

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**CHAIR LUCIEN GAUFF**  
**VICE CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Rudolph Soraparu Chambers, Edgard, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ABSENT:** None

Councilman Gauff led the Prayer. Councilman Wright led the Pledge.

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

**BOARD OF REVIEW**

Councilman Gauff stated, *"For a period of fifteen (15) days, beginning August 16, 2012 and ending August 30, 2012, this board of review has been open to receive any written or oral complaints from taxpayers who wish to protest their assessment as determined by the Assessor. Complaining taxpayers must comply with Act 705 of 1976 in order for the board of review to consider any protest. The board of review is now opened to consider any protest."*

There were no written or oral complaints. Chairman Smith closed public hearing.

**Art Smith - Presentation - Laverne Saulney - Senator Mary Landrieu's Office**

Laverne Saulney, Regional Manager for Senator Landrieu, stated, *"I will be very brief. My presentation is primarily a message from Sen. Mary Landrieu, as some of you may or may not know St. John parish is within the region of the New Orleans office but the Sen. has also given me a mandate to really look at and monitor the progress that is being made in St. John parish and to keep her up to date on daily on the progress that is being made as well as feeling free to give me a call at any time whatever you all made in the need of. So one of the things that I wanted to bring to you all today is for constituents needs in reference to FEMA once your constituents have applied for FEMA assistance if they have not heard from FEMA after three days they should contact our office. What I have here is a privacy act form for your constituents to*

fill out because before we can find out any information regarding your issue with FEMA we have to have them give us permission. So I am going to leave that form with you and you all can make copies, they can fill those out, contact our office we will then contact FEMA and find out what the issue is to mandate or expedite their particular issues. Also I have some other handouts here from the USDA regarding snap. I know a number of your constituents may or may not have issues regarding food stamps assistance and if so the Sen. has a handout here that pretty much clarifies the qualifications or the criteria of individuals and Madame president the Sen. also understands that there are a number of individuals who may not meet the income requirement but she wants you to know that she is working on that. Secondly also with HUD I don't know if you all have been in communications with them regarding for variance as well as a moratorium on foreclosures so if you have any information or have any of your constituents that need to know about that we have been handout here for you as well. Finally on my way here the homebuilders Association of greater New Orleans president, John Letter, called and I understand that he wants to do a huge event here in St. John parish because of the contractor fraud and a lot of other things that are seen since Katrina and Rita. He wants to present as the St. John parish citizens. He is looking at the date to be some time on 22 September from 9 to 12. I understand he will have somebody on the ground tomorrow to look at sites. I think new wine church is a possibility of a site as well and so I think that would be a great opportunity for your citizens to have someone who is licensed and insured contractors as well as a number of other organizations to provide information to your constituents. So again I am here to serve and assist you all in any way that you possibly can. I want to commend Madame President as well as the Council president and members for an outstanding job. I know that this is a very testing and a lot of work is involved. I understand what you are going through. I have been there with Katrina, Rita, Ike, Gustav, the BP Oil Spill and so on and so forth. You all are to be commended and may God bless each and every one of you."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I would like to send a message to Mrs. Landrieu. I wish we didn't have to have all the food stamps and this other stuff coming. For over thirty years now St. John parish has been trying to get a flood protection levee. We sent hundreds of billions of dollars the week before the storm hit Greece, let's get our house in order let's take care of our people and it will be more than glad to help other people but is time for us to take care of us, bring our soldiers home, close the gates, lock the doors and let's take care of us first. Please pass that onto her if we would have gotten the flood protection levee when we needed one this all could have been avoided and the money that is being spent on this project could have built the levee probably."

Laverne Saulney stated, "Well sir if I may I want you to understand that the Senator understands wholeheartedly and as I have had this conversation with the parish president as well as the Sen. has had this conversation with her we do understand the importance of levee protection and that is the reason why she worked as hard as she did with the restore act as well as revenue-sharing and those dollars hopefully will come directly to the parish and you all can spend those dollars how you see fit as well as working very hard and had this conversation also with the president when he was here and she handed

him a letter regarding that very subject that you just alluded to but more importantly this is a matter that she thinks about and talks about each and every day and also more importantly as you know Sir the Corp doesn't have enough funds or enough money to just be able to protect the United States matter of fact. It only has \$20 million dollars in its budget for the entire country so with that being said the senator is working hard to make sure that the Corp has the dollars that it needs and has the money that is necessary for you all to get the levee protection that is needed to protect your citizens."

Councilman Wilson stated, "That is all fine and dandy but I still want to take care of home first with the trillion dollars that we are giving away every day it is time for us to have our problems taking care of. Talking about it is one thing doing it is something else. We have been talking for thirty years and it seems to have just fallen on deaf ears."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "I just have one question and maybe you can guide me in the right direction. We have some residents that have applied for FEMA, some of them have been approved for temporary/transitional housing and we have others that have been denied, then the agents are telling them we can't hear an appeal until you settle with your insurance company. We have different people giving different information with the same facts, you know the house next door got it with the same insurance, this house next door doesn't get any assistance. So what do they do and where do they go? It is hard when your neighbor got money to help them find an apartment and your guy says you can't have money because you don't qualify when you have the same circumstances."

Laverne Saulney stated, "As I stated earlier we have the privacy act form here, I would suggest that you have that constituent to call our office and we will do everything we possibly can to navigate them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Many of my constituents have called me with problems with housing and we have a long list of hotels and motels that they can go to but they all say they are full more or less when they call these places or they don't have any vacancies, this is what I heard from a reliable source, someone did the same thing and they called one of their friends and their friend called the hotel and had a room in five minutes. It seems like we are having problems getting our people a place to stay until they can get on their feet again, many people can't afford a trailer in their front yard and FEMA doesn't give them a trailer, they are staying in the convention center and that is sad. Is there anything that we can do or the Senator can do to help us out there? Is there a form for reporting such things that you might think isn't right or housing discrimination?"

Laverne Saulney stated, "My recommendation sir is for you, the parish president or the council members to put something in writing to us immediately and we will look into the matter ASAP and we will contact with HUD because I was on a conference call with them just today and their concerns are why are people still in shelters there shouldn't be anyone in shelters at this time and so the question that I ask is for someone to ask each one of those individuals why are they still there so that we will know exactly why they are still in the shelters. So I would ask if you can get someone to get that to me immediately we will

look into that matter."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We have been working on that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just wanted to thank you for coming here. I appreciated getting a chance to speak with Senator Landrieu when she was here. I know that she is going to do everything that she can. I just wanted to thank you for coming here, this is a great form, I had some people who did have some questions and this answers how they can get your office involved to kind of help them work through this. I appreciate you taking your time to come here, you got to ride the ferry on the way, a little added amenity we have here on the West Bank, so thank you for your time and travel safely."

Laverne Saulney stated, "Just please feel free to contact me. You have my cell numbers I believe that we forwarded to Jackie. You can call me anytime and I do answer the calls and if I don't I will call you right back. So always feel free to call, text or email me."

Councilman Madere stated, "I called Senator Landrieu myself, I was fortunate to get her number and I was surprised that she did answer and I was concerned about the food stamps. I spoke with a lady who was out there waiting for 5-6 hours and was denied and that really kind of ticked me off which is why I made the phone call to her and to Troy Brown. Her comment was that she understood and she agreed that everyone no matter how much you make should have received something but she told me that the powers that be in the federal government were the ones putting the restrictions on it and she said she tried to talk to them to explain that to them and she said she was going to continue to push to get them to change that. I told her the way I felt about it. We pay taxes every year, everyone should get at least \$200.00, if the federal government wants it back take it at the end of the year with income tax but the people need something now. It is not the time to be saying no."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Mrs. Saulney I came on pretty strong and I apologize for that but I would like for Mrs. Landrieu to pass that on to everybody involved to get with all of our people in congress to find some help for this situation. This may happen again next month, we all knew it was going to happen it was just a matter of time."

Laverne Saulney stated, "That is fine I am going to relay that message to the Senator and I understand that you and your constituents are under a lot of pressure and they expect all of us as elected officials to serve them."

Councilman Smith stated, "I just wanted to say thank you. We really appreciate you coming and explaining this to our residents and to us and we appreciate all that you and the Senator have done to help us."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to echo the same. Thank you very much for coming to us. You all have always been there. Whenever we call you have answered our calls and been there for us. So continue to be here for us. We need to see you also."

#### **Consent Agenda**

**Items:** Approval of Minutes August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit

Approval - Block Party - Sunday, 9-2-12 - 1702 Creole Street - 2:00 PM- 8:00 PM; Councilwoman Millet - Re-appointment of Don Loisel to the P&Z Board; Re-appointment of Jake Lyford to the Animal Control Board; Re-appointment of Brian Florene to the ZBA

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda items consisting of Approval of Minutes August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Block Party - Sunday, 9-2-12 - 1702 Creole Street - 2:00 PM- 8:00 PM; Councilwoman Millet - Re-appointment of Don Loisel to the P&Z Board; Re-appointment of Jake Lyford to the Animal Control Board; Re-appointment of Brian Florene to the ZBA. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

**12-37** (Public Hearing Held) An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 94-74 so as to incorporate a new street into the St. John the Baptist Parish address system. Perimeter Road (N. Robottom)

*Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Emergency Preparedness, stated, "Ordinance 94-74 adopted and approved by St. John the Baptist Parish and prepared by South Central Planning and Development in connection with the emergency 911 system and updated by administration in 1994 requires all new streets, whether public or private, be added to the 911 database by ordinance. The proposed street, Perimeter Road, is owned by Marathon, is located east of Marathon Avenue and intersects with Terre Haute Road. Administration recommends approval."*

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-37. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-38** (Public Hearing Held) An Ordinance regarding the Parish President's salary: Any future salary increases for the Parish President shall not automatically be calculated to equal the salary of the Sheriff as previously provided for in R08-09, but shall be done by a separate Resolution of the St. John the Baptist Council and affirmed by a Two-thirds majority vote as set forth in the Parish's Home Rule Charter. Salary increases for the Parish President may not be accomplished through approval of the annual budget or amendments thereto (C. Millet)

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Does the Sheriff get a raise every two years?"*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I think it is the state that determines that."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Yes but how often do they look at it?"*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"I think that the Sheriff gets a raise every two years but I think it is look at every year that is my understanding but I could be wrong."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"I think legislatively the Sheriff's salary is increased annually however because the parish president salary is dictated by the charter which says they cannot be advanced every other year that is the discrepancy but each year the legislature approves or*

*funds raises for the Sheriff. It is based on a percentage. It is also tied to district judges and other elected officials I think the assessor's and the clerk of courts theirs are all set legislatively and they are done annually and retroactive."*

Councilman Snyder asked, "So every two years for a term of four years you only get one raise?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Two. The parish president can only get two the Sheriff can be done annually if they are funded."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-38. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-39** (Public Hearing Held) An Ordinance stating the Parish President and/or any Director of a Parish Department and/or any Parish employee, shall not solicit or advertise for Request for Professional Services (RFP's) or Request for Professional Qualifications (RFQ's) for any Parish work without Parish Council approval. (J. Hotard)

Ordinance 12-39 was removed by Councilwoman Hotard.

**12-40** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision approval for an additional twelve (12) months for Belle Terre Commercial Subdivision, Phase 1, Parcel A, Lots 1-13, Parcel B, Lots 1-22, Parcel C, Lots 2-9, Parcel DS-4; Phase 2, Parcel B, Lots 23-49 and Parcel C, Lots 10-44 and Phase 3, Parcel D, Lots 1-39, Parcel E, Lots 1-42, Parcel DS-2 and Parcel DS-3, situated in Sections 69 & 70, T-11-S, R-7-E, Southeast District of Louisiana, east of the Mississippi River, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland, Director of Planning & Zoning, stated, "Administration recommends approval. This is just an extension that we have done in the past for conditional approval because the demand isn't there to go ahead and start building. They're just asking for it to be extended."

Councilman Snyder asked, "This has come up before with previous developers. In this done like this all the time? If a company stops selling properties or developing homes or developing communities and what is it costing the parish? If I was a developer and I came in here tomorrow and bought some land about how much would it cost me to do that in this parish if I want to go out and dig my first shovel of dirt?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I think your first question was is that costing the parish anything by us extending these conditional approvals. I am not aware of this having any cost or of being any cost to the parish as this is private property and all of this is developed at the cost of the developer and the owner of the land."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So why are they coming to us for an extension?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Because they have to go through planning

*and zoning when they are actually developing and you have to go through your phases of preliminary, conditional and final approval."*

Councilman Snyder stated, "So they have to do permits over again?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So that is what it is costing us if we do this for the next 50 years because they are not selling the property that will cost us the price of the permits?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "If it was vacant land and wasn't developed we wouldn't be getting money for permits either."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Hasn't it been approved already to be developed?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It has been approved. It has gone through conditional which has been approved. It hasn't gone through the last phase of final and so they are not ready to go to final that is what they're asking for this extension of conditional which is the middle phase."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So they have developed some of it already?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes this is another phase, this is part of an already existing subdivision, so they do have other phases or parts that were already developed. This would be just an additional phase. The preliminary phase is actually a conceptual drawing of how many lots they have, this is what they are going to do. Once you get your conditional approval you can start installing your infrastructure. When you come back to get your final approval all of that has to be done already, your infrastructure. So at this point they are not seeing the demand, they may not have gone or want to put the money in to go ahead and put their infrastructure in. So they're going to keep going with conditional."

Councilman Wilson asked, "Exactly where is this subdivision?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "This one is River Oaks."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-40. The motion passed unanimously.

**12-41** (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Approval for an additional twelve (12) months of River Oaks Subdivision, Phase V, Lots 205-239, 245-252, 264-282 and Parcels H-11, H-13, C & D, located south of proposed Woodland Drive right-of-way, west of Vicknair Canal, East of St. Andrews Boulevard and north of River Oaks Subdivision, Phase II and III, in Sections 66 and 67, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Again this is for the same reason asking for the extension of conditional approval and administration recommends approval."

Councilman Madere asked, "This is a question that I should've asked the first time but didn't. These subdivisions that we are granting further extensions too how much are we taking into consideration the drainage when we add on these things?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "When a developer proposes a new subdivision or a new phase of the subdivision they actually first come into the planning and zoning Department for our administrative meeting and the meetings are attended by the planning and zoning Department, there are representatives from utilities, there are representatives from public works, our parish engineer also looks over it and that comes in through your conditional approval. You have to have all of your infrastructure documented in your plans so all that is evaluated before anything is approved."

Councilman Madere asked, "And sometimes they may have to tell them that they have to build up or expand on the drainage that they already have?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "It depends on what area they are in. If they are building in an area where there is existing infrastructure but most of these new subdivisions they are installing all of their infrastructure."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I see where Mr. Madere is coming from and I think we have a strategic plan out there to kind of direct us as far as new development and if I am not mistaken it says that we have a right to turn these people down if they don't improve the drainage or if it may be a burden on the drainage we can turn it down. Do we have a drainage problem in St. John Parish? Oh yes we do. We have a large drainage problem. Wherever they are developing this land, if it is not built up already that means it is taking on water so therefore it is helping with the drainage as a reservoir as soon as you start putting dirt on there there will be less place where we can use water for retention. It might sound irresponsible to say that but when I see people getting flooded out so that somebody can make a dollar that is when I start to worry and what am I doing here if I don't say something or at least air my feelings on this thing and see how everybody else feels. Mr. Madere brought up a good point because I think the strategic plan for our drainage program is that it has to be an improvement on the drainage and not something that can hurt the drainage in the parish that is one of the reasons why we refused to let a guy develop the land in Cambridge and that was one point that came up, would it hurt our drainage? I am asking you would it hurt our drainage."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Okay I will defer that question to our public works or parish engineer on drainage issues."

C.J. Savoie, Parish Engineer, stated, "Councilman Snyder I don't know if you're asking about this particular subdivision or if you're asking me a generic question as to whether or not we look at all the subdivisions that we do and consider whether or not the discharge from all of these subdivisions are going to impact the rest of the surrounding area not only that but the entire parish and if I may comment the recent flooding that we had was not necessarily due to flooding with internal subdivisions but more with the rising water coming from the lake and so forth from the wind that brought that water

in however we do consider in each case when we look at a subdivision first of all I look at to see what the improvements are for example I make sure that they have the proper size culverts and so forth that are internally in the subdivision and that they can discharge their own water to a particular point, then I look at the impact of where that water is going to and I will give you an example of that a while back when they first put in Home Depot, they had a huge parking lot there and that water drained into the Lasseigne Canal. I realized that having that many acres of concrete parking lot now which was not water going to be absorbed into the ground but collected in that parking lot and discharge into the Lasseigne Canal and they had 42 inch culverts in there. After looking at that and the impact that was going to have on the subdivisions to the north of Home Depot, I made Hope Depot build their parking lot at an invert so that they could hold a certain amount of water and I made them put in a smaller pipe to discharge into the Lasseigne Canal why because I didn't think after looking at the flow going into Lasseigne Canal I wanted to retard the flow. So there are times that the parking lot at Home Depot is going to flood and what it does is that the water will flood but then it will discharge slowly but it isn't posing a problem to all of the residents to the north. The same thing goes with each subdivision. We have to look at the flow, see what the flow is based on a 25 year storm and see what the effect is going to have on each subdivision and what impact it is going to have on the discharge now that can also be controlled if down the road somewhere we have too much water going into a canal or some outlet or artery then we may have to do something because we have too much flow going into that particular location so they may have to add pumps then we come in and add dams and pumps and so forth to discharge that water to the north and that is primarily because all of the water primarily in the LaPlace area and East Bank go primarily to the north. I don't know if I am answering your question or how detailed you want me to get on this but that is generally what we do from a generic answer."

Councilman Snyder stated, "What I was saying is that if we sell these 111 lots that these people have a reprieve on to sell later on will that hurt our drainage in north LaPlace, Belle Terre, Cambridge, River Forest or any areas."

C.J. Savoie stated, "Anytime you add housing, driveways, roofs and so forth you are going to collect water in the street, once you do that you now have a collection of water where water was previously maybe being absorbed into the natural ground and some evaporation so yes you are collecting more water, not that it is raining any more than it was before but you are now collecting that water. So in each case yes we are producing more water each time we develop a subdivision but you are going to have development."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know for a fact in my district the parish added pumps in south east Riverlands, part of my district those pumps work well but it floods out Cambridge Drive when it rains. I have seen areas there that flood out because of those pumps pushing all that water into Vicknair Canal and we can't get the water out of Cambridge into that canal. I may be wrong but I have seen it since these pumps started kicking on. Now I am saying the same thing if we are going to develop more land what are we doing or the developer probably can't do anything but put larger pipes which will put more water into the Vicknair Canal and will flood people out back there more."

C.J. Savoie stated, "Well I am familiar with what you are talking about with the improvements that they did in Riverlands and the water being pumped into the Vicknair Canal and it discharging going further to the north and you feel like the level in the Vicknair Canal raised and it did it had some affect and so your thoughts or that the rear of Cambridge is not draining as well because of that. I don't know if that is totally true I have not done a recent study on that. I know that the rear of Cambridge or the north side of Cambridge did have a drainage problem before and we did some corrections but that was several years ago to whether or not this is causing that but it may have some affect I'm not going to tell you that it doesn't have some affect but I think that it probably could resolve Cambridge by doing some other improvements in that area."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It is not the rear I am talking about it is the front of Cambridge."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I am not sure if your questions got answered or if we just had a very good discussion. I guess the only thing I would say is we need to ask more of the questions that you are asking to make sure that we aren't creating an issue or a problem in other areas that whenever we do build subdivisions we don't want to stop our parish from growing but we don't want to dump water or infrastructure problems on other areas that are already existing and I think that is your concern."

Councilman Madere stated, "The concern is we don't want to stop the progress but along with the progress we don't want to create other problems. We want progress but we need to make sure that we don't create a problem with progress because there is a subdivision that was just recently built down Central in Reserve, Scarlett Oaks and they are having all kinds of problems when we have a 3 or 4 inch rain and we don't want to have subdivision after subdivision totally flooding in St. John parish. So if we are going to extend the subdivisions we need to find a way to make improvements to get the water out. I understand some of the things you said but the most important thing is having a subdivision but making sure that when someone buys a home they don't have the fear of going to sleep at night."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand everyone's appreciation but this is not about a drainage issue this is strictly about approving the subdivision development but if we're going the talk about a drainage issue we need to put that on the agenda this is strictly to extend the conditional approval on this subdivision."

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh we are going to put it on there because this is definitely a problem."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I understand but they are not building anything there just extending the conditional approval of the subdivision. We are not building that comes under another phase."

Councilman Snyder stated, "If we say no we are not going to extend this then they have to come back and go through our zoning board again and be reevaluated and recertified to build that is what I'm saying."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 12-41. The motion passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**12-42** An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 10-14 adopted on June 22, 2010 by the Parish Council of St. John the Baptist Parish, acting as the governing authority of St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax District, to provide for various terms of the Bonds authorized therein; and providing for other matters in connection therewith (N. Robottom)

**12-43** An Ordinance to amend Sections I and II of Ordinance 93-51 to change the monthly service charge used to provide Emergency Ambulance Service as per a contract with an ambulance service provider. All other provisions of Ordinance 93-51 will remain in full force and effect. (N. Robottom)

**12-44** An ordinance for rezoning of Lot 13, Square 1, Cornland Addition to show the change in the current zone of Zone R-1 to Zone C-1 situated in Section 44, T-11-S, R-6-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (N. Robottom)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Wilson moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet abstaining.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Ranney Wilson - Fire Department issues and concerns - allowing the Volunteer Fire Chiefs to maintain and take care of their department along with Mr. Boucvault**

Councilman Wilson stated, *"I spoke to Mrs. Robottom and she has the state fire marshal that has been working with the group and I would like to carry this over to the next meeting."*

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 08-14-12) Road and State personal present at meeting - to give an update on their grass cutting schedule and assistance with drainage needs of the parish**

Councilman Madere stated, *"They are not here let's carry this over to the next regular meeting."*

**Lennix Madere - (Carry Over 08-14-12) Recreational Parks - parking restrictions**

Terrance Jones, Director of Recreation, stated, *"Based on numerous complaints and damage to our park grounds, Sheriff's Deputies will make extra patrols at parish parks to enforce the closing time and prevent parking on parish fields. As we continue to improve parking areas,*

residents are encouraged to park their cars in designated spaces rather than driving on the grounds."

Councilman Madere stated, "I spoke with Mr. Jones about this on the phone and I elaborated I really don't care who it is. I don't care if it is the individual that goes out there and just walks and exercises. I don't care if you have a soccer team. I don't care if you are doing seven on seven it is still parish property for the public and will we drive these vehicles on there it causes problems and messes up the green space. We are not saying you can't use it please use it and enjoy it we just want to make sure you take care of it because then we don't have to go back and do the repair work that is being done by these vehicles. I passed the other day in the midst of the storm on this side the river and I saw two vehicles parked right next to the basketball court and I told Mr. Jones I turned around and I went back and I parked in that parking lot and I walked back there and they were some former students of mine and I asked them a couple of questions, do you have something nice, do you want to keep it and was going to mess it up is it going to be you because you are parking these vehicles on these grounds and they told me well Prof it was raining and we didn't want to get wet. I said park your car in the parking lot and jog over here to loosen up and play basketball game. So that isn't an excuse. Park in the parking lot and enjoy the facilities but help us take care of it and that is all I'm asking you to do. No restriction on the use just restriction on the parking."

#### **Art Smith - (Carry Over 08-14-12) Update on West Bank Farmer's Market**

Councilman Smith stated, "We had discussed this but the main problem was that there were some rumors out there that we were getting tents but we are going to get a full-fledged Farmer's market and it will happen in January."

Tori Buckles, EDC Director, stated, "It is estimated that both the procurement and construction process will take about 4 months, and Administration recommends opening the market at that time."

#### **Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 08-14-12) Financial status of bonds and capital projects**

Councilman Snyder asked, "Where are we on the loan process for the Lions?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "As I stated earlier it is a combination loan the loan is for the water line under the River as well as the filter program for Lions. I think the mind it is about \$5-\$6 million loan request the part that was tabled tonight is delaying us. We already received the letter I think afforded it to the Council from DHH indicating that they received our loan application they have it but what was tabled tonight is part of that process. Now if there are other municipalities that get their things in before us obviously they may be awarded and we may not. This is part of the process this is part of their requirement to have an administrator and manager of the loan process and that comes out of the loan. The projects that we are looking at are both the water line under the River and the filter project for the Lions water plant. It is a loan application. If we get all of our paperwork in will be qualified for award if we don't and

other people do well we will miss out on that opportunity. Now the importance of this loan was that there is a 30% forgiveness in the loan which is something that our parish cannot afford to pass up we were slightly delayed initially when the item was tabled for additional information and moving towards the water line and then we added the filter. We went through the process. We procured it properly based on the funding mechanism. The information was provided about three weeks ago. We made our recommendation. I don't know how this delay is going to impact us but what I do know is that our process is incomplete until we can submit all the requirements and by delaying we are not submitting and meeting the requirements. This is a part of the application process and identifying administrative management company to manage the loan that is why we went out and procured this, this is part of that loan process it is a requirement."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So in two weeks we won't get it?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I cannot tell you what two weeks will do because we actually were on for two weeks ago."

#### **Jaclyn Hotard - Asphalt Street Rehabilitation**

This item was removed from the agenda.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Lucien Gauff (Carry Over 08-14-12) Appointment to the Board of Commissioners - Juvenile Detention facility**

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to appoint Rev. Donald August to the Board of Commissioners for the Juvenile Detention Facility. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Cheryl Millet - Hurricane Isaac**

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I put this on the agenda tonight because I know that there are people that really just kind of want to talk a little bit about this. I don't know to what level it is going to be and if it gets too bad then we might have to go ahead and call a special meeting to allow more people to talk. I do have a few questions and comments that I need to ask and number one is when the decision was made to turn the water off, did we consult our engineers before we did that or was that just something that the utility department decided that needed to be done at the time of the cut off?"

Virgil Rayneri, Utilities Director, stated, "We ran the process during the winds that were about 45 mph. We were having problems keeping the system running. At station one the water was rising quickly and we decided at that time, I decided, to shut it down because if we would have kept the power in that system with all the contamination of the water into all of the components we would be paying thousands and thousands of dollars on repairing the system. So we had to cut it off. We were going to go down anyways. So it was just a matter of letting it go down and blow all of the components or shut it down and not blow the components."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So that was early that morning, Wednesday morning when you shut it down?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It was probably close to midnight time around there. We had someone at the water towers. We had the towers isolated. We had previously bypassed station two which is the one past station one because we knew that was a low spot and it was going to blow up or burn up so we cut the power off. We thought we were going to be able to save station one but we didn't. If you guys recall not too long ago we elevated well number 2 and we shouldn't have any problems with it but station one was going down."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So now we need to address that situation?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Right now we are in the process of building a levee around well 2, station one and station two."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Are we putting a pump around it as well to pump the water?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "We have one being installed and we are going to have a 6 inch diesel operator pump to pump the water inside the levee."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I know it is one thing to lose power. We expect to lose power in storms but losing the water when you wake up and it is going it is kind of like what happened."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "You are right about that however you have to make a judgment. Are you going to be down for a month or are you going to be down for 12 hours and the only reason we were down longer than 12 hours is because we couldn't get in the back. It was taking us hours to get back there through 6 feet of water until we were able to get the National Guard to deliver us with a helicopter."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I do want to commend all of the employees that went back there and risked their lives to do that for us."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "You should that was a lot of hard work to get the water back on."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I truly commend them and thank them for all of their hard work."

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Thank you they deserve all the credit."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Was our parish engineer consulted about this?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Somebody got information to Chuck but they got the wrong information to him but no I did not consult Chuck because he was not at the scene so he wouldn't have helped."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I had some calls also about was it possible for LaPlace to get water from the Lions water treatment plant?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It is possible in this particular case if we would've done that we would've run out of water in Reserve too then we would've had the entire East Bank out of water."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So you are saying if you would've supplied LaPlace with water you know with absolute certainty that Reserve would've lost water?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes correct. This plan was very well thought of we have been talking about this two weeks before the storm because I thought it was going to hit us but I didn't think it was going to hit us this bad."

Councilman Wright stated, "You said you thought Reserve and Garyville would've run out of water. If we had over 4,000 people and thousands of homes evacuated I think the consumption level in LaPlace would have been a lot lower we could not even have sporadic or periodic water flow filling up the tanks?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "We couldn't keep it running because it was tripping back and forth because of the high winds."

Councilman Wright asked, "So we could not send any water over?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "No we went back there two or three times to try and keep it going and then the water started coming in and we just evacuated and shut it down."

Councilman Wright stated, "Thank you and I do commend the employees that went back there."

Councilman Snyder asked, "The tanks or the towers how much time do we have in those?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "There is 500,000 gallons on the three towers and we keep them isolated because of fire protection and things of that nature."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So do you know how much time you have in that?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It depends on the consumption and in the storm you're not going to consume normal data, you consume 4.5 to 5 million gallons per day and you have one half million gallons in the towers but of course you always have to leave for certain amount for fire protection."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just have to mention and it goes back to if you have FEMA and you don't agree with what happened. I just want to relay a story and I told this individual I was going to mention it I have been going through all of the districts not just district 3 and I met this couple down in New Era and I was talking to the husband he took me into his house and showed me that he was stripping everything down and I asked him did FEMA take care of you and he said well not really and he said his wife had been crying I could see she had been crying and I said what is the problem he said that to repair just the sheet rock in his house was going to cost him \$27,000 and FEMA told him

they were going to give him 20 so he was \$7000 he said in the hole and that's not counting furniture and everything else that was destroyed in his house that was in the front yard. So I can understand why this lady was crying because she didn't know the options that may be she had now that I have found out so I will definitely go back and give her all of the information and everything because they need to go back and revisit that because I remember Mrs. Landrieu said that they will make everyone whole okay and what I heard at that particular address is not making you whole. It is putting you in a hole. I am not for anything that is to put our people or constituents in a hole. If there is any money out there anything that we can do and I know my fellow Council members are with me on this we are going to do it and everything that we can to make sure that everyone recovers to the fullest and not lose anything if I don't want to see individuals crying when they lose their worldly possessions like what happened so it is up to us to make sure that this taken care of."

Councilman Snyder asked, "How long was it before the water was shut off and the time we were notified or the public was notified?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "It was immediate."

Councilman Snyder stated, "The reason I ask that question is it possible that we could give the public a little notice so that they could fill a bathtub up or put some water in some buckets or milk cartons because when the water came on for the fire department that is when I filled my bathtub up."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Unfortunately this was an unusual event and when the utilities employees actually went out at about five o'clock in the morning they realized they were going to lose the system and it was safer to shut it down so they made the decision and called the office and tried to get themselves back and immediately a notice was sent out to the residents but at that point there wasn't the time just as the water rose quickly into the homes it was rising quickly while they were out at Ruddock. They made a decision to shut it off. They called and said look we have to put this off. We have to lock in our towers to make sure that we have fire protection so immediately we put the message out that LaPlace would not have water. So this was an unusual situation. We tried when the waterline broke the last time we were putting out notices not to use or to conserve. We have done that before when there is time but in this situation there wasn't time."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have a couple of comments but I didn't know if we were going to have the public make their comments first and the Council reserve their comments for last. If there's someone from the public who would like to speak it was an agenda item so I would like to yield to them first and I will make my comments after?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "This is going to be something that as you can see the room is filled and we're going to have to limit the amount of people and limit the time especially if we are redundant and saying the same things over and over again. I would like to open it up to the public."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I know that in a normal situation we do limit time and I know that we want to but this is like we said an

*unusual situation if I can asked the chair just give a little bit more latitude to people I think this is part of a healing and grieving process just to talk about it and talk about what happened. I think we owe that to the public. So if we can just extend a little bit more time to people who want to voice their concerns about their experiences of what happened I would like to ask that the chair allow extra minutes per person."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"If this is what the Council would agree to do and that is fine with me. I thought we were also looking to have a special meeting for this."*

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"We will. We're going to have another public hearing on the East Bank but this was an agenda item and people did come to speak and talk about the item. So I don't think it would be fair to the public if we don't allow them to talk and ask them to come back a week later but I believe that it is going to be in order to have more hearings to talk about this. I know a lot of residents on the East Bank could not make the trip over here and we owe it to our residents."*

Thomas Green, LaPlace Park, commented his house did flood he lives in the back of LaPlace Park and have never thought of before, this is a unique situation as everyone is saying but where do we move forward? I heard the gentleman talk about the water. The water has been a concern in LaPlace since he has been here in 2005. How do we address that? Putting a levee around something is only going to contain that area he couldn't get back there. Is there anything put in place to raise what we have? There needs to be something put in place because this is what we expect of you our representatives to go out there and prepare for that worst scenario and hope for the best my house flooded, I am going through mitigation with all of the people. I have contractors. I have looters or scavengers I call them crows. As soon as I put my refrigerator out it was gone, I put all my appliances out and they are going. I put out a chair the guy was putting it in his truck and putting an old one back in its place. I am very frustrated. I think I texted Jaclyn with my frustrations and my issue is we don't want to hear that the Calvary is coming we want to see the Calvary. People don't want to hear about what you're going to do show us. We all know that you're trying to do something. We all know this is unique. Are we going to have an elevation plan? The levy will cost billions of dollars and the federal government has already said we are broke. We are going to a large process right now Republican, Democrat, give don't give, have don't have it isn't going to happen in time to support what we need in our community. We need to come up with a plan on elevation and we need to come up with a plan that is going to suit or meet or exceed what they're going to put up in the federal government. We need to put in place to get FEMA representation to buy into hey this is what we're going to come up with because I am going through the process right now of rebuilding my house down to the slab and I felt confident that would never happen. I have a 5 foot levee next to my house. I rode a boat over that levee. Now when they came to inspect in my house of course the receding line was down here but the moisture content is up high to come out and have me assess. I have a form to fill out to go through all of my contents to get a devalued price doesn't make it. Now I didn't have the luxury of going to the Saints game, the Saints didn't even matter to me. I didn't have the luxury of going get my hair done, not that I have any but I didn't have that luxury because my concern

was that there is no roadmap, there is no recipe on how to fix this for the people. I am not just talking about the people who can't get just food in their systems, but can't find a place to put their head at, who me I am commuting an hour and a half to come to my house to see about my business and my business is my property, my business is my wife. I don't think that we are doing here is serving justice. I commend everyone about the Parks and Recreation. I think this meeting should have been solely about where we're at and how we are going to get ahead. I am not sitting up here trumpeting anything but I am being very clear. I expect a lot out of every one of you. I think everyone of you has the potential to be a president Obama or Lady Thatcher whoever you choose to be because you are good. I can't point fingers at anybody for what happened. I can only move forward. I have not heard how to move forward. I still have debris in front of my house. I didn't have power at four. I woke up to find I didn't have water. I didn't appreciate that. When my ceiling peeled off and was dripping in I called my insurance State Farm, they said do you want to stay there and perhaps save your house. I saved my life by getting out at 11 o'clock because I would have been rescued off of my roof in a boat. At what time do we have to assess this that we may get another category one, everybody thought category one no problem, we will sit it out. We had to have things in place to get the people saying this is what we need you to do we need you to get out right now. St. Charles parish called it early. Jefferson Parish called it early. We have to do better. Sewerage has been a big issue. No one has talked about sewerage. Sewerage backed up in my house I am calling my representative back out because I didn't think about that until I happened to look at my insurance policy which got wet I went online but how many people had access to the Internet? I didn't have access to the Internet and I am sorry Natalie but we could not hear you or your voice on the TV what was needed for us. We didn't see anyone come walk through my community and say hey you better get out of here. Nobody came back after that and said oh we're sorry this is what happened. All we had was people getting together huddling in threes and fours. There were innuendos, accusations everybody coming up with everything but what matters most is what you guys do. What helps us the most is how you collectively get together and bring forward a plan that is going to support LaPlace and the people of LaPlace. I know you have a huge task ahead of you. I am saying right now is a great opportunity. If you want to raise Mills on people for taxes to support what we need, we need to be self-sufficient as well as have our hands out. We have to help ourselves up. The sewerage plant never worked. I heard you talk about subdivisions eating up drainage. This isn't about drainage. Your sewerage plant is at capacity, it has been at capacity. So nobody has addressed that issue and I'm not trying to say stop development. I love to see development. I would love to see more businesses open up around here and create jobs not just on the East Bank but on the West Bank to. I would love to see people out here have the future that their parents had because a lot of those people don't have that future now. We are in different times. I'm just saying to you guys if you can get it together and come up with a plan, show the people the plan, don't have me call FEMA 50 different times and get 50 different answers from them, don't tell me what the guy up top said but he didn't tell the people at the bottom, show me what we have to do for ourselves how we are going to help each other, what are we to do to embrace what we have. I think that is all I have to say and I appreciate everything that everyone has done and I wish you the best of luck. I will support you in any way I can if that means raising my

Mills and my taxes, then raise them. I moved to LaPlace because I love it. My company put me up at the Hilton downtown. My dogs are country dogs they don't ride an elevator. They are not used cars zipping by at any given time. My wife was crying she is still crying every time I go back to my house. We need our community to come together as a whole right now. We need everyone here to focus in on what the real deal is this isn't about parking around the park don't get me wrong we do need that and I love to see us have beautiful parks but right now the focus at hand is how to get these people back into their houses. We need to see that you are moving on this. No one makes it on their own everyone makes it is a whole. This thing was indiscriminate about what it attacked. It isn't about the past. Everyone could sit back and say what they did what they did do or what they could have done. We need to get a plan in place because hurricane season is still in effect. So God bless everyone here and thank you for letting me speak.

Ingrid Bornes, Edgard, commented that she feels the West Bank is never thought of. She commented that not one person came on the West Bank to find out how they were doing. She has a son that is disabled and she had to put him in a rehab because FEMA told her that they can't fix her house. They're going to give her \$300 to fix her house. What can you do with \$300? She saw people that had lights but others didn't. No one came to see if they had lights. She called Natalie's office and told Joy and everyone else off because she felt like the West Bank wasn't a concern. They didn't have water but they have problems over there. She commented she saw no one. She just felt that it was wrong. She asked Natalie not to forget about the West Bank and that she does forget about the West Bank all the time she never comes to see about the West Bank. She commented they didn't get any hot meals and that everything that they have to do they have to come to the East Bank.

Councilman Smith stated, *"I did not know about her problem until I saw her then I called Ms. Butler and got her electricity addressed. In the beginning I went across and said let me take care of the West Bank, you guys take care of the East Bank."*

Councilman Gauff stated, *"That is what he said, we made an agreement, he was one to take care of the West Bank and I was going to take care of the East Bank especially in district 1 to assist. We gave him everything for the West Bank."*

Ingrid Bornes commented we make agreements but when it comes down to elections, we make agreements to. We are on both sides he cannot do it all by himself.

Councilman Smith stated, *"Her issue about the one ice truck there were 15 trucks parked here with MRE's, ice and water and we gave our ice and water across the board everywhere. So to say they had one ice truck that isn't true. We had more ice than we knew what to do with."*

Ingrid Bornes commented that isn't the thing I am trying to say ice and water is fine but if I go across the river right now they are giving hot meals. We didn't get that. I had to go to Houma to make sure my son ate because we didn't have anything on this side the river. My point is nobody came and tried to give the different things like they have across the river. Everything is on that side the river nothing is over here.

Councilman Smith stated, "This was something that I took care of. We had everything that we needed. There was cleaning supplies being given out by baloney funeral home. I had the parish workers deliver ice and water and MRE's. I asked them to let me take care of the West Bank and this is the first time that people saw so many vehicles parked here by the courthouse, the levee and churches. We had everything that we needed. When her problem came up because I stayed out there giving out ice and water every day, she came and saw me I called Ms. Butler and her problem was taken care of that date but I assumed after riding down the street and seeing lights that everybody had lights up until an individual started calling and said hey I don't have lights then we addressed the individual problems, that is when you called me and said hey we don't have lights and I didn't know and for this relative to not tell me right there two streets down that you don't have lights. I would have called like a call for everyone else."

Ingrid Bornes stated, "But you know you said you are riding down the streets if you see the first four houses down the street without lights that must be telling you something. You can go down my street at six o'clock the sensors come on automatically on the lights on the house. So you could have seen that we didn't have lights."

Councilman Smith stated, "I'm not going to get in an argument with you but all you had to do was say hey I don't have lights. There was no fault of anyone from the East Bank not coming to the West Bank because I asked them to let me take care of the West Bank because there were major problems on the East Bank and you guys needed to spend your time on the East Bank that was the gist of why no public officials came from the East Bank because I asked them not to. I asked please give me what I need and I would disperse it on the side. We received all the supplies that we needed. We received lights quicker than I think we ever have. This was an individual problem and I am sorry Ingrid but I did not know until you told me and I called Sheila and we got the problem taken care of. Now the accusation about just having one truck for ice is totally untrue and you are wrong in that."

Quana Brown, lost homes in Cambridge, LaPlace Park and has a family house on Persimmon Street commented that we praised the Persimmon Street pumping project that costs us millions of dollars to pump the water across the levee into the Mississippi River. They lost their parent's home, the home they grew up in because the pumps weren't turned on. She is asking why wasn't the water pumped into the Mississippi River like you all directed the water to go there with this pumping project?"

Brian Nunes, Director of Public Works stated, "As far as the persimmon Street pumps we never did shut them off they were operational we did run into some problems when the generators that were out there because those were electric pumps, the generators did take on water and short out. There were times that we could get to the generators to fix them as soon as we could get back there we either repaired or replaced the generator. We did bring in a second generator for the new pump and the second generator for the old pump. As soon as we got those online they operated just as they should of and the area dried quickly. It was just a matter of the generators took on water and that was something that we couldn't anticipate."

Councilman Gauff stated, "So the first lesson is the generators have to be off of the ground also."

Brian Nunes stated, "They were off of the ground but they still took on water because it was high."

Quana Brown stated, "Generators came on Capt. Bourgeois Street on the back of an 18 wheeler truck which never took on water. The one that he said that when underwater was the one in the middle of the street. Now me and my husband left our house and we rescued people calling us saying they're going under in Cambridge. So we went to Cambridge and rescued the people. We went to Live Oaks and rescued people. We got back to our house, our house was down. So the only place we could of went was to Persimmon Street and our parent's home. They didn't have water on the street when all of this was flooding. The Persimmon Street pumps were never turned on. Either the people evacuated the parish people evacuated and didn't have the proper person to man those pumps. Those generated when underwater a full day after River Forest, Cambridge and all of that was flooded and out. Persimmon Street was the last street to flood and they had ample amount of time to get out there and turn on those pumps before any generator went underwater that 18 wheeler on Capt. Bourgeois Street never was turned on. The one in the middle of the street was never turned on and how do I know that I was on the street, I went to the generators and the generators had no power going to them. Those 18 wheelers they parked on Capt. Bourgeois the night before the storm. They put the generator in the middle of the street the day before the storm. They had enough time to go out there and turn on the pump but guess what Persimmon Street was forgotten and by the time they came to us it was too late. Thank you."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I just have a few comments on what Mrs. Brown is saying and she is right Persimmon Street was one of the last streets to flood and I did try to get back there and it was after a lot of areas were flooded and I was in big truck and I couldn't even get back there and from the generator not being turned on and I understand Mr. Nunes that you just said you didn't have the manpower. I guess they were prioritizing.."

Brian Nunes stated, "I didn't say that. I couldn't get to it because of the high water at the time. The generators were sent ahead of time pre-positioned we don't normally turn them on until the electricity goes off because they are set automatically. Once we determined that the electricity is going to go off then we turn on all the generators and refuel them for the duration of the storm. It was not a manpower issue at all."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "So let me ask you this and that is good to know. So when you couldn't get the generator to the pumps is that what you are saying caused the problems?"

Brian Nunes stated, "No the generators were at the pumps, the larger one I think we had a trip in a breaker that is probably what caused it. The smaller pump took on water."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So did we have another generator at that point?"

Brian Nunes stated, "We brought in two new generators to replace the large one and the small one. We brought in two new ones."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "How long after the small one went out did you actually get another generator back there?"

Brian Nunes stated, "As soon as we could get one back there without compromising the new generator, we had to wait for the larger pump, we got that one kicked on first because it was on higher ground and didn't take on water we were able to get something back there. We turned that one on and allowed it to work to a point where we could get another generator at the pump closer to the levee and that we brought that one out. We did want to bring a second generator just put it underwater to start off."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "The reason I'm really asking about that area is because Mrs. Brown is right we have been hailing about the Persimmon Street Project. When I went back there, there were even trailers that were on the water and I mean they are up on cinderblocks. Which the results of the generator not having the pump running the back of all Maple loop could flood and that was another area when I went back on that side and that's what they said either the parish turned these generators off or they failed because the fact that they weren't on is what caused the water to get in our homes. So I think what these residents are saying they are just wondering why didn't the parish do anything? We have had all the hurricane preparedness meetings. We have asked people to get a plan, get a plan, get a plan but where was our plan and I think that is what I am looking for why do we allow these things to happen?"

Brian Nunes stated, "I wouldn't say we allowed anything to happen this was a catastrophe that we could not expect."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Right we did not allow that to happen but we could've responded better."

Brian Nunes stated, "We responded the best that we knew how obviously we had flooding everywhere's. We had generators taking on water everywhere. We reacted to every situation as soon as we were made aware of the situation and as soon as it was safe to put parish personnel out there. Our priority is to the residents and to the safety of our employees. We did everything we could to maintain operations on all of the pumps."

Councilman Smith stated, "I guess a few meetings back when we were giving substantial completion. I asked about the alternative power source. I asked about natural gas generators. They would've automatically came on and no one has to go out and touch them. So I think if we revisited that issue and keep these people safe and keep their houses dry because all the water goes there. At one time you said that the natural gas generators were too expensive, but now I don't think it is too expensive because people have lost everything because of that. That is the solution to the situation over there. If that pump doesn't run these people will flood every time. The natural gas generator has got to be the answer. It will click on automatically and monitor itself monthly and we can get these problems solved. It may

cost us some dollars but it is nowhere near the dollars and cents and the pain and frustration and loss that the people are suffering right now. It is something that I asked for in the beginning and now I'm asking for it again."

Brian Nunes stated, "I agree with you and would be happy to revisit that with you."

Councilman Madere stated, "First of all I think all of us as the Council are very sorry for what happened. It is an unfortunate thing that happened which as for as the flooding issue what came out of the lake and everything is something that we couldn't control but I think what has the people frustrated is the thing that maybe we could've had control over and didn't do. Those are some of the issues that really have people ticked off and I understand that. I definitely understand that. As a Council member always said when I ran for office I told the people in my district I want you to know me by name, I want you to know my face when you see me and if you have a problem I want you to come and ask me and tell me what the problem is and I'm going to make sure and address it I'm not going to walk away from any of your problems or your concerns. I had an incident at one of the pods when we were passing out the water when I got there I was told they were giving two bottles of water, a bag of ice and one MRE. I said that cannot be right but being new to it I said well let's go with that, well after we passed out about 13 of them. Then I got a young lady who I knew her mother was sick and has cancer and she asked for food for mother and they turned her down and that was the last straw for me. When she drove off I grabbed that MRE and I jumped over that little railing by the school. I fell down and bruised my arm. I jumped over that and gave it to her and I went back and I found that guy and I said this is not right. So he got on the phone and he called and said you are right that isn't right. So it was two bags of ice, the case of water and a case of MRE's. I said that sounds a lot better. I can deal with that. Then one of the little soldiers came and told me that I was holding the line up and I said let me introduce myself and once again she told me I was holding the line up, she interrupted me three times in the last time I just got teed off and told her not dis-respectively, because she said she was following orders. I said follow this order I am the Councilman in this district. I don't care there were 20 people in that car and asking me 20 individual questions. We are going to do whatever it takes to correct this problem that we have and all the way to the federal government and back. I have been knowing about the problems with the water system in St. John parish, St. Charles parish, St. James and all the way to New Orleans since 2000 because I watch a lot of discovery channel and everything that they show is coming up now. They knew about it since 1965, 1972, in the 80's, in the 90's and in 2000 and the issues that we are going over right now could've been easily taken care of anyone of those particular times. Now we have a government that isn't proactive they are reactive now when something happens oh well we are going to get it done. It is time for everyone to get behind one issue and that is to protect all these parishes all the way from St. John all the way to Texas. I don't care we are going but let's protect it okay. The issue of us as a council helping the people okay I cannot get around to everyone in the few days of the storm but I have been in Homewood, Belle Pointe and I have been all over in my district and I will continue to visit everybody in my district the same way I did and knocked on their door for a vote, I am going to go knock on their door

and ask how they are doing and what do they need? That is what I am going to do. I have also been riding around in other districts but one other thing that I want to make sure everyone understands. We have a serious problem and the problem that we are all going to have to pull together as one to take care of it but in the mean time we still cannot let the other business of the parish go by the waste side. This just needs to move up to number one but you still have a list of other things that we have to do. So we cannot avoid everything but we definitely can all pull together behind this one project and that is to make sure that St. John parish is safe for the residents in the parish."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Mr. Nunes, pertaining to Mrs. Brown's statement, the temporary pump/generator that we had on Capt. Bourgeois, the one that was the temporary one, do you think that contributed some to the flooding on Persimmon? If it was running and the Persimmon Street one wasn't running?"

Brian Nunes stated, "No that didn't cause any problem on Persimmon because where that pump was it was putting water under the railroad tract."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Was it going North or coming South?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It was going North."

Councilman Snyder asked, "That would have helped them."

Brian Nunes stated, "Yes it did help."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Was it running?"

Brian Nunes stated, "It did run. We found it to be very effective."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I am not going to reiterate what everyone has said. There was definitely a lot of water on Persimmon Street, water that we vowed to the people that as long as the pumps were running they would never get. At some point and time the water was very high and the pumps weren't running and then to drive back there and to not see a generator that is discouraging because the generator had left I guess where I first saw the generator was and then you got there I guess you were replacing it at the time and maybe it was so for underwater, I know the one in the middle of the street so far underwater you couldn't even see it or just the head of it was visible but in the back the big one that controls the submersible pumps I even got the calls to say where is the generator and that is disheartening because I know we put in the projects to make sure that this does not happen and would not happen so I think as Mr. Green says we have to change some of the things that we're doing or some of the things that we have done and move forward and have some better processes to make sure that is Mr. Madere said also that we correct the things that we have problems with but the things that we have put into place they have got to function."

Whitney Joseph, Assessor, stated, "Just a point of information my staff and I have done a survey of the parish for the past 2 to 3 days and for the people we will be making adjustments on your assessment there is no doubt about. I hope that is some good news and when we make those

*adjustments your taxes will go down because we are trying to help in any way we can and we know that once an area is flooded the property value is going to go down there is no doubt about that. Who would want to build in a subdivision like Cambridge and want to buy a house where there is no levee protection or in River Forest, New Era, Sugar Ridge who is going to buy a house back there when there is no levee protection. So we will be making some adjustments and if we don't do enough this year we need to do something next year and we will do it again but we will be making some adjustments."*

*Councilman Gauff stated, "On that note, maybe we can start to develop the River Road and make that a prime area for real estate and development and bring that back to the historical value that it once had. I know this isn't the forum for that but we have had many conversations about that being the high side and always wanting to put my constituents were concerned because we put the water plants, the animal shelters, we put a lot of those things over there but maybe we need more people over there."*

*Whitney Joseph states, "We need some more development on the West Bank across the river because this is where the property is. We are building subdivision in swamps. Mr. Snyder brought up a good point, we need to stop approving the subdivisions like that because it causes problems for everyone else. I know you don't want to hear that because that impedes progress but it doesn't because it is going to cost us billions of dollars to get this parish situated again. So let's plan more. Let's get a master plan for St. John parish that includes both sides of the river. I don't want to exclude the East Bank but the West Bank is the side that we need to come on. There were very few instances of flooding on this side. I think this council and any future council needs to look at developing the West Bank of the River but the West Bank is the best bank and this is the side you need to come on."*

*Pastor Augustus Brown, Mt. Negro Baptist Church in LaPlace, commented that he has a home at 608 Plymouth Dr. in Cambridge which flooded, he also has a house at 509 Gardenia which flooded which is in LaPlace Park. He commented that this is a difficult time almost all of his congregation live right in or around Laplace in most of those areas or on Persimmon Street. The problem is that these are elderly people and they do not have flood insurance. These people haven't even started the gutting process yet. There are a lot of people that are really hurt as far as in the area. People are staying with people I am staying in a home with four families and we are trying to get assistance from FEMA it is very difficult because we have insurance. If they do give you something in help they tell that you have to pay them back when the insurance pays you. We haven't received anything from FEMA I've been calling them every day since they have been there. I make too much money to get any assistance as far as for food and a lot of people are in that situation. It is hard to try to help people and it's harder when you're not getting a lot of any assistance as far as to help or have places to send them. You can send people to FEMA lines but those are some long lines and then when you get there it looks like they're trying to tell everybody that the SBA is the way they want them to go. If the pumps would have been on on Persimmon Street then we wouldn't have to talk about it because that water goes to the River it doesn't go to the lake. We need to take care of that. The water in Cambridge came up so fast my daughter sent me a picture of the house being*

flooded with them still in it and stayed there until police came to get them out that is horrible. It is a difficult thing when you look at so many people who look like they're going to a war zone. I know you have been there and have seen it but it is a very hurting position to be in not to be able to help people or tell them where to go. People need support. I am so happy about someone saying something about letting us voice our concerns because I was here the entire time, when I listened to the things that were on the agenda and that was said. When I listened as far as these plans for these subdivisions and all these lots as far as what is going to be done with it. When I listen to those things and here when we start talking about what is going to happen to the water, then we are going to table it as far as discussing it but at the same time you vote yes for the continuance of it that concerns me. I don't know what can be done to help the people but I'll tell you one thing I think it should have been an emergency evacuation. I was here for Andrew. I have lived in St. John the Baptist parish since 1984 and for Andrew you know that siren that we sound on the first Thursday of each month at noon well I hear it first Thursday of every month and I heard it when Andrew was coming the siren went off, they were police officers going down the street with bullhorns and sirens going telling people to get out and there are a lot of things that we will not be able to receive that have insurance because it was not an emergency evacuation. So that is one thing that I would like to hear as far as why that wasn't called especially since I heard tonight that we couldn't even get to the back of Cambridge as far as the people that work back there and turn the water off because the water was coming up so fast. Well if we see the water coming up that fast and we can't do anything about that then maybe we might've should've told the people that you might want to fend for your life and get out of there. I don't know what we are going to do. I can't find anywhere to go. They give you a voucher telling you you could stay in a hotel and there are no hotels available. The apartments are so expensive to get in you have to put up at least \$1500 of your own money to get in because you need to pay a month in advance and then she said you can only get 40% of that back as far as when you go to your insurance. Everyone can't afford that, I mean it is pretty difficult for us out there. Again I am not trying to point any fingers or direct anything directly to anyone but we do need help and we do need you to understand what our plight is and what the people's plight is out there because sometimes we act like we don't."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"I feel your pain Pastor Brown. I stop by your house and I saw Quana's eyes when she was talking to the FEMA director. Mr. Green is gone but I want you to know that I will always fight for drainage. From the first day I've been fighting for a hurricane levee, Foxwood levee, the Haydel canal crossing and for pumps in LaPlace Park. I am going to continue to fight for that because there is no reason that shouldn't have been done already. We couldn't stop all that water from coming into the lake. We didn't have the tools or equipment necessary to stop it. We couldn't stop it no matter who was here it was just too much but I'm going to let you know I hear your pain about the insurance because I'm dealing with them to. My house sustained damage and they're asking money up front before their going to tell me how much to fix it. So I'm having words with them, with FEMA, with food stamps I am not even going to worry about that because I know they're going to tell me no. It is totally ridiculous and I think the young lady from Ms. Landrieu's office something should be*

done about this tomorrow. I lost three refrigerators. I had to throw all of that away and I had just made groceries. So I understand your pain and I'm going to continue to fight and push for you all because once I got out of my neighborhood the first thing I did was fill up my truck with water, ice and MRE's and started passing them out in LaPlace Park, Wheeler's Park, New Era and I was giving them out. I forgot about my family. I said let me see what I can do for these residents. It is totally ridiculous this bureaucracy has got to stop and if you don't live on the coastline of lower Louisiana people in Washington they don't even see it so they don't care, that is what I'm gathering they don't care. They could care less about helping Louisiana but we have to continue to e-mail, twitter, facebook those congressional representatives and tell them that we want the levees and I will continue to fight for you."

Councilman Wright asked, "I think the question was asked also and a lot of the residents in district 5 have the same question and maybe Mrs. Robottom can answer that why didn't we have a mandatory evacuation for the lower lying areas?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Pastor Brown I sympathize with you I have a sister that lives back there where you are at and she had 4 feet of water in her house and I know exactly where you are coming from because if you care about people the question Rev. Brown asked was we need help people need help and that is our responsibility to give them as much help as we possibly can this is our first time going through this we have never gone through this before. There are people who have gone through this before and we may need to bring some of those people in to help us manage this. They manage everything from the top to the bottom. There are people that can do that. That is what they do. We probably can't find a hotel room tonight but if we bring the right people in to help lead us in different parts of this big elephant here then we might be able to manage the whole thing. There are people that we could bring that could help us deal with debris and prepare for the next storm and things like that and help us out right now, to help out with FEMA, how do we get FEMA to do the right thing and quickly and what road we have to take to get there but we have to come down off that pedestal and say well I need some help or we need some help and let us go and get the help that we need and don't wait till it's too late because people are acting desperately now we are in a desperate mode. So we are making desperate decisions and it could be harmful to us in the long run. So it is just something to think about everybody at this table right here. We have got to get a handle on this thing and if we put it all on the back of our parish president if she needs help. In some kind of way we have to give input on this thing and get some help in this parish."

Councilman Madere stated, "I have to speak to Rev. Brown because I've been knowing him for a long time and also a lot of the residents in the parish. Is just like Mr. Snyder said we need help there is nothing better than to have someone who has been through a storm situation before that can help guide you. I always referred to my class and to any young person I meet an old person told me if young eyes could see what old minds know. So right now we are young eyes as far as handling the storm situation. So we have to go to the people who have older minds and who have been through this already and can lead us, to guide us and make sure because at this particular time we don't need to make bad decisions or do the wrong thing. Everything has to be positive and

moving forward in the right direction and every move must be the right move. We cannot afford to make two or three moves and say oh-oh we should not have done that. We need to sit down and gather our thoughts and make sure that we get the people that we need to help us in every step of the way. That we are guided and make sure it is the right step because we want to make sure and take care of everyone that was involved in this flooding. I was lucky I didn't get flooded you know the Reserve area is one of the highest points and I said it several meetings ago LaPlace has to be on the lookout if we get this type of rain or this type of flooding not Reserve. Now I'm not leaving out the people of my district because some of them did flood and they need the help too so we are fighting as a whole for each and every one of you in here those that we know and those that we don't know so we have to make sure that we make the right steps."

Councilman Smith stated, "I think what everyone is saying is that we need a program manager somebody that can come in here and help Mrs. Robottom and provide the expertise that her staff does not have. I know this happened in New Orleans Hurricane Katrina they had to bring in a program manager to get these things done. A program manager will go through and help with FEMA, with red cross, with all of these situations with housing and the small entities that can help with the rebuilding process and the healing process. So program manager is basically what everyone is asking for in so many words. A program manager will give us all these expertise. They bring in the EPA. They bring in HUD. They bring in all of these things that we right now desperately need and those people will come in and assist us in any form or fashion and they have the expertise and the manpower to dedicate to it on a daily basis whenever we would need him. So I'm basically saying I think we should look at bringing in a program manager."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I also have had conversations about bringing in a program manager obviously this thing is bigger than us hopefully that is the direction that we're going in and I will hold my other comments until the parish president has spoken."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "The reason I wanted to put this on the agenda tonight is to let people have an opportunity to share their concerns with us. We all know what the problems are. We all know that we have to fix these problems. We all know that people want their houses back to normal. They want to live in their homes and we want nothing more than to have them back in their homes. We are here together to try and work this thing together and yes we do need assistance because this is over us, it is over the administration we tried the best we possibly can and yes we do need assistance but we also need to have time for you all to get your comments out and let us know how you feel because it will help you heal. Mr. Chairman I would like if we could possibly set another meeting on the East Bank possibly next Tuesday may be call a special meeting so that the people that are on the East Bank can also have the same opportunities if that is possible."

Councilman Gauff stated, "That sounds possible, we can call a special meeting for next Tuesday night, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in the Joel McTopy Chambers. The topic is Hurricane Isaac."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I'm just going to say briefly I know there are many questions and many accusations going on tonight and I know we've had a lot of people inside the building they have come in from all over the country lending us a hand, working with us either giving us their opinion, giving us a hand as far as just volunteering their time and services but I would also like to say that there have been some professional services that have come in that are also helping us and are trying to help us dealing with this. We understand that we need more help. I think help is on the way. I know many of us have had discussions about program managers and other outside agencies that have dealt with this and have been dealing with this for years but I guess what I want the public to know is that this is not something that we have taken lightly. I am saying it because I have been in a lot of those meetings and I have tried to share with the rest of the Council that there are different things, different agencies that are here. We have dropped the ball. Our constituents are the ones that are suffering. I can look at Pastor Brown that is all my family and they have suffered. There are many of you that have called and are suffering. There are many of you that on getting the things you need as far as the resources but it hasn't gone on deaf ear. No we haven't gotten you the resources that you need but it isn't on deaf ear but we are trying to get these resources out to you or to get someone in here to get some help. So hopefully you do know that you're Council was working for you. We are trying to get some of these resources to you. We are voicing your opinion. We are taking it on to FEMA and some of the other meetings that I have been in and I think it is the federal government, it is the national agency that is governing all of this and it trickles down to us, it trickles down to your public administration and your parish government and it seems like we are not doing anything. It seems like we don't care. I know that is what you're saying and I know that I feel like you feel, what we are not doing anything for you because our hands are somewhat tied but we need to move forward. We need to have a plan. If it is a program manager. If it is other agencies that come in and work together would have done hurricanes then that is what we need and hopefully some of this or a lot of this will be addressed in the immediate future."

**Larry Snyder - Debris pick-up; finding from critique of how Isaac affected St. John Parish; the next storm; an update on all agencies in the parish to help our citizens**

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to ask the parish president as far as the debris pick up where are we now with that type of stuff? It doesn't have to be very much I just want people to understand what is going on right now."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The public works director is up here because he has been assigned that task to oversee. There was a meeting today and we attempted to try to provide some type of clarification yesterday but there are still some questions about what is happening. Garbage collection started fairly quickly, however they were behind the very beginning because they didn't finish Tuesday, they didn't pick-up Wednesday and of course areas where there was water he didn't pick-up. They brought in additional trucks as of last week they picked up 540 tons of garbage in a week they normally pick up 150 tons understanding some of that was additional from the storm but our garbage contractor Progressive is back on schedule. There were questions about who picks

up bag. The garbage company is picking up the green garbage cans as well as up to four bags of garbage or debris on the side of it. There were some questions about that previously some people bagged their things some people weren't sure who was going to pick up what but the garbage company Progressive will be picking up the garbage cans and I think there was a note if you lost your can due to flooding you can put your garbage in bags and they would pick those up. All of that goes to our land field at River Birch. Today there were 34 trucks out in each district picking up construction and demolition debris, all of that is going to a different land field and they don't accept bagged goods that could possibly have meat and other things in it which is why we are asking you to try to separate your items. The vegetative debris are the tree limbs and branches that was started this week because there was a requirement for a DEQ permit for the site. Our original site was under water but it has been prepped and ready to go, we have a site on the West Bank and as of tomorrow they will have 15 trucks picking up the vegetative debris and they will be in district 1, 2, 3 and 6. The construction and demolition will be in all 7 of the districts. Again they are not going to get all of your things probably on the first path because some of you are continuing to work on your homes but they are going to go back at least three times through every neighborhood so that they get everything that is there. We are anticipating a schedule of when they are going to be in each neighborhood by tomorrow. They are continuing to add trucks. We are not where we want to be but we are two weeks out from the storm understanding we were out of power for at least a week of that and under water for a week. So this recovery and clean-up has been going on for probably a week since the storm although it seems like a year. We want a schedule so that you can know in your neighborhoods when they are coming. There are some regulations. All of this is about which contractor is doing the pick-up, what is FEMA reimbursable? Our garbage contract is our contract we are going to pay for that. We pay for it by user fees. We pay for it based on what we already have. So if you are putting storm debris in your garbage, that is not FEMA reimbursable. So that is why there is a separation. We have already been approved for every category in FEMA based on a fly over from the President, the Governor and Secretary Fugate, they didn't take the time to come and count our houses and see how many were flooded. They flew over and said you are a disaster. So automatically we are qualified for those services. What we have done recently and people think it is free but it is not, FEMA reimburses at a 75%/25% split, the parish pays the other 25%. I signed on with other Parish Presidents and Mayors requesting a waiver of that 25% as was done in Katrina or at least a reduction because 25% of millions of dollars is still a lot of money. So we are asking to waive that. We have done it as a group which better puts us in a position to respond however that is the reason for the delay in terms of vegetation, construction and demolition started last week but there are mounds of debris. One of you said it is like a war zone, they are picking it up but as you continue to do your homes you are going to continue to put it back out. So we need to continue that process until it is all picked up. Some areas just had primarily vegetation debris, District 1 and some of district 2 and 3 where it was mostly tree limbs and branches and things like that but in the areas that flooded people are gutting their houses, they are pulling out their carpet any of the homes that flooded and it was almost like a horseshoe because it flooded north of Airline Hwy but then in Reserve it crossed the Airline and then in LaPlace, Persimmon, Crevasse and all of those. So they are still trying to look at what would cause

something like that but we have a lot of debris on the ground. We met again with the contractors and we are setting time lines for them. They were trying to get things going but now we need to know so that you can know when they are coming but don't think that just because they passed they are not coming back. They have to make several sweeps to pick-up all of the garbage and we know that you are going to continue to work on your homes so they may pick-up something and you have something out the next day. So that is kind of where those three very separate contracts are working. They are all doing something different. They are all going somewhere different and that is the reason for the separation."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Is there any circumstances where the guy that is picking up the debris is not picking up the debris?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There were some discussion about the bagged items and I think Mr. Gauff actually talked to Theresa, they spoke to some contractors we called them all back in today all together to make sure it was clear that everybody knew who was picking up what. Progressive said that they will be instructing their employees to pick-up the garbage cans and up to four bags each pick-up, so if you put those together they are the contractor that will be picking that up. So there were some questions because some people were putting leaves in bags and we are telling you if you traditionally bag those items keep your can and they will pick-up the bags on side. It is important that the construction and demolition they can see it, they cannot take it to the land field if you bag it because those land fields don't take those items and they won't take your items if they are bagged. So it is important that you separate those. We have to count our loads because FEMA reimburses us on cubic yards so there is a lot of technicalities in it, this obviously isn't the first hurricane, this is how it is done every year because that is how it is reimbursed but put it on your servitude. We are going to keep coming out. At this point we cannot legally go onto your property so that is why we are asking you to put it out on the right-of-way so that when the trucks come by they can pick those up. If they are not we ask you to call into our office. If one of them leaves I am going to ask you please don't send questions to my personnel facebook page that isn't my work page, that isn't something I am responding to. We have people in our office that will take your questions and follow up that is the avenue to get your questions addressed. If they are missing you or if something is happening let us know so that we can follow up. We get a report every day from those companies and we can follow up with them specifically to address this to get them back to you or find out what the problem is."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "You said Progressive is picking up the cans and extra bags, I think that message needs to go back out to the workers because I followed the truck today and they were only picking up the cans."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We actually met with them today and after a lot of those calls we did meet with them and they told us they are going to get that out to their drivers. I don't know if that was a result of our meetings but we called them all in and said this isn't working there are some things that are being left and out of that meeting came no you are going to be the one responsible so we will make sure that they get the message loud and clear that was their decision

that is their responsibility but they need to make sure that all of their drivers and people who are out there working are getting that message and also we have people in our parish who are not from here. They had to bring in additional trucks and drivers who may not be that familiar with our routes. So again if they miss you or miss a street please let us know so that we can make contact with the garbage company because again with replacement drivers they may not be too familiar with our area and there is no excuse but please call and be patient with us so we can forward it to the garbage company."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "How many construction debris trucks do we have in the parish?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "We had 39, there were 34 today and there will be 15 vegetation tomorrow. We forwarded all the request for participation onto the company and as many as you send I will send."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I have people who haven't had garbage pick-up since before the storm and I told them at one point in time if they didn't pick-up these two streets by tomorrow don't worry about them because I would be dropping it off at their office. They need to get additional trucks to run extra on Saturdays. I told them in the beginning there is no way you will be able to catch up you have a truck that picks up a half a street then drives 2 hours to drop off that load, you will never catch up. They need those additional trucks. I called and left a message for you saying the same thing. I gave the streets to the man at Progressive but this is unacceptable, totally unacceptable."

Councilman Madere stated, "Along with what Mr. Wilson is saying before I even caught the ferry a guy called me from W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street which is Mr. Wilson's District but we all help each other out and I made the call and the man said that they haven't been picked up at all since before the storm and he said he has called several times so I can verify the fact that they need to go back out there and pick him up because you know what happens when garbage sits out there. My next question is regarding an email that I sent you on Sunday where I asked about the debris pick-up and the trucks that we have and I just don't understand how it is going because they want the guys to have a truck that also has the mechanism to load their own truck or they have a bobcat and a lot of the people who have trucks in our parish, who should be making this money and helping the constituents in the parish are not being given the job because they may have a truck but they don't have the grappler or they may have the bobcat but they don't have the truck. So I don't know why we can't hire the trucks, the bobcats and let them load and work together. I just don't understand that part and I wish you could straighten it out for me because the more trucks that we have on the road the better it is and if anyone is going to make money off of this disaster that we are all involved with it should be as many local people as we possibly can get. I don't care if they have one truck, sign them up, load them up and pay them and that is just how it goes."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I will make a comment to that. I am not sure if the pricing is fair from all of the meetings that I have gone in with the contractors and with the contractor that is looking for these agents it doesn't seem like the pricing is fair. So our locals have

turned down the opportunity to work because the pricing is not for. I know they were afforded the opportunity but from the contract that we all agree on it seems like they can't make money. So that is the local issue. They can't make any money. So I think that is where we need to address where we went wrong because I know when some of the contractors sat in with me while we spoke with DRC he was willing to put grapplers, bobcats with the trucks if you have them but the pricing, they couldn't make any money. So I think that is where we made an error with the contract. Some sort of way the contract should have been or could have been renegotiated then that is what should have been done but if it was already signed then we made an error there."

Councilman Madere stated, "What I am saying is that if you have trucks and you accept the money that is being offered but he was turned down because he didn't have the ability to load it. So what I am saying that if you hire someone and you have a bobcat and someone has a truck then let me pull up there and you load it and let me roll but I am being turned down because I don't have both pieces of equipment and that is the issue I have. If I have one piece of equipment, hire me and let me load someone else who doesn't have the other piece of equipment."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I agree with you 100% but I know I sat in on meetings where they asked them if they wanted to pair up they could, give me all of the loader, give me all the trucks and we will pair you up. It didn't happen. All they had to do was come in to work. DRC and their representative could address that. I spoke with Mr. Bryce and I can't say that they ever turned down anybody if they had a truck and a loader and insurance unless you don't have insurance and a lot of people were turned down because they didn't have insurance. I know I sat on many of the calls so I didn't want to misrepresent any of the contractors so I brought them in and I let them talk to the agent themselves and they crunched the numbers and they said you know what I can't make it. So the money was an issue. As far as them working they were all willing to work. I think we had four pages of truckers, bobcats, deliverers we didn't have the right money the contract was not agreeable for the money."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So you are saying that they are paying for the load or they are paying the loaders too?"

Councilman Gauff stated, "I am saying they paid for load and truck. The fees they gave were for load and truck and I am going to ask Ms. Hotard who has good knowledge of the loading, trucking and pricing. I sat in on it and I could see the prices that were given and when they talked about the mileage and they talked about how much insurance they would have to pay or how much money they would have to pay to get the required insurance than they sat there and said you know why it isn't a good deal."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So if I had a truck I would need a loader to make some money? If I don't have a loader that I'm depending on someone else to help me and if somebody else has a loader and truck they aren't going to load my truck, they are going to load their trucks. I see where Mr. Madere is coming from and I think that is part of the problem that guys don't have loaders but they have the trucks and it is hard to get a loader because they pay you by the cubic yard. Have we looked into getting a staging place for the debris?"

Natalie Robottom asked, "For which type?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "All of it the construction debris, the white debris a place where we can stage it and get it out of the community and separated out there partially?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I received your request relative to that. The current contract does not address that and I would like to back up it wasn't anything we actually picked and hand-picked and decided on pricing. That contract that was a pre-positioned contract that we have was competitively bid. The parish was obligated based on the bid to accept the lowest bid. So at the time other people had the opportunity to put in bids but by law the then Council had to accept the lowest bid and that is the contract that we have right now understanding what Mr. Gauff has said was not pleasing to some of the contractors and we cannot possibly go through every reason why they didn't participate but what I can tell you is that every name we got, everyone you submitted was forwarded to the company, our economic development office actually called all of them because by the end of the week as you all requested that we tried to get locals we still do not have any trucks to do the work and the debris is on the roads. So at this point it was like call everyone. See who is willing to participate forward those names because we need to get moving. I know I sent all of you all several e-mails saying we have been waiting they either chose not to because of the pricing and we had that discussion legally. We could not elevate the pricing and the contract during the disaster and expect FEMA to reimburse us. As a governing authority the votes that were made were based on the best pricing for the parish not necessarily the contractors but that was before you guys. It was a bid process. When you open a bid you are obligated to accept the lowest bidder in that case that was the company at hand. Now we did try to pair for people who have trucks but no grappler. We were trying to pair and at least make the team out of people who didn't have both and make those recommendations however they were still going to be paid on cubic yards. So they were going to have to divide some way or figure out an equitable way to divide that one cost amount which was by cubic your because they don't pay for trucks and they don't pay for grapplers. They reimburse based on the amount you haul and deliver. So in the end those individuals elected not to pair up because maybe it wasn't worth it to them cost wise, it wasn't worth it to them to get the insurance however our economic development director with some assistance from state personnel we are having a workshop this Monday to help our local vendors learn how to participate, be prepared to participate and we are not done. This piece of it is getting ready to be done but there is going to be work for one to two years and in order to be prepared to get not only municipal work but federal work because there are guidelines that stipulate the kinds of things that are needed when it is not our money and that is what's happening with FEMA reimbursement. They dictate how you procure, how did you come up with this company you can't just pick a company who you want and not look at pricing so they have already requested how did you procure these companies. So they already know DRC was selected based on a bid specifications there was an opportunity to extend the contract which this Council approved based on that competitive pricing. So we are dealing with the issues that are not necessarily that one but there are going to be other opportunities and we need our local vendors to come to the seminar to learn what they

*will need to be prepared to participate not just in St. John but every parish and with federal procurement guidelines and that is this Monday."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "If we decide to have two contracts why can't we give DRC the vegetation contract and give the debris to someone else? Maybe we can get the legal on that."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Maybe you can do that. You may want to look at that the current contract that you have covers much more than we are using. It was a very extensive contract. We are only using the piece right now but there are other parts to it. I would advise that you meet with your legal counsel to discuss the options dealing with this contract but right now it is a procured contract that was competitively bid that we are functioning under."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Did you negotiate that contract?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "I did not. This is from 2008. I was not here in 2008."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "But you renewed it."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "I was not here. I did not negotiate the contract."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "But it was recommended by administration to renew it."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Exactly."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "But wasn't it a bid?"*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yes but you could have gone out for another bid and procured another contract. You came to this Council and asked us to renew it for a year."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "It was during hurricane season. It has been used since 2000."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Then say that, don't say you didn't you came to this Council and recommended that contract."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "And I stand by the recommendation for the people of this parish."*

*Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You just said you didn't do it. You said this was procurement."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "I did not. He asked me if I negotiated the contract and I did not. This was a contract from 2008 that was publicly bid and you and whoever else was here in 2008 voted on it. They've been in business in this parish and have done work in this parish before us so we continued an existing contract based on a competitive bid price. Now at this point in the game it would probably be illegal to attempt to negotiate higher rates with an existing contract that was bid. Again I will direct you to your legal counsel but at this point the contract*

*is what it is."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "It is what it is and our parish president negotiated this contract so why do we have to go to our legal, why can't we go to your legal that you have retained to look at it?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "They have looked at. It was in a negotiating contract. You know how we just got a bid we do something publicly, everybody submits their prices, in a bid we are obligated by law can somebody get up here and explain that? Any one of our legal counsel?"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "We understand what a bid is. We are not stupid up here. We understand what a bid is and what you have to do. We understand that."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "I did not negotiate it, it is nonnegotiable."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "I have a question to ask about the debris and I know that we got this cute little paper tonight about how to sort all of your construction debris, garbage, leafy stuff but people have had this stuff on the streets for two weeks. They are not going to go through it and sort it into separate piles. This information needed to be given before the storm when we were handing out our hurricane information sheets to let you know if the need occurs. Are they going to not pick up because it isn't sorted into cute little piles?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "We are going to continue to work on it and the information was provided earlier now we decided to add a picture."*

*Councilwoman Millet stated, "The information was not provided prior to people tearing out their houses. It was not!"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "I think it was put in a release early on again we added a picture the bottom line is we are going to get it off the streets. Everybody hasn't done their homes. If you have it out there and you're wondering why it isn't picked up it has to be separated."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "You expect these residents to go and sort it?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "I did not say that. I just said that it had to be picked up. What I am saying is if you hire garbage out there understanding what the rules are we are going to pick it up but there are lots of other people who are still doing it. So if they picked up some and you still have some or you need to put some out and are still working on your home this is advisory. Obviously this is not the first time this has happened. We have had hurricanes before and the garbage all gets picked up. It is 5 to 7 days after the roads have cleared. We are picking up the garbage. Again part of the delay was trying to hire locals or waiting to try to hire locals who in the end decided they didn't want to participate."*

*Councilwoman Millet asked, "Now DRC does have the contract. It is their responsibility to hire people not ours. Am I correct?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "That is correct."*

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We also asked that locals be included in this hiring process but not to the exclusion of those that can be hired."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Absolutely not that is correct."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "So they had hired others or did they stop everything to give it to the locals?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No they hired others and we attempted to make sure that everyone had a fair opportunity to participate but yes they did hire other companies because we needed to get it out."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "You will give us a schedule on what areas are being picked up when?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes. I am not sure of the time but they indicated every area will be picked up for construction and demolition debris tomorrow and vegetative will be districts 1, 2, 3 and 6 and garbage will continue on its regular route but we will have a written schedule date wise for every area it should be by tomorrow."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "So my leaves in front of my house will be there for about another week or so because I'm in district 7?"

Natalie Robottom asked, "Are they in a bag?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "No they are by the street."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I didn't say they wouldn't be there for another week. I just told you where they are picking up tomorrow."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "But you don't have a schedule of when they're going to pick me up for that?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "No but we requested that and should have it tomorrow."

Councilwoman Millet asked, "Could you please let us know because people would really like to get this out of their front yards."

Councilman Smith asked, "I have a couple of questions. What is the price that DRC is getting per cubic yard? Not the price that they pay the price that they are getting?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "You know I don't have it to memory but I know I scanned it to you when you asked me."

Councilman Smith stated, "I think it is around .14 cents."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I don't think that is right. I think it is \$10.00."

Councilman Smith stated, "Okay so \$10 a cubic yard and they are paying \$5.50."

Natalie Robottom asked, "Is there legal counsel here that could address whether or not this Council or anyone has the authority to dictate to a contractor what they pay their subs?"

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, stated, "If there is a question from this Council for me I will be glad to answer it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I have a question since you put it that way Mr. Perilloux. We have a contract with DRC. If we want to give DRC and I don't know exactly what the wording is or what the contract says we have a big elephant here and we want to give them part of the elephant just to meet our contract with them and that part might be the white goods, it might be the vegetation, it might be the construction and after they finish that can we say that contract is complete?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Let me just interrupt you whenever we get into discussions regarding legal strategy as far as contracts are concerned what the Council or the parishes options could be and what not it's always been my recommendation that we have those discussions in private. Obviously it involves potential legal strategy. There is a contract in place that was put in place as a result of a public bid. We have to honor that contract unless there is just cause not to and I have not been made aware from the Council, the administration or anyone else that there is in fact just cause to attempt to do anything in terms of trying to get out of that contract or claim that there is a default or anything like that. So in terms of specific questions regarding our options I would be glad to address those with you one-on-one however it would be with the participation of the administration's legal counsel as well and it would be in a forum that would allow us to openly discuss our legal strategy and a public forum is not the place to do that in my opinion."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was just taking advantage of the opportunity that you gave us."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "I would be glad to answer any questions that I can answer."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No it will be in a different forum. I am ready to go on to my next part of my question."

Councilman Smith asked, "If that price is \$10.00 and I heard that we were paying the contractors \$5.50."

Councilman Gauff stated, "It depends on what it was. It was \$5.50, \$6.50 or \$7.50 depending on the mileage and then for the other part of the debris it was \$6.50, \$7.50 and \$8.50 so there were differences."

Councilman Smith stated, "I'm using that to get to my point. They are getting a 45% profit for a pass through. So they are making 45% of the profit and what does that tell me they don't want to hire local. So they are keeping the money and they don't want to hire people. So let's just get over it they don't want to hire our people. It is plain and simple. A program manager would make us get a staging area. So that is the answer. We need a program manager that will give us a staging area and picking up things off of the side of the street we need a right of entry to go into people's yards. If we had the right of entry program

we could go into people yards and pick up the trash and all of the debris that they have in their yard and it wouldn't have to go on the servitude. Our legal can draw a right of entry form, get it signed by the landowners and we can go and pick up the debris, the garbage and everything else off of their property these are things that have been done in the past and have worked and are on record. Let's get over DRC they or a small piece of the pie and they don't want to hire us get them out of here as quick as we can get them out because this pie is bigger than them. They have made their stand. Mrs. Robottom has a legal contract with them. We all have a legal contract with them they don't want to budge we cannot force them to budge if we can get them to do one part of this then get them out of our hair and move on to bigger things so that we can get our people working and whoever we bring in next make sure that is in the contract and in January when we have to renew DRC's contract we put every specific thing we want in that contract. Whoever did it in the past made a mistake? We did not see that mistake when we renewed it and that is partially our fault but you know what we are not to make the same mistake going forward. Let's move on and try and get our people working on the next phase of this project. This project is much bigger than what we are doing right now."

Councilman Wright stated, "Really I would just like to make a comment I think it is a shame that two weeks after the storm we are still talking about debris pickup while our parish still smells like a land field two weeks later. This should have been handled a long time ago. We can blame it on the contract that's fine but it is still there and it is still in place. Let's get the trucks rolling. If we cannot hire locals that is fine but the debris has to be picked up. It has to be picked up now. Two weeks later is unacceptable."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We agree part of the areas that were flooded that was a problem and we are going to move forward. Obviously you need to meet with legal counsel to decide the strategy that you want to move forward with but my instruction was to pick up the debris."

Councilman Wright stated, "Okay well let's get the debris picked up and not talk about negotiations, workshops and plans. Let's get it done please."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "There are a lot of areas that don't have sidewalks. I know LaPlace Park and River Oaks doesn't have sidewalks."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think it is probably just basic servitude that is that are drawing that is something used across the country however if you don't have a sidewalk obviously you put it on the curb that is parish servitude without a sidewalk. So just put it close to the curb. We understand what you are saying Mr. Smith we have made several request to do some private things but at this point without having those right-of-way agreements we cannot pick up on private property that is something that we have requested but there are mounds of debris on public right-of-ways right now that we need to get out of the way."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to hear from Mrs. Robottom just kind of enlighten us on what is going on in the parish with help agencies and things right now and then I would like Rev. Jasmine and Lucas to come forward. Rev. Jasmine is the pastor at Choice

International and they were the first ones in the parish to start giving out hot food and everything from diapers to medicine to our people the next day after the storm and before FEMA got here."

Natalie Robottom stated, "First of all there were a lot of people involved in working and many of you were out there actually once the items came in you were out delivering them, you were rescuing people and it does take a group effort. With regards to your question Mr. Wright and everyone else's questions our emergency preparedness staff followed the storm from beginning to end. It wasn't predicted to come to Louisiana until 48 hours out which is already too little notice to pull contraflow or any type of major evacuation. The trigger for evacuation not only in St. John but throughout the state is a category three hurricane. Tropical storm Isaac remained such until the night of the storm and ended up being a category one. Mr. Boucvalt, Ms. Kathy Gilmore stayed on calls at four o'clock, 10 o'clock and six o'clock and we have every document provided by the weather service that suggested that we would receive a 3 to 5 surge on the South shore of Lake Pontchartrain with a category one and a 5 to 8 foot surge for category two. Planning for what to expect we planned for category two. We had evacuation routes set up. We actually had cooperation from the state they provided coach buses understanding that the school system was going through some transition with transportation. We were on the phone with our shelter managers where we actually have shelters set up for our people and Red Cross would man them. Our assistant director actually ran additional SLOSH models and contacted the weather service again trying to project and predict what was going to happen here in St. John. It was never suggested that the water that filled St. John the Baptist parish was a threat to our residents. Frank and another representative from the weather service met with us this week what they suggested is it is an anomaly they could not determine the impact. They had no idea the water would come into St. John it has never done that before no one was prepared for this had any of us had any idea that it would flood across the interstate to Airline Highway from the East to the West a mandatory evacuation would have been called. We actually met all the presidents, the mayors and governor on Monday to discuss strategy for this storm. The only president called for a mandatory evacuation was Mr. St. Pierre in St. Charles parish with a concern for the West Bank. There wasn't a concern for the East Bank and Lake Pontchartrain. Now whether or not all the levees from New Orleans to Jefferson to St. Charles had an impact that could not be measured I can't tell you that but I did meet with Col. Fleming with the Corps of Engineers, we have looked at all the models they ran pre-Katrina, post Katrina and after their improvements and they suggested that with the new levee protection only 2 inches of a rise in Lake Pontchartrain and what they see is that did not happen. So what we're saying is run a model on Isaac don't combine 100 storms you go back and see based on your additions and all of your levee protection in the other areas what happened right Isaac there are a lot of people who would like to blame somebody or just would like to try and take advantage of the storm but we made this decision based on historical data, based on SLOSH modeling, based on the information that we were provided that was what we felt was in the best interest of the residents and at that time it did not call for evacuation of our residents everyone was caught off guard but fortunately every resident was taken out of the subdivision and lived. There were 6,000 residents evacuated out of flooded homes many of you were out there with them, 4,000 went to shelters in a

matter of hours and was out of the waters. Now clearly that is not the best thing but it could have been a lot worse. With the help of a lot of people pitching in, residents with their boats, the wildlife and fisheries, the Sheriff's office, the National Guard they did not have vehicles high enough to get to the water, boats could not even go against the current that was not predicted. Now again we like to compare before Katrina we compared to Betsy and Camille and then Katrina came and everybody wants to compare it to Katrina. Just like all of us every storm is different, they were not prepared for Isaac at a category one, a late category one. We were not prepared for it but if we don't learn from it we will be in trouble. What we did learn is that every community that had a levee system and a pumping system did not flood. We know it is a problem for us. You were with us when we went to Washington lobbying for a levy after tropical storm Lee because our intersections flooded, River Forest the streets not the homes flooded and Foxwood flooded. We have never had water come over the flat at I-10. It is always at the interchanges. We know it is going to be at 51. We know it is going to be at 55. It has come as far up as Quality Inn. It never goes to the community center. It never goes up Main Street. It never comes through River Oaks, Live Oaks, Foxwood, Belle Terre the entire gambit and then after we survived that the Western side of the parish started to flood when Lake Maurepas was meeting with Lake Pontchartrain these are things that are beyond us. They are beyond us. It wasn't a mistake on our part or your part. You were listening. You had a Council member in our briefings with the weather service we have copies of every document they sent saying what surge to expect and what the wind conditions were going to be. Mr. Boucvalt has said I would not have left my family in my house and had my wife walk out into 4 feet of water had they given us data to suggest we would have flooded. So we made a decision based on the information we had everybody is scratching their heads maybe we need to look at our classification system, maybe wind speed alone is not sufficient, maybe we need a scale that takes into account surge and takes into account how big the storm is and how quickly or slowly it moves but that is something for them to figure out and we will know from now that we can't count on other people and as I said our staff ran additional models. They were not satisfied. We were up all night checking what are we missing, what do we need to look at and Kathy would call and say are we getting this right is this what you have? We didn't just sit back and wait for the area to flood and it did it quickly. It did it extremely quickly and Rev. Brown what I wanted to tell you was our people were out at Ruddock 10 miles away on the lake so they were expecting flooding out there. When they notified us that the plant is going under we expected it to flood, it floods every time, whoever put it out there should have known it was going to flood but that is the water system for LaPlace. That is what we are dealing with. We need a water system on the River like the rest of the water systems. Every time we have problems out there with the water height we can't get back there. You know how we were able to get back there through my relationship with the governor's office and the young military police officers and National Guard that flew the individuals to the plant they still wouldn't be there. We were lucky to get water as quickly as we did. If we didn't have that support on hand we still wouldn't have water because they couldn't get to the wells. They flew them back there. They flew generators back there and they were allowed to fix the wells with help from people outside of here. The Belle pointe pump is still under the water just was able to make it back there and again I didn't put that pump back there, that wasn't a flood zone it wasn't

expected to flood back there but that is what we have now. Now what we have to do is figure out ways to change that and the fortunate thing about it and whoever is saying that we need help I know we needed help. Gov. Jindal was in my office the day after with the secretary Fugate and we were approved immediately for individual assistance and every other assistance that we needed. The president sent the FEMA representative to take care of us because they didn't know where St. John was. They were worried about Plaquemines Parish and I was on the phone and said wait a minute St. John is underwater that is why we got the help. Do you know we don't have water to drink? We don't flood every hurricane something is wrong. If you live in Plaquemines or you live in Lafitte you're going to flood they know it. They live with it. They rebuild there. We don't flood. Something different happened we dealt with it and we're going to continue to deal with it that is why there is an advantage to us when you let your evacuation route go underwater that's a problem not just for us for all Louisiana. When you can't get out on Airline and you can't go through the Interstate, 90 is closed because they're working on the levee, the River road his trees and water on it and you were stuck here that is bigger than us and instead of pointing fingers we need to be trying to pull together. I am going to say that my staff has worked 24 hours trying to get the services that you needed and I am going to go through them because they are here because we made an effort they are not handing out but we are pushing them and we are challenging them to meet our needs there is a center there when they turn you down no is not the final answer don't give up on no. The disaster food stamp place that initially it was all income based we are telling you it is not just your income is for the period of August 24<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup> not just not your whole annual income and your gross, it is your net what did you lose, what expenses did you have, when they ask you for your checking account if you already have money obligated to your mortgage and your car that isn't money that is free to you they need to deduct all of that, they need to get to your net worth for that month and that determines whether or not you qualify for assistance. How much did you spend to evacuate? How much food did you lose? Don't stop. It is also again about relationships and people having trust in you. I was on the phone because this is supposed to end Wednesday, but you are not done and you need to go back. They are extending us until Friday. Now get in there whatever your alphabet is because clearly you could wait till the Z to eat which is why all of these churches came together and tried to feed you which we set up meetings earlier two years ago. We knew we couldn't feed all the people in St. John and work on the infrastructure. So we met with all the churches and asked for their participation following a storm and they came through. They came through and started providing meals until people who could get food stamps did. Now don't give up because I have some numbers and we are getting aid and we are getting aid because we are not stopping at no and we have somebody in our EOC every morning that we are pushing how many did you see, how many qualified and why didn't they and who do we send them to when they don't? The same thing with FEMA, we encourage you to do things online but don't stop there, that office is set up there for you, bring your papers, go sit with them, it could have been a misunderstanding. You may have some additional data that will qualify you but it doesn't stop there. There are additional resources in that office that can help you. Now you may not want a loan but they are all in the same facility and we are attempting to get more to provide you with the assistance you need. We are working on housing. It is unfortunate that our housing

went under water. It is unfortunate that our hotels are at Interstate Exit 209 and they all went under water. So our residents, 541 of them who qualify and who are in hotels are not in hotels in St. John Parish because we don't have any and then you don't have transportation because you lost your cars. So we are working on transportation and trying to find out the hotels closest to where you need to be which is here because your children need to be in school, you need to be at work and DOTD and every secretary from the governor's office has been in our office working for us. So when you talk about asking for help. I am not afraid to ask for help and the things that we are getting is because of those relationships. DOTD those vans that are transporting people at the shelter, we got that here, the fact that they are working on a transportation plan because all of your cars went under water when we don't have a full one that is something that we are working on. The fact that there is no available housing in St. John, zero if you have a voucher and if you need to come up with that deposit today we have met with FEMA and they are negotiating that, that is a problem for you if you have to come up with a damage deposit that is expensive and you don't have money. We are working on that, that is a problem. We are working on the negotiation there and we are also going to have to wait with our few little property owners to make them understand that you may not have to be there on a long term lease, work with us some of you need a short term lease. FEMA trailers I told all of you they are not giving away but guess what we are working on that. Your rental assistance can be used to rent FEMA trailers. The Executive Order is right here. I am signing it and saying you can put them on your property. Now what I did was I sent to the council for input but I have made that decision you guys started working on your houses the minute you got back. You're not lazy. You're helping yourself. You want to live in your house, nobody wants to live in a hotel or a FEMA trailer, you want to be in your home. We want to give you the ability to work on your home in your yard with a safe place and we worked with FEMA to make sure the rental assistance you can get, you can use it to get one of those. We also have a request which cannot come through me, it has to go through the governor we already sent that letter off for the HUD manufactured housing. We are going to need that. So for those of you who are wondering we are meeting with top people not low level. We are pushing what you need to the top and we are not stopping and we are going to continue to do that and all we need is a little bit of help, a little bit of support, don't pull against us, work with us and we are going to get through this and I can tell you, you're talking two weeks there were months before things came through okay 11 million dollars of assistance has been provided to our residents. 1.4 million in food stamps already and some of these places just opened. This is significant we don't see it and I am not begrudging anybody and I am not questioning your pain. What I am saying is that things are moving in this parish that took months to get started in other parishes and people outside of here are like we can't believe that but I push them, my staff pushes them. It isn't on your time frame it is on our time frame. I need an answer this week. Why can't you tell me how many of our homes were damaged? You have six groups counting homes and none of you can come up with the same number. We need to know what kind of planning we need to do for housing that is the kind of things your leader is doing. That's what you should expect from your leader and I want to thank the ones that got out there and helped while we were inside trying to make the decisions and get the people here who could give you the resources, that is what you want from a leader somebody

who can reach out and not be afraid to ask for help. We have people working with us. The governor's office has sent staff they are in our office every day. People who have gone through hurricanes, the state hurricane recovery task force was in my office, legislators from New Orleans, Iberia, Vermillion all of them who had to deal with this you know why because we have never had to deal with it and I am not so stupid to think that I can do it by myself. I want your experience and you know Mayor Billiot said if they are not going to give you trailers you find out if you can use your rental assistance for them, that was the first question I mean by night time we had that agreement that is what happens when you deal with people who have been through it. I wouldn't have thought of that. When they said we are not giving FEMA trailers, I didn't even think to ask about the rental assistance and could you use them. I thought well some people are going to have them some employers are going to give them to you but there are not a whole lot of people that might go out and buy them but they are everywhere, there are 100's of them in Amite, some more in Slidell and Southwest Louisiana all the ones they purchased and never used. So we are working for you don't ever think because you don't see me I am not working and don't think that these people who have been sleeping in our building aren't working for you."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What about the red cross? Are they still in here doing work?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "The red cross is actually limping along and they are limping in our shelter and again without discussing anybody's business there are about 73 out of 4,000 that left and went into shelters, 6,000 that lost their homes and that is what is left in a shelter in St. John parish and we are working with them. I understand some of them have already received their benefits but you know what they don't want to go to New Orleans, they don't want to go to Metairie. They can't go there and bring their children to school. So we have to find places for them to live in St. John Parish that is what we are working on."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have trailer parks? Can we get trailers from FEMA also?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes they can it is a 2 to 3 bedroom I put in that request to the governor who has to put in that request but that request has been made."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Have any places approached you to use their park as a trailer park?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes they have and I have already given all of that to FEMA. We have some existing trailer parks that already have some slots but I still had the list from 2005. Some of you are in here. I know you have been in my office. I still had your list with your acreage and how many trailers you could fit on your property travel trailers as well as mobile homes. I gave that list to FEMA so they are already out assessing that to see you know again that is their last resort if they have to put in infrastructure it would take longer and there are some immediate needs but that is already underway. Any other questions?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have 100 of them I just don't have time right now."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Again we tried to and I know it is a lot of information. We meet twice a day my staff and every support agency from the state at 9:00 and 5:00 and we forward you a document every day that has those numbers and that information in it. Now grant it we meet all day and things change as I said on my way over here I got the clearance that the food stamps would be continued until Friday. It was supposed to be done Wednesday but we have approval from the Federal Government not me, from the Federal Government to extend because you all still need help because we made the request. We made a request to extend that to make sure that we had somebody on staff who could answer your questions when you had problems. So again just because we are not out and about doesn't mean we are not working for you. Somebody has to stand up for you and that is what my job is, that is what my staff is doing, holding you up by making sure you have out there what you need."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I have Rev. Jasmine and Rev. Lucas here to speak they helped all the people of the parish and are serving over 1,000 people a day and that's hot meals, diapers and all type of things. So just give them a couple of minutes please."

Antoine Jasmine, Rev. Choice International, commented they were the first disaster relief center in LaPlace. He was also flooded as well in Indigo Estates, his house and his car is gone but as a preacher his response was to see about the people because the greatest of your servants so we began to become more pro-active than reactive so I reached out to Rev. Lucas in New Orleans because he has been through this and has lost homes and a sanctuary due to Katrina so I wanted to get his proper advice on how to handle this magnitude and be able to give back to my community which I am born and raised here. So we immediately began to truckload items such as ice, hot meals, diapers, MRE's, water and so on. We have serviced since the storm over 8000+ people and sometimes that's per day on specific items up until FEMA came into the area and begin to set up a New Wine. We are not competing. We're actually a continuation of what we are doing. We are here to serve. We want our president to know that we are here we are with you and we support you we support the Council and all the government we are not competing we have to enhance it is a faith based initiative on this coming Thursday we have an open forum not to throw mud at anybody just to make sure that our community is becoming healed as you begin to talk about it people begin to break out and cry due to rescuing people in the Cambridge area. So our concerns are the healing components of it and we know that that is available this coming Thursday at choice event place, 516 East Airline Highway at 6:30 PM we will provide meals for the people and give them a chance not point the finger at anybody but to give people the chance to get things out of their system because people have not had a healthy opportunity to grieve. So we are providing that open forum for our community at large so we encourage the government, the Council to come out and be a part of that movement this Thursday. Also we are moving now to a new phase of our recovery phase we are now training and we hope to collaborate and partner with the parish with the HASWOP and HASMAT training courses because our residents are not trained in those areas because now we're coming in to more of the environmental component of health and help. We don't want people breathing contamination due to the things that are on

the street and so on and so forth. That is a 40 hour class that we are providing. We have partnered with another company out of the parish but we want to inform you all of what is going on. Also during the storm I was able to contact our president and let her know we were doing regards to the relief efforts and she gave me the approvals on that. We have over 2000 applicants because we also begin to do some surveys on how many individuals locally that need jobs. This is available for locals who need jobs and it will be available to our residents so we are available to help. We want to be included in these decision-making meetings whether it be moral support just to make sure that our town is healed properly so we're here to help in this recovery phase of this completely surprising issue that happened among us.

Rev. Lucas commented it is a privilege to stand before you and let me say a couple of thoughts as I sat here and I listened to everyone talk what grieves my heart is that I know what you're going through. We have already been through that and I am listening to you and I know you don't fully understand what has happened and you are the leaders so the individual assistance that the people need they are going to cry and continue to cry because they're looking at what they have been through and their past is gone and somebody has to heal them that process is going to take a long time over a year in New Orleans people grieved and died because of their past. There are many components about the storm that you don't understand you're going to have to get together to try and figure it out. The debris is only a portion of it and there is a lot of money to be made in debris. A lot of people that want to work that are locals. There are a lot of games that they played with the debris. I have been doing this for 12 years from Carolina all the way to Florida. We had four major contractors with \$1 billion apiece who could've made all of us whole but because the leadership didn't know how to pull the trigger and didn't understand what had happened most of the people in New Orleans suffered then and seven years later we are still suffering. When the storm started coming in this direction. I called FEMA. I called Goesep. I told them this is my community and you are not going to do them what you did to us. You neglected us. Your people don't understand the rules and regulations with FEMA and they certainly don't understand Goesep. You think you have problems now wait until you have to deal with all of these entities they don't understand exactly what's going on. They are not going to make your people whole. So don't tell your people they are going to make them whole because \$30,000 isn't going to make them whole. So as we go forward we need to recognize and realize as leaders you won't need to find a manager that knows how to operate through FEMA and the state and who could help you and give you the information that you need so that the people in your community can be made whole. So that you can be informed. So that you can make an informed and intelligent decision. That debris out there they're going to fight for it. New Orleans had \$4 billion and most of the people in the city of New Orleans would call FEMA fabulous and guess what they went out broke and they came back broke because the people who knew how to handle debris they did every single thing they could to disqualify our people. All of their friends from up north came down and made that money. Somebody is making money today that you say your locals won't make. You're going to have all kind of things happening in this community that are going to keep you divided because you don't understand what we did with the faith-based community because we've been through this. I called them and said let's go down not only here but also in Plaquemines that community was hit harder than this

community. This is going to be a devastating situation that is going to take years you to get through and while we are fighting over what is going to take place you need to understand the process. You are not then understand this process by telling me FEMA is coming. FEMA is coming maybe in 10 years, maybe in five years, it has been seven years for me and let me tell you what FEMA told me let me tell you what the state told us because of my community they weren't coming and I vowed they would never do that to another community like mine. They said they didn't want to come. They left us abandoned and we had to fight everybody to get the reality so that they would come to our community. You are going to need somebody who understands because every turn of the road there will try to take from you what actually belongs to the community and if you don't fight you are not going to get it. Ray Nagin thought he could handle this by himself but he was bigger than Ray and bigger than the council. They stopped the faith-based communities from coming into the city we did a resolution so that everyone could come in. This storm is bigger than the parish and you all need to come together and gather all of the expertise you can to make this a reality and make the people whole. While we sit here as leaders saying what we are doing the people are saying what is not being done they are hurting. We represent those people together. We need help will.

#### **COUNCIL BRIEFS**

Councilman Smith stated, *"First I would like to thank God for sparing all the lives. I know a lot of our residents are suffering if I had a magic wand to make it go away I would but I just don't have that. You believe in God and have faith everything will be okay. It may take a while but we're all here. I cannot start to think the people helping us through the storm. I don't want to leave anyone out so I'm not saying any names. There were a lot of parish workers that helped and went beyond the call of duty. The residents pulled together. Contrary to popular belief we were okay on the West Bank. We had more trucks out here whenever I asked. We had more supplies. Everybody had more than enough. I didn't talk directly to Mrs. Robottom but your people took care of me. I asked you to give me the West Bank because the East Bank was so bad and still is. If anybody called with Entergy problems, Mrs. Shiela took care of them and I can't thank her enough for that and last but not least I have to thank my wife because I did everything for everybody else and she said when are you going to take care of home. I want to thank her for bearing with me and for taking care of everything when I wasn't there."*

Councilman Wilson stated, *"My prayers go out to all of those who lost their homes but especially the loss of their personal treasures, pictures and photos. I also pray for the families who lost people in the storm three people did pass. This was overwhelming and I was very frustrated. I didn't sleep for three days. I stayed in my district no contact to LaPlace whatsoever. I had two cell phones and neither one of them worked. So I had no communication except for a landline and that was constantly busy but I stayed out with my people. I got frustrated when they did the curfew because for three days I was watching people go to Monte Carlo station at 54 and 61 who were selling food as soon as they could prepare it. People were sitting in the hot sun waiting to get a 5 gallon can of fuel and the staff was there just as many hours as I was up because every time I went there I saw them. So I want to thank them. I want to make an apology to the Sheriff because the only*

time I did leave was when they did the curfew. I was very frustrated. I went to the EOC hollering and he called me a few hours later and told me just the way it was and I understood after cooling off a little bit. I had been in law enforcement for 10 years before this happened and what he did was the very best thing and it was the right thing and I want to thank him he did move the hours to eight o'clock the next night which helped a little bit. So I want to apologize to him. All of his staff worked very hard they have been working 16 to 18 hours a day. The National Guard was out there. I want to thank all of the people in the EOC and all of the parish workers who spent time left their homes, left their children to come out and worry about everybody else. I also want to make one statement watch for the scammers, people will be out here looking to do things and they are going to scam you don't do any business with anybody who doesn't have a license, that you can identify and if you have a problem call the Sheriff's office and find out if these people do have an occupational license if you think they're a scammer. Get whatever information you can give it is a license plate number or whatever you can get and called the Sheriff's office but they will be out there is no doubt of that. During Hurricane Katrina my family members in Mississippi so many trees fell on their house they actually had to cut them out luckily they had another house to go to but they had a contractor who they paid up front and he never came back. They kept calling and calling. This dumb guy goes and talks to somebody to kill them and he talked to a deputy in plainclothes. Please watch out for scammers. God bless everybody."

Councilman Madere stated, "I would like to say and echo a lot of the things my fellow council members said. Also I would like to thank the first responders for the parish and the parish workers. The National Guard came in and did a wonderful job. The gentleman with the pod he really did everything possible that I asked him to do. I asked him don't run out of ice, don't run out of water or MRE's and he said that isn't going to happen. So I want to thank him and all the soldiers and all the National Guard that was there and throughout the parish and also to Mike Tregre and his officers because it was a team effort to get these people out and not lose any lives was a team effort. It just shows you what can happen when you come together for common cause. It may not have went as smoothly as some people would have liked but the bottom line is we didn't lose a life. I didn't think the storm was going to be that bad or that big of an issue. I went over on the West Bank side to my sisters and I received a phone call that a tree fell on a lady's house and I attempted to come back in the storm and got turned around at the plantation and I went back to my sister's house. Then I got another phone call they were flooding in Cambridge on this side of the river so I jumped back in my court during the storm and drove 3127 back through the storm all the way back to new wine to try to help out. I saw I wasn't doing much because there was so much confusion so I went back across. When I get back across they tell me that my granddaughter may be in Cambridge. So I got back in the car and drove back around. So I know how the people felt back there with loved ones back there. So I got with the national guard and got in there with them and went in the back to locate my granddaughter and stayed with them and I saw everything that was back there at night and it was something to see. I made this comment. I am going to tell you how bad it was. The children were shaking they were so cold and so afraid and I even made the comment about the animals, they knew that something was going on when you can pick up a pit bull and put him in a truck next to a Rottweiler

and nothing happened that is how devastating this was. It affected everyone from humans to animals to everything. It was just an overwhelming experience. It is something that we all have to pull together and you have so many unsung heroes. So many unsung heroes that actually got out there with their boats and went to get neighbors and help them get out. I had to young men and we helped push a couple of people that were stuck on the side of the road and I didn't ask for that help they came and helped. So there were a lot of unsung heroes in St. John parish stood up and stood together. So what we have to do now in this big job that we have is standup and stand together and work hard to get this accomplished thank you."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I don't have a comment I just have a prayer that I want to read for the entire parish and it goes Oh God our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way, have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods, prosper those who rebuild houses and strengthen those who rebuild the hope so that entire communities may face the future without fear and I ask this in Jesus's name. Amen."

Councilman Wright stated, "I really want to just thank everyone that was involved the staff, the first responders and all the other agencies that stepped in to help. My thoughts and prayers go out to those that lost their homes. Fortunately again we had no fatalities but even more prayers go to our Sheriff's office and deputies they never really had a recovery time after their tragic event a few weeks ago. This kind of pushed it aside but our deputies stood strong and they got up on their feet and they worked around the clock tirelessly to ensure that we were protected and that we were safe. I want to thank our public works and capital projects crew. I was allowed to tag along with them for search and rescue and I can tell you it is a life-changing experience when you have to pull people out of their homes. You see it on TV but you never expected in your own community. So I want to thank them and everybody for their hard work."

Councilman Snyder stated, "It is always nice to say thank God for good things and bad things. The bad things have to build the muscle up a little bit. So thank God we didn't have any casualties. I think there was an effort by a lot of people that prevented that from happening. I was sitting down with my thoughts and I decided to get the thoughts of that day and that night and put them on paper and these are some of the thoughts I had. I think those that helped me in district 6, that help everyone in district 6. The civilians in boats. My man Mr. Robinson who had a 91-year-old lady in his boat and they got stuck in the middle of Cambridge and had to find a place for her and he stopped me and said what can we do I said please find a place for this lady until we can get an ambulance there. All the people in pickup trucks who were hauling people to the front of Cambridge going back as far as they can go in picking up more people. The bus drivers. I talked to the parish president and I said I need some help. She said if you can get somebody with a CDL I can get a bus for them go to the school and get the buses. I said thank you. I knew two people off hand Emery Dents and Warren Snyder, Jr. I called them and they left their families and went got busses. They must've hauled 500 people from out of there. All of them until 11 or 12 o'clock that night. The administration I really think this thing acted so swiftly and I think they acted swiftly and when the storm surge was up on us. You know 90% of the people that were affected

by that storm had to go to a shelter, 90% of them. We had them rescued. We had them processed and we had them fed and they were on their way to a shelter by midnight. They had buses lined up to take those people. I remember in one of the meeting I heard something that the president said that the governor said we could have all the buses we want and when I was bringing people over there to new wine church I didn't see a bus but a few hours later they had enough buses there to start a caravan. They never ran out of buses. We ran out of people before we ran out of buses, nice buses to take people to safety and they were happy to get on those buses and get out of that water. So I have to tell the administration good job on such swiftly and effectively jumping on that storm and doing the right thing to get our people safe and the governor who provided those buses and the National Guard. They came in and help us that night with lights, big boats and helped to get people out of the fingertips of Cambridge where there was no light and got people there and brought them to the buses and I would like to especially thank Mr. Vincent our finance director for his untiring efforts to help coordinate the activities at new wine and not one time did I see him lose it all and there were thousands of people coming up to him including myself asking what do I do, I need that and he kept his cool and the man is a stone and under pressure he did his job he got people coordinated and got them into the spots and got them out of there. So thank you sir and I am going to leave you with this, I believe the soul of a person is hidden by desire so when controversy or challenges present themselves it is manifested in their actions. I saw some wonderful things done during and after this storm. It tells me that we can and will rise to the challenge when someone needs help. I would like to thank a lot of the civilians before the troops got there helping people and the soul of a man came out, people were helping people. If this had happened at night we would probably still be going to funerals because it was so eerie and if one mama would have went down three children would have went down and that would have happened but it happened during the day time so we received a blessing there thank God. We lost no lives. If you pass back there right now you will see 20 to 30 years of savings and working hard on the side of the street wet and torn up but we lost no lives."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "There are so many people to thank and so many blessings that we need to count but I want to thank the employees. I want to thank the ones that went in the helicopter to fix the water so we could flush our toilets. Thank you that was so important to us. It was the little things that we went through. First it was the water, then it was the power, then it was the garbage, now it is the debris it is all steps, it is all healing and together we can get through this. I want to thank our fellow Council members. You all went beyond your job as a Council member no one has said thank you to you yet I'm going to say thank you that isn't a part of our job but we came through. I want to thank all of the people that put out the extra effort, the ones that had to get the tetanus shots because remember you waded in the water and needed a tetanus shot. If you didn't get it you need to get it. There are so many people to think all the people that went so far beyond their efforts. I know they were all tired. I understand we were out of strength. I know we all broke down but together we are going to come back stronger for St. John because we have an opportunity to do so."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to share some of those same

comments. I know I am going to miss somebody but I would like to recognize a couple of people. First I would like to recognize Brian Nunes and Daron Cooper as soon as they called and said the water was rising we left out with Michael and started pulling people out of the water and it wasn't even a question of what do we do or how do we do it just do it. I mean there was a lady in a wheelchair we pulled her out the water was up to my shoulder unwavering, unflinching. We drove through neighborhoods until our rescue vehicles had to be rescued that is how bad it was. He said the cream rises to the top and I saw that in those guys. So I want to say thank you to them. Also Randy Vincent, I did encounter him at the shelter the day we were evacuating people and I have to say there is a calmness about you that if people could just come in contact with you an experience that they have actually been blessed because you have something in you that can calm down the situation so I want to thank you for that especially because everybody it was just a disaster and we needed that. I would like to also thank our sheriff anything that we asked for, any time I sent him a text message saying hey Mike we have a looter here, a lady stuck here, they were there we actually joked when are you sleeping so I want to thank him. Our first responders and all of our local police officers, state police, EMT's, fire department when we were in the water like Mr. Larry said they were just regular people, first responders everybody who could help somebody was there and nothing mattered it was just you need to be rescued come on lets go. We worked together as a community. I also would like to send a special thanks to my daughter. She had a comfortable place to be in with air-conditioning and everything else and a comfortable and she slept in the Council office with me just to be with me because she knew that I needed support to. So I really want to thank her for two nights she roughed it out with me and stayed there so I really need to thank her. She showed me just how much strength she has and I am so blessed to have her. I don't know if I would've made it in that office for 48 hours without a shower, hair stiff from muddy Waters I would have probably broken down. She just continued to remind me why I'm here why we're all here doing what we're doing. I also want to thank the Council members. I have been part of many councils and I will say this group of people we have here I almost think that the group that we have here pushed me to even do more because of the way everybody responded, everywhere we went I ran into somebody. I went to New Wine Mr. Larry was driving a bus, Lucien we pumped in the hallway and I think I have seen you more in the last week and a half than we have ever seen each other in our entire lives. You constantly kept me on my toes and kept wanting me to push forward. Butch you all in the neighborhood and so many people saw you delivering ice, MRE's and water you stepped up. Tweet same thing I had people even my own constituents call me and said Mr. Tweet brought me some ice. Art I know you were on the West Bank he took care of the West Bank my hats off to you for doing that. Mike we were in the waters together. Cheryl I was at your house we were helping. I can really say this Council stepped up to the challenge like no other so you need to be thanked. I would also like to think the assessor who came hear and gave us some really good news. I had a house that flooded and tax day is right around the corner so that is good news. I would like to thank all of the residents for their encouragement. A lot of times it was just effortless and there were so many positive things it really just kept the council and it definitely kept me going just to know that you were there supporting me and I was there to support you and to all of our employees I mean sometimes you didn't even have to ask and they knew what you needed as soon as you

walked up and Stacey who got me an air mattress when I was going to sleep on a chair I cannot say thank you enough."

Councilman Gauff stated, "I would like to apologize to my family. I hooked up a generator and I left. I knew they were safe as far as where we were in proximity to the storm and the waters and I knew the type of home we had and I knew I hooked up the generator and they were safe but when your daughters are asking you where are you going and your wife is saying what about us than it does matter and I apologize to them for the hours that I spent away but I hope they understood that our team needed me also and I was trying to work for our constituents and for our parish along with administration. You all, my council, our council didn't see what I saw because you all put me in this position to see administration working tirelessly. We were having meetings sometimes at three in the morning trying to get ready for a six o'clock meeting in the morning. They lived all of them I don't want to leave anybody out but the team worked together for each other and with each other and I will say I am going to say thank you to all of the council people but Butch was the one that communicated with me and said don't worry you just keep communicating with us we are going to help take care of your area also. You were all in the water. You were all in the trenches. I know Mrs. Cheryl said Lucien I'm not getting in the water. I said you don't have to the rest of us will. Everyone took the lead they were not asked to do anything. They did it because they care. They did it because they love St. John Parish and their residents and their constituents. So I want to say thank you to all of you and Col. Ballard with the National Guard because there were times when we wanted things and needed things and he said don't worry if that is what you want that is what we are going to do. When the POD's were giving two bottles of water and a bag of ice, the parish president said no I want a case of water Col. Ballard said tell them she wants a case of water given not two bottles and that was per every person in the vehicle. So we were working. We were hearing your needs. We were hearing what you wanted and he helped us facilitate a lot of that so thank you very much. Sheriff Tregre and your staff thank you for all of your help in coordinating the safe acts of our parish and all of the unsung heroes. Pastor Neil told us whatever you need I'm here, you need my building you can have it here are my people you can utilize them. We needed somewhere for FEMA to set up Mrs. Robottom and the staff they said Lucien this is your project I said okay let me coordinate it with the Pastor. He was actually out of town. The building was a mess and I met with FEMA reps they walked through that building and said do you think you can have it cleaned and I said we will see what we can do and try to get this building cleaned. I went back maybe three or four hours later his staff had that building spotless, they were scrubbing, they had gotten trucks of water in because remember we had no water, they got water to clean the building, scrub it themselves when FEMA came back they said yes we can use this building they told me everything else they needed and we coordinated all of those efforts and we got that building set up. I say that to say thank you Pastor. It has taken a collective effort. I know there were many ministries of faith that without a doubt they just stepped up they wanted to serve the people. So thank you very much and to the residents please be patient with us. We are relatively new and we are all new at this storm and this hurricane and we are trying to get the services that you need. We feel for your lost and needs but we are going to be persistent in getting you more help. So on that note God Bless you all."

There was no executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Cable Franchise Agreement

Any and all pending legal matters

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 10:35 PM, Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/Lucien Gauff, III  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary