did forward his response and basically the items under discussion and I know everybody wasn't able to attend there wasn't actually a quorum to vote (at the Special Meeting there was a quorum of five council members present) but there were questions about who it applied to and my question to him was how did that apply to the parish president and staff with regards to calling informational meetings and he did tell me that I was welcome to share this with you all that it does apply to all public bodies which is defined as the governing authority however because the parish president and the administrative staff are not part of the deliberative body that votes that as such they are not directly controlled by the open meetings law. There was some question there and I know some of the council members had some so I think for us that still allows us to do some of the things that we were doing which is to provide you information without asking how you are voting or trying to however the next question was does providing information to council members in groups without polling or requesting their position violate the open meetings law and his response was that providing information does not however any discussion or questioning about the information to the majority of council members for the purpose of attempting to get a consensus would be a violation. So for us I think that clears up a practice that we had. I know several council members indicated they found that they were helpful so clarification wise that is sufficient for me."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robottom - Clarification - Powers, Duties, Prohibitions of Parish Council & Parish President**

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think Mr. Daley will have to be here for that but there was a second part to the question on whether or not an ordinance can amend the home rule charter and his answer was no."

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R13-29 - A Resolution granting final acceptance of the Wastewater Manhole Rehabilitation project completed by BLD Services, Inc. for the Department of Environmental Quality**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution is to codify the previous request for final acceptance of the Wastewater Manhole Rehabilitation project completed by BLD Services, Inc. with the Department of Environmental Quality as part of the LDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Administration recommends approval."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-29. A Resolution granting final acceptance of the Wastewater Manhole Rehabilitation of Environmental Quality. **WHEREAS**, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council owns, operates and maintains the Wastewater Collection and Treatment System, and; **WHEREAS**, the Parish has entered into a contract with BLD Services, LLC (Contractor) for Wastewater Manhole Rehabilitation (Reserve Area) funded under the LA DEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project #CS221665-02 Contract 001, and; **WHEREAS**, the Contractor has completed all items on the project and has submitted an application for final payment along with a Clear Lien Certificate, **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that all improvements having been completed on this project are accepted as final. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

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**

**13-21** An ordinance for the 2013 millages (N. Robottom)

**13-22** An ordinance granting approval to re-subdivide a portion of the H. Hunter White Tract into a lot herein designated as Parcel E of

the H. Hunter White Tract and to show a 56' ingress and egress servitude being a portion of the H. Hunter White Tract and Plot M-1, situated in Section 18, T-11-S, R-8-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-1061) (N. Robottom)

**13-23** An ordinance granting approval to re-zone Parcel E of the H. Hunter White Tract from the current zone of Residential One (R-1) to Commercial Three (C-3), situated in Section 18, T-11-S, R-8-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-10280) (N. Robottom)

**13-24** An ordinance granting approval to re-zone a portion of the Charles St. Martin, Jr. Tract lying north of the L & A Railroad & South of the Airline Highway being St. John Memorial Gardens from the current zone C-3 & R-1 to Rural, situated in Sections 22 & 38, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-13-1030) (N. Robottom)

**13-25** An ordinance granting final approval of Riverview Mobile Home Park, Phase I, Lot SC, Lots C1 through C8 and Lots 01-18, located at 482 Highway 628 in Section 37, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, Louisiana (PZS-13-1058) (N. Robottom)

**13-26** An ordinance to declare certain immovable property as surplus, no longer used or needed for public purpose and to be sold. (N. Robottom)

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This past weekend members of Administration as well as Council attended the National Association of Counties Annual Conference to attend meetings, informational sessions, and workshops with hundreds of other county officials across the nation enabling officials to share ideas and suggestions on what does and does not work in a county. In addition a resolution calling for changes to the Biggert Waters Act passed unanimously at NACo's general membership session allowing the issue of potential unaffordable flood insurance premiums for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy holders nationwide to become a top policy priority for NACo this year. During the conference Sallie Clark of Paso County, Colorado was elected as the second Vice President of NACo and Linda Langston of Linn County, Iowa was sworn in as President of NACo. Langston will focus on Community Resiliency as well as community preparedness which St. John will have the opportunity to benefit from in the long run. We will work to also get Langston's support on the NFIP changes as President of NACo. We look forward to bringing some of the ideas and suggestions learned at the conference back to St. John and will continue to stay connected to those we met in other counties that have available resources. I would like to thank Ms. Fay Caire and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for hosting a beautiful appreciation event for our parish senior volunteers at the St. James Boat Club. This year, the senior volunteers from St. John Parish clocked in more than 31,000 hours of service at our parish senior centers, the ARC, various churches, schools and at other locations and events throughout our parish. We appreciate all their time spent serving our parish. I also would like to wish Ms. Fay and Ms. Inez Blank, the St. John RSVP coordinator, well wishes as they retire from the program with over 20 years of service.

Your hard work has not gone unnoticed and I wish you both the best. I would like to congratulate all of the St. John Warriors for their outstanding performances in the Dizzy Dean World Series tournament. Great job to our 11, 6, and 9 year-old Warriors for their team work throughout the season and during the tournament. The 8 year old Warriors finished ninth out of 44 teams with an impressive tournament record of 5-2 and the 12-year-old Warriors finished fifth, just short of final four championship play. We are so proud of each of you and we look forward to you returning and playing for St. John next summer. Last week Governor Jindal and EuroChem announced that St. John Parish would be one of two possible sites for its Louisiana fertilizer plant. This project would be a major investment to the parish and would create 200 direct jobs and over 1,000 indirect jobs. We will continue to work with the leaders of this project with hopes they choose St. John the Baptist Parish as their future site. We look forward to future announcements regarding the site location. Congratulations to the St. John Airport and the Port of South Louisiana for the completion of their new 1,151 feet runway extension. Unfortunately I was not able to attend; however, we look forward to the newly constructed extension to contribute to the economic development of the parish by allowing larger aeronautical cargo traffic to utilize the airport. This is great news for all of the River Parishes and I am excited to see its continued success. Kyle Olatin, a LaPlace native, Grif Fos, a family friend and other members of Team Good Folks, an organization built around good folks participating in events that benefit others, recently completed a three day 270 mile cycling trip to raise money for ALS awareness and research. The group, including Superbowl 39 champion Eric Alexander, partnered with the Gleason Initiative Foundation to cycle from Newton, Massachusetts to Greenwich, Connecticut this past weekend. Congratulations to Kyle, Grif and the rest of the Good Folks team for this incredible achievement and for giving back to such a worthy cause. As the summer winds down and students prepare to head back to school, the Parish and Council will be hosting events in an effort to assist with back to school expenses. This Saturday, July 27, the council will be hosting a back to school event from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Regala Gymnasium. School supplies and school-related information will be available to participants. The local chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will be holding a school supply giveaway and blood drive on Saturday, August 3 at Regala Park. Supplies will be issued on a first-come first-serve basis. We look forward to seeing you there. Further information regarding these two events can be found on our website and government access channel. St. John Theatre opened its summer musical "The Producers" last weekend. Residents are encouraged to attend one of the final shows this Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Councilman Lennix Madere will hold his Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, August 7 at the Reserve Library. All residents in District 3 are invited to attend the meeting to ask questions and address any concerns. Over the next four months, the Utilities Department, Spinks Construction, Inc. and Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc. will complete work on the wastewater line rehabilitation project in Reserve. The project is the second phase of inflow/infiltration repair work and will consist of point to point repairs and lining cracked wastewater lines between East 28th and West 10th Streets from Airline Hwy to River Road in Reserve. Periodic lane closures may occur; however, residents will be notified in advance when possible. Should residents have questions or concerns during this project, please contact the Utilities Department at 985-651-6800. Crews from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)

have started elevating Interstate-10 fifteen inches in Laplace. The \$1.3 million project will eliminate a low point in the roadway and add asphalt to the existing roadway in an effort to address the flooding problem. Alternating lane closures will occur on I-10 east and westbound through Sunday, August 11 between 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., nightly, weather permitting. One lane will remain open at all times. 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 would like to thank everyone and my family for taking care of me and I am getting better every day."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to remind everyone of my town hall meeting that Mrs. Robottom mentioned please be present and voice your concerns."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I just want to remind everyone of the Back to School extravaganza at REGALA this weekend."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to congratulate the baseball team for their fine accomplishments and my grandson for making the all-state basketball team congratulations Trey."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I would just like to ask everyone in the parish to please put your address on your houses. If 911 is called out they cannot find you. I think it is an ordinance that needs to be followed."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I forgot to mention one other thing and was advised to do this by our bond attorney. Notice is hereby given that the St. John the Baptist Parish Council plans to consider a resolution authorizing an election on the question of issuing general obligation bonds at its meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 1801 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, Louisiana."

#### **ADJOURNMENT :**

At 8:00 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Gauff absent.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary