

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009
CHAIR RONNIE SMITH
VICE CHAIR CHERYL MILLET

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: None

Councilman Millet led the Prayer. Councilman Julien led the Pledge.

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, was present.

Legal Counsels Jeff Perilloux and Kerry Brown were present.

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

This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Cheryl Millet - Recognition - People to People kids

This item will be carried over to the next agenda.

Darnel C. Usry - Proclamation - Motorcycle Awareness

Bill Hubbard, Parish President, stated, "*Whereas, Motorcycle Safety and Awareness is for the purpose of improving the safety of motorcyclists on streets and on highways; and Whereas, Motorcycle riding is a popular form of recreation and transportation; and Whereas, it is important for motorist to know that their actions affect the safety of motorcyclists; and Whereas, the motorcycle is a vehicle with all the privileges of any vehicle on the roadway and should always be given a full lane of travel; and Whereas, we must be aware of the motorcyclist on the highway, at intersections, when a motorcyclists may be making a left turn, and when a motorcyclist may be changing lanes; and Whereas, it is important to allow plenty of space and never follow a motorcycle too closely. Now, therefore, I Bill Hubbard, Parish President in conjunction with the St. John the Baptist Parish Council Members wish to take this opportunity and alert the driving public to be on the look out for motorcycles and to respect them as they would other vehicles on the highway.*"

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes July 28, 2009, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes July 28th, 2009, Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

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

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"I just wanted to give a quick comment. This ordinance was done because when we adjusted the rates residential and commercial were both in there. We realized then at that time that the rates for residential, the deposits if an individual had to get a residential deposit to turn on, was the same price as the commercial rate, which was a little bit higher. So we just wanted to make sure that we removed residential from that ordinance so that it wasn't included with the commercial rates."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-31. The motion passed unanimously.

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

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 09-32. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

09-33 An ordinance amending ordinance 08-67 relative to the annual operating budgets of the St. John the Baptist Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction Fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2009. (B. Hubbard)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lee stated, *"At 6:00 this evening the finance committee met to conduct the financial business of the parish. At this time I would ask for a motion of full council to endorse the actions taken by the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to accept the recommendation of the finance committee. The committee approved to grant Change order # 4 - Animal Shelter, granted substantial completion on the Animal Shelter, granted administration authorization to execute an agreement with Beck Disaster Recovery for program development and consulting services - Gustav/Ike Recovery Program, contingent upon approval by legal counsel, granted administration authorization to execute a task order with Murray & Associates for design improvements to the Juvenile Office Building in

Reserve, contingent upon legal counsel approval and recommendation, granted administration authorization to execute a time and materials work order with URS for the bidding and contracting phases of the sewer booster station pumping from Reserve to LaPlace, and granted administration authorization to bid the sewer booster pump station pumping from Reserve to LaPlace. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

There were no personnel matters at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Hubbard/Darnel C. Usry - Authorization for administration to sign the necessary agreements to set up point to point sheltering

Councilwoman Usry stated, "Last week I went with the administration and Mr. Smith to Oak Grove, Louisiana. We toured a facility where we will house our people being evacuated to that area. It is a beautiful facility. I think once we have the agreements with the Red Cross and all the other personnel pertinent to this it will be an excellent site to evacuate to. So I would like you to approve this authorization."

Councilman Millet asked, "What kind of facility are they going to be moved to?"

Councilwoman Usry stated, "A civic center."

Councilman Smith stated, "I did go on that five (5) hour bus ride up to Oak Grove. It is not a bad bus ride first of all. It is all smooth Interstate and Highway. I just want to let the evacuees from the last hurricane know that the process has been totally revamped. The location that you are going to is totally different from what happened last time. I know during the last hurricane I received a lot of phone calls with people not being happy. They were supposed to go to one place and ended up in Oklahoma, different things like that. So I have to commend the administration, Mr. Oncale and his group for doing the things that you have done to put this in place. I promise the people of St. John Parish, those that have to be evacuated, your experience this time, hopefully never, but the next time that we have to evacuate you will be totally different from what we had before. So again I would like to commend administration and Mr. Oncale for a job well done."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Is this going to be not for medical necessity? It is just for the ones that can take care of themselves correct?"

Councilman Smith stated, "Yes."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign the

necessary agreements to set up point to point sheltering. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Hubbard - 2009 Emergency Operations Plan

Bill Hubbard stated, "We just wanted to give a brief update on what has been going on with our emergency plan. For the last four (4) months we have been meeting with all the departments within the administration and also with groups outside the administration the Sheriff's Department, the Red Cross, National Guard, you name it and we have been meeting with them. The previous item on the agenda was discussed, the point to point sheltering item. We did have a very wonderful trip last week to Oak Grove, a five (5) hour bus ride but it was very productive. We have that shelter under contract or on its way to being under contract. We also have another location in Monroe that we are in negotiations with that will pretty much handle up to a thousand (1,000) evacuees for our parish. The storms last year, Gustav and Ike was the very first time that St. John took on the task of having shelters for our residents. We learned a lot. We have actually put all of those lessons into this plan. We now have pre-determined locations for our pods, which is the point of distribution for MRE's, water and other items of necessity for people who do stay here at home when we are out of electricity and what not. We have those locations determined. We are a little ahead of the gun and it is part of our plan. We are the first parish in the state to develop documentation for standard operating procedures, which will allow us to be reimbursed by FEMA much quicker than we have in the past. Although we are about a year into our reimbursement process, we still have not been reimbursed for all of the expenses that were incurred that we are eligible to be reimbursed for from our last storm. So it is very important that we get our paperwork procedures in order and prepared for the next storm season whether it is this year, next year or fifteen (15) years from now. All of these things are coming together. This coming Monday at 3:00 PM at the National Guard Readiness Center, which is the 17th, for the very first time we are outreaching to our pastors in the community, all of the ministries out here in St. John Parish. We want them sitting at the table at our EOC in times of emergencies because they have resources that we just do not have. They are going to give us a list of all the volunteers and what they are capable of doing. We are going to make sure that when we do have the sheltering locations, if they are available, we want some pastors out there to minister to the people. They are under a lot of stress. They don't know what is going on with their homes. It was actually a great idea for us to do this and I commend everybody that has helped us put all of this information together. First Call, if everybody out there has website capabilities and computer capabilities if you could register to receive on our website at sjbparish.com. We need your information, so that you can get the information. Just as soon as we get it we will put it on the website and you will get it no matter where you are throughout the country. We would really like our residents to take advantage of this. That is pretty much it. I would like to commend everybody one more time. The administration, EOC, council members and if anybody has any questions we will try to answer them."

Councilman Lewis asked, "What are we going to do with the people who don't want to leave the parish?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "We are going to leave them in the parish."

Councilman Lewis asked, "We are not going to do anything for them period?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "They are on their own."

Councilman Lewis asked, "We are not going to check on them?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "No. We cannot force somebody to leave their home. The Sheriff's Department probably won't do that but when we issue a mandatory evacuation we really suggest very strongly that everybody leave the parish. It is for your own safety."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Some people can't afford to leave. They don't have money to leave or any other way out."

Bill Hubbard stated, "That is why we have the shelters throughout the state for up to 1,000 people."

Councilman Lewis stated, "Some people just aren't going to leave home. I think we need to look into some way to check on them. To make sure that we know where they are at and if they are in trouble somebody can help them. Somebody is going to always be here. It isn't going to be where there isn't anybody in the parish including some of us."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Mr. Lewis all I can say is if people really stay and for some reason they just can't get out after the storm passes we will be making our rounds. Wayne Jones is good about that. He makes his rounds too."

Councilman Millet asked, "Mr. Hubbard you said that it has enough room to accommodate 1,000 people. How many people did we shelter last year?"

Bill Hubbard stated, "Approximately, close to 800."

Councilman Smith stated, "786."

Bill Hubbard stated, "We have our agreements in place with the school bus drivers. That was sort of an issue last year. We pretty much have it covered from head to toe."

Councilman Smith stated, "Again, I just want to comment on this because I have been hands on with administration on this. They have revamped everything from documenting who is getting on the bus. I mean everything. I was totally shocked to see how far in depth they had actually gotten with this process. So again I just can't pat Paul on the back enough. I am saying Paul because Paul headed that up with administration. I want to commend everybody."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Julien stated, "I contacted the secretary about contacting Mr. Perilloux concerning an ordinance about having grass cut, yards that are over run with grass. It has been about two meetings and I still haven't had anything. I think that it is insulting that I come to you and the attorneys say that they are working on something and we come back to the table. My constituents are asking me about it and I don't have anything. I haven't gotten an email. I don't know what is going on. The information that I started with myself took me one day to go and find an ordinance where we can extend the amount of time. When people go through the process of having the grass cut, by the time they have to get it cut again, it takes four (4) to five (5) months. By that time the houses are overrun. My district is overrun. We have other areas in the parish that are overrun. I think this is something that we have to work on. I think that it is unfair that counsel not take it seriously. I am hoping at the next meeting we will have the ordinance drawn up or we can have someone draw the ordinance up. So please put it on the next agenda."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I had spoken with Paul Oncale, our director of public safety, concerning the lights at Carrollwood and Airline Highway. The DOTD did say that they were going to make some adjustments. If you are coming off of Carrollwood headed south trying to turn on Airline Highway at any point of the day from 7:30 AM until 6:00 PM when I was on my way here for the meeting it is backed up 15 to 20 cars. The light may let 5 of them through. So we really need to get them to look at that. When you are on Airline driving east and you need to turn left onto Carrollwood it is going to let 3 cars through. I mean if you are lucky and running a red light you might get through but it gets backed up so much. We really need the DOTD to fix it. On Hemlock it is fine. It lets about 10 cars through and you really don't get that back-up from the St. Joan of Arc and John L. Ory traffic but on the other side it is backed up all day long from 7:30 AM until 6:00 PM."

Bill Hubbard stated, "We have asked them to take a look at it and next week we are going up there for an update on everything going on in the parish. We will put that on the list."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I just wanted to remind the residents about the recycling bin on St. Andrews. We are trying to work with SWDI about getting that either emptied more frequently or get a larger bin. I just want to commend everyone for their use of this. It has been a tremendous success in this district. I commend all the residents for their recycling abilities. We just have to work on getting something bigger. Twice a week is not enough."

Councilman Smith stated, "I have to wish Happy Birthday to a couple of people. My neighbor's wife's birthday is today, be quiet she babysits my daughter. My mother's birthday is today. My grandmother's birthday is today. My lovely wife's birthday is today and my mother-in-law's birthday was three days ago. I am broke. I just want to wish everybody a happy birthday and I hope you enjoyed your day as miserable as it is outside. Again have a happy birthday and I hope you all see many, many more."

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bill Hubbard stated, "Well since you brought up birthdays, I always forget my mom and dad's birthday. I don't know why. My daddy's birthday was last weekend - Happy birthday daddy. I think my mama's is next week sometime. So mama if I don't call you, happy birthday. On September 9th at 9:00 AM we are going to have the grand opening for the animal shelter. I am going to bring my dog Susie. She has been wanting to go out there and open up this shelter. This is a big thing for the parish. If you all remember for years and years nobody could get together and do anything with the animal shelter. The parish appreciates it. We have a lot of animal lovers in the parish and they appreciate it to. I want to also let everybody know that with the help of Tom Daley, our new District Attorney, we are going to start up our community service program again. This is going to be something that people who have been penalized and they need to do community service work we are going to have little task for them to do. Whether it is picking up trash, weeding gardens or painting, we are going to have some things to do. I want input from the council members. If you have little projects Mr. Julien, get me a list. We will make sure that we get it done. We have a vehicle being ordered. We are going to hit this community service thing as a positive for the parish. Just as a point of information, we did receive a grant several months ago and we purchased ten (10) new generators for the parish. Also next week I will be meeting with council members, Pat McTopy and some members of the administration not that we want to have a big workshop, I want to try to meet with you guys individually and give you some updates on all the projects we have going on. We have a lot of things hitting the streets right now. I just want your input. The areas that you represent are being affected. I want your input on all the projects that we have going on. Thank you for a short meeting."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilmen Lee & Wolfe absent.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dale Wolfe - Personnel Matters

Property/Casualty Insurance Agent - 1) Claims, any/all property, casualty, and Workman comp claims 2) Claims, procedures and disposition 3) Coverage's, any/all material changes

Any and all pending legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:15 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilmen Lee & Wolfe absent.

/s/Ronnie Smith
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary

