

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

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 28, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Haston Lewis, Councilman District I, Charles Julien, Councilman District III, Cheryl Millet, Councilwoman District VII, Steve Lee, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Darnel C. Usry, Councilwoman District V, Richard "Dale" Wolfe, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Ronnie Smith, Councilman District VI, Danny Millet, Councilman District II

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard

Councilwoman Usry led the Prayer.

Julian Bordelon, of Troop 406 - Ascension of Our Lord Eagle Scout Badge Program, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux was present.

Charles Julien - Recognition - St. John Warriors World Series Representatives of USSSA (The United States Specialty Sports Association)

Errol Manual, Director of Recreation, commented that the parish was represented and played in The United States Specialty Sports Association. The 13 year old team won the World Series Champions and the National Champions. The 12 year old team won State Champions, World Series Champions and 4th nationally in USSSA. The 11 year old team placed 4th in the World Series and 4th Nationally in USSSA. The 9 year old team placed 3rd in the World Series and 3rd Nationally in USSSA. The 8 year old team placed 4th in the World Series and 8th Nationally in USSSA. Mr. Manual congratulated and thanked all the kids, parents, coaches and anyone else involved in the baseball season for their support and encouragement.

Ronnie Smith - Proclamation - Kevin Bossier, II in recognition of his heroic efforts in the rescue of two people in the Tangipahoa River on June 17th, 2009

Councilman Smith asked that this item be carried over to the next agenda.

Phillip Rebowe - 2009 Audit Report

Phillip Rebowe, Rebowe & Company, stated, "We have issued our audited financial statements as of December 31st, 2008. They have been filed with the legislative auditor and the appropriate federal agencies. Our actual report is about 140 pages. I have summarized the more important items to note in a financial presentation that you should have a copy of. If you can follow along with that I can kind of summarize quickly the results for 2008. On page 1 of our presentation I am pleased to report that the independent auditor's report that we issued on the financial statements was an unqualified or clean opinion. We took no exceptions to the accounting or reporting of the parish for the year 2008. In addition we issued several other opinions dealing with what we call the single audit of the federal awards or federal grants that the parish receives. The parish received a little bit over \$8 million in federal grants in 2008. I am pleased to report there also that we issued unqualified clean opinions. There were no internal control issues or any deficiencies that were noted as part of our audit. As you notice one of the bullet points under item two there was a minor compliance finding very similar to what we have reported in the past on the criminal court fund. As you know the criminal court fund is not in direct control by the parish but it is presented in the parish's financial statement and they had a small deficit balance at the end of 2008. It was a decrease in the deficit balance but under state statutes you cannot have a deficit balance remaining in a fund. So we had to report this as a minor compliance finding but under the current budget of the parish it looks like that will go away in 2009 and that comment will be eliminated in the future, but it is a minor comment and not a significant finding at all. Item four reports that the parish's fixed asset accounting system that we talked about the last couple of years has been fully implemented and all the parish's assets are being accounted for correctly and depreciated correctly. So that happened in 2008. In addition we talked about a new accounting standard for government entities that require you to record the unfunded liabilities for future obligations like pension benefits, life insurance and dental. The parish used an actuary and came up with an amount that is a future liability and recorded that in 2008. So they complied with that accounting standard in 2008. That was an accomplishment for the year. On page two is a statement of net assets going back comparing three years. You can see at the bottom of the page in the total net assets of the parish approach is about 194 million dollars and net assets being assets minus your liabilities and as you can see most of that is invested in capital assets, approximately \$144 million is in capital assets. Some other things that you may notice on that page is that the long term debt of the parish has decreased from about 62 million dollars to about 54 million dollars in 2008 over those three years. Also your liabilities have gone down over that three year period too. On page three I just gave you a summary of your capital assets. As you can see the amount of capital assets that I just mentioned and most of that is in infrastructure about \$157 million. Page four I do point out some minor deficiencies that we had during the year 2008. This is where expenditures exceeded revenues but again they are all minor and there is fund balance remaining. So I just wanted to let you know of those one time deficiencies. Hopefully for the year just to note revenues were about 20 million dollars for the parish and expenses about 15 million dollars. So there was a nice surplus at the end of the year for the parish. On page five we just show the trend in sales taxes as you can see the biggest increase that the parish had this year was in sales taxes approximately about a 12.3 million dollar increase during the

year so sales taxes ended in 2008 at a little bit over \$30 million. In 2007 there were \$18 million. As you can see this five year trend goes back to 2004 when they were at \$13 million. Obviously most of that is related to the Marathon Plant expansion and is a one time sales tax revenue for the most part. Page six just shows the increase in the general fund which is your reserves basically. There was a nice increase in 2008 and it has been going up for the last three years. The same with your special revenue funds and enterprise funds on page eight. On page nine is the debt obligations and the debt per capita. As I mentioned your debt has been going down for the last three years and your debt per capita is roughly \$1,300 a decrease from last year when it was about \$1,400 per person. Looking at other parishes and municipalities, that is on the low side compared to others. So your debt per capita is a very good ratio for 2008. That is a brief summary of the audit. It was very clean. It was probably the best report we have issued with the parish."

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes July 14th, 2009, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Block Party - August 1st, 2009 - 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM - St. Andrews Blvd - between Virginia Colony & English Colony

MOTION: Councilman Julien moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes July 14th, 2009, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Block Party - August 1st, 2009 - 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM - St. Andrews Blvd - between Virginia Colony & English Colony. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

09-30 (Public Hearing Held) An Ordinance to levy millage rates in the Parish of St. John the Baptist for the year 2009. (B. Hubbard)

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-30. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

09-31 An ordinance to amend Ordinance 09-26 - to remove the words **and residential** from Section 28:2(D)(7)(B. Hubbard)

09-32 In order to correct the actions of a previous council it is hereby ordained as follows: An ordinance to rescind Ordinance 87-42.(B. Hubbard)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, "At 6:15 this evening the finance committee met to conduct the financial business of the parish. At this time I would ask for a motion of full council to endorse the actions taken by the finance committee."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The

committee approved to grant Change order # 2 - Walnut Street drainage project in the amount of \$1,200.00, approved to grant substantial completion on the Walnut Street drainage project, approved to grant administration authorization to extend the contract with the River Parishes Tourist Commission relative to the St. John Community Center Management and Marketing, and approved to grant administration authorization to execute a contract with Environmental Engineering Services of LaPlace for design services in connection with the Edgard Water Treatment Plant. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

Corps of Engineers - Discussion relative to the Edgard Water Plant raw water intake permit at the request of the council at the July 14th Council meeting

Councilman Smith stated, "*Be advised that the Corps of Engineers sent us a letter saying that they could not attend or would not attend the meeting but they did send a letter out. A letter has been forwarded to each council member. I think you should have it already. Do you have any discussions at this time about that letter or any comments?*"

Councilman Lewis stated, "*I think the key thing is that we have our permit and will be ready to put the water line in. I want to thank you all for your support. They don't have to come as long as they send the permit that is what we need, just for them to come without the permit wouldn't have done us any good.*"

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat McTopy - Resolution - R09-18 - A Resolution authorizing the Parish President to submit an application to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for enhancement program funds for the development of a pedestrian and bicycle path on the Mississippi River Levee

Pat McTopy, CAO, stated, "*As a formality we are required to have this resolution passed to make the applications.*"

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R09-18 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATH ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEE. WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is accepting

applications for the Transportation Enhancement Program with a 95% / 5% match; and WHEREAS, the St. John the Baptist Parish Land Use Plan, facilitated by the University of New Orleans, endeavors to make St. John Parish more pedestrian and bicycle friendly; and WHEREAS, the proposed pedestrian and bicycle path on the Mississippi River Levee is a recommendation of the St. John the Baptist Parish Land Use Plan, and WHEREAS, St. John Parish wishes to continue with Phase 2 the Mississippi River Levee Path from Phase 1, which is currently funded, with 15,000 feet of asphalt path.. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parish Council hereby authorizes the St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute an application prepared by Meyer Engineers, Ltd., for review under the Transportation Enhancement Program for Phase 2 of the Mississippi River Levee Path. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Pat McTopy - Resolution - R09-19 - A Resolution authorizing the execution of the appropriate contract with South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) for performance of administrative services in the preparation of one or more LCDBG applications and to serve as grant administrator in the event funding is awarded

Pat McTopy stated, "*South Central has been representing the parish for many years in applying for these annual CDBG grant applications. This year we are asking that we also contract with them and part of the contract will entail having public hearings where we can get input on what to apply for. We already have some thoughts and we will work with the council on what we will be applying for.*"

MOTION: Councilman Millet moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Resolution R09-19. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SCPDC) FOR PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE PREPARATION OF ONE OR MORE LCDBG APPLICATIONS AND TO SERVE AS GRANT ADMINISTRATOR IN THE EVENT FUNDING IS AWARDED. WHEREAS, completion of the one LCDBG application and implementation of the projects, if funded, require professional administrative services for compliance with applicable federal and state regulations; and, WHEREAS, South Central Planning and Development Commission has the technical capabilities to perform the needed services in the preparation and administration of the Programs; and, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by St. John the Baptist Parish Council, convened in regular session on July 28th, 2009, that authorization is hereby granted to execute the appropriate contract with South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) to perform administrative services in the preparation of the FY2010-2011 LCDBG applications, and to serve as grant administrator in the event funding is awarded and further that St. John the Baptist Parish will provide for all pre-agreement and administrative fees with local funds and that the amount for each grant shall not exceed \$37,200. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED **that** a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to South Central Planning and Development Commission, Attn: Ms. Martha Cazaubon, P.O. Box 1870, Gray, LA 70359. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "*I just want to announce that Cole's Landing*

is having a national night out against crime block party. So is Rita Johnson on N.W. 2nd Street. We just want to urge everyone to go out and participate and enjoy yourself."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just want to thank the Boy Scouts for coming out tonight and learning their civic rules and regulations that they have to follow. I appreciate that."

Councilman Smith stated, "I do have one correspondence. It is a back to school party. It says come one, come all to the seventh annual national night out against crime back to school party. It is being hosted by Mr. Keith Jones, School board member District VI. It will take place at 383 Capt. George Bourgeois Street in LaPlace on August 4th. He is going to have fun, food, music and door prizes. So everybody come out. We would like to thank Mr. Keith Jones for putting this on."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill Hubbard stated, "Last week I went to Disney World and I am glad to be back. It was a whole week in Disney World. I am really glad to be back in St. John Parish. There are a lot of goofy's here too though. This Friday, July 31st at 11:30 AM Governor Jindal will be in town at the Civic Center. He is going to be announcing all the good news that happened during the legislative session. The public is welcome. There is a lunch. The lunch is \$40.00 for chamber members. Tuesday, August 4th at 6:00 PM it is the night out against crime. There is going to be various block parties throughout the parish. It is a real busy night. There are many parties going on. We just ask that everybody try to participate. It is a very important night for our parish. There is a public hearing on the community block development grant funding and the LRA Recovery funding. That public hearing is going to be held Thursday, August 6th right here in the council chambers at 5:00 PM. Also a public hearing on the proposed Reserve Interstate interchange that is going to be here in the council chambers Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 PM. That project is moving forward. There are some studies going on so we do need the public to come out and offer their input. Earlier tonight we saw the baseball players here. My son, Brandon, played baseball, he is fifteen now. Coaches thank you for volunteering your time. It does make a difference in the children's lives. Parents, thank you for allowing your children to participate and being active with your kids. It is very important. To the Boy Scouts here tonight, thank you for coming. It is always good to see the Boy Scouts here. I do have a couple of other little things that we will be discussing at the next meeting. I got some good news tonight from South Central Planning who helped us possibly get some funds for N.W. 2nd Street in Reserve and also E. Historic Street over in Garyville. So hopefully in two weeks we will have some really good news on those projects. I appreciate a good council meeting and thank you for attending."

There was no executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

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

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:25 PM, Councilman Lee moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary