

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**  
**VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soroparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Art Smith, Councilman, District I, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Lucien Gauff, Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Ranney Wilson, Councilman District II, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Cheryl Millet, Councilman District VII

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Smith led the Prayer. Councilman Snyder led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Carl Butler were present.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES**

Councilman Snyder stated, *"This is just an area on the agenda so that we can give new businesses or even any business a chance to come in and be introduced at the council meeting and I would like this to remain on the agenda."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"We can add that item permanently for you that is a great idea."*

**Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes - August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Regular Meeting. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 abstaining (Hotard & Millet).

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**13-21** (Tabled 8-13-13) An ordinance for the 2013 millages (N. Robottom)

**13-28** (Public Hearing Held) (Tabled 8-27-13) An ordinance to provide that any salary increases for Directors and/or non-classified employees, and any other employee(s) not referenced in Ordinance MM1-77, adopted December 11, 2001, must be specifically approved by majority vote of the Parish Council and not simply through adoption of the annual Parish budget. (L. Snyder)

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to leave this item on the table."

**13-32** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval for a community home at 632 Magnolia Avenue, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (OCC-2668) (N. Robottom)

Administration requests removal of this item as Council approval is not required.

**13-33** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to Re-subdivide Parcel A-1 of Glencoe Plantation into Parcels herein designated as Parcel A-1A & Parcel 1-SJBP, Glencoe Plantation, situated in Sections 61, 68 & 72, T-11-S, R-6-E, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-1065) (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Wilson seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-33. The motion passed unanimously.

**13-34** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to Re-subdivide a portion of Tract 1, Tract 2 & Tract 3 of Tract H and Tract G of Lacaze Plantation into lots herein designated as Lot 1A and Lot 2A of Tract H of Lacaze Plantation, situated in Sections 27 & 53, T-12-S, R-18-E, Wallace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-1067) (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-34. The motion passed unanimously.

**13-35** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to Re-subdivide the remainder of Parcel Z being a portion of Star Plantation, Reserve Plantation & Cambre Partition into Parcel Z-4 & Parcel Z-5 being a portion of Star Plantation, Reserve Plantation & Cambre Plantation, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-1068) (N. Robottom)

**MOTION:** Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-35. The motion passed unanimously.

**13-36** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance amending Ordinance 08-46 Section 42-45 B2 regarding water disconnection and re-connection fees. Changing this section to read "If payment is received before 4:00 PM service personnel will be called by radio to reconnect services that day." (N. Robottom)

Councilman Snyder asked, "With this payment received will it be through the computer also or does it have to be at the window?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No however it is received. Once we receive the receipt that you paid your bill by 4:00 PM we will reconnect you. Previously we had to have that receipt by 2:30 PM so you could have paid your bill well in advance and been stuck throughout the weekend without water service and our employees get off at 4:30 PM so we think that is enough time to get your payment transferred so that your utilities can be reconnected."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "With the online payment now does it post

*instantly if you make a payment on line? Will it show or reflect on the account paid so that they don't get disconnected?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"This process again I think it does go automatically but clearly if there is any question what so ever we encourage you to call before the end of the day and generally they will have receipt of their payment but I think the posting for a credit card goes directly."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"So in other words this is just to help our residents so they are not stuck on the weekends as long as the bill is paid by 4:00 PM that same day they will be reconnected or the disconnect will not go into effect?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Right."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"Thank you I think that is a very nice thing to do for our residents."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Gauff moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-36. The motion passed unanimously.

**13-37** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance to amend Chapter 14 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Code of Ordinances as follows: by adding Sec. 14-25 - Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) Check Fees. (N. Robottom)

Natalie Robottom stated, *"In the parish history there has not been a process for being paid for NSF checks so we are just asking to add this to our current fees. It is with current pricing actually some are higher and we do get a number of NSF checks and this is the mechanism that we would like to use to cure that."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-37. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Wilson).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"At this time I would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Jaclyn Hotard - (Carry Over 8-27-13) Street lights**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Mr. Nunes if you know if not I can carry it over I am referencing specifically the street lights on Hwy. 51. There were a couple of lights out I think actually Mike and I had talked about it and if you would like to pick up on that so that I don't have to do that from here."*

Councilman Wright stated, *"I know originally we had some discussion there was FEMA actually denied our claim to get reimbursed to actually*

*replace a lot of the wiring because it was post Isaac. Where are we on that specifically? Do you know?"*

*Brian Nunes, Director of Roads & Bridges, asked, "Which specific area are you talking about?"*

*Councilman Wright stated, "I know we are in the appeals process but the interchanges on Hwy. 51."*

*Brian Nunes stated, "Those lights don't actually belong to us those are the states lights and we do have a meeting with the state tomorrow that is one of the items on the agenda to discuss those and how to get them repaired. As far as doing it in house our vehicles are not big enough. We cannot get high enough to replace those and the DOTD is very strict on their standards on how those lights need to be done so one of our options is we are looking at contractors to come into an agreement with us so that they can maintain those lights for us at the interchanges."*

*Councilman Wright asked, "And that meeting is tomorrow?"*

*Brian Nunes stated, "The meeting with DOTD is tomorrow."*

*Councilman Wright stated, "If you could please send an email from the council giving us a brief summary and maybe if we can get some sort of timeline on when we are going to see those lights fixed because it has been over a year now."*

*Brian Nunes stated, "I would be happy to give you a summary after the meeting and keep you posted as we move forward."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "Mr. Nunes I know we have had a discussion about the Belle Terre exit lights, is that the same one that is down I notice there is another one out is that the same one that we keep having issues with or is this a different light?"*

*Brian Nunes stated, "I met with Entergy about two or three weeks ago and I brought that to their attention they were going to go look at it and get back with me and I didn't hear anything but again the 206 exit and is the same as the 209 exit it is kind of the same response. I will have more information tomorrow after speaking with DOTD."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay it is still down."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "Since we are on lights I would like to thank the parish and Daron Cooper for following up over by Emily C. Watkins. Thank you Brian you followed up got the permit and I received a call from the Principle saying thank you very much especially with daylight savings time getting ready to come into effect. So thank you."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "Brian I think it was a couple of weeks ago I put in a work order for some lights at the Belle Point Park. Do you have any information on that?"*

*Brian Nunes asked, "Was it new installation or just repairs?"*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Just the lights were out."*

Brian Nunes stated, "Normally we do help fix those but as it says in the administrative report our truck was down for a long time it had broken. We did get it back on the 23<sup>rd</sup> but we did have quite a back log of street lights. As of this morning we still had 20 work orders on that list. So if it hasn't been done yet and I don't know off of the top of my head I will make sure that it is still on the list to be taken care of."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you."

Councilman Wilson asked, "I would like to ask the administration if anyone has heard anything back from the state on the signal light in Garyville also the speed limit that we requested?"

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Are you talking about a red light? They did actually send something to deny but this is more specifically street lights if you want to maybe reference a traffic signal we can do that on another item or Jackie can get you that information after the meeting."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I also want to say thanks again to the West Bank park. The lights are going up over there thank you very much. I know the walkers go early and stay late now also because now we have new lights so thank you."

**Larry Snyder - Update on process used to collect liens through Ad Valorem Tax roll**

Councilman Snyder asked, "I guess I just want to know where we are on it?"

Randy Vincent, CAO, stated, "The Assessor's Office is working with its counterparts in other parishes and the Sheriff's Office to establish a protocol for placement and collection of liens on the tax rolls. A follow-up meeting with Planning and Zoning, the Sheriff and the Assessor is likely prior to full implementation. The process is moving forward."

**Larry Snyder - Insurance Committee - date needed to discuss health insurance needs**

Councilman Snyder "I am going to need some help with this especially from the council members who were here before us. It is my understanding that there is such a thing as an insurance committee board and it is made up of the entire council and who else?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "It is my understanding that it is all council members, 2 employee representatives and 2 members from administration."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Now I think we need to look into the insurances that we have, not just the health insurances, all of them and this board can help us look at that because I don't think that our employees are getting the best possible insurance they could be getting with the amount of money that we are paying for them and look at some other things for the long run with insurance because health insurance is steadily going up and pretty soon we are going to price ourselves

out of the ability to buy decent insurance. We need to look at some things I think to make this thing more affordable for us in the future. What I am proposing now is that we do call a meeting and I would like to request that the administration appoint two people and also have Mrs. Butler get some sort of process where we can select two people from that group. We may not be able to do anything with this this year but I think that if we started we could at least start looking at some options and maybe by the next meeting we can set a date when we will have a meeting with this group."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Our appointments have changed. It is Dana Douglas in HR who handles insurance and it will be Julie Songy who has been a long term employee who has worked closely with it. So administratively those are the two invites to your insurance committee. Julie Songy who is our Finance Manager, she also worked with insurance enrolments for years and Dana Douglas who is a HR generalist in HR who manages insurance and insurance benefits for our employees. So those would be our two representatives on your committee."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Who is going to be responsible for letting the employees decide on who they are going to put on this board?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "That is what happened last time there was some type of an election they actually voted on the two employees that they had so maybe we can pull up the minutes or maybe get with Mrs. Cador she may be familiar with how we can go about having those employees it has been several years since they have met. So we could possibly have another one and have the employees elect two members to the insurance committee."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We know the ones from the council. We know the ones from administration I would like to have this done by next week."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Mrs. Cador do you think it would be possible to have an election? I am not sure."

Stacey Cador stated, "I will have to look at what process was followed last time. I doubt that can happen in two weeks but I will look at the process and see how much time. There are two current members on the board and I don't know if those terms are expired but if you feel that another election is in order than that is certainly up to the council."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would just like to get something started. If you know who they are you can inform them and then let the employees say if they want someone else."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to creating an independent committee for evaluating RFQ's and RFP's**

Councilman Snyder asked that we carry this item over.

**Lennix Madere - Update on Reserve Canal boat launch**

Brian Nunes stated, "Mr. Madere as we spoke earlier about the Reserve Relief Canal and the problems with the issue of the stumps that the residents are finding in the canal currently and the canal is

definitely not the property of the parish we don't own it nor do we own the equipment to properly remove the stumps from the canal however we have reached out to the Coast Guard to receive some type of assistance or if not assistance then at least guidance because the Coast Guard did just come through in April and they cleaned that Hope Canal. They didn't mention anything about stump removal but that is where we reached out to see how we could get them back under the current permit to be able to do some stump removal work for us or at least guide us in the right direction on how to get it done because the parish itself is not permitted to do it. We cannot dredge the canal and we cannot remove stumps and even if we had a permit we really don't have the equipment to do that sort of thing but we are waiting for the Coast Guard to get back with us. It is an issue that we are aware of and we are trying to move in the right direction on that."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay like I said when I spoke on the phone with you about it I personally understood exactly what you said and I mentioned to you that the only reason I kept it on the agenda was that this is the only way that I can get the information out to the individuals who called concerned about it because it would be a lot harder for me to get out there and try to explain this to each and every one of them. So they watch the meeting and get a clear understanding as to what you just said. I understood it is not our canal and they dredged it one time and you are reaching out right now to them to maybe come back and look at the situation involving the stump that the residents are complaining about and when you get that information back from them I know you are going to pass it on to me and I will pass it on to anyone who calls. So right now the parish's hands are tied as far as getting the stumps out of the canal and we are still waiting a response back from the Coast Guard."

Brian Nunes stated, "Correct in house our hands are tied we are not permitted to do it and we do not have the equipment to do it but we have reached out to the Coast Guard and we are trying to reach out to the Corp as well to at least get some guidance on how to move forward and once we hear something back I will be sure to let you know."

Councilman Madere stated, "Once again I would like to express my thanks for the effort that you put out every time we call. The same thing to Mr. Verdell."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I have a question and you kind of blew me away when you said that the canal was not our canal. It is the property of the state or wildlife and fisheries?"

Brian Nunes stated, "That the Reserve Relief Canal..."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "If it is not our canal why did we spend all this money putting a boat launch in and just put a sign up that says use at your own expense because we are not responsible?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We don't own that canal. It is a navigable waterway."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I am really concerned why we even have this there."

Natalie Robottom stated, (From her seat - had trouble understanding)  
*"The property is ours but we don't own the canal."*

Councilwoman Millet asked, *"Why would we own property that is putting boats into water that we don't own and can't maintain when we are asking boaters to use it at their own risk. I am lost. This is blowing me away."*

Brian Nunes stated, *"We have a similar situation at Peavine where we don't own the lake but we still have the boat launch for our residents."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"Don't we have so many feet?"*

Councilwoman Millet stated, *"We have to have something otherwise why are we even having to go out for this. I am really concerned."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I have gotten the same calls regarding the stumps and I was concerned about the props on the boats so I mentioned that I was thrown when you said we didn't own it. I can understand not owning the waterways but I was thinking that we would still have a certain responsibility to maintain a certain part of that dock or something to try to help those boaters. I just thought that there was something that we could do."*

Councilman Madere stated, *"I think what the boaters are looking for I understand when they say it is not our waterway and I think the stumps I understand if they are in that canal that would be a responsibility of the state or the Corps of Engineers. I understand that. I think what the individuals want us to do is exactly what Brian is doing to reach out to the individuals who are responsible and try to get them to remove the stumps in a legal way. Basically we can't touch it according to information that was given out but we still have the responsibility to our citizens to reach out to the individual who is responsible for the stumps and try to have them removed and do everything in our power to do it legally. It is just like saying you own the river up to a certain point we can't do anything with that but we can put all the effort we can into getting the people who are responsible, since we know who they are to try to get them to remove the stumps and we are going to stay on them until we get an answer. It is just like with the red lights yes or no we need to have an answer and I think Brian is going to get it."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"I know that boat launch has been there a long time and I think you have to understand that a lot of those navigable waterways have stumps in them all over the place and the people that go to those places know where they are and it will cost a lot of money to get every stump out of there I guarantee it. I am not saying it cannot be done but if the state has to do it then they have to do it because I know we can't afford to take all of those stumps out of there. I do know that sometime a few years back the state did come in and have people remove their camps from back there and they got them out of there because it was their property."*

Councilman Wright stated, *"Just for clarification really quick you compared it with the situation at Peavine but we actually just dredged that not too long ago and acquired a permit. So there is no permit"*

process that we can go through for the Reserve Boat Launch or are you reaching out to them so that we can get a permit so that we can dredge it ourselves."

Brian Nunes stated, "That is why I am contacting the Corps and the Coast Guard."

Councilman Wright stated, "Okay I kind of got thrown off and I wanted to get that clarified thank you."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Okay let me clarify things. I just checked with Mr. Perilloux and the rules have changed. In the past the parish did maintain it and the guys that had the camps back there used to maintain it as well but when Wildlife and fisheries put them out of their camps all the rules have changed so now we have to come up with another process in order to keep this going that is why I was kind of lost because I know we have been using this canal for too many years for it not to have been a problem in the past but now that I understand that I just wanted to make sure that the residents understand that the rules have changed."

#### **Lennix Madere/Marvin Perrilloux - Blighted properties - Parish wide**

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "I did not get a chance because I was running late for the meeting to talk to the two sponsors of this particular item prior to the meeting however I just want to caution when we talk about specific properties that I would advise you to not specifically deal with properties by address or name as we discuss blighted properties. It is certainly fine to have a general discussion about blighted properties but in order to protect the parish's legal position and not put us in a position of peril my advice would be not to discuss specific properties. If there are specific properties that are in litigation involving blight you could certainly add it to the executive session agenda at a future date if the need arises to discuss a specific problem."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I put this on the agenda because one year later after Isaac we have a lot of abandoned properties in District IV through the district in LaPlace Park, New Era, Sugar Ridge, Riverlands, The Grove I want to know what we are doing aggressively to contact the mortgage company or banks on these properties and are we working with EDC to develop a program or something to put people in these houses that are abandoned?"

Angelic Sutherland, Director of Planning & Zoning, stated, "We have been keeping that same exact list. The code enforcement officers had gone around and created that list of properties that were vacant or appeared to be vacant after the storm and were damaged. They periodically went back and checked to update the list as to what point in time that the properties had been gutted and addressed. I think we are down to approximately, I don't have the list with me but I think we are down to approximately 33 homes that are still on our vacant properties list that have not been or appear not to have been gutted since the storm."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Right because I think I may have about 15 of those 33. Are we going to cut the grass? I know they are

*abandoned and nobody is there. The grass has gotten about 17 to 18 inches tall in some places and the residents are complaining. I went to one particular area and you could see on the driveway the rodents are we going to address at least cutting the grass?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "The code enforcement officers are addressing grass cutting throughout the parish whether they are vacant or inhabited property."*

*Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay because these have been here for a while."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "It is the same system that we use for any other grass cutting violation to address those but I know Mrs. Robottom is going to talk about with the CGB money that we have and some home repair ownership or program that may be coming."*

*Councilman Perrilloux asked, "Okay that was my next question and I will just follow up with you or Mrs. Beverly on some of these properties."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "I would suggest you to send that list to code enforcement to make sure that they are on the list that we have as well."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "That was my comment to Mr. Perrilloux because sometimes the code enforcement officers may miss that particular address so it has been kind of like my responsibility and the neighbor as well if the grass is high please call it in otherwise the process cannot even get started."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Just to follow up on your concern we did meet with the Office of Community Development and there is a resolution on the agenda to enter into an agreement with them. They are the funding source. They manage the CDBG dollars that came from the federal government to the state and in our meeting I think Dana with Randy's office will be scheduling a meeting with not only with some council members but also school board members to let them know how the process will work but part of it is money that goes towards home repairs and there are several possible programs that haven't been finalized but they met with us based on our need and in looking at some of the blighted property and dealing with mortgage companies and if they sell them and put them back into commerce with some of the CDBG dollars we are still in dire need for housing. We need rental housing so they are looking at opportunities for multi-plexes, duplexes, we have issues with our housing authority and some of the work that needs to be done so they need to put their residents in some temporary housing but a lot of the money that came with the 32 million dollars will go towards home type programs some of it will be putting those properties back into commerce, providing first home buyers with an opportunity, fixing up rental property so there are several type of home programs being recommended for our area based on our need and there will be a way to adjust some of the blight now keep in mind, we talked about this early on and I think we are very fortunate that there may be 33 or 34 properties because we anticipated a lot more than that when the storm happened but legally there will be a process and we will be relying on people who have gone through that process and have done it successfully to access those properties and put them back into commerce using CDBG*

dollars."

Councilman Madere stated, "Great I just wanted to see if some program was starting because some of these houses are 8-10-12 years old and fairly new and we would like to see families who need homes who have never had a home before to start some type of home ownership based on your salary and bring people into these house so it just doesn't go to waste."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again not something that we have dealt with but we are dealing with a state agency who has done it a lot and we will rely on them based on our needs to make recommendations on types of programs and there is a variety and it does include putting some of those properties back into commerce."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The biggest issue I have with this and I am glad it was brought up. On my way here I got a phone call that the grass is growing over 30 days on some of these properties and that is the biggest issue right now that I see especially in my area back there they are just not cutting the grass. They are not cutting the grass. It is going over 30 days and it seems like we are not cutting the grass. Is there some way that we can speed that process up because remember they have people living next door to these people with this high grass. Why is it taking so long to be cut? If it is over 30 days shouldn't the grass get cut? Can anyone answer that?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "I am just saying it depends on if it was written up or if it is in the system or not."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It is in the system. It is 30 days later and it still hasn't been cut. I think that is where we are and that is where we are slowing down at because I know my biggest issue is this grass and we need to look at the process. Somebody is not looking at the process."

Councilman Madere stated, "We are going to get to the grass and get that process answered. I need to have Ms. Sutherland come back to the mike and we can get to the grass issue next. I am not saying we are not going to talk about it because I want to talk about it too but I want to get back about these houses. With the houses and I understand the ones that you are talking about in LaPlace but we have some houses that were damaged and abandoned in District III and we have some that were damaged from storms before that have been abandoned so I am concerned about those houses and I also was recently informed that we don't have an ordinance that deals with blighted properties. It deals with abandoned and vacant properties. So maybe we need to look into putting together an ordinance to deal with blighted properties. We don't have that on the book right now I was informed over the weekend and we do have a problem with blighted properties so you are telling me legally that we are talking about issues that we don't have anything on the books about. So I am asking Ms. Sutherland is that up to date? Is that true?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes it is true and I have been saying that for months every time I was questioned on abandoned properties or vacant properties or however it was put on the agenda I explained to everybody that in our code it is listed as hazardous and unsafe. Now

the definition of hazardous and unsafe listed in our code may be similar to the definition of blight in somebody else's code. Other jurisdictions use blight, some use abandoned, some use hazardous and unsafe it just depends on how you have it defined in your code but I mean if you want to add the definition of blight you can research other areas and see what their definition is if it is different from ours or you can add the word blight to hazardous and unsafe and use it interchangeably if that is what you would like."

Councilman Madere stated, "I think I will just wait and see with our attorney, Mr. Perilloux, and see what these other parishes have as blight because we want to make sure when we put it in there we are addressing the problem that is affecting our district and make sure that we are covering everything and not just vacant and abandoned and also did you get an update on the other parish I mentioned at the last meeting, St. Bernard? They have 60 days if the property is abandoned and we need to see what they are following also Iberville Parish had information also."

### **Jaclyn Hotard - Grass cutting violations**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Actually I did get a chance to speak with Ms. Sutherland about it and I will answer the grass cutting violations question about the time. I guess we have two issues here one is the process that we have in place if we maybe had some internal mechanisms to follow it a little better we could get the grass cut a little sooner and Ms. Sutherland did say they were looking at some things because once we actually get it written up we have the 15 day notice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> violation, we have the 15 days and then 5 but we all know what we are seeing in the neighborhoods is grass 2-3 feet high it is a little longer and we did talk about maybe looking at some things internally if it is a property that has been written up once before maybe create some kind of list to where they know to check those properties and then maybe manipulating the system a little bit to where you don't have to go and create a whole new code violation. She did mention that the new system from SCP should be online at the beginning of next year so before grass season kicks off. Another thing we did look at, we actually this council amended the ordinance so that on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or all the subsequent violations of one calendar year we no longer have to send a certified letter so that shortens the time. If it is regular they can actually put the letter in regular mail delivery if it is within Louisiana it is 5 days, out of state 10 days and 15 out of the country we still have that 15 day state statute. Mr. Perilloux did research that and there are actually 2 parishes, maybe Terrebonne and LaFourche, that have actually gotten an amendment to do away with that extra 15 days on a repeat offender so what I mentioned to him was going into the session next year I would ask Mr. Gaines and our representation in Baton Rouge to add us to whatever that legislation was to allow us to do away with that extra 15 days on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> offense because what we are seeing in a lot of these cases and I know there was one on Cambridge Drive that was really bad but we are having to maintain the properties so I know we are going to have to continuously cut it and it is usually between two homes and is a nuisance and one I sent a picture of a small dog could get lost in it so I think we all know that it is a problem and I definitely believe that once the new system comes in in January that is going to help us and Ms. Sutherland did give me reassurance today that they were going

to look at some things internally so that once that grass gets at 12 inches it is sited and then 20 days from there we get somebody to go and cut it and it doesn't sit for months so hopefully it will get a little better."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And not just the front yard the back yard also, because the front yard looks good and the back yard is a jungle and I think the code enforcers took some pictures of that yesterday."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We do cut the front and the back I think what happens is a lot of times the neighbors cut the front when they cut their grass because they get tired of it and they leave the back yard because that is why it looks like our contractors are going to cut the front yard but not the back."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes also with the grass cutting issues about the front and the back I always said that when they cut it it needs to look professionally like they cut it especially on the fence line. I have a problem with how they leave the fence line with grass on it. In fact when I called about the property on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street that the parish owns, the Victor Property, they cut it but they didn't cut the grass along the telephone pole, they didn't cut the grass along the fence. We went through code enforcement and I said it doesn't make a difference if it belongs to us, write us up. If it is not being taken care of I am going to send it to code enforcement but whoever is assigned to do it we need to check because this is a piece of property right in the middle of District III and if we asking code enforcement officers to write up people around those properties then we should make sure that we maintain it ourselves. I shouldn't have to be calling every 2-3 weeks when the grass gets high. It should be on a schedule on a weekly basis and it should be edged around the property. I also mentioned to public works and code enforcement that property has now become another highway between 21<sup>st</sup> Street and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. I asked 3-4 months ago to barricade that off and cut that traffic down or go and pick up that culvert so they can't pass there because there was a piece of property that was pretty decent and nice now they have nothing but holes in it and it is almost impassable by vehicles now because they have went across it. I put that request in at least 3 months ago for someone to do something with that property. It is in bad shape now in fact we are going to have to put some dirt down there to make it available to be turned into a park. It is an extension of Hwy 21 and 26 connecting two streets. I would like to see it just blocked off if we can have that. I am not trying to give a directive."

Brian Nunes stated, "Planning and Zoning has been in contact with us to keep the grass maintained as well as blocking the traffic through there. As far as removing that culvert I don't think that is a good idea because then I can't get my tractor in there to cut the grass but we are looking at either building a fence towards the back or maybe just putting in some permanent post to block traffic through there but they have been in touch with us and we are working on it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yes because I passed there yesterday and the property is in terrible condition now with big holes in it going across it and it doesn't matter if it is dry or wet but as soon as possible if you could take care of that for me."

Brian Nunes stated, "It is on our regular rotation for grass cutting now."

Councilman Madere asked, "What do we do when there is a piece of property that there is no deed to the property? They went to the assessor's office, looked it up, got a name but they can't find the deed to get the square footage of the property but I was informed that we can't get it cut unless we have a deed to the property what do we do in a case like that?"

Beverly Milioto stated, "I don't know that we have many like that normally we do the research and find the owner of the property from the clerk of courts office or the assessor's office. We use Pictometry. We have a GIS mapping so we use all of our resources. We talk to neighbors and whatever it takes to try and get a name but we have to have the correct owner of the property to send the violation."

Councilman Madere asked, "Do you have to have a deed on the size of the property for it to be cut?"

Beverly Milioto stated, "We need to have the square footage yes."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well that's the problem there is no way to determine the square footage. I even said well why don't we get the square footage of the two properties on each side of it and what is left over is the square footage of that property but they said that you have to have the deed."

Beverly Milioto stated, "With the deed the square footage can be figured out if you use the deed to put that into our Pictometry and it will give you the square footage. So every time we run across that we do the research and put it everywhere it needs to go, it goes to Pictometry, we notify the assessor they update their records and then it will be fixed."

Councilman Madere stated, "I was informed she went to all of those spots and there is no deed to be found on that particular property so where do we go from there?"

Beverly Milioto stated, "I would have to look into it I don't know what deed you are talking about."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "If there is a particular property and normally what the code says is we pull the information of ownership from the assessors tax roll sometimes we can't actually locate the property through that means usually what we do is we go to our GIS person, Rebecca Hymel, and she usually researches because she has access to the clerk of courts mortgage information so she normally researches that and tries to find a deed. Sometimes too when the GIS program was created every single property was not lotted off so as she comes across those she researches the deed then she draws them into our system and we don't have that issue anymore however we actually have one of those little rolling tools so they can actually physically go out there and roll off the square footage as a last result."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay well what you said about Rebecca I was informed that was done and that Rebecca didn't find anything on this

*particular property."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "And that rarely happens but if that is the case then they need to take that to me the director and I would take that to legal and ask them to get an abstract of the property if it got to that point."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Okay because I knew there had to be something else that we could do not just leave the spot. Also one last thing at the last meeting I asked you about property if it was developed or undeveloped did you have a chance to look into that ordinance?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "We actually referred it to legal. I don't know if they researched it yet to provide an answer but we did send it to legal to research."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "Okay how long before we get an answer?"*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "You would have to ask legal that."*

*Councilman Madere asked, "Okay who is legal?"*

*Carl Butler, Legal Counsel, stated, "You will have it for the next meeting."*

*Jeff Perilloux stated, "I just wanted to address a couple of the comments that Jaclyn made regarding the research that I did on the existing state law and the fact that our present ordinances comply with the state statute. I don't actually have the state site with me the statutory site and reference in front of me however in the research what we determined is that there are in fact two parishes that the legislature, by legislative act, allowed to be able to go forward with grass cutting violations without the required 15 day notice if a 15 day notice has been provided within the previous calendar year. So once the first notice is sent out and that homeowner or property owner has been notified than any subsequent notices are not required to go through the 15 day requirement. One of the council members had asked me about the City of Kenner and the fact that they currently have a similar process in place where they actually are able to waive that 15 day requirement for subsequent violations. There is a separate state statute that governs municipalities all municipalities except the City of New Orleans and so any municipality has the right to institute procedures within its own city limits or township limits. To accomplish what you all would like to accomplish my suggestion would be that perhaps we draft some legislation that the council actually adopts in the form of a resolution urging our legislative delegation to pass a similar amendment to the existing state statute that would allow St. John to take advantage of the same opportunities that the other two parishes already have and should I be instructed to do so I would be glad to put that together."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Please do."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "I just have a few questions. First on properties that we have established that no one is living there or they are abandoned and we are having to maintain on a regular basis do they*

have to be called in each time or is code enforcement having a list of those properties that they know that they need to go back and check on because I know there are two particular on one street, Fairview, right now that I know no one is there. So do I have to instruct code enforcement to go out there every time or are they going to do this automatically?"

Beverly Milioto stated, "Different officers work different but they do have their own list that they know that are repeat offenders. It is just that at this time of the year when it is hot and raining all the grass grows everywhere at the same time. We were back logged when we got our two new ones in May and it took time to get them trained, uniforms, in cars and on the roads so when they got out there they were already behind with the grass violations and they are sending them to me as fast as I can sign them. I know they are working very hard at it every day."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "My question is do they write these up themselves or do we have to call them in?"

Beverly Milioto stated, "If they see them they write them up. They do initiate work on their own but I mean..."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "A repeat offender list is my concern. Do we have to call that in each time or do they automatically put these back up themselves is my question?"

Beverly Milioto stated, "They should start automatically checking the list themselves and from my understanding most of them maintain their own repeat offenders but I will look into that and make sure that they have a list. I have been giving them work order list and showing them what is already written so that if you are out there driving around and you see a grass and you are not sure if you wrote it up or not you can look at the list in front of you and see where it is at or what stage it is in."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "That is my concern it is just like one particular property okay where are we at now, what day is it now, should I call it in, no it hasn't been called in no one has written it up yet and now we are so far behind in the process that the grass is that much higher. So I am just trying to find out if there is a process for repeats."

Beverly Milioto stated, "They are aware of the ones that they write over and over and as far as I know they have those lists to check and I will follow up with them in our weekly meeting and make sure that it is brought across to them to have that."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I'm sorry I wanted to add one thing to what Beverly was saying to Cheryl and I think that was kind of what Jaclyn was talking about that we had discussed. We will make sure that they do have their repeat offender list so that those will not have to be called in. Those should be set on a schedule to monitor every few weeks during grass season if you know that you are going to be writing those up but I did want to point out on those and on the ones that you may be writing up for the first time that actually have to be sent out by certified mail then you have to follow your 15 day time frame. I need

*the public and everyone to know that it takes a long time because when you send something out certified mail the Post Office usually makes 2-3 attempts to serve these people and those 2-3 attempts may be a week apart so until the post office sends us that information back we cannot proceed and so a lot of times just sending out the mail and delivery takes a month in itself and that's why by the time we actually get out to cut property they are a foot taller than when we wrote it up initially and sent out the first violation. So that is just an issue that you may want to keep in mind too."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "We basically need to make sure that residents are aware that if you have a property that is high the sooner we get it called in the sooner we can start the process."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "Right however we cannot write a violation until it is over 12 inches."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "Correct, the weeds or the grass?"*

*Councilman Madere stated, "When Mrs. Millet asked about the repeat offenders that we have four new code enforcement officers so when I am thinking in terms of repeat offenders I am talking about years offenders and some of these new officers are only compiling a list of repeat offenders that they are accustomed to now but in their district there may be some offenders that have been doing this for many years. So I think the new officers need to be updated as to the property in their area that constantly and I know we can't give addresses but in my area I have some people that have been repeat offenders for 6-7 years so that is what I was talking about. So the new officers in the districts may not be aware of the repeat offenders I mean these couple of months and this is for years."*

*Angelic Sutherland stated, "Right but we are going to help them create those list and the secretary can actually go in the work order system and they can identify those who are repeat offenders. So they can help generate those lists and give them to the officers that they can carry around and use to go off of."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Right because the ones in my area they already know but I think it is the new ones that need to know the ones that have been there for years and never cut their grass."*

*Councilman Wilson stated, "We have repeat offenders that have been out there for years and years and we are sending people out and paying contractors to go out and cut this grass. I would like to know how and at what point do we stop when we have more invested in the property than it is worth. I mean is there something that we can come up with. The lot might be \$5,000.00 value and we have \$10,000.00 into it."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We still have to cut it as long as it gets over 12 inches and is going to pose a safety hazard to the resident."*

*Councilman Wilson stated, "At what point in time do we stop or seize the property or there has to be something we can do."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I think that just might be our responsibility. We need to come up with something. We need to put our*

heads together with our legal and work from there. It is not going to happen the way we do it. We have to do it. Somebody is going to have to take the bull by the horns. When I say we I mean the council."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Let me ask you Ms. Sutherland, is there a point when the value of the liens becomes greater than the property that the parish can step in?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I am sure there is but I will defer to our legal."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Like can you ever claim a squatter right or anything of the sort? I mean we would still have to cut the grass."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "No we could be more aggressive in suing to enforce the liens. We have had some round about discussions on that over the years but as it stands now when the parish cuts a property and the property is lien that protects the parish's interest in terms of the amount that was expended for that particular property. So if the property is sold at some point those liens have to be satisfied. If that property owner goes to mortgage or borrow money against the property those liens have to be satisfied and that is in fact one of the things that administration is currently working with the assessor on to add some of those lien costs to the assessor. So I think we are taking some additional steps over what perhaps was taken in the past. We need to give a little bit of time and see how some of these things work out."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Thank you one more question Mr. Perilloux do you think at some point we should look at if the liens get to a certain dollar value you know like I don't know we said something on if it is \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 I don't even know what range the liens are in I'm sure they have some that are more but if we set a bench mark over this amount then we pursue those?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Again I think if in fact we are able to go forward and have those items assessed on the tax rolls then a lot of the issues you are talking about will go away but it is one of those things where we have to kind of wait and see. Now in a situation where you may have and this isn't particularly for grass cutting but a home that may be torn down or a large lien we do have the ability to go forward and file suit to collect on a lien as well but frankly I think we need to see how this tax situation works out before we start taking more aggressive collection action."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have enough people on our list to take care of the properties that we have?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "You mean grass contracts? I believe so yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We don't have any problems with that?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "No normally once we check and determine that it needs to go to the contractor we send them a request for them to provide us with an estimate so that we can sign a requisition and get a PO to pay them and I mean that process usually happens within a

few days. We have 8 contractors and we assign on a rotating basis."

Councilman Snyder asked, "And anybody can get on that list?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "You have to go through the purchasing and procurement department and make sure you have your insurance certificates and whatever else is required to be a vendor and then they send you to us and they are placed on our list."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Most of the lots around here are 60x100 do they have to go through the process of figuring out how many square feet it is and all of that?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes they do because the code requires payment at .03 cents a square foot so we have to know the square footage especially if we are going to bill the resident. It has to be per the code."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Ranney Wilson - Drainage and Drainage equipment**

Councilman Wilson asked, "Mr. Nunes and Mr. Vincent would it be possible for us to meet Thursday at 4:00 PM or Friday whichever is best for you all?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I need to check my schedule but that should be okay."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "If you want Mr. Ranney Jackie can get with both of you tomorrow and make sure that works for both schedules."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Marvin Perrilloux - Resolution - R13-33 - A resolution requesting the STATE OF LOUISIANA to install a protected left turn arrow in both directions at the traffic light on the North/South bound intersection of Elm Street/Sugar Ridge and U.S. Highway 61 located in LaPlace**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Just to give a little information again we are going to be getting more information from DOTD but there is an intersection improvement that has been planned or in the works for a number of years that was just recently awarded to Barriere contractors that is going to involve the entire Belle Terre, Airline Hwy., Elm Street, Sugar Ridge all the backing up of traffic that occurs there that I think there is a resolution previously for New Era with a light and the turn signal and we will make sure that they are aware of that problem but I think when they address that entire intersection they will be looking at lighting and striping and additional turn lanes and some mediums to better improve that stacking that occurs in front of Chili's, the Daiquiri Shop and past Elm Street but obviously feel free to move forward with your resolution but that entire section has to be addressed."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I think we had talked about that before but I would like the resolution to go through because every time I talk to the district representative that is on this end there is always

*conflict or telling me what I need in my parish but you don't live here and that is the problem. We have been asking for 3179, Airline and New Era and now this traffic protection at Sugar Ridge and Elm Street and I got negative feedback again from this person so I said we need to put together a resolution demanding improvement. We need improvement in St. John Parish around this highway and you can't tell me if you don't live here and I am not waiting for somebody to get hurt or get into an accident so that is why I had this drafted to put on here so we can pass it."*

Natalie Robottom stated, "Please pass it and we will have that with us but the contract was let in July with the work schedule to begin in November. That is one intersection that obviously has been problematic with the back up into New Era and Sugar Ridge the other one is Hemlock so that was a little further behind but those are two major intersection improvements that the state is actually driving as well but the specific concerns addressed in both your previous resolutions will be addressed with them as well."

**MOTION:** Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-33. A resolution requesting the STATE OF LOUISIANA to install a protected left turn arrow in both directions at the traffic light on the North/South bound intersection of Elm Street/Sugar Ridge and U.S. Highway 61 located in LaPlace. **WHEREAS**, in an attempt to curtail future accidents and safer traffic flow, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council implores the STATE OF LOUISIANA to install a protected left turn arrow in both directions at the traffic light on the North/South bound intersection of Elm Street/Sugar Ridge and U.S. Highway 61 located in LaPlace. **WHEREAS**, in the interest of public safety and welfare for all commuters who travel Elm Street/Sugar Ridge and U.S. Highway 61 and all commercial vehicles traveling there as well, the St. John the Baptist Parish Council deems it necessary to install a protected left turn arrow in both directions at the traffic light on the North/South bound intersection of Elm Street/Sugar Ridge and U.S. Highway 61 located in LaPlace. **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that it does hereby urge, implore and request the STATE OF LOUISIANA to install a protected left turn arrow in both directions at the traffic light on the North/South bound intersection of Elm Street/Sugar Ridge and U.S. Highway 61 located in LaPlace in the interest of public safety and welfare. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit implementing the grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program through the Hurricane Isaac Parish Implemented Program**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This agreement is necessary to begin implementing the State's CDBG disaster recovery program for Hurricane Isaac needs. A proposal designed to address eligible disaster recovery-related needs like housing, economic development, and infrastructure is due for consideration by November 1st. Administration recommends approval. A request has been made for OCD to meet with representatives of the Council and School Board and is being scheduled."

**MOTION:** Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the

motion to grant administration authorization to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit implementing the grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program through the Hurricane Isaac Parish Implemented Program. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R13-34 - A resolution requesting the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the Louisiana State Delegation urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider Alignment D, which includes St. James Parish, in the West Shore Lake Shore Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Study**

Natalie Robottom stated, "All of us were made aware at the same time of the tentative alignment it is my understanding that the first public hearing is being held tonight in St. James Parish there may be about 1,000 residents there. Our public hearing on alignment or the tentatively recommended alignment is September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Community Center. The actual presentation will start at 6:30 but again the councils through all of the parishes, the levee board, our congressional delegation are all supporting alignment D, the one that was recommended was alignment C what I do want to communicate was that we were in agreement for the one that covered everything however everyone we have spoken with are in support of them moving forward with what they are recommending but continue to study what will take place to get D or complete to Ascension. So I ask for support on this resolution. I know it has been approved in other parishes and the port is addressing it tomorrow and the levee board and we have been assured there is no interference with what is already moving forward."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I truly would like nothing more than to see alignment D selected my fear is if we take this resolution and ask for D instead of C than we get nothing and that is my fear with this resolution. I know how the Corps is. Are we going to hurt ourselves is what I am asking?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We are not this was the original alignment voted on by all the councils and parishes and we are urging them to continue studying it. We have also I think all of us received a letter from our congressional delegation that all of them signed asking for the exact same thing and they have a little more power with the Corps than us as well as all the neighboring parishes and levee boards. What we are saying is the original alignment is what we think works best. We are extremely pleased and I have shared that you have come up with a recommendation but keep in mind there is a basis for their recommendation and sometimes additional studying will clear that up and I did speak with some of the representatives from their meeting in St. James there are some additional things that they are going to look at and in speaking with President Roussel he made it very clear they are not trying to stop our project what they are asking is please continue to look at completing this alignment to D and I think it is incumbent upon us as members of the River Parishes to support that as well."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I have no problem with that I just want to make sure it is not going to halt because I know the last time we disagreed with their alignment they stopped and that is my fear."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I do think it is important one that we show up on September 17<sup>th</sup> it will not be question and answers it is a comment period. It is a requirement for their program. They will present the alignment and the information they have. They will accept written comments they are still accepting them through October the 7<sup>th</sup> if you get there early enough you can discuss things with them. There are quite a few of the same questions they may address those but it will not be a question/answer session. It is a public hearing to accept public comment regarding alignment D. So again we encourage you whether you can attend or either get written notice. It is on our website. The complete report is there. We do encourage your participation keep in mind we are talking about the River Parishes and St. James there may be people north of the lake that aren't really wanting this. There is a fear that our levee may impact them. So again we have been asking for this for 40 years we need to step up and go and make the comments that are necessary to support this as a project."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What is the additional amount?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There is a lot that goes into that. It was 10 million but there is a lot more that goes into that decision and I did again we had the same question why wouldn't you go 10 more miles for 10 million more dollars there is a reason and actually they stopped at 10 million when they realized this isn't going to work. The benefit to us and I think they shared that with us they don't have to assess three alignments. They get to the one that they tentatively selected and they spend their time on that one. So they had already ruled out and didn't keep calculating how much more D would have been because they had already made the recommendation but there are some other things in there again it will be an opportunity if you get there early to ask. The report is very thorough. I know St. James met with them all of their leaders, the Pontchartrain Levee District, President Roussel said it was a very good meeting and he got clarification so I think the information they provide you with regards to the reason for selection and of course a big part of that is the wetlands encapsulating that amount and what that does to other areas and the environmentalist who could stop the project dead in the steps. So there are a lot of things that go into that selection however we do think that your comments are important."

**MOTION:** Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to approve Resolution R13-34. A resolution requesting the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the Louisiana State Delegation urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider Alignment D, which includes St. James Parish, in the West Shore Lake Shore Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Study. WHEREAS, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has evaluated the West Shore Lake Shore Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Study; and WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study included the evaluation of protection of St. James Parish and the other River Parishes from Tropical Storm and Hurricane Storm Surge; and WHEREAS, the West Shore Lake Shore Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Study provided that the Locally Preferred Alignment 'D' would be in best interest of St. James Parish, Ascension Parish, St. Charles Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish; and WHEREAS, the impacted area includes millions of dollars of residential property in addition to heavy industrial and commercial property utilized in the production of oil, gas and chemical products

critical to the nation's economy; and WHEREAS, the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers has tentatively chosen Alignment C and has provided a 45 day period for public comment ending October 7, 2013 ; and WHEREAS, it is crucial for the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish to contact the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, U. S. Congressional Delegation and Louisiana State Delegation to request reconsideration of Alignment D; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council that the Louisiana Legislative Delegation of the United States Senate and Congress and the Louisiana State Delegation promote the consideration of Alignment 'D' which would be in the best interest of St. James Parish, Ascension Parish, St. Charles Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish; and BE IT, FURTHER, RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, U. S. Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator David Vitter, Congressman Cedric Richmond and Congressman Bill Cassidy, also State Senator Jody Amedee, Troy Brown, and Gary Smith and Representatives Ed Price, Clay Schexnayder, Randal Gaines, John Berthelot and Eddie Lambert. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Parish Buildings - Security

St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Roussel Welding and Metal Works, Inc., et al. Case No. 64187 Div. B

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**13-38** *An ordinance to repeal Ordinance 10-39 - and to add the nomenclature "Stella C. Tasso" to the existing N.W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Reserve, LA (L. Madere)*

**13-39** *An ordinance amending Ordinance 12-51 relative to the annual Operating budgets for St. John Parish General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Parishwide Sewerage Construction fund for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013. (N. Robottom)*

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening - Last week we commemorated the first anniversary of Hurricane Isaac with a beautiful ceremony at the Community Center. The ceremony acknowledged the devastation our community suffered one year ago, but at the same time applauded the recovery efforts made by our community and those who have helped us from around the state and country. St. John's recovery is the result of a team effort - and I was happy to see representation from the various groups and agencies that assisted in recovery at the ceremony. New Wine also hosted a great event that evening. What a difference a year makes

but there is still work to do. We continue to seek help as we remain vulnerable to flooding without levee protection. The Corps recently announced a tentative levee alignment that protects St. John. But as they work to complete a chief's report by September of 2014 with a final recommendation, we need your input and encourage you to attend a public hearing on September 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John Community Center. Open house is at 6:00 p.m. The presentation of the project will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Corp will accept public comments immediately following the presentation. We want to encourage all of our residents to attend and provide their comments and concerns. The Corps will also accept written comments until Monday, October 7. Comments on the report should be directed to: Regional Planning and Environment Division - South New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267. Comments may also be emailed to [WSLPAdmin@usace.army.mil](mailto:WSLPAdmin@usace.army.mil). The report is available for review on the St. John Parish website and at the St. John the Baptist Parish main library located on Hwy 51 in LaPlace. This Wednesday marks the 12th anniversary of a day no American can ever forget. The attacks of September 11th forever changed our nation, not only through the tragic loss of lives, but also by the remarkable courage of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. To commemorate this occasion, I encourage you to join the efforts of The National Day of Service and Remembrance. You can give back to our Parish by reading to children, refurbishing a local school, planting a neighborhood garden or whatever project inspires you. For ideas and helpful toolkits, visit [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov). Additional resources on how to take action are available at [911Day.org](http://911Day.org). On Saturday, Tulane University hosted River Parishes Day at the Tulane Football game and over 250 St. John Parish youth were transported to the Superdome by the St. John Parish School Transportation Department. Participants enjoyed the "tailgate village" before the game which included food, drinks and games. Participants also formed a "human tunnel" on the field for the Tulane football players and staff to enter the field. It was a fun time for all involved. Beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, September 11, St. John Parish and HHP Construction will complete road repairs and replace concrete panels on Ormond Blvd. in LaPlace at the intersection of Airline Hwy between the Shell Gas Station and Capital One Bank. As a result, closures of the left turn lane on Airline Highway southbound and the right turn lane on Airline Highway northbound at Ormond Blvd will be in effect beginning 6:00 a.m. tomorrow through Friday, September 13. There will be no through traffic allowed on Ormond Blvd from Airline to Oak Allee Dr. during that time as well. Motorists will be detoured to Carrollwood Drive. All businesses will have access to their store fronts and parking lots. Motorists are encouraged to use caution these next few days as some areas may become congested. Construction is expected to be complete Friday evening, September 13, weather permitting. St. John the Baptist Parish will be working with Compliance EnviroSystems (CES) beginning Thursday, September 12 and continuing through the remainder of the year to inspect storm drains and identify areas to clean. Following inspections throughout the parish, blocked storm drains will be cleaned out. Notifications will be sent to neighborhoods when work crews are expected in the area. The contractors will begin in Foxwood Subdivision on Thursday, September 12 and continue throughout the parish. If any concerns arise during this work, please contact the St. John Parish Public Works Department at 985-652-4815. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently offering Basketball Free Play at Regala Gymnasium on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Anyone interested in free play should contact

the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569, ext 1169 or 1168. The St. John Business Training Center will host a free seminar tomorrow from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. titled "Marketing Secrets that will Increase your Sales." The center is located inside the South Central Louisiana Technical College campus at 181 Regala Park Rd in Reserve. St. John the Baptist Parish Officials and the Keep St. John Beautiful Committee are gearing up for the Fall Clean Sweep event on Saturday, September 28. Clean Sweep will kick off at Highway 51 Park and consist of a parish wide clean-up day involving hundreds of volunteers from schools, government agencies, churches, civic organizations, home-owner associations and industry. Groups and individuals who wish to assist with clean-up efforts are asked to call Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569 to reserve specific neighborhoods or public areas to clean or sign up online at [sjbparish.com](http://sjbparish.com). We are currently seeking contestants for the 2013 St. John Andouille Pageant. Contestants must be single, childless, a resident of St. John the Baptist Parish and between the ages of 13 and 16 for the Teen Division and 17 and 23 for the Miss Division, on the date of the pageant. The deadline to register for the Teen and Miss Andouille Queen Pageants is Wednesday, September, 25 2013. Applications for the pageant are available at [www.andouillefestival.com](http://www.andouillefestival.com) or for pick up at the St. John Parish Government Office. Applications can be mailed or delivered to Dana Milioto at 1801 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace, LA 70068 before the deadline. An informational meeting for participants will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at 6:00 p.m. at St. John Theatre. Applications can be turned in before the meeting."

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Gauff stated, "I did hear that the event, Tulane Day, was really nice unfortunately I had to work so I missed it this year but I haven't seen any pictures yet and I know those kids would like to see themselves and hopefully we can get those online I looked for them but didn't see them yet. Our Lady of Grace has a social on September 21<sup>st</sup> that I would like to say to get out and support. It is a fundraiser for them so let's get out and support them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes that recreation department is doing a great job I just want to say that. Debra you are doing a great job. I just want to say Happy Birthday to my wife her birthday is the 12<sup>th</sup>."

Councilman Wright stated, "Just briefly while we are in the peak of grass cutting season please remember to not blow the grass into the street, it clogs up the drains and we have to send public works out there when they could be doing other things like cleaning out ditches instead of cleaning up after residents. So please do that."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I would like to say congratulations to Mrs. Poche and the Recreation Department they are doing a great job and hopefully next year we can double it at the Superdome. Also again congratulations to Bailey, Paige and all the staff who put on the one year event at the civic center it was fantastic and after one year you wouldn't think you would have so much emotion but it was really touching."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to echo everything Mr. Perrilloux just said I think everyone did a wonderful job with their

events. They were well put together and like you said it was emotional. We fail to realize until your memory comes back in the pictures that you see of the things that you felt at the time. One of the things also that I forgot to mention at the last council meeting it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martin Luther King I had a dream speech in Washington. We failed to mention that but just like that particular event our area too still has a lot of work to be done and we are not finished with either one of these so we still need to come back stronger."

Councilman Smith stated, "I just want to wish WSJ, ESJ, SCC and RA a great football year. I want to thank roads and bridges for fixing a pot hole I have been calling about for a long time. I want to thank Mr. Lucien Gauff for having my back while I was sick and helping out in my district."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I just wanted to say yes the pictures are online thank you very much. I just know that the kids and the parents look forward to seeing them."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I want to thank Mr. Nunes for the Ormond construction. I know we are about to start the work it is a really bad spot. I know the light in Cambridge we have that one as well in the front. We have been talking about it for a while at the meeting and we did have the delays from the gas station so that will be really good once it is repaired and also I would like to touch on that as well to congratulate our schools and wish them well this weekend as they enter into Friday night football and also to Riverside they had a really tough game this weekend and they held them out to the last 30 seconds and even though they were not successful they did play a good game against a really good team. So we wish them all good luck."

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:50 PM, Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary