

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2017
CHAIRMAN LARRY SNYDER
VICE-CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD

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, August 8th, 2017 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

Councilman Madere led the Prayer. Councilman Becnel led the Pledge.

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

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

There was no public comment at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:

Larry Snyder - New Business - (Carry Over 7-25-17) 3-2-1 Event

Councilman Snyder requested to have the above item removed from the agenda.

Larry Snyder - New Business - The Jambalaya Shoppe

David and Chreshelle Brown were present to introduce themselves and they are located at 150 Belle Terre Blvd. #G (next to Pizza Hut). The restaurant hours are: Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. with dine in, take out and catering service available.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to return to Regular Session. The motion passed with Councilman Madere, Wright and Councilwoman Remonet absent.

Phillip Rebowe - 2016 Audit Presentation

Phillip Rebowe - CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM was present to give a brief presentation on the 2016 Annual Financial Audit for the Parish. (Presentation booklets were provided to the Council Members)

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - National Health Center Week - August 13th through August 19th

Natalie Robottom read the proclamation for National Health Center Week - August

13th through August 19th.

Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - Brittney Lindberg - Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Project Manager and Military Liaison Delta Regional Authority

The above item will be carried over to the September 26th, 2017 agenda.

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'd like to apologize to the public because I did not open for public comments and we're still on that page so, I'm going to open the floor now for any public comments or anything that's on the agenda. The public wants to say something, you may come forward now of anything that's on the agenda. Ms. Schons, and I do apologize."

Catherine Schons stated, "Thank you Council, I'm Catherine Schons from Pleasure Bend. Two weeks ago when I was here, we asked that you table the discussion about changing Highway 643 to the Parish or leave with the DOT. I did have a meeting, and it was very, very well attended. And I wish to thank LaVerne, Larry, Kurt and even a member of the St. James Parish Council, Eddie Kraemer, because we share the same highway. I have it here, all the local people said they wanted the DOT to keep the highway until further notice. A petition was circulated and all the people back here as of now, they want the DOT to keep it. And we thank you for understanding and we hope that we can keep it with the DOT."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you ma'am. Appreciate you, that item to come up that far, we have some discussion on it. Thank you Ms. Schons."

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEMS: Approval of Minutes - July 25th, 2017, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes - July 25th, 2017, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

17-29 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Ordinance 92-33 to discontinue the automatic CPI-W increase to the residential water/utility bills as follows: By amending Ordinance 92-33 by deleting: "and in each additional year thereafter, the rate shall be adjusted downward or upward in accordance with the change in the national consumer price index published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics which shows a rise or decrease in the cost of living index for New Orleans, LA over the level of such cost of living in the previous year." (J. Hotard)

Warren Torres, Lifelong Resident of Garyville asked, "By deleting this wording in here where does that leave St. John residents. So you're deleting this, this is covenants that yawl got to follow this consumer price index. Right? "

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's what we do now."

Warren Torres asked, "So what's the object of deleting this?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "We won't have to do that..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "I can address that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's Ms. Hotard's, if she wants to explain that to you that's fine, but right now we use this index to adjust prices on our water to each..."

Warren Torres interrupting stated, "And she wants to delete it. I want to know where..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ms. Hotard."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That's what I'm going to do. And actually my intention was to carry this item over until our utilities assessment is done. But the intention of this is currently right now, our water bills automatically increase and it's set to a consumer price index. With all of the recent issues that we've had with the water bills, I felt that it was important to not have an automatic increase while we were trying to sort out all of the problems with the water bill. I felt like that was really unfair to our residents, to say you're going to have this automatic increase while we still can't send you a bill on time, send you a correct bill and these types of problems. But we're also in the process of having a Utilities Assessment done to assess the entire Utilities Department to see where we are, what changes need to be made, so it was my intention to actually carry this item over until we have that information, but the intent of the Ordinance was just to remove the automatic increase of the water bills every year. Right now water bills increase, based on a CPI Index every year and so that was the intention. But at this point, I am going to request to carry this over until we get the results from the Utilities Assessment to tell us where we are in terms of our water system as a whole and its financial foundation."

Warren Torres asked, "So if you delete this, you going to be able to control whatever you want to charge for the water, as far as the Council?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "If it would be deleted, then the Council could increase the water rates, but the Council could increase them at any time anyway. But that's not the intention of the council, that wasn't my intention from removing it from there. It was actually to prevent from having the automatic increases every year. But until we have the or until I'm satisfied with the results of the Utilities Assessment, we don't really know if that is something we should do, if it would put us in a disadvantage financially with covering the cost of our utility system. But the intent was not to have it automatically increase every year. I do get what you're saying, but at the end of the day, the council could increase water rates, we haven't done it and I'm sure whenever they put this in place, 92, it was so that they had some type of mechanism in place to adjust for water rate increases and so they tied it into this consumer pricing index, I'm sure that's what they did in 1992, but like I said, we've had some problems in the last I'd say year, with water rates, we did have that CPI increase this year and I felt like at the time to have that lil bit increase, even its small and minimal while we were still trying to get a handle on all of the problems with the water bills was just a little unfair to the residents. But also like I said, after I introduced this, there's also the Utilities Assessment that's taking place right now. And so also I wouldn't want to do something that would put the parish in a situation, a disadvantage with maybe short falling our Utilities Department and the money that it takes to run our water system. And that's why I was going to ask to carry it over."

Warren Torres stated, "And the reason why I'm asking this, last meeting yawl voted to do Ruddock to and Pleasure Bend. And from what I'm hearing, after for over 20 years we've been subsidizing the people of Pleasure Bend, getting the

water from St. James Parish. Yawl going back into a well that the state made them get out of 20 years ago, because yawl got administration...

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Mr. Torres you're right, you're right, that's right not we're talking about this ordinance right now and we have to stay on that one. I'm sorry we can't do that other one. That's just the rules the new game."

Warren Torres stated, "I hear you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I appreciate your input though that you did give and thanks for being concerned. Did Ms. Hotard answer your question to your satisfaction as far as this CPI?"

Warren Torres stated, "I'm basically up here to let the public know because when that's going to come online, that 1.5 Million or whatever, that's a drop in the bucket what it's going to end up being."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I appreciate your input."

Warren Torres stated, "Thank yawl."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you Mr. Torres I appreciate that. And I stated, I will ask that we carry this item over. We don't have to table it, we can carry it over until we get the results from, we don't have to we can carry it over until we get the full results from the Utilities Assessment. Obviously like I said, this was you know, something to assist our residents."

At Councilwoman Hotard's request the above item will be carried over.

17-30 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to appropriate the sum of \$68,745.00 from the Sales Tax Fund and transfer to the Wastewater Fund for the specific purpose of the West Bank WWTPs Tank Rehabilitation Project and to authorize and require the Parish President to carry out the duties of completing the West Bank WWTPs Tank Rehabilitation Project in accordance with appropriation herein the award of this contract made by the Council on March 28th, 2017 and in accordance with the duties of the Parish Council herein required (L. Snyder)

Ross Gonzales stated, "This is an EPA project with partial funding available through an EPA grant. Because the Sales Tax Fund supports Public Works, Water and Waste Water and the fund is trending toward depletion, Administration opposes this transfer as a means of funding this contract which was awarded with no budgeted or allocated funding in violation of EPA guidelines."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. I just want to make a quick comment and it's just to explain why I can't support this, I do support the project. The money that we're having to transfer will be us foregoing the grant money and using money that we already have in the General Fund, I do understand that we want to assist this firm, this is actually a small project in comparison to some other projects that we do award contracts for, we stated in the past the Council has the authority to award contracts to who, if we want to as long as the money is not you know stipulated a certain way. So with just that being said, I'd don't want to delay what the majority of the wishes are, of the Council, that's not what I'm looking to do, I just wanted to state why I you know wouldn't vote for that. I do think that we could assist this firm probably in a better way than what this small project, but I don't really want to spend what we have in our General Fund when we do have Grant money to accomplish this project when we could award this firm you know another project. It's that's just my you know my take on

it, it's not against anything."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm sorry."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No, no, no, it's not against what you guys are attempting to do I just wanted to state why I couldn't support it. I do support assisting this firm, I do support vote to give them another contract, I just can't in good conscience say that I'll just say NO to the grant money to do it on this specific project when I know that we can award them another contract on any of choosing that is probably worth more than what their small one is. That's all."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapura seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-30. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard and Remondet, Councilman Wright and Malik against.

17-31 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Section 105-25(a) (1) b of St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, as follows: To change the in-ground pool fence requirements from six (6) feet to four (4) feet to be in line with the state requirements (J. Hotard)

Alex Carter stated, "The adoption of Ordinance No. 11-12 in 2011 amended above-ground pool standards to include construction of a four (4) foot fence. The proposed reduction in fence height for in-ground pools from six (6) to four (4) feet is consistent with above-ground pool requirements and the State Building Code. Administration recommends approval."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you. As the author of this motion as Ms. Carter stated it's basically a housekeeping item. When we amended the Ordinance to be consistent with the State's Statute, the state came down to four (4) feet for in-ground and above-ground pools, we amended it in 2011 to be consistent with the state, but it only changed for the above-ground pools and not in-ground pools, so this will just have us consistent with the state. I did speak with Ms. Carter, I even spoke with Cain Dufrene just to make sure that this you know they haven't had any incidents' with somebody with four (4) foot versus six (6) foot pool and they haven't, and this will just help us be consistent with the state. Often times a homeowner will go look at the state statute to see what type of fence they have, it says four (4) feet they may put in a four (4) foot fence, and then realize ours isn't consistent. So it's just a housekeeping item that we overlooked in 2011."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I got a start on this, if you examine your conscience you'd think about what's the intent of this Ordinance in the first place. Whether it was a ten (10) foot fence or was it a two (2) foot fence, what is the intent to save lives to keep young kids from climbing the fence, going over the fence and getting in a pool that may not be able to swim because the water look nice, they might have something floating around in there, but I was on the Board of Adjustments, we had a pool that was four (4) feet and that was seven (7) years ago, when I was on the Board of Adjustments you know six (6) years ago. And the guy, just like Ms. Hotard said, he had a four (4) foot fence around his pool and the Code called him and he had to come in and he had to face us, and my argument then is going to be my argument now, is that I don't care how high that fence is, if a child wants to climb it he's going over it, it could be six (6) foot it could be four (4) foot, it could be ten (10) foot, but that guy who had that four (4) foot pool back in the day, he had a rod fence, it wasn't a chain linked fence and I think that's more important than just changing the height of it. The type of fence you got, well we don't seem to be concerned about that we're just

concerned about the height of it here. So I'm not going to support this because of that reason, and I think if we can amend this to say a four (4) foot fence, but it has to be a rod some type of rod fence or wood fence where a kid cannot climb, he has to make an extra effort to get over that fence and get over that pool. A four (4) chain linked fence, I can climb it and everybody understand that, kids they will climb a chain linked fence. But I think the important thing there is the type of fence, not necessarily was it four (4) feet or six (6) feet, and four (4) feet going to help that issue out a little bit I mean as far as climbing, if you don't stipulate what type of fence that's best around a pool. Most swimming pools you go to they have a rod fence, kids can't climb a rod fence, and that's how I feel about that I mean, anybody else?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And will state in the existing Ordinance, there's also additional safety requirements for you know, if you have a pool you have to have to have two (2) types of devices: like an alarm, a lock, these types of things if that's compromised. I'm not sure if you know legally we can require the type of fence that someone could have, but this will definitely put us in compliance with what we have with the state, and it's something to consider you know going forward if we need to amend it. But I do know when I actually read the full Ordinance, there are other types of safety measures that you do have to put in place, not just the pool as far as alarms and I believe it's one is required and maybe Alex you know, you may know off the top of your head, it was two (2), but there's a list of one that you could select from just other measures put in place..."

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "Right, you do have to have a latching device and I think the height and I think there's one other. But I would just note, just you know I'm always thinking about Code Enforcement. If we do think about changing the material, you just keep in mind that if we change the material and we limit it to one (1), everybody who has a fence four (4) feet high that it no longer complies with the Ordinance, it's technically a legal conforming use. So we're going to you know have that on our radar and just you know in terms of thinking about it with materials."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Since you're there. Is the state four (4) feet, that's the minimum?"

Alex Carter stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "But you can go up higher if you wanted to?"

Alex Carter stated, "You can absolutely go up higher. That's why ours is six (6) feet. It's just more restricted than the stated."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Exactly, I understand that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Well only for the in-ground. We amended in 2011 to be consistent with the state and the language was not actually done correctly. It only changed it to four (4) feet for the above-ground pools when the intent at the time was to be in line with what the state requirements were. Because like I said, many people do go to the state codes to find out what the requirements are and not realizing that the parish code could be different. We looked at all the other parishes and they were all, well the ones next to us and they were consistent with the state as well."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion

to approve Ordinance 17-31. The motion passed Councilman Snyder against.

17-32 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to authorize the Parish President to execute a Lease Agreement for lease of Agricultural Land with M Hymel Sons, Inc., as per Exhibit "A" attached hereto (N. Robottom)

Kerry Watkins stated, "This lease is for property at the rear of the West Bank Complex that is not currently in use. The lease is for a period of ten (10) years with fees in accordance with Exhibit A of the draft contract. The contract document has been reviewed and approved by Legal Counsel and Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Mr. Watkins, I was trying to visualize when yawl said the rear, because this is for ten (10) years. Suppose we want to expand on that property, how far back is this? Far back or it's directly behind the baseball field."

Kerry Watkins stated, "No, it's not directly behind the baseball field."

Councilman Becnel asked, "It's a good distance?"

Kerry Watkins stated, "Yes, it's a good distance behind the baseball field."

Councilman Becnel stated, "In case you know what I'm just saying, you never know what the future holds, we might construct something behind that baseball field. I just wanted to make sure we didn't lose that land."

Kerry Watkins stated, "Well get with IT and we can provide you with a pictometry of exactly..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, "And I just wanted to make sure, ten (10) years concern me."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think, I think I was reading something I think it was in the book here, it's 51.6 acres that we're going to be leasing out and your thoughts and my thoughts we're looking at a center over there, maybe have to build them a center over there and that'll be a beautiful place for it and I was actually thinking let's do it, let's go 50 acres and keep an acre, 1.5 acre and if we want to use it for that center we talked about or looked at, we can do that. If not we can always lease it to them another time, that part of it. That's my thoughts on it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually this has been in discussion for some time now and before this has been advertised and leased and obviously we don't want to interfere with use of the park. This was primarily in an area that one; they don't need to access our roadway; they're going to create their roadway, this is property we will not be using anytime soon, there's still room to the rear of that property for anything we want to build, this is a mechanism for generating some revenue for whatever we build there, but it was advertised as such, this was the bid that was submitted and the lease was approved in accordance with what was advertised."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yes I'm all for revenue. I just wanted to know how far back and if it would be appropriate."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's not going to interfere with anything."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay, that was my biggest concern. Thank you."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapururu seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-32. The motion passed unanimously.

17-33 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances, specifically Chapter 113 - Zoning, specifically those provisions related to adult and entertainment uses with the intent of regulating the location and hours of operation of such facilities and to provide for other related matters (N. Robottom) (Parishwide, Docket No. TXT-17-04)

Rev. Neil Bernard stated, "Thank you Councilman Snyder and to the Council. As a citizen here in St. John, I want to first of all express my opinion that I'm totally against bringing in any kind of strip club, or peep show or anything like that. I believe it would be a detriment to our community and I think as Councilman I would appreciate you continue to push forward regulations that would prevent such businesses coming to the parish. Thank you very much."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir, appreciate it Pastor."

Glenn Sellars stated, "I concur with Rev. Bernard. I don't think this is a place for this kind of thing, it will draw a lot of the pedophiles in the surrounding areas and it will be flooded with crimes and all that. I've been working as a volunteer Chaplain in several jails for the past 40 years, and I know the trap that it lays for these young men and women."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir, appreciate that appreciate your input."

Graylin Burl, Sr. stated, "Yes and I'm in agreement with you. We don't need nothing like that in our parish because it's going to only create problems. We have enough problems here already, and you know the outstanding men and women we want to do things, that is decent and orderly. You know we didn't have these things when we were coming up and I don't think we should feed it to our young people you know have enough problems in our, you know with life and everything. You know we need to have our community more a Godly place instead of opening Pandora box to allow Satan to come in because when he comes in, he's coming in to steal, rob and destroy. And this is our community, this is our young people as well as our elders you know, and I don't think we should have anything like that in the parish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you sir appreciate the input."

Sheriff Mike Tregre stated, "Good Evening Council, Administration. First of all I want to say Thank You to the Administration, Planning & Zoning for putting something in place and presenting it to the Council, where we finally have something with some regulations, some type of ground rules, something that can be enforced, because there have been occasions in St. John Parish where not all bars, most are very compliant that they have, some have tried to slip in these type of events that we're trying to keep St. John more of a family parish. So tonight I want to say, Thank You guys for drafting this with the Parish, I also want to thank Clergy, I made a phone call and a bunch of them showed up, but of course some of them had to leave, they're here so we're united in this effort to finally put something in place to keep St. John safe and make sure it's a family parish for all us and our children. So I appreciate if the Council would pass this, and look forward to working with you guys in the future. Thank you, good evening."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We're going to ask Ms. Carter to come up and kind of identify, I think we all started talking about our support for it. We just want to make it clear that what we're trying to do is regulate, you know we agreed with all of you 100%, the Sheriff and I have been called you know trying to prohibit certain types of events with no teeth. So this has been a work in progress, we thank your office and attorney for working very closely with Alex who did a lot of research, again we don't want to violate anybody's rights, but we also want to protect our community, so it took a lot of time and obviously we appreciate you guys coming out to support us, I think we're all on the same page. But I'll let Alex address exactly what was changed and who'll be implementing."

Alex carter stated, "Thank you so much. This is just to summarize what we're talking about, right. The item proposes amendments that: Set procedural, site design, and operational criteria for establishment of adult uses, and; Clarify and amend bar and restaurant location requirements, and; Establish a permit process for indoor and outdoor live entertainment, which will be managed and implemented by the Sheriff's Office. The proposed changes were discussed and approved by the Sheriff's Office, Planning Commission, and the President's Advisory Committee on Community Development and Neighborhoods. The amended ordinance was also reviewed and approved by legal counsel and Administration recommends approval."

Councilman Malik stated, "Live entertainment, explain please."

Alex Carter stated, "So live entertainment, there's a lot of different categories we can talk about. You have your mass meetings that we already permit; like festivals, parades, they come through you guys. We also have venues right; so you have theatres, or you have bars that regularly host live entertainment, those venues would just be required to come in once a year to get a permit with the Sheriff, they would you know explain who's the manager who's the property owner, provide those points of contact, what exactly they're proposing you know just the general information. So the Sheriff isn't walking in there sort of blind, he knows what's going on, he can provide he can conduct a background check. Those permits or venues would happen once a year and they could renew annually. The only time they would expire during that period would be if the property owner change, right and in which case we would want to know, be able to know who is the new owner, you know can conduct that property the background check. For people who interested in hosting temporary events, you know maybe you have a parking lot you want to throw a concert that would be a temporary permit or it also would be a different form, but you'd still have to meet with the Sheriff, introduce yourself, explain you know submit to a background check, talk about noise, parking, litter abatement, how many people you're expect, because you don't want these things popping up out of nowhere and then having negative impacts on neighboring businesses and residents, and I think we sort of realized that this was happening. So there are three (3) different ways of looking at it: big events, we've been handling appropriately, we really didn't have a mechanism for what was going on with bars and regular venues, and these sort of pop up events that just happen anywhere. I would say you know for those of you that or if you had a constant question about: Well what about family events? What about parks? Residential sites are completely exempt, family gatherings are exempt, parks we don't deal with that, that's Recreation, there's already a process put in place. So there's a list of exempt activities and those are those activities that family oriented that come with that territory."

Councilman Malik stated, "Family oriented, so the company that sells these releases these big balloons that kids jump on, with live music at someone's house

in their backyard? Is that exempt or is that...

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "Right, that's I would say a business. Bounce houses, because that's conducted on a residential site that would be exempt. The idea is like if you're, this is how I explained it to the Planning Commission; if you're collecting a cover charge then you probably need a permit. Right, for a kid's birthday party..."

Councilman Malik interrupting stated, "Kid's birthday party they're free, even though you're leasing it, yes."

Alex Carter stated, "Exactly, the residential sites are exempt."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay good. Ok thank you very much. One quick question; what the permit cost for an annual?"

Alex Carter stated, "Annually it's a hundred (\$100), the renewal is fifty (\$50)."

Councilman Malik stated, "Okay thank you!"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Yeah I think the Sheriff and the Clergy all worked on this and Alex, because Alex and I stayed on the phone I guess an hour talking about this. I'm not going to say how I said I don't want this in the Parish, and I don't. I was never voting on that and she said no we're strengthening it where we don't have it. Because I told you my thought on this, we have enough problems in this parish already, the Sheriff stays busy all the time I know the pastor stays busy their doors 7/24. And we don't need nothing extra excitement!"

Alex Carter stated, "And just to be clear because I think we all need to be clear about this. We can't outright prohibit adult use establishment, that's illegal it's a violation of the first amendment. What we can do is said, a thousand foot buffers from all family-oriented businesses and uses, and require any adult use get a conditional use permit which requires Council approval before locating. So they have to meet those two (2) very astringent criteria before opening which are not in place currently."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you very much."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you and Alex just thinking out the box here hypothetically if I wanted to collect a cover charge at my child's birthday party without the permit?"

Alex Carter stated, "You still would be okay, because you're technically on a residential site."

Councilman Wright stated, "I just know how some people think when they're looking for loop holes. But..."

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "That's true, you pin a dollar (\$1.00) on the birthday girl, yeah that's not, still going to be okay."

Councilman Wright stated, "But I did you know want to thank you, you know I know we stayed on the phone for a while today talking about this I read it twice, had to talk to you and an attorney, so you know and I want to thank the community for really engaging, I know there some miss information out there and I'm glad we had a chance to air it out and to let them know the intent of this, you know at first

I was hesitant about you know the live entertainment for the regular bar establishments, but also looking on the other side I do think it's a good thing because it makes us aware from a public safety standpoint, the Sheriff's Office, so it allows more control, so I do think that also was a good component so just great job to all of you."

Alex Carter stated, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you, I have a quick question and I would agree, I think there was a lot of miss information that maybe we were going to take some action that would make it easier to have these types of establishments when actually it was to make it stricter which obviously we all agree, we support I don't ever recall having any type of establishment here you know in St. John in all my 39 years. But my question with live entertainment; So if a business, let's say it's a bar establishment they have live entertainment every so often, do they just get one (1) permit for the year or do they have to permit each event? And just understand from a law enforcement, if you do have a live entertainment event I would think that the Sheriff's Office need to know because you'll have so many more vehicles and traffic, explain that part to me."

Alex Carter stated, "It's set up to be administered by the Sheriff's Office. In my conversations with representatives of the Sheriff, the understanding that I walked away with is that, for people who like bars, who's having entertainment on a regular business, it's the business manager and the property owner who are going to be on that application and they're going to be able to say; this is what we're doing and it's the slew of events and that would all be captured on one (1) permit. Because I don't think any office in this administration can handle taking in that volume of permits on a regular basis. You know like much like other contracts we discussed you know we need to be reasonable about what our expectations are. And this is more about information sharing and for those instances where we do find a problem we need to have the teeth in place to be able to address it appropriately."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "If the business has the one (1) permit for the year and they only have you know three (3) or four (4) live entertainment events or maybe they never had any before and now they want to have a big large event and they've already obtained a permit, I just want to make sure that when a business that doesn't normally have live entertainment decides to, that the Sheriff's Office is made aware of it, so that they know we'll have an increase amount of people at this location this night."

Alex Carter stated, "And you're hitting the nail on the head and that's the idea."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Ok thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ms. Alex thank you very much. I know how hard you're working on this and you know and a lot of input from a lot of different people..."

Alex Carter interrupting stated, "Group effort."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I just want to assure and I know, it's a good one, it's really good. I read the whole thing and I just want to ensure that the pastor's that stood up and spoke, they understand what are voting on over here and I'm kind of straight from norm here, do you understand what we are really voting on? We're not voting on allowing this to come into our parish, we're

voting on to have some control of it because we can't stop it, because of which amendment?"

Alex Carter stated, "First (1st) Amendment."

Councilman Snyder stated, "First (1st) Amendment, we can't stop the First (1st) Amendment of the United States Constitution, okay but we can say how we're going, the Sheriff can say how he wants that handled, and I think they did a good job on that so, we're not saying it's coming in here . Mike is going to give the final thing and we're close this mic."

Alex Carter stated, "And if anybody wants a copy of the Ordinance or the study, just contact me, we can send it to them."

Councilman Wright stated, "One more question Alex, I'm sorry I don't want to delay this. I don't have the Ordinance in front of me, with the exceptions, was it an exception for religious establishment or religious event?"

Alex Carter stated, "I didn't tell you. Periodic entertainment by schools and churches, live entertainment at weddings, and similar events, family gatherings, and private non-commercial entertainment of guest, within the confines of a residential site."

Councilman Wright stated, "Ok, I just wanted to make sure it was a religious event because I know sometimes different venues are rented out for the different things."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Snyder."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes ma'am."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Do you mind? Just one more thing on that, we didn't just out the blue wake up and decide we wanted to do an Ordinance. You know we've had some problems where things popped up either on Facebook, people start calling us, we find out about events that are happening, they're contrary to what we want so, we didn't have a mechanism to manage those, so working with the Sheriff's Office we actually are attempting to do that, so I want to make you guys aware that was the goal. We didn't have a mechanism, many times we could kind of maneuver around it, but legally we needed teeth in to what we were able to do and this allowed us to do that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you Alex appreciate you good ordinance."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 17-33. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Madere stated, "I'd like to make a motion that the council accept the results of the finance committee."

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-32 - (Tabled 7-25-17) A Resolution to accept

ownership of 3.19 miles of LA 643 in exchange for transfer credits and to formalize prior road transfers (SJ1-SJ6) dating back to 1958

Councilman Snyder asked, "You want to remove this from the table Ms. Robottom or you want to leave it on there?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes I'd like to remove it at least for discussion."

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to remove Resolution - R17-32 from the table for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes this is for informational purposes, there appears to be some I guest concern or question about how this works. First of all, the Department of Transportation has a road transfer program, that they have identified certain roads within all parishes across the state that no longer serves a purpose for them. So what they've done is, offered to each of the municipalities the opportunity to have that that road repaired, provide you with a transfer credit, they have no cash, the reason they're trying to get rid of these roads is they don't have enough money to maintain them. So there's every road, state road is not being offered. But this is at the request of the Department of Transportation, because they are limited on revenues to be able to maintain those roadways. So this is something we've done before, as I noted there were several roads included on here, that have already been turned over to the parish, they were previously state roads, but the paperwork wasn't completed properly. So of course according to those guidelines, you cannot get cash and you will not get cash, because the DOT has no cash. They were attempting to pass a .17¢ gas tax because they cannot complete the work that they're attempting to do across the state, our bridges are in poor shape, our roads are in poor shape, so there is no cash and this is not a cash program. We did have a meeting, Ms. LaVerne and I think Mr. Dufrene went on my behalf, that meeting was held in Pleasure Bend and for some reason they're under the impression that LA 43 belongs to Pleasure Bend, which it does not, and they are requesting that any cash generated from the transfer be used to complete infrastructure improvements in the Pleasure Bend area. And of course I think one of our speakers, I'm not sure if he's still here, kind of made reference to this, but to the rest of you all who are voting council members, be reminded that residents in your District are subsidizing the cost of services in Pleasure Bend, as their user fees and taxes that they generate are not sufficient to cover the cost of what they're getting now. The current water agreement in St. James is unsustainable, which is why we're proposing a well, clearly we met with the residents, we meet with the council members before proposing that, we're paying twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) a month for water from Pleasure Bend and collecting thirty-five hundred dollars (\$3500). And then the water is out of compliance, so we're having major issues with that and as a result we've come to you all and you have approved that we build a facility there, the estimate was eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000). The bid came in at over \$1 Million so they're restructuring or they're redoing, but just know that all of us are going to be paying for that. So the attempt to withhold the credits just for Pleasure Bend, is not within the best interest of the rest of the parish and really doesn't serve well because if everybody thought like that, then they would not have a water system or any services because everybody is contributing to that. Again, I want to make sure you guys are aware this was not initiated by us, this is initiated by the Department of Transportation and they are asking us to adopt this portion of the road for tax credits, which are developed by a formula but there are guidelines that you have to use those credits toward a state road or state project which is kind of what we're doing so far in which we've done in the past. So we're going

to ask for your consideration, I understand what Ms. Schons is indicating but, obviously there's misinformation and they're actually going against what DOTD is asking us to do, and there's a benefit to the entire parish by doing so, and just wanted to make sure you guys were aware of that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good thank you very much.

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to discuss Resolution - R17-32. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I just want to make sure Mr. Becnel and Mr. Sorapuru, I know they went over to Pleasure Bend and met with the community and I think Ms. Saulny went. I just want to make sure yawl understand and they understand because I know when I talked to Ms. Schons, I know they wanted lights back there. And I understand, I tried to explain the credits, not as much as Ms. Robottom did, but I want to make sure you understand if we don't do this yawl say they don't want it, we vote NO what's going to happen. It's still for the state, they still may not get what they want back there because the money is being used I know they feel like if we get the credits nothing will be spent on that side, I know that was the consensus. Well if they get the money in St. John Parish, it won't be spent in Pleasure Bend it might be spent here in LaPlace, I'm just saying that. So explain to me and how yawl feel about it, how yawl you know."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Well I explained that to them thoroughly, you know that they don't have nothing to lose but they said they're willing to take a chance and that's their district, that's there little town back there and they asked me to respect their decision and when I tell you they got, that's just a teaser with that petition there and they got another one this big, and you know like I said, I explained it to them, they said they're willing to take a chance. They have something pending in January and that's what they said in 2017. So basically, you know I was elected by them, you know to represent them and my job is whether I think it's good or not for the parish, I'm going to respect the people, you know I don't care if they have 80 people back there or 75 or 15, I'm going to respect them, and it's just as important as a thousand (1,000) people. You know, I'm sorry I got to hey, I got to respect them."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "And that's what I wanted yawl..."

Councilman Becnel interrupting stated, "And I'm proud of her, she did an excellent job explaining it, I got to give it to her. And when I tried to tell them after she left I said, do yawl understand what she said? And I said, you'll sure yawl don't want you know yawl wouldn't reconsider? And they made it clear to me, NO! I stayed back there an extra hour talking to them and I tried believe it or not..."

Councilman interrupting Perrilloux stated, "That's why I wanted to hear from you all, because that's your district, and I'm sorry I talked over you. Because I heard through they said that Senator Ed Price was going change some credits into cash and all that, I didn't hear all this stuff and that's what I wanted to come out in this meeting, because if he introduced a Bill to change the cash, I don't know anything about this, but I just wanted to know how yawl felt about his because that's yawl district, yawl represent Pleasure Bend and you definitely, you want to please those constituents back there and I just wanted your input." Councilman Becnel stated, "Like I said, they made it very clear to me."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I did speak to Senator Price, Council. He did tell

me he's going to put a Bill in in January to get cash. The Bill might not pass, but the people in Pleasure Bend worked very hard to get that road blacktopped back there, I remember when it was just a shell road thirty (30) years ago. Yes they did come out and they were totally against DOTD letting the road come back to the parish. And I have some serious reservation about DOTD and this whole operation, the Edgard ferry was shut down, nobody talked about credits for a road."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah we did."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well, maybe I wasn't in the loop at that time Ms. Robottom, but these people made it clear they do not want this road to come to the parish and that's the way I'm going to vote tonight. The rest of you, the my council colleagues right here, I don't get involved with things in your district personally, but this is something that these people here have worked all their life to get that road blacktopped, they should have a say so what happens in that community. Now, if you don't believe Senator Price, I'll give you his cell phone tonight and you call him right now and ask him what he said, okay? I spoke to him, I did talk to that Councilman in that bordering district in that area, and we got the same information, in a matter of fact, Councilman Kramer was at the meeting, I did not invite him to the meeting, I had a conversation with him, he was invited to the meeting by the people of Pleasure Bend. So this is where I'm at, this is where I think it needs to be, and if anybody else from Pleasure Bend would like to say a few words tonight, come on up."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I definitely understand where Mr. Becnel and Mr. Sorapuru is at. They went to the people to get the pumps to the people and they got the pumps to the people and they represent those individual people there and I definitely respect any Councilman that is going to respect and do whatever he can for his district. And as far as converting credit to money, you have to have money and the state is very broke, you know so I don't know about that part of it, but I do know by supporting the residents of Pleasure Bend and their wishes."

Councilman Becnel stated, "And keep in mind, I want to say this; even though Mr. Sorapuru spoke to Ed Price like he said, Senator Price. Okay, what I did, I made the people of Pleasure Bend aware; that is not a guarantee what Mr. Price is saying, I mean Senator Price is saying. It's like you're taking a chance! It may take months to pass, it may take a year. So I said; are you all willing to wait that long and take that chance? They said; listen Councilman, we're going to take our chance. And when they told me that, I said; Oh well, it's enough for me."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I also spoke to Senator Price as well regarding this matter with the piece of Legislation that he's proposing to bring before his legislatures, and I, basically what he told me is that it's not a guarantee and also he informed me that it may be something that he may not do. He's looking into it, he's evaluating to see if it's something that is doable, he also informed me of course as we all stated here, that DOTD doesn't have any money and that's the reason why they're looking at the .17¢ gas tax which didn't pass and they're thinking about proposing it again for the next Legislator, as well as the fact that DOTD is proposing to transfer these roads because the fact that they don't have money to maintain it. So that's the conversation I had with Senator Price and he also proposed that he would be willing to speak with Councilman Sorapuru and Becnel, as well as the Councilman in St. James Parish to bring forth the clarity regarding his idea or his proposed piece of legislation."

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is my last comment. Again this was a request from

DOT, they actually approached us on this and we have no you know, it's less work for us. So you say NO, that's one point however million less we have to deal with. So there's no loss to us, it's a loss to the people of the Parish who may an investment and also the DOT whose asking not just St. John Parish, this is around the state. So when you talk about trying to convert to cash, they would have to convert everything to cash and we already know they don't have any cash. That's not the project that's not the program, this program has been in existence since 1958, and St. John has taken advantage of it, you guys have benefited from it, and I know Mr. Sorapuru you weren't aware we actually got credits to try and sustain the ferry, we actually used it to sustain it longer than they wanted to, so that's when we were made aware of tax credits, but it was utilized for the ferry. Again, just for informational purposes we took roads from the Eastbank and adopted them and funded continued use of the ferry. So it's not a, this is our road so we just want to keep the money, I just want to let you know because we did Frontage Road, we did a few roads on the Eastbank, did these credits so we could help sustain the ferry. So it's not as you know, just because it's in your District that it's your road. That's wasn't how it was done, the Council as a whole it was worth it and they attempted to fund use of the ferry, utilizing whatever roads we had available to do the roads swap."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Ms. Robottom I understand where you're coming from on the credits, we have a road on the Westbank Johnson Lane that was the roads that was given up for credits and we never heard anywhere where that money was spent. We weren't given any direction I mean we weren't here at the time but..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Right and I'm sharing with you we were able to sustain your ferry operations by adopting some of these roads. The other thing that we're doing is, on their projects we can relocate utilities, obviously we're very fortunate to have DOT funding primary construction and engineering of a lot of the projects here, but when we have to remove or move our utilities, there's a cost to that, and we can use those credits to offset that, therefore, you're not having to pay for it out of your Roads & Bridges or sales tax or bond money. So that is one of the streets but that is only one, the rest of the streets were on the Eastbank and those funds, if you go back and read the Resolution it was very specific. We were doing the transfer credits to assist with ferry operations in the interim until DOT decided they weren't going to continue it and they went through the budget year and they discontinued services. So we've never just said okay, this road is in your District so whatever credits we get we're just going to use here because sometimes it may not even be a project, and we didn't do that with the ferry, we utilized that with whatever we could pull together to help sustain ferry operations and two (2) of the three (3) roads was on the Eastbank."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Well if it's a good deal today it'll probably be a good deal tomorrow. So I'm going to ask that we not support this and we can revisit this in about a year from now. Maybe, ok?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We don't have to, we don't ever have to."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Anybody else?"

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I was just going to make one last comment and if you don't support it, I'm fine that's good with me to. I was just going to say; I heard Ms. Saulny say, Mr. / Senator Price was going to meet with you to get the correct information that you can share with Pleasure Bend again, or maybe bring him over there and let him explain to the residents. But if you don't want to do

that, we vote NO, that's fine."

Natalie Robottom asked, "He doesn't represent Pleasure Bend?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "I just want to clarify the fact that Senator Price, that's not Pleasure Bend isn't his District, that's Senator's Smith District. But he was willing to meet with Mr. Sorapuru..."

Councilman Perrilloux interrupting stated, "Well he was willing to meet?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Even though Senator Price does not represent Pleasure Bend, part of that road that comes from St. James is part of his District, so that is a binding connection there with that. And it's very important that Senator Price play a role in those decision making because when we have fires in Pleasure Bend, guess who goes and put the fires out, St. James Fire Department. So he is pretty much their acting Senator with the boundaries, and I did ask the people in Pleasure Bend did they call Senator Gary Smith, who's their Senator. And I don't know if that happened, I didn't call Senator Gary Smith myself, so again, I did talk to Senator Price, he said to me; the cash would be if the bill passed, they could take the cash and spend the cash specifically to Pleasure Bend, that was the difference okay! So maybe I heard the wrong thing, but the Councilman back there echoed the same thing that I had, same conversation I had with Senator Price, I'll be glad to meet with Senator Price at any time and even get back with the people of Pleasure Bend. But at this time, we're not going to go forward with this project."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well another discussion. We can spend the money where we want to spend it at if we get it. I made up my mind two (2) weeks ago I wasn't going to support this. First of all it cost too much money to do that street, if St. John Parish do that street itself 3.1 miles, it'll be somewhere around eight hundred/nine hundred thousand (\$800,000/\$900,000) for us to do it. Us, if we get a contract like we do all our other streets, it'll cost us an excess of a million dollars (\$1,000,000) to do that street. And that street floods, it gets high water back there and it's not going to last as long as River Road or Airline Highway, so that was my input to that, as far as I went out and did some work on that as far as, what it's going to cost us to do that street, and I found that out somewhere between eight hundred/nine hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000/\$900,000) if St. John Parish do it, 3.1 miles of it. And if someone else do it, it'll be an excess of a million dollars (\$1,000,000). So that told me right there we don't need that street, because if just one (1) time happening to do that street will wipe out our, wipe out our asphalt budget. So anybody else, fine let's use your lights."

Resolution - R17-32 died for lack of motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R17-33 - A Resolution authorizing an agreement between the Southern Rail Commission and St. John the Baptist Parish for a Rail Corridor Station Improvement Planning and Capital Projects grant in the amount of \$75,000.00

Natalie Robottom stated, "This resolution authorizes an agreement with the Southern Rail Commission for development of a Feasibility and Conceptual Plan for

a rail station that includes flexible space for rentals, public meetings and other civic uses, as well as a staging area for emergencies. The total project cost is \$150,000 and requires a 50% Parish match; i.e. \$70,000 of which would be through the Economic Development budget and \$5,000 in-kind through staff time & supplies. This is a result of the years of work and representation on the Commission with the Rail Authority, these funds are available, they do have a group of people working to facilitate these studies, and if we're going to continue to pursue a rail station, then this would provide some funding for planning grant. Administration recommends approval."

MOTION: Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-33. A resolution authorizing an agreement between the Southern Rail Commission and St. John the Baptist Parish for a Rail Corridor Station Improvement Planning and Capital Projects grant in the amount of \$75,000.00. The motion passed with Councilman Becnel absent.

Michael Wright/Jaclyn Hotard - Resolution - R17-34 - A Resolution naming the Central Library (LaPlace) "The Norris J. "Butch" Millet, Sr. Public Library"

"This request was initiated by the Library Board and was approved by the State Legislature. Administration supports this resolution."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Resolution R17-34. A resolution naming the Central Library (LaPlace) "The Norris J. "Butch" Millet, Sr. Public Library". The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Larry Snyder - Update on process of returning water bills to reflect 30 day cycles and concerns regarding constituent calls

Curtis Young stated, "Good everybody. On average, the last few billing cycles have been reduced to 38 days. Administration is considering our next pilot to have our employees conduct manual readings throughout the Parish to compare both processes. The Utilities Board also recommended exploring the cost to hire outside Contractors to manually read the meters."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You've hired an outside contractor? Say that again."

Curtis Young stated, "I was saying at the Utilities Board meeting last week, they actually recommended exploring the cost to hire outside contractors to manually read the meters."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You mean the Board, the Utility Board?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And how far have we gone with that?"

Curtis Young stated, "Well we did decide to explore that option, I don't have the exact figures for you right now, no we don't have exact figures on that matter right now, but that is something that we're exploring."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, okay. I've heard that we have some issues with bills spiking. Is that true? And we don't know where that's coming from, it's somewhere in the program. A bill may spike up to two hundred (\$200) or something like that."

Curtis Young stated, "We've seen that in certain cases but majority of it is because of the prolonged days on the bill."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Ok! And I've also seen bills that had the same thing for 12/15 months, identical, ten dollars (\$10) stuff like that all the way down for water nine dollars (\$9), seven dollars (\$7) for."

Curtis Young stated, "Well you know we are, we have been estimating certain bills. So in that case if the bill is being estimated in that instance sometimes it will reflect the same amount depending on the 18 month average."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay, now my question is this. If we're estimating bills that's for 10 months, 10 months at ten dollars (\$10) for the water, and seven dollars (\$7) for sewage, but now we start estimating it, it jumped up to two hundred dollars (\$200)?"

Curtis Young stated, "There are bugs in the estimation process which we have seen in some cases..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "Is the estimate done through a computer?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes, yes. So it'll either over estimate sometimes or sometimes it'll actually under estimate."

Councilman Snyder asked, "That's an average in other words that's where you, in other words for averaging?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir, it's pulling an 18 month history average."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So now, I see that presents more questions. If I got a bill at ten (10) and seven (7), the average should be ten (10) and seven (7), not two hundred (200) because I got documents to show that you know my bill jumped up to two hundred dollars (\$200), three hundred dollars (\$300), and before, for I mean 10 straight months they were ten dollars (\$10) for water, seven dollars (\$7) and something for sewage."

Curtis Young stated, "I'm not denying that that happens, you know I've seen that in cases and certain instances also, the estimation process like I said it has some bugs in it, sometimes it will over estimate, sometimes it will under estimate."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So are we estimating all the bills now? I mean are we averaging all the bills?"

Curtis Young stated, "That's the process we're moving forward with, yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You're looking at that? So we're averaging all, we're not reading anymore?"

Curtis Young stated, "Well what we're doing is, we are estimating in the beginning. While the estimation process is going on because it takes some time, because you have to kind of put eyes on a lot of these bills. So while that process is actually going on, the guys are still out reading. We're actually able now to estimate the entire cycle, but the readings that they can gather in the timeframe, we're able to replace those estimated readings with those exact

readings that they retrieved for us."

Councilman Snyder asked, "If someone come in there with a bill, they've been paying fifty dollars (\$50), fifty dollars (\$50), fifty dollars (\$50) okay, and all of a sudden now they got a bill, it's 40 days, but it's two hundred dollars (\$200), what'll we do in that case? We go check the box, we got a leak?"

Curtis Young stated, "That's the first thing we do always, is we want to make sure we put some eyes, some manual eyes on that register itself and make sure that that reading is actually correct. From there if the reading is correct, we've actually been going to the register if it still have enough battery life we can run what we call a (data log), which will give us a history of that exact register. It'll tell us the exact time, exact hour, exact date that certain amounts of water that was actually used."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Mr. Young, you said something about estimating, but how can estimating be accurate in a 12 month period, well just say some people can be over paying, some people can be under paying? So how is that accurate estimation?"

Curtis Young stated, "Well I mean it is exactly what it says, it's an estimation. Like I said, it's over or under. So if we estimate you say, 3 months in a row and then the 4th month we actually come out and lay eyes on that register and retrieve those numbers, it's not going to be exactly the same number that we used in the estimation. It's going to be over or it's going to be under, depending on the consumption of the constituent."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would say the majority of the bills, let's say with kids your bill is probably higher in the summer time."

Curtis Young stated, "Correct."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "In the winter months it's down, so we're still estimating like that too? I can't see how that's going to be accurate."

Curtis Young stated, "Well that's what I said the estimation process actually takes some time because we try to actually lay eyes on the bills that we're estimating, which is very time consuming. Yes."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "So we're doing across the parish or we're doing a specific location?"

Curtis Young stated, "We're doing a cycle at a time. Yes sir, so you can say it's across the parish."

Councilman Wright stated, "Curtis I think I asked this question before. But just again, how were I know we have billing cycles at 30 days and we have consumptions. How were the consumption numbers calculated? Is it from the previous reading to the current reading?"

Curtis Young stated, "Correct."

Councilman Wright stated, "So if we read a meter, but it doesn't accurately read it, and we go and read it the next month, is it going to pick up those previous 30 days or however many days in between that it wasn't read correctly?"

Curtis Young stated, "Wait say that one more time for me, I'm sorry."

Councilman Wright stated, "So if you read the meter on June 1st, August 1st you go to read the meter, read the meter, it doesn't actually register and we make an estimation and then we come back September 1st, what are the consumption days going to be? Is it going to be from September 1st to June 1st, because it wasn't properly read the time before?"

Curtis Young stated, "Well the consumption would still be equivalent to that first reading that we got even though it may not be correct, that's when we'll have to make some sort of adjustment of what not to get it out."

Councilman Wright stated, "Because I know we have some cycles also where you know we're told that the water that meet the meters read correctly because the water has to go through it for the consumption levels to be high, but when you look at some bills you have a 30/40 day consumption with 2,000 gallons, so."

Curtis Young stated, "Right, sometimes we have those instances like I said that you know just from looking at it that it couldn't possibly happen without having a puddle or you know a leak in front of someone's home."

Councilman Wright asked, "And those are manually tracked before it goes out or we kind of reacting when the resident calls or just know it's an antiquated system?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes we have to actually react when we get notice of it, it's no alarm or setting that actually pin points it and actually gives us a heads up beforehand."

Councilman Wright stated, "Ok, thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Curtis let me ask. When will we get to a point where the system will be set up like all the other utility systems that you'll get an email that says, your bill is ready to be viewed, click here to pay it? When will we be at that point, because we're having a major problem with people receiving their bills? I know I get mine late it seems like now every month. It's five or six days past the due date. All of my other utilities, Entergy, ATMOS, Bell South, everybody they send an email, your bill is ready to view. I mean it's like clockwork. When will we be doing that?"

Curtis Young stated, "Okay well that's part of, that issue there is one of the issues we are attacking with our Pilot Program. You know with the new software that will actually come with that. We're definitely expecting with that new software and technology that we will actually have those capabilities between us and the constituent to actually, they can actually pin point and see exactly what they're using during certain times of the month, they can set it up to where they will receive actually alerts or emails if something is going on with their water."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Why is in conjunction with the Pilot Program, if we have an online bill pay system, why do we have to wait for some Pilot Program to be done to have a 3rd party administrator or something come in to set up a system where email residents..."

Curtis Young interrupting stated, "The system that we're currently operating under is very old, and it only has certain capabilities and at this time we/they don't have those functions where we can actually you know have those items in

place."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So I thought that the new system that we're moving to, that's not going to allow us to have that capability?"

Curtis Young stated, "That's system I believe will. Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And when will that fully be online?"

Curtis Young asked, "Do you know?"

Ross Gonzales asked, "Are you talking about the new financial system?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The new financial system. That has nothing to do with this?"

Ross Gonzales stated, "No it's got Utility Billing but I'm not sure if it's got alert systems. The new meter software does have that."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "That's if we get new meter software?"

Ross Gonzales stated, "Yes, yes. The three (3) companies that we looked at have those capabilities."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So there's isn't just like we have the company that we used to do the bill pay, where you go in whatever it's called, it's not Bill Matrix. So why can't we explore having a 3rd party company do just what they do, but to send out those email notifications, because as it stands right now, you can still login with a username and a password and pull up your bill, so why can't that same system send out a notification to a resident so they get it on time because we're having issues with the mail. Why are we having to wait for a Pilot to have a system where we can have those emails generated when a bill is ready?"

Ross Gonzales stated, "I think it's just the limitations of the system we have, it's a very old system."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No, I'm talking about the current system that we have right now in place where a resident can create a username and a password and go online and pay the bills. I'm talking about that type of system, not the old antiquated system. So if we're already have a 3rd party administrator in place collecting water bills on our, collecting water bill payments on our behalf at a fee for two dollars (\$2), why can't that same type of 3rd party company and maybe the one we have now be set-up where they send out an email notification when the bill is ready to be paid, instead of a resident just having to go and check it every single day and see if a bill is there?"

Curtis Young stated, "We actually haven't explored that option, but that's something I can get with that software company and see if they actually have that capability and actually get a cost on what that would, you know what they would actually charge us to do that. Yes ma'am."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I mean I think it would almost help us collect because in many cases people aren't receiving their bills, I don't know if that's a post office issue or what that issue is, but in many cases people aren't actually receiving the bill and then you get a bill, and my concern here like

you're talking about estimating, how do we know who's bill to even estimate?"

Curtis Young stated, "Like I said in the beginning, we're estimating the entire cycle in the beginning while the guys are simultaneously out actually reading the meters. So we actually, so everybody's bill is going to be estimated, but in that time timeframe that it kind of takes for us to do that estimation process, the readings the manual readings that they bring to us back we're actually able to replace them. So where we left off that point, when we return to that cycle the next time, we'll continue from that actual manual read list and continue to do the rest of the cycle that who they didn't get to previously."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "And how far behind are we right now?"

Curtis Young stated, "Right now I'd say about 6 weeks."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And how long will it take for you all to get, I know it says here you're considering, I hope we're not considering I hope we do it, doing a Pilot for a manual read. How long will it take for us to have that completed? Because I do think the Council needs the whole picture to go forward to determine, do we go back to smart meters, do we go back to a manual reading. We need to see the whole picture, but like Kurt is famous for saying (Stalling and Delaying), I think like I'm tired of hearing about this, I'm tired of talking about it, I know you guys are too, so at some point the rubber got to hit the road, we got to figure out what we're going to do and let's just do it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are a couple of things and I agree 100%. You know, this is exhausting, it's not improving to the level I would like and the answers are not, are insufficient. We did have a visit to our neighboring parish who actually has 2 meters on each side of the river, reading substantial number of meters manually with only their outlined areas being read through electronically, so we are going to be looking at in the next coming cycles depending on when they come on. What is the difference in just going ahead and manually reading them all because what's happening is, they're doing a drive-by, they're picking up everything they can on electronically, they can print out a report which will identify which ones didn't read, so then they go back and read the ones that were not electronically read, manually. So let's see if you just walked them all rather than waiting until you download and going through and figuring which ones didn't read, how about you know each, there's two (2) employees assigned to two (2) cycles, if each one of you are on opposite sides of the road let's see how you get it done. We also have some numbers from St. Charles Parish that runs rings around what our folks are doing. So there are some issues there and I know you've been suggesting manual reads, I agree 100% what we've done is not working, we've taken input from the people who are out there, it's not working, their excuses are unacceptable and although the number of days is coming down, we're continuing to have the problems. Now the number of days in a cycle is a separate issue from the spiking bills. We did continue to meet with some of the other firms as well there are other options, initially we looked at pricing for meters and registers, everybody's saying we're only have way through the life of our meters, it's our registers that may need to be replaced which'll cut in half what we're looking at. The other thing that is a concern for us, our old antiquated billing cycle if we go with any new software, we're going to be running two (2) billing systems. However one of the vendors suggested that their software can actually read in these systems. So we're continuing to gather information to provide to you that we think we're probably going to need a workshop, because the initial decision wasn't as thoroughly made with all the information. And keep in mind we're dealing with our vendors who are trying to

get you to buy their system. So we have to evaluate the information that they're providing us and make the best decision for St. John. But I can tell you, I'm at my wit's end, I don't know about yawl and I've had enough."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Yes, how many meter readers we have?"

Curtis Young stated, "Five (5)."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Five (5)?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "And add the other people. Add all your employees."

Curtis Young stated, "That's all who's out in the field..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay because you have connectors and how many staff members?"

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Five (5) meter readers?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes and one (1) swing guy, yes sir so six (6) total."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Sound like we got again, a lot of excuses what that many meter readers because and you're riding. I didn't ask you to walk the parish, you ride the parish. That's excuses. But Mr. Wright brought up something too about the consumption and rate, so I'm not going to talk about it now, I did send you an email, Ross and LaVerne, about a whole year history here of consumption and rate, just give me a reply by tomorrow I'm not going to talk about it in this meeting tonight because it's going to be too long."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes I heard Ms. Robottom mention St. James, I actually..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "St. Charles."

Councilman Madere stated, "St. Charles, well I talked to St. James and they have three (3) meter readers that do their whole parish and I think a lot less time than we do ours, and I think they have three (3). The lady is in charge of them and she have two (2) other meter readers and they read them manually both side of the river with three (3)."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And we got numbers, I think it's 16,000 at St. Charles reads manually and we have 17,000, total and then they, the outliers as I said they use electronic read and they're getting their work done."

Curtis Young stated, "I mean their process is a little different but still its no, it's no excuses."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yeah Curtis listen, this is what I want to say to you. Basically when it's time for the water bill to arrive, my stress level it's just my head wants to explode. Everybody knows where I work, they're lining up, they're coming with envelopes but this is the most, I try to do my best to explain to them and they listen, this is where they want to attack me sometime. It's real easy, like this guy last November I told you his bill, he usually pays like a hundred and something dollars and he told me; man look councilman my bill came in at eight ninety-seven (897), okay so we agreed that he was going to pay a hundred dollars (\$100) a month. So he kept paying it and we're in August right

now and the bill still keep coming in at a thousand dollars (\$1,000) a month, and I don't know why and it shows where he paid a hundred (100), so I'm trying to see how yawl do that average and he brought 18 months to me, we did at my job on my calculator/computer and why, what's the excuse for that. So a lot of people, they'll come and they'll say; it's working good because Ms. Norma tell me, the people come here and they say Councilman Becnel said to pay what I average. And they do, so basically if it's two hundred dollars (\$200) and that person average fifty (\$50), okay so they paid the fifty (\$50) by Ms. Norma they leave all happy and here comes next month water bill, awe man look it's at two ninety (290), you told me to pay the average. So that's the only I have to say."

Curtis Young stated, "Right ok. I'd just like to just reassure and we can put it out again, we've put it out and several entities before, but we are not disconnecting based on situations like that you know, that's the first and foremost thing I try to console the constituent with."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes Curtis, I know you and Ross and administration, yawl working very hard to try to stay on top of the situation and really trying to solve the problem, but want I'm wondering is, what type of timeframe that we could look at to pick the right company, pick the right software and get the necessary meters we need to put in place whether it's meters, registers or meters and registers. Give us a timeframe on when that decision can be made."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We'll probably be trying to schedule a workshop with you all. We were just presented with additional information over the last couple of weeks that we didn't have when the initial presentation was made. We've continued to research, we actually got additional information from the meter vendor, and they actually were able to pull data on the meters we had when we replaced them, you know some of the existing information that we didn't necessarily have access to, so we would hope to be able to do this within the next month and schedule something where you can hear from other people. We need to continue to work on our end, we are addressing spiked bills which we have a spreadsheet, if you look at it, that appears to be the largest concern. We have a column that's checked off and that is the concern. The number of days, I think should be manageable, we've not done that, but we are going to, there's no reason that this group of people cannot get these bills out in 30 days. There are no more excuses, we met with you, we've taken your suggestions, we've worked with you, we've given you the opportunity to show us, that's your job, you're going to tell us how it would work best with the goal of getting to 30 days, and you are not doing that. And again, as we've gone to other parishes, they have a different system, they actually, I think we used to have these hand held readers if they actually did it manually, so we'll have to revisit that which is what they're doing, so they're not going up to a meter and writing numbers because that's where you run into some errors. So I do think it would be probably quicker if you knew you had to read them on the street, instead of driving and having to go back and stopping and finding the house that didn't or going back and forth to make sure the register had a read, instead of just driving down the street. So we are going to be moving to that and try to at least address the 30 day cycle. I think many of you have met with vendors, I don't think you're getting any answers either on these spiked bills, nobody had the answer they insist that it can't happen there are other entities that say; we charge you. If your bill comes in at eight hundred dollars (\$800) and we go out and we read your meter and the number on that meter says you use this amount of water that is what you bill. They do not average they do not credit, if the number is on the meter that is what they're charged. So we're not finding anybody who's really doing what we're doing, because we are losing you guys are right. We're losing money because we're

trying to not cost problems for our residents, and that was a decision made several months ago because we couldn't figure this out we don't want to penalize our residents because we're having an issue. So that decision was made, but there's also people who are taking advantage of us who just aren't paying their bills, and you guys know it because you get calls, we pull their history and what you see is they haven't paid their bill in 3 months or they pay every other month, of course your bill is going to be high, you don't pay your bill. So there's people who are taking advantage when we say we're not disconnecting people and we're not because we don't really want to cause a problem with people who it's not their fault, well the others who just don't want to pay their bill are getting that benefit to. The bottom line is, our utility system cannot support itself if we're not collecting the money that we're due, and we're not collecting it in a timely manner. The system if we were collecting all of our money on actual time, we're still not supporting ourselves. Okay the fees and structure that we have does not cover the cost of operations and maintenance. So we're trying not to penalize our residents, but everyone that we've spoken with, they are not making adjustments, the number on the register on the meter is the number that they use, if that number shows up we talked about you know rolling backwards or moving forward and nobody will agree with us that that's possible, but we're continuing to get numbers. Now of course the initial thing is, we are going to ask you to check for a leak, but I think there are methods and I looked at the spreadsheet, when you go out if the meter is turning constantly, that's your indicator that you have a leak, but if it's not and it only turns when you use water, well that's a suggestion that there's nothing wrong with it. So we're clearing up the ones where the meter is turning, we are changing registers the meters you know they said you know we're just halfway through that life, so that should not be the problem. I think Mr. Snyder you had asked us to look at and that is something that we think we can do, the larger meters, that's a whole different set of meters, obviously not as many as our residential meters which generates the majority of our funds, but we do need to look at our large meters and making sure they're reading properly because it's obviously a great more usage from them than we're getting from our residential. But it is problematic and we need to get it resolved."

Councilman Wright stated, "I think a workshop would be beneficial sooner rather than later, but have we gotten any preliminary estimates on what a new software system would cost?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Wright asked, "What kind of price range are we looking at?"

Ross Gonzales asked, "Just software or meters?"

Councilman Wright stated, "Software, just software."

Ross Gonzales stated, "It not going to probably work with our existing meters."

Councilman Wright asked, "So there's no software that would combine, you have to one (1) for the meter and the actual system itself..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It's for the register."

Ross Gonzales stated, "It's for the register."

Councilman Wright stated, "Ok."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But we can get you, you know..."

Councilman Wright interrupting stated, "That's fine, I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I sent you something about a meter I checked out, did you find out what was the problem with that meter the one I sent you? Did you ever?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yeah we did we did actually put eyes on that meter. It is actually broken and damaged the bill was being estimated. It is a special type register that we don't keep in stock so we have to put an order in for that to actually get a new out there and actually replace that entire meter."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ok, so if you put another meter in there, you're just going to start off from scratch with them?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ok alright. Is there any way we can, I'm looking out for the people who have these issues, because I got bills up here in front of me now where people have eight hundred dollar (\$800) bills, okay and they just can't pay it, just can't pay it. They're paying one hundred (100), two hundred (200) here and there they're trying to get it down. Now, have we looked at a way of maybe not wiping it clean, taking their bills the people over two hundred dollars (\$200) maybe? Putting it over here, you pay a little bit on this one, we're starting off scratch with your bill this month, and that way you pay your regular bill plus you got a piece over here to pay also. However you make an agreement with you to pay a little bit until you get it all the way down I don't care how much you pay."

Curtis Young stated, "I mean that's actually what is happening. I mean everybody that comes in here with an extremely spiked bill we're not saying you have to pay this bill right now or you'll be disconnected or what not. Yes, we actually do have payment agreements that we set up and work out with customers that need it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So with every customer that got issues..."

Curtis Young interrupting stated, "With customers that actually need it. Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You see where I'm coming from with people that have issues, you know and they just can't pay it down. I mean they got a bill..."

Curtis Young interrupting stated, "Right and we're not penalizing these people, or you know disconnecting them."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "We're not? So if I pay some of my bill, what happens to that bill after a couple of months I can't get it down, do I still get the penalties on there?"

Curtis Young stated, "I do waive the penalties, sir. But like I said, we like to come out and put eyes on it and then if possible we like to run the data log test, that'll actually like I said show the consumption of that constituent, it goes back the whole entire 18 months, even further like I said it'll show consumption by the minute by the hour by the day. We like to do that if possible

to show, and I've done that in instances with people and they you know it kind of brings a light, hey I do remember pressure the house, or I do remember water in the grass for whatever reason. So I mean we are definitely working with these people the same as we've been since the issue started."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And Mr. Snyder back to your payment plan issue. That's something we had in place before this problem. There are people who run into problems for whatever reason and we did offer a payment plan. And I think Curtis negotiated with them because it wouldn't make sense for us to set the amount and they couldn't do it. So we worked with them on a reasonable amount and a reasonable time. However there is an agreement, if you fail to meet your obligation, you're no longer eligible for that payment plan. So we don't just set a number, we work with you on okay if you pay fifty dollars (\$50) for the next ten months or whatever, then you should be good. But if you start skipping, I'm a pay this month, I'm not going pay this one, I 'ma spend. Well then your deals off, and that's just for clients that aren't involved in these 30 days or 38 days or spiked meters, that's just for our customers. And obviously we're doing it again with people who have problem bills, but that has been in existence and you know we have people that have followed through on what they're supposed to and we have a whole bunch that don't. And so then we have to deal with you. But we do try to work with you and come up with a reasonable amount that you know we don't want to put an amount that you know you can't pay, so right off you miss the next payment. So there are a lot of things that we're attempting to do to work with our residents, but in the long run as the utilities provider we are losing money. And we can't afford to continue to do this because we can't support our systems."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well I think you're working on some plans right now to look at that system or a system where we can have someone to monitor that?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I mean I think that might help us a little bit there, we can get somebody to monitor the delinquency and don't let it get out of hand, I think that's what happened here. It's getting out of hand and people can't afford to pay them and if we don't have issues. We need to look into that deeper I think, I really do."

Curtis Young stated, "Right, there's a log that's set up and there's also an agreement that typed up and printed out where I sign and keep a copy and the constituent actually signs and keep a copy. It's a folder that I keep and we go through it weekly and we actually give the customers a call to let them know, you know you actually have this coming up, this payment date arranged that's coming up so, there's a small process in place for that."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How many meters they read a day? Approximately!"

Curtis Young stated, "I couldn't give you an approximate number..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No you can give them one (1)."

Curtis Young stated, "You want to give them an approximate number? I would say each meter I would say is anywhere from about maybe about 75 to 100."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Each meter reader read that many a day?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And how many we got? We got 6 meter readers?"
Curtis Young stated, "Yes it five (5) readers and one (1) swing guy."

Councilman Snyder asked, "One (1) swing guy so that's six (6) right?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And how many meters we got?"

Curtis Young stated, "About sixteen thousand (16,000)."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Sixteen thousand (16,000)? We got more than that. That's all the meters we have is sixteen thousand (16,000)?"

Curtis Young stated, "It's about sixteen thousand (16,000), definitely sixteen thousand (16,000)."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And we read about six hundred (600) a day?"

Curtis Young stated, "Depends, it depends. There's actually factors that contribute sometimes to it being a little more, actually being a little less. You know and for instance if we get a bad rain like we've been getting and it floods out, you know sometimes it makes it a little longer, we get there we got to pump it out you know dig it out you know, so sometimes the process could be prolonged a little bit so give or take."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Ok. That consumption rate we got one number, you just got one number there, what that represent? How many thousands gallons or its hundreds?"

Curtis Young stated, "Add two (2) zeros to the end of the consumption."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You add two (2) zeros to any number you add two (2) zeros?"

Curtis Young stated, "Yes sir."

Kurt Becnel - Update on the West Bank Community Center

Daron Cooper stated, "Due to extensive damage uncovered in the building, a revised conceptual design and cost estimate is being considered for renovation or replacement of the facility. To date, the Parish has received two proposals with an estimated cost of \$800,000. This amount significantly exceeds the available funding and Administration is working to identify additional funds for this project."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Okay, my comment to you is this; okay we gutted out that building last November and it's going to be a year and you said considering possibly replacing it? Because it might be in our best interest to do that, but in the meantime my favorite word Jaclyn, (Stalling and Delaying). Because I don't know where we had a miscommunication but the people on the Westbank, I can tell you what happened, I thought we had a cooperative agreement with the School Board, you know to have/to host events at the schools, no that's not true! People going over there to rent that right now and oh no, you need fourteen hundred dollars (\$1400) for the school or something like that. That's not right, and

listen; I went to that building today and I'm going to say this; This is disrespectful, I don't care I mean we shouldn't have gutted it out if we knew we weren't going to have the money! You see what I'm saying? It looks bad right now, I went over there today, birds flying in there and everything. I took pictures and I don't know how long it's going to take and whether we're going to repair this one or get a new one, but I hope it's done, it's going to be done before my 1st term, hopefully. Because this is too long, and we need to straighten this out with the School Board. I'm telling you people, they're going over there to rent the school, oh no that agreement is over. So where's the communication, somebody better straighten that out, because we're not going to tolerate that."

Daron Cooper stated, "To my knowledge Councilman Becnel, the agreement with the school was to host the existing events that were booked in the Community Center to fulfill those contract obligations we had underneath the agreement, but the Community Center those were to be fulfilled everything that was booked on our books."

Councilman Becnel asked, "I thought we had extended it another year?"

Daron Cooper stated, "To my knowledge I wasn't aware of that."

Councilman Becnel stated, "And if we didn't, listen to how unfair this is; I mean those people who wanted to have events right now was scheduled, it's not their fault that that building that when we tore it down we didn't see these unforeseen expenses/expenditures. And I think that's very unfair and I'm telling you, we need to move on this, either we're going to fix that building or we're going to get a new one. But we're not going to sit down on the Westbank and wait 10 more months, I can guarantee that, something better happen."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay well I'd advise, again obviously our plan was to restore the building with estimates at eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000), didn't make sense to renovate a building in poor condition with eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000), so then we moved to maybe we need to replace this building, bottom line there is no money, so if we had a plan and some money we could move. But there was never eight hundred, six hundred, five hundred thousand dollars for renovations of that building. It never exceeded three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000). So again if you want to move, then get with your colleagues and come up with where to find the money, because it's not there."

Kurt Becnel - Update on proposed water park item for the Westbank Recreation Park

Daron Cooper stated, "A conceptual design and cost estimate for a WB spray park has been requested."

Kurt Becnel - Update on the poor street condition of E. 6th Street, Tigerville and W. 8th Street, Wallace

Brian Nunes stated, "As provided earlier this year, the 2017 Road Improvement Program was based on a reduced allocation of only \$440,000 and East 6th St. alone was in excess of \$200,000. Both roads are on the 2018 Road Improvement Program List for evaluation."

Lennix Madere - Update on drainage on E. 24th, E. 26th, E. 27th Street, Chad B. Baker and Melius Drive

Brian Nunes stated, "There has been no significant change in these areas since they were discussed at the Drainage Workshop on Monday, July 31, 2017. An update

will be available before the next Council Meeting."

Lennix Madere - Equal enforcement of junkyard ordinance parishwide

Alex Carter stated, "We agree. If there are specific properties of concern, please provide them to my office."

Lennix Madere - Update on recent junked vehicle Ordinance 17-13

Alex Carter stated, "Since the junked vehicle sweep on June 19th, 2017, 16 junk vehicle cases have been closed and 3 vehicles towed. As of August 2nd, 2017, 14 junk vehicle cases are being processed, one of which is assigned to be towed. The next junked vehicle sweep is scheduled in November for the Reserve area."

Lennix Madere - Discussion relative to Administration and Council communication practices

Councilman Madere stated, "I put this on the agenda because I had to incidents, well I wouldn't call them incidents, just maybe a little lack of communication, okay and one the one I'm going to take real quickly is the one that we had the Governor come in to St. John the Baptist Parish, and I was first informed by Mr. Snyder that the Governor was coming, but I had somewhere to go and when I came back I was trying to find out where the Governor was going to be at, I called our Secretary and she wasn't aware of it and she said to call Baileigh. So I called Baileigh and she told me the Governor was coming, be there about 1:00, so other information was given to me, if I would have known that really he was just a quick in and out for that particular area and wasn't no big long conversation, you know I probably would have stayed away. But the reason why I went because I had a question I wanted to ask him concerning an individual of mines, a friend of mines, that he was supposed to be trying to help. That's why I ended up going. But if just a simple email that said the Governor is coming, he's not going to be available for a lot of questions and answers, okay that would have been sufficient and to all the council members and not finding bits and pieces."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'll be happy to address that and I spoke to you about it on the phone. The Governor's Office called specifically and said; do not put this out, the Governor has decided at the last minute to come to St. John, I will call the Sheriff myself and extend the invitation and that's what took place. Now we've had this discussion before, typically when everybody is invited we send out things, we send out things that nobody shows up to, some of you come some don't, you guys host things we're not invited, that's how it works. But I've shared with you, I don't have the ability to invite someone to an event that I don't have control over. And the call I received was very, they didn't even ask me to get with the Sheriff, they said I'm calling myself, this is who is coming, please don't put this out it was last minute, now I think Rhonda is here, I did call her because they were going to her site and she was already aware, but knew it wasn't to get out. I just wanted to make sure she was aware and they'd be prepared, but their team was aware because they were forewarned and I shared with her the comments I was provided, so she knew at that point that it wasn't to be put out to the public, and that the Governor was attempting to come in quickly and leave."

Councilman Madere stated "Well I'm more than sure if that was directed to us in an email, that it wouldn't gotten out in the public. I'm speaking of the council in general, not the public. Okay I know you were ordered not to give it out to the public..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No I was just ordered to not give it out." Councilman Madere stated "Well I understand that okay, but I think it should have been given out. I would have just said that exactly what they told you I would have said it in the email and just ask us not to get it out. I think we should know what goes on in this parish because we are the governing body. And maybe the Governor or whoever else it is need to know that since you send that information to us, because we are the governing body. And just in a simple email tell us not to put it out, okay because we control the parish and that's who it should come to. Now the other statement is concerning another issue, that's the state okay, and we talked about this one on the phone. It was a meeting, not a secret meeting because there's a lot of people invited, but it's concerning a particular matter that's going on in my District. So I don't care who said it, I don't care who called the meeting, District III, Councilman should have been there. And before I talked to Ms. Saulny before I talked to you, I called Mr. Chuck Brown and I told him the same thing on the phone okay because when I say something, I can say it to anyone and I told him about it, that you don't come here and give a meeting or something in my District and I know nothing about it. And he apologized on the phone, he said he was sorry and he should have made sure I was there. Okay and then I spoke to Ms. Saulny on the phone Ms. LaVerne on the phone and we had that conversation it lasted for 43 minutes. We talked about this for 43 minutes okay, like I said; if I think I'm right if I know I'm right, we can talk for an hour and a half, that's not going to change my chain of thought, and my chain of thought was I should have been there. And I spoke to you on the phone and we had the conversation, we talked for exactly a minute and thirty-two seconds, okay and at that time, it was told to me by you, Ms. Saulny thought that that conversation lasted too long, well you called me I didn't call you. So I'm going to get my point across and whenever somebody call me I'm going to get my point across, if you think the conversation too long, hang up or don't call. But I will get my point across and state the way I feel and today I called Mr. Chuck Brown again, it took me five (5) hours to get in contact with him, and I asked him again about that meeting and he said he requested the Chairman be there, the School Board be there, I said did you put any restrictions on Ms. Robottom as far as who should be there? His answer to me was; absolutely not. He said she could have invited...

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "No, I will I will content to that..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated "Wait I'll finish, you'll have a chance say it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I will."

Councilman Madere stated "Okay I'm just telling you what he told me..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And I will tell you what happened."

Councilman Madere stated "Okay and I'm just telling you what he told me, because I will do my investigation, I will check out everything. I called him twice the day I found out about it and I called him today. So I think he understand and I hope administration and anyone else moving forward, when something goes on in any council person district, that person should be there. Because like Mr. Becnel said, when I get a phone call about a meeting or something that went on in that meeting, I'm supposed to have the answer, and not hear about it second hand like anybody else. It's okay for Ms. Hotard to hear it its okay for Mr. Malik to hear it second hand, I need to be there, and I'm saying that not just for me for any other council person that have something going on in this District of this magnitude, there's no reason I was not there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well I'll exactly share exactly what happened. Dr. Brown called, he said I'd like for you all to host a meeting, I'm bringing EPA and DEQ. He said, I'd like for you to invite your Chairperson and I specifically said and the District person, and he said no I want Mr. Perrilloux because he works at DENKA. He said, I will contact the Superintendent and the President, when he was unable to reach the Superintendent, he reached out to me and said, he's out of town, could you please get him and one other person. I had no idea the number of people were coming, those of you who came, again, he assumed your Chairperson was there representing you, and would share that information but those of you who were there I think we were all surprised, there must have been 30 people there from EPA and DEQ and six (6) from DENKA and two (2) from the School Board, two (2) from the Parish and our staff. Again, when I schedule a meeting I will invite you. When I am hosting a meeting from someone else whose specifically tells me who to invite, that is who will be invited. Now please keep in mind we invite you to numerous things and whether you come or not it's on you. You guys hold numerous things and don't include us. I'm going to say it publically, if I get a request to specifically I invite someone on somebody else's behalf that is what I'm going to do."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Thank you ma'am."

Councilman Madere stated, "Um I'm not finish."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Let's hurry up and get finished."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok, no, no, ain't no hurry up no hurry up, sit here on everybody else item, we're going to sit here. Okay I'm going to say this, then you and Mr. Chuck Brown need to have a conversation..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No problem."

Councilman Madere stated, "Because his odd thing to me was, he put no restriction on as to who you invite to that meeting. Okay and like I said, I don't care who tells this council or anything else who not to invite, this is my District that I represent. Okay and I would hope that you tell those people that's telling you not to invite a council person to their District, that's something you're not going to do."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Oh no, I 'ma do it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay because there's a lot of things that we have, the council have asked this administration to do and they have not carried it out. So don't say comments that we have things and don't invite you, because I have very few things and every time we have a Town Hall Meeting you're invited."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'm not talking about that I'm talking about meetings, yawl go to meetings all the time."

Councilman Madere stated, "I'm talking about any meeting, and when you invite me I come. But no longer you have something in the District and we not invited."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Ok and I'm done. I said what I had to say."

Councilman Madere stated, "Me to."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Let's try to keep a good attitude here everybody. We have one discussion on Parish building security under executive session. Can I get a motion? Shawanda Nevers Alex vs. St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office, et al. #16-17019 USDA-Eastern District of Louisiana."

MOTION: Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Shawanda Nevers Alex vs. St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office, et al. #16-17019 USDA-Eastern District of Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I'd like to ask that I offer a motion we add the letter from Glenda Myers into the official record regarding Case #16-17019."

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to add the letter from Glenda Myers into the official record regarding Case #16-17019. The motion passed unanimously.

June 22, 2017

Parish President Natalie Robottom
St. John the Baptist Parish
1801 W. Airline Highway
LaPlace, LA 70068

RE: Case No. 16-17019

Madam President,

I am in receipt of the Civil Action suit No. 16-17019 Sec. G Mag.3, of the Federal Court System for South Louisiana, where I am named as a defendant, as well as a notice for entry of default. It is stated in Section 13, Page 25 of the suit that I was the court reporter for this case and was responsible for producing transcripts for Ms. Nevers as requested and paid.

As a roving court reporter for 3 Divisions of Court in the 40JDC, I have been an employee of the parish for 39 years and acting in the course and scope of my employment am being sued by a defendant regarding said transcript. As I indicated to Ms. Nevers from the date my services were requested, these transcripts would take time to retrieve and transcribe based on my availability however, no formal time line was given for this to occur. I have provided those transcripts to Ms. Nevers and have fulfilled my obligation under the law.

As an employee of the parish, I respectfully request that an attorney be appointed to me for representation in this matter. While Ms. Never has filed a preliminary default against me to date, she has not filed the actual preliminary default judgement.

Thank You,

Glenda Meyers
Roving Court Reporter
40th Judicial District Court

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Parish Buildings - Security

Shawanda Nevers Alex vs. St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office, et al.
#16-17019 USDA-Eastern District of Louisiana

John Barrett vs. St. John the Baptist Parish, Docket# 68043 (Graffiti issue)

R. Bend Estates II, LLC, et al v. St. John the Baptist Parish, et al, #69795

Lennix Madere - St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc. and
Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827

Sky Nicole Jones, et al v. Troy Miles, et al, 40th JDC

Any and all pending legal matters

Councilwoman Hotard excused herself from the meeting at 10:10 PM.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

17-35 An ordinance amending Ordinance 16-53 relative to the annual Operating budgets for the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Capital Projects Funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 (N. Robottom)

17-36 An ordinance amending Chapter 14 - Fees and Charges, of the Saint John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances to reflect amended Clerk of Court Customer rates, as per Act. No. 173, adopted in Louisiana State Legislature 2017 Regular Session (Parishwide) (N. Robottom)

17-37 An ordinance amending Ordinance Numbers 14-18 and 02-06 to adopt the revised St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Said revised Civil Service Rules and Regulations attached hereto and made part hereof Proposed Amendment to include revisions to the following chapters:
Ch. 2 - Organization, rules, procedures and power of the Civil Service Board; Ch. 3 - Duties of the Civil Service Administrator
Ch. 4 - Agencies and person governed by these rules; Ch. 5 - Classification Plan; Ch. 6 - Civil Service Pay Plan; Ch. 7 - Examinations and eligible lists of permanent employees; Ch. 8 Certification and appointment of permanent employees; Ch. 9 - Retirement Plan; Ch. 10 - Permanent Employees; Ch. 11 - Disciplinary Actions, separations and layoffs; Ch. 12 - Appeals and Hearings; Ch. 13 - Prohibited Activities; Ch. 14 - Records and Reports; Ch. 15 - Investigations (N. Robottom)

17-38 A millage ordinance - an ordinance providing for the levy and Collection of existing ad valorem taxes and the levy and Collection of a new ad valorem tax in the Parish of St. John The Baptist, to be spread upon the 2017 Assessment Roll (N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT REPORT:

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. Last night, we joined Ochsner officials to commemorate the grand opening of the new Medical Complex on Airline Highway. The facility is state of the art and having access to will be a great benefit to our residents. Thank you to CEO of Ochsner River Region, Stephen Robinson and his staff for a great evening. Thank you to the residents and Council Members who attended our Hurricane Meetings that were rescheduled due to Tropical Storm Cindy. However, we did not receive an abundance of attendance at either meeting which is disheartening as we are about to enter the peak of hurricane season. Thank you to the emergency preparedness and communications staff who ran the meetings and to our guest speaker Ken Graham with the National Weather Service. From what I heard, the residents who did attend, asked informative questions so we hope that they took the knowledge and information and will share with their neighbors and friends. Although we are not currently affected, we are seeing more activity in the tropics and residents should be reviewing hurricane preparedness plans and checking emergency supply kits and also signing up on the Parish website or by calling our office for Parish first alerts to text, cell phone and email. These alerts are critical in times of emergencies. Thank you to the residents who attended the second round of LA Safe meetings and for your input on coastal restoration and adaptation. Please be on the lookout for additional communications in the future for another round of public meetings. We recently commemorated the completion of the Garyville Trail Phase 2 near the Timbermill Museum and the Mississippi River Trail through West 10th. We are looking forward to the day where the trail runs entirely through the Parish and are close in this endeavor. However, until then, we want to encourage our residents and bicycle and running enthusiasts to take advantage of the beautiful trail projects and outdoor areas. I recently attended a performance of local production of Hairspray and would like to offer my congratulations on all of cast and theatre crew on an excellent production. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and will look forward to the summer hit. REMINDER - There is an abundance of road and project construction throughout the Parish including at our main building and although at times inconvenient, it is a reflection of progress so we ask for the residents continued patience and to be on the lookout for work crews and equipment when traveling. Thank you.

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS:

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:20 PM, Councilman Perrilloux and Councilwoman Remondet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Hotard absent.

/s/Larry Snyder
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
COUNCIL SECRETARY