

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 2013
CHAIR JACLYN HOTARD
VICE CHAIR LENNIX MADERE

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 24th, 2013, at 6:30 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ABSENT: Cheryl Millet

Councilman Snyder led the Prayer. Councilman Perrilloux led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel Jeff Perilloux and Carl Butler were present.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - St. John Warriors Dizzy Dean State Champions (8 & 11 Year Olds)

Natalie Robottom presented the St. John Warriors Dizzy Dean State Champions to the 8 year olds and congratulated them on a job well done in representing the parish. The council also congratulated the team, the coaches and the families for being so supportive in their child's life.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Shelby Reine - American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Champion

Natalie Robottom presented Shelby Reine who is the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Champion and read a congratulatory letter from the parish and the Council. All of the council members also congratulated Shelby Reine and her family and said how proud they were of such a huge accomplishment.

Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Charles Kennedy, Kennedy Financial

Natalie Robottom presented Charles Kennedy of Kennedy Financial with the Financial Award.

Consent Agenda

Items: Approval of Minutes - September 10th, 2013, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Mind Set Go - 5K Run - 11/16/13; Permit Approval - Andouille Run - 10/20/13; Permit Approval - ESJ Homecoming Parade - 10/25/13; Permit Approval - WSJ Homecoming Parade - 10/11/13

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - September 10th, 2013, Regular Meeting; Permit Approval - Mind Set Go - 5K Run - 11/16/13; Permit Approval - Andouille Run - 10/20/13; Permit Approval - ESJ Homecoming Parade - 10/25/13; Permit Approval - WSJ Homecoming Parade - 10/11/13. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilmen Wilson and Gauff absent.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:

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

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 13-21 from the table. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilmen Wilson and Gauff absent.

Vince Lucia, CFO, stated, *"Each year, the Parish Council is required to adopt the 2013 millage rates on all taxable property listed on the official tax roll. The current millage rates are needed to cover the parish's General Obligation Bonds which are set to expire in 2024. Administration recommends approval."*

Councilwoman Hotard asked, *"Did we look at possibly rolling back any of the millages?"*

Vince Lucia stated, *"Not at this point the actual debt millage is enough to cover our debt through the next several years. At this time we feel comfortable keeping it where it is."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-21. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

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

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to remove Ordinance 13-28 from the table. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

Randy Vincent, CAO, stated, *"The budget presentation will be made as per the Home Rule Charter. Salaries for all employees have been provided to the Council and any proposed salary increases for 2014 will be commensurate with those of previous years. Upon request, a separate salary attachment will be provided to the council."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"What does that mean?"*

Randy Vincent stated, *"Based on the Home Rule Charter administration will submit to the council a recommended budget which will include all of the salary line items."*

Councilman Snyder stated, "So you said it will be included with those also for this year?"

Randy Vincent stated, "Well there is no separation in the budget so whenever the budget is presented just as salaries are presented for the civil service employees, salaries will be presented for non-civil service employees as well."

Councilman Wilson stated, "In that case if we wanted things to stay as they are as far as salaries for these particular people we would have to pass this and sitting down on the budget unless we did the budget for the exact same dollar amount because they are saying they are going to put it in the budget and ask for us to pass that budget and we don't know exactly what is going to who."

Randy Vincent stated, "A part of the comment that was made was that upon request a separate salary schedule will be provided to the council. So there is disclosure of what each of the budget segments would represent."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Thank you Randy I apologize for coming in late I think we give you copies of the budgets and the salaries anytime you ask for them and most recently you received every single employee so whatever the rate adjustment would be we could provide you that as well in an attachment just as we have done in the past anytime we have hired special assistants we give you a scale again all of that prior to any adoption but the charter is what it is and the budget process is very clear. I think what you are asking for is a list of the employees and their salaries that are being proposed for 2014 and we are saying that if you want that list you can have it."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "I just want to ask this for clarification because it seems like I am hearing two different things. The request of the ordinance is that the raises don't be submitted into the budget that we actually have to vote on a budget and then we actually vote to give increases to employees that aren't covered under Ordinance MM1-77 that we want to be able to handle those as two separate items that is my understanding."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I don't think this will stop you from doing that. The budget process will be what it is..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No I don't think he wants to stop I'm thinking you want to allow it..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right and it won't interfere with that obviously you won't approve the budget without approving the individual salaries. So you will have that in advance if you choose not to approve them then when you approve the ordinance you amend it as such to remove..."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And I think this takes out that step I am just going to get clarification that once the budget is submitted we won't have to amend it or remove salary increases from that budget. We can vote on those as two separate items that seems like that is what the request is."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is what the request is."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay and per the charter the parish president submits a budget and they have since the charter began. We will continue to do that and provide you with a list and should you want to amend it as you have the right to amend it as you have the right to amend any line item within the budget you can do that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to get a clarification from legal really quickly. Just so I can understand what I am voting on. The ordinance is asking that the salary increases for any non-classified employee can't be approved unless they are submitted separately. Is this budget legal? Is it in violation of the charter?"

Jeff Perilloux, Legal Counsel, asked, "Is what in violation of the charter?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "This ordinance what Mrs. Robottom is saying that the charter requires that they submit a budget and we vote on the budget. Can we actually introduce this ordinance that states that we won't provide any salary increases through a normal adoption of the budget but it has to be submitted separately?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "We pass a budget on an annual basis within the budget, which is required by charter, within the budget are salary items. You can choose to pass those salary items. You can choose to amend those salary items. You can choose to reject those salary items. You have that authority right now every time a budget is presented to you all on an annual basis. This particular ordinance however specifically addresses increases in salaries and my reading of this ordinance is that it would affect any salary increases for employees who are not covered under an ordinance that was adopted some time ago, I think in 2001, that specifically addressed civil service employees and the council secretary as I recall but that ordinance was adopted and provides for an annual increase I don't remember the exact percentage for those employees."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Okay so the ordinance is allowable and it is legal?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Yes the ordinance is allowable and legal."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Is it subsequently doing what we already do except that we are asking or the way the ordinance is written it is just asking for the increase to be voted on separately?"

Jeff Perilloux stated, "My reading of it is that yes it would be requiring that yes."

Councilman Gauff stated, "But in essence it is already in the budget itself."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "You pass a budget on an annual basis which may or may not have salary increases that is correct."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually it is just presented, what I present to you is a proposal. It is a president's proposed budget and I'm not negating whether the ordinance is legal or not or whether you have the right to vote on it separately what I am saying is that I will provide it to you. If you want to vote on it separately have at it but they will be in the budget as is required by my responsibility as a president which is to submit a budget for the year."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think the ordinance points to salary increases and that is what I am asking about salary increases. You are telling me that whether you give them an increase or not it is just going to be part of the budget."

Natalie Robottom stated, "No I didn't say that. I said I would provide you the information to look at but it will also be part of the budget which is required just as you received a list of all employees and what they are making now you will receive a list with what is being proposed for them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Any other contractor that comes through here that we have a contract with if they want an increase we have to vote on it. It is brought to us that way. An increase of this particular contract is this and this is how much it is going to be and if we want to cut it back then you bring it to us that way and that is the way I want to see this done."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And that is what you are going to get."

Councilman Snyder stated, "As long as I can see.."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And you are going to get it for all employees because you have the responsibility for doing it not just for non-civil service but for all of them."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well MM1-77 tells me how to treat the other employees."

Natalie Robottom stated, "So are you saying and I will go historically this council and previous ones have gone with 3% and 2% and 5% which has been the typical rate increase. Are you saying that sticking with MM1-77 that this council wants only 3%?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I want 5%."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just want to be clear."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay on that one I don't think that the topic is about whether the MM1-77 is 3% or 5%....."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well he brought it up."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And I am telling you what I want I want the 5%."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I will make a budget presentation and present it to you and as the council you will vote and that rest within your authority to vote."

Jeff Perilloux asked, "I just want to clarify. You are not stating that you want this ordinance to apply to that because this ordinance doesn't address the 5%."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know it doesn't."

Jeff Perilloux stated, "Okay you would have to introduce another ordinance for that purpose. If that is what the council chooses to do you can introduce another ordinance to accomplish that on an annual basis like the MM1-77 accomplished several years ago, that increase is automatic every year for classified employees."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "So this ordinance that we want to approve or not approve is if we are going to give non-civil service workers a 5% raise?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "No the ordinance is going to require right now the way I guess it is received is that we receive a budget with all of the increases at one time and if we want to not increase non-classified employees we have to actually remove them from the budget or vote no or amend the budget. The ordinance is that we will actually be presented with raises for non-classified employees separately so that we have to vote on those raises separately because the other raises are already set by ordinance. We don't have any change to that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It actually it is not set that everybody will get 5%."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Well the civil service I am referencing."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It is not even that because they top out and some of them will get 3%. So again we are trying to resolve a budget issue in a non-budget meeting and the bottom line is you get everything you ask for. I have never proposed a raise without telling you so there are not secrets. You know what the amounts are so if I say it is 5% or 3% we calculate it and provide it. So the assumption that there is something hidden is I guess misleading 5% of the numbers you have is 5% of the numbers you have."

Councilman Wilson stated, "I can see that we are going to have to have many workshops on this budget."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We will be glad to do that as a matter of fact we had two for about five hours last year everyone did not choose to attend but we went through the budget page by page and line by line and we will do the same thing again this year and it may be helpful if you started looking at the monthly financial report that gives you to the penny the percentage per month and if you start with reviewing the process for last year's budget which changed we did something a little bit different in terms of going back the last five years and showing you the change and again in preparation for those meetings we welcome them."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-28. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

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

Councilman Madere stated, *"This was something that took several months. First someone complained that the sign was in the wrong location and then I went to look at it and it was in the wrong location and then we made the correction and then Mr. Gauff got involved when a lady called and I spoke to her on the phone and we have everything straight. So where the sign is intended to be is now in the right location. So that is what this ordinance does place it in the right location."*

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-38. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

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

Vince Lucia stated, *"The 2013 budgets were amended to reflect the 2012 audited fund balances and other amendments to date. Explanations for all amendments were forwarded to the council on 9-19-13 and are also attached for your review."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Are we looking at the audits for 2012 and adjusting our budget for 2013?"*

Vince Lucia stated, *"Audited fund balances we adjusted for this year in order for you to know the actual fund balance and when we present you with the future monthly budget reports you will see the difference in there through the end of the year."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"This is the federal audit?"*

Vince Lucia stated, *"It is the independent audit, our audit firm."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 13-39. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Hotard stated, *"Mr. Smith would like to ask that the council accept the recommendation of the finance committee."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. The motion passed with 7 yeas, 1 absent (Millet) and 1 abstaining (Hotard).

DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:

Councilman Perrilloux stated, *"I have a question for Mr. Rayneri. I want to say thank you to Mrs. Robottom for answering the email about*

the amoeba virus bacteria in the water thank you for staying on top of it and putting safety precautions in place. Mr. Rayneri I just want to know where we are on the hook up of the water in St. Charles Parish and how far are we from completing that?"

Virgil Rayneri, Utilities Director, stated, "I'm glad you asked that question because I was thinking about the same subject this morning. We have the issue of the line connection to St. Charles and the line has been bored and is not waiting to install the meter and also the backflow preventer system in so once we do that tomorrow we will pressure test the line and then we have to decontaminate it by running bacteria samples, we have to do two set of samples so that will probably take a couple of more days and then we should be able to go into the second stage which is the testing part of the system. We want to acquire enough information to know exactly how much flow we are going to get from that system so as a backup we know what we have and as you very well know I'm going to continue to get into the well also. This is part of the first stage. Once we recognize how much flow we are going to get from that system and the flow that we have from Reserve then we are going to flow test what are we going to get from the system that we have temporarily at the well to supply water in emergency conditions then once we are satisfied with that flow rate of the test we will initiate the videoing of the number 2 well and the replacement of the pump itself."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Thank you for the update. Also another question I had since you brought the wells up also that was one of the questions I was going to ask. Where are we as far as raising the electrical at Ruddock? I know we had plans on raising the electrical portion up higher is that still on?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Yes sir it is and there is a little battle going on between us and FEMA and it is all paperwork and a year later we are still doing paperwork. I don't have a good answer for you Mr. Perrilloux but that is where we are."

Councilman Perrilloux asked, "I guess we have Chuck working on that helping us out?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "Chuck has been helpful on several items."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Just one more question Mrs. Robottom said about the forgiveness loan when will that project start do you have any idea about the line under the river?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "The line under the river is in progress going on and we applied for the permit. I believe that we don't have any issues with the Corps itself but we do have another situation that we have to resolve with permitting and then after that is done then we will initiate the process but the design of the system is probably 80% complete."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "Okay I appreciate it just keep us posted."

Councilman Snyder asked, "I'm not exactly sure who to direct this to but as far as the drainage study that was done is it for the public to

see yet? Is it finished? I see some things that started in my area this week but as far as the report that we already have can it go public? Can anyone from the public look at it?"

Randy Vincent stated, "The CES report, the report you are referring to, is not yet complete but I am sure if you need an update Brian would be more than happy to speak with any of you to let you know where we are at at this particular time."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That is all I was concerned about was could we use if the public wanted to look at it but if it isn't ready yet that is fine that is what I needed to know. A couple of meetings ago Mr. Madere wanted to know something about developed and undeveloped property and that was supposed to come back to us this week. Has that been done yet?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I think we have that item on the agenda a little further down."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I didn't want to miss that and I understand we got the CDBG money anything on the operators for the ferry yet?"

Randy Vincent stated, "We are not at that stage yet Mr. Snyder we have gotten a little bit further with the actual CEA and we are now working on the RFP with the DOTD so we are pushing the process along."

Councilman Madere asked, "Mr. Rayneri on the infiltration project I know we have completed Phase I and I know we are just about or how far are we into Phase II? Are we finished with Phase II?"

Virgil Rayneri stated, "No sir Mr. Gerald Babin is here and he can give you a better report than I can give you."

Gerald Babin, PEC, stated, "Mr. Madere the contractor started, as you know, on the lining portion. I think you witnessed some of that work. They did about 70% of their lining work and there is some work on the lining that they need point repairs to be completed prior to finishing that line. The next phase within this second phase is point repair where we are actually going to cut the streets open and replace a section of line that has collapsed or something that is scheduled to start on Monday and I think that will probably go a good two months of point repair and then once the point repairs are made the lining contractor will get back in and line some additional lines. His contract end date is December 4th."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay thank you and at the end of the meeting I would like to talk to you. Mr. Nunes I was inquiring about the property on E. 22nd Street and I want to thank you for looking into barricading the back of it to stop people from going across and I think you looked into putting a fence on that back portion and I think that may be a little too bit expensive for us just to barricade that off to put a fence there and I mentioned to you the last time about just pulling that culvert out of that ditch in that particular area and I talked to the individuals who go and cut the grass back there and they can get on that property from E. 20th or E. 21st Street so removal of that culvert will definitely stop the traffic that is going across that property and still would allow us to get in there and cut the grass. So

instead of a fence or any other type of barricade I think that might be the best solution is to pull it up and bring it to the storage yard and if we ever need to put it back we will put it back and that will definitely stop that traffic and it wouldn't cost the parish anything as far as putting a fence up but I thank you for looking into it and I appreciate it if you would consider that possibility."

Brian Nunes, Director of Roads & Bridges, stated, "We did look into it and got a quote on that fence and it was a lot higher than I thought it would be but I will talk to my grass cutting foreman tomorrow morning first thing and if he is okay with doing it and our equipment is okay with getting in and as long as we aren't crossing any private property to get in there then that is something that we can definitely look into."

Councilman Madere stated, "Mr. Boucvalt I want to thank you because when I called you Saturday about the movie production that was going on and you contacted Mrs. Paige and she responded to you very quickly. The only concern I have with that is I think that we and myself as the councilman in my district we need to know in advance because when I woke up Saturday morning and took a ride and saw all of the trucks if I had received phone calls I wouldn't have been able to give them any type of information. So I think before any vehicle or any movie set rolls into District III or any District I think the councilman should be informed of it first. I understand that Mr. Gauff may have known something about it but that is Mr. Gauff and I am not scolding anyone about it. I understand but just in the future I would like to know in advance before anything enters my district that I represent because in case I get a phone call that morning I want to be able to respond to the resident and not have to make phone calls to you or to anyone else. So in the future if you could just make sure that we get that information first I would appreciate it."

Jobe' Boucvalt, Director of Public Safety, stated, "Not a problem."

Larry Snyder - (Carry Over 9-10-13) Discussion relative to creating an independent committee for evaluating RFQ's and RFP's

Councilman Snyder stated, "We have carried this over and I just want to start some discussion on it among the council and get your feedback on it and just discuss it. I don't think these RFP's and RFQ's to evaluate them is reinventing the wheel. I mean I know some intelligent people that can read with understanding and I don't see why we can't come up with an independent group that would look at our RFP's and RFQ's and give us the evaluation on it and it is kind of above board none of us would have any personal interest in anything except for the fact that we represent St. John Parish and try to do as good a job as we can with the responsibility they gave us. So that is why I was looking at it and put it on the agenda and I just want to get your feedback what do you think? Can we do this and do we want to do it? I have actually had some feedback from people in business and some of the reasons why they don't turn some of these things in and I see some other parishes that do it this way also. They get independent groups that do this and they report directly to the council and the council selects them. It is our job anyway to select the RFQ's and RFP's and people who want to do work for us and if we had our own group I just want to get your feelings on it."

Randy Vincent stated, "The current process, which reflects best practices, is the mechanism chosen by the Parish President to assist in making recommendations to the Council. The process involves appointment of committee members based on subject matter knowledge, knowledge of the parish and parish processes, and knowledge of the project. This system is proven and will continue to be utilized by the President. However, in no way does this restricts the Council from reviewing and evaluating proposals or selecting someone to do so for them; all proposal information is received at a public meeting. The Council's authority ultimately rests with approval or rejection of the President's recommendation. Again, to avoid compromising the selection process, as has been done in other parishes, Administration requests that legal counsel investigate this request further to avoid potential conflicts of interest and to maintain a separation of powers and duties."

Councilman Gauff stated, "How do I say this? I guess the way I feel is that is a lot of responsibility to put in a civilian's hands and this is just my opinion you said we were opening this up for discussion to put together a group. I'm thinking we have to appoint a group then to appoint or get a group together that is going to sit and read all of these proposals that come in. I think it is a lot of responsibility for that group. I am not saying it can't be done. I just think that is a lot of responsibility if this group is going to be the same group every time those are volunteers. How much time and how many hours are they going to put into this not that they can't and not that they won't but I think it is a lot of responsibility that is put upon them. Also I think as non-elected officials and or persons that deal with the possibilities of improprieties such as someone sitting there and maybe their relative comes before them or they realize that there is a relative or someone that is bidding and I'm just not sure how much of the laws and responsibilities that they would actually take to say you know I am going to excuse myself from this. So I just think it is a lot of responsibility for us to put on a civilian group or an outside entity other than and I am not saying that they don't or aren't qualified to do it because I think we do have people in the parish that are qualified but I am just not sure. I would like to hear more on how some other municipalities do it because you did say some are doing it just get more information on how they are doing it so that I am more knowledgeable of that."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I have a comment really quick and maybe I can answer some of those items and a lot of parishes do things differently than what we do and in Jefferson the way it works, I know you had mentioned it is a lot to ask on an individual group to evaluate but what they do is on an annual basis they actually receive RFP's and RFQ's similar to what this council actually just did and they don't rank them they are assigned so many points based on criteria that is already set. So that group meets annually and assigns so many points to those firms for routine items. They actually have a threshold amount that is \$300,000.00 and so if there are projects that are \$300,000.00 and under they can pull from that list and they are already assigned a number, it is not a ranking they specifically say it is not a ranking but they have that number and then the council selects from there. They also have something in their ordinance in Jefferson that allows I believe maybe six months into a year let's say they want to open it back up and get some more it could be a new engineering firm or

architectural firm just to make sure they are not leaving anybody out they will open it another time in the year to add to the list and then if they have items that are over \$300,000.00 or that maybe specific to something let's say a water system, they will actually do that over \$300,000.00 but underneath that amount they also classify let's say different engineering firms based on a water expert, a sewer expert or just whatever their expertise is in and the council chooses from there. So just to kind of give you that piece of information is that it is not every single time they have to actually put a committee together they already put that committee together one time a year. They have all of the firms submit which the administration has already gone out for RFP's and RFQ's just to build a data base of engineers and some professional service providers but that is just what I have gathered from Jefferson looking at their ordinances and talking with some of their council members and how they handle it there and it is similar in a lot of other parishes what they do."

Councilman Gauff asked, "But they aren't bidding specifically they are just going over in general then putting a list together and then choosing someone from the list so it isn't a specific RFP or RFQ."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And we actually, this council, I don't remember how many months ago the administration did make a request for RFP's and RFQ's to build a data base of engineers so that is exactly the same thing that happens in Jefferson but in Jefferson they actually have that technical committee let's say they will get a department head from utilities or public works so that they can evaluate water, sewerage and those different expertise's representative from the council, some outside independent professionals and they just if you have 100 firms that submit everybody gets a number let's say it is 0-100 everybody gets a number and in that ordinance I believe in Jefferson you can actually pull it up they have criteria let's say if you completed a project in that parish before that is 20 points. If you have this many or a firm of this size or the capability to handle a job of this size you get so many points so it is not subjective. It is all laid out and they try to eliminate some of that okay this is somebody that I know or a relative of this person it is all laid out in the criteria you get points based on certain things. So I think it is a good discussion to have. I think it is definitely something to send some of that information over to legal to say hey obviously these parishes are doing this, their charters are very similar whereas the council, those councils do enter into all of the contracts so they are involved in the selection and I think it is definitely worth taking a little bit deeper look into."

Councilman Gauff asked, "Who does their homework and sees like to put this group together? Does the council put them together? Does the administration?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Each council member appoints one."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yes they have that and they also he said they pull a public works director and a public utilities director because they only come together that one time to assign those numbers so you will have some outside and some inside and then you will have those respective department head directors."

Councilman Gauff asked, "What is the size of that committee?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I don't know. I didn't ask that. I was just once we had the item on the agenda I said let me call around and look at some other ordinances and contact some other governing bodies and see what it is that they do."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I did. I went online to Jefferson Parish's website and they have a pretty much comprehensive process that they use there and if you take the time to look at it you can see where it does create a lot of confidence with the people in government in that the people are doing it. We cannot sell our people short. We have committees that take care of our P&Z, Recreation and some of our boards when they make a decision we can't change it and we have people that we all appointed to that board of adjusters and that is the state law if they make a suggestion on something did we think they weren't good enough for that when we put them on that board of adjustments. I mean even the council can't tell them what to do and the council can't change their decision. So we cannot sell our people short. All of the RFP's and RFQ's that we get who is doing them now? Is everybody qualified or are there maybe one or two that are qualified? We have qualified people for sewerage, drainage, water under the river. It is not rocket science. You read it and you look at it and you make a gut feeling that this guy seems to be qualified, has plenty of experience with the paper work that we see and we just can't cut our people short is what I am saying. I know we all know some intelligent people that can do that and read and get some understanding of it but like I said that was just some thoughts and I wanted to get your feelings on how you feel about it. We talk about transparency that is the ultimate transparency. I don't know have a name right now I can put on there but I know if this is council says that is what we are going to do then my brain will start working on it and I will try to figure out the best person for the job."

Randy Vincent stated, "Just a couple of comments you did bring up the type of systems that are in other parishes and you mentioned a pool basically of vendors and contractors. We are in the middle of that process now with our A&E proposal that the council did give us authorization to go out for. We have fifty different proposals that we are currently evaluating by two groups of parish employees from different departments that are evaluating those. So a pool is a good approach. We are basically utilizing that pool because of the impact of the different proposals we are facing since Hurricane Isaac. So that is what initiated us to go down that particular road to look into that. The counsel was out of the chambers for the last part of my comment and I just want to reiterate that and make one other comment and the last thing I said was that administration requests that legal counsel investigate this request further to avoid potential conflicts of interest and to maintain a separation of powers and duties. We have had a couple of brief conversations about that but I do want to make sure that we went on record indicating that we need you to do that and the last comment I want to make is to ensure the council that we do follow process, it is a tedious process that we currently have going at this time."

Carl Butler, Legal Counsel, stated, "Mr. Snyder we had spoken about this I don't know if you had any questions for me about it but I was

out when you made your presentation but we did speak about it and I think the issues that we spoke about perhaps have already been addressed."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't have anything imp articular but we got a group of people to get together and came up with a plan to reshape how this parish will recover from Isaac and I thought they did a fantastic job. Now we had a lot of people that came together with a plan for different departments and we called it the PAC and we spent a lot of money on that and we used the ideas but these were everyday people just like you and I so you can't cut people short especially people that have an invested interest in their community but I don't have anything special thank you."

Lennix Madere/Larry Snyder - Grass cutting

Councilman Snyder stated, "Councilman Madere and I spoke about this and I also spoke to the administration about it and we are so concerned with the people who are violating their grass cutting responsibilities and it seems like we are just not thinking about the people next door or the people that are adjacent to that property and I think we have to start thinking about that and I was just thinking that maybe if that grass is three feet high go cut the grass and we can work with them after the people with the violation but we need to think about the people who are suffering every day when we are going through this long process and people see snakes in the yard and they have the coyotes back there now we have to think about those people also."

Angelic Sutherland, Director of P&Z, stated, "The way our codes stand now we cannot address it in that manner otherwise and legal may want to back me up on this we would have a lot of law suits for not providing notice or due process for those violations however I did look in other parishes and for example St. Charles has an emergency grass cutting ordinance to where if there is some kind of health or safety risk to the public, but it has to be proven, then it is possible to do an emergency grass cutting measure in that event. The way the code is written currently that is not the case."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So if somebody comes and cuts my grass tomorrow I will not sue them."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "You won't but once we bill you you might."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Now again you are forgetting about that person next door who has to put up with the high grass and who is trying to cut the grass in their yard to keep it nice that is what I am talking about."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I agree and I have tall grass houses next to my house and I still have to sit through the process so I understand the frustration and like I said we are going through the process and will talk to you about what takes a long time in our process when we are dealing with the postal service, those that are repeat offenders obviously take a lot less time to address those and we can get to those quicker but those properties that we have to send notice to the notice is tallied or we give them 15 days from the day they receive the notice. If the post office takes 3 weeks with 3 attempts to deliver and

it takes them a month before they get the green card back to us we have to wait for that information from the post office and that adds an extra 3-4 weeks to the process which is something that is out of our control but again on those repeat offenders when that ordinance was changed it does reduce the time significantly."

Councilman Snyder asked, "With the repeat offenders do we go cut their grass again and it is a shorter time you said?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Yes it is what happens is if you have already received a violation for that calendar year and you have gone through the regular notice process receiving a notice by certified mail the second time and any subsequent times after that for that calendar year we just have to send you a notice by regular mail and we assume that you have received it after five days so we don't have to wait a month to get the green card back. It is five days and then you have your fifteen days to cut so it reduces the time significantly."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have something set up whereas if I cut it the first time when it was this high and then it is a repeat offender and now it is higher do you call me back or do you call someone else back? Do you understand where I am coming from here?"

Angelic Sutherland asked, "What do you mean?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "What I am saying is if I went and cut it, I cleaned it off and I cut it the grass was high..."

Angelic Sutherland asked, "You are talking about the vendors?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes the contractors. So if it is a repeat offender for that particular property do you call me back or do you call the next person on the list?"

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We call the next person on the list. We have a rotating list with I think 9 grass vendors and we use the next person on the list and we assign them the job."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well you might want to consider calling that guy who did all the work in getting it cleaned up and call him back. I mean it is a process and if there is a better way to handle the process just think about it that is all I am saying, just think about it."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We put our expectations out there to our grass vendors so regardless of who cuts it it should be cut the same way."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well cutting it from really high and then cutting it when it is just 12 inches is a big difference."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "I agree but at .03 cents a square foot they are probably getting three times the amount that you would normally cut a regular lot. So I think you are getting compensated for that."

Councilman Madere stated, "I want to piggy back on what Mr. Snyder said. There is a property in Reserve on 25th Street and I am not going to give any names, that has been a problem in that area for a while and

finally the individual that cut it this time did a really good job, he did such a good job that the people in the neighborhood said that they didn't realize how big the property was because they couldn't see it because all of the grass that was on the fence line and when we had that meeting several months ago with you and the vendors and I am pretty sure these other councilmen expect the same thing in their district. I expect when a property is cut in my district that it looks good and not just a rush job and I know some people say that we are not in the grass cutting business that is true but I guess we are because we cut grass every single day. So my thing is we need to express to our vendors how we want it cut and how when they leave it should look. It should look as though it has been freshly cut, all debris picked up and not simply cut over the debris and all of the fence line should be clean and that particular property if I would have showed you the fence line before and then let you ride by it today it is a tremendous improvement. I was passing that property on Saturday and I turned around because I saw the guy out there working. He had three individuals out there working. One with a bag picking up while he was cleaning the fence line and the neighbor is out there giving him a hand. Now that piece of property has been cut at least three times this year and this is the first time it is right. So what I am saying is that when I pass and see grass being cut in my district on a property that is a repeat offender I am looking for a good job and not just a rush job. If you are going to spend parish money spend it for a job well done and I think that is the important thing that we are looking for not only that he does a good job but that the people in the surrounding houses feel good about it when they look out especially if their property is maintained to that standard. So I think that is one of the biggest issues and the other issue is concerning the process. I understand all of the process and I understand that we have to go through the state in order to get that 15 day reduced and that won't be able to happen until the next growing season but the problem I see is from the time that it is written up and is given to the secretary to type there is a big problem in that area right there too and I think maybe the reason is I think we have 6 code enforcement officers. Okay with 4 officers and 2 inspectors turning in that amount of week and I spoke to some of them and sometimes they turn in 6-8 a day or maybe more so one individual typing all of that is a lot of work and that slows the process down because by the time that is typed up and then given out and then wait to be mailed out and then wait for a green card to come back and then wait another additional 15 days and then wait for a contractor to accept the job and he may take another 3-4 days and then we have a situation like we have here on Cherry Street. The last time the grass was cut was May 29th, the last time it was cut and here we are going out of the month of September and that property is still waiting to be cut. So somewhere we need to speed this process up and this isn't the only property Mr. Perrilloux says he has areas like that too and on Cherry Street all of these individuals have very well kept property and lawns that is the only eyesore in that particular area and I get calls constantly about that property and just yesterday it was given to a contractor and I haven't had a chance to pass there today to see if it was cut but when I do go there I expect it to be cut nice and neat, weedeated around the house, all the trash picked up and be representative of the other houses that are in that neighborhood and that is what I am looking for. I think we need to express this to the contractors and I think every councilman in here is looking for that in their neighborhood."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Okay you have a lot of issues that I need to address but I have answers for all of them. Let's start with Cherry because you stated that one hasn't been cut since May to me that would be an issue with the code officer that I would need to address. I personally don't go out and inspect properties so I don't pay attention to what needs to be cut or to what isn't cut yet that is the responsibility of the code officers and the inspectors so maybe that wasn't one that was followed up on in enough time by that individual however since then we have instituted a policy where all of them have to keep a list of the repetitive violations in their district so that will assist them in trying to better manage and follow up on those properties that you know you are going to cut multiple times because the property owners just do not keep up with their own properties. You have 6 code officers and you said we have 1 secretary typing up work orders, we actually have two secretaries in the code enforcement office prior to 2012 there was only one and that one person was responsible for everything, for 4 code officers and 2 inspectors that person typed all the violations, did all the invoicing, all the purchase orders, all the liens, all the close outs of all of the files. In 2012 we were lucky to get an additional secretary and the work was divided among the two during grass season we do seem to fall behind because at that time on top of all of the other violations that we had you now had grass violations and numerous grass violations so we do fall behind. When that happens, myself as director, makes accommodations so now the other secretary is also helping out on typing violations as well as still continuing to do the things on the back end. So we do fall behind at times and the season of the year dictates that but we make accommodations and we make adjustments for that. Again that new system that we talked about we haven't gone back to SCP they actually have a draft that is ready for us to view, my zoning regulatory administrator actually has a meeting with them I think next week to go and look at that system and work out any kinks we might have with it hopefully that will be online at the beginning of the year and in the next month or two the grass violations are going to dwindle down we are not going to be writing grass so things should kind of go back to normal and we shouldn't be that far behind at that point but at any given time we may be a week behind on once an item was submitted and once it is typed out but I do have excellent employees that volunteer to stay after work and try to catch up on those things. Some actually take it home off the clock and try to catch up so I do want to commend my employees for going that extra mile in trying to keep up with all of these numerous violations."

Councilman Madere stated, "Number one when you said about the code enforcement officer she did do her job indicated on this paper it was written up on again on the 7/31/13 it was cut in May and she wrote it up again on the 7/31 of this year and from that time until now it hasn't been cut. So it is not an indication of if the code enforcement officer is doing her job because that isn't what I am saying. She is doing her job. It is the process that is the problem and the amount of work. I understand you said you have some other secretaries that help out but maybe we need to add another secretary full time during grass season so that we don't fall behind because we know that is the busiest time of year so we have to do something to maintain. We just simply tell the people accept the fact that we fall behind because it is busy. I know we have a lot of things going on in the parish concerning the

storm. We picked up extra people to help out so we could get this completed because it was a lot of work. So I think during grass season time we need to beef up our employees to help get the violations out and don't simply accept that fact that it is a growing season that we are going to fall two or three months behind. We need to do what it takes to get it cut on a timely basis without being two months and in some cases three months behind. So when we know there is a problem during that time of the year then we should make some type of an adjustment to solve that problem. So that is my answer to the response on that issue right there. In no way did I say that the code enforcement officers are not doing their job. I think they are all doing a wonderful job but because of the amount of work that they have they are not able to keep up and those are some of the things that are causing the problems so in that time of the year maybe we need to look at hiring more people to take care of this situation so that we aren't a month or two months behind."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "We do have a temporary employee in P&Z that when I was actually informed by the officers that we were behind I actually started sending her over to code enforcement and taking her from P&Z to help them and assist them in catching up."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay I think we need to keep one during that time. Now I think we had one other issue concerning the grass I think it is for legal."

Carl Butler, Legal Counsel, stated, "I think you did receive my letter. Did you find that sufficient to answer your concerns?"

Councilman Madere stated, "No I did not. I am going to tell you why. I always do my research so I have three copies of the ordinance that the parish has and I had three other lawyers look at it and gave me an opinion about it and all three agreed that it is plain and simple what it states and I don't think you were here when I first proposed this question it was never in a rural area. When I asked the question it was concerning an area where there is already homes that have been developed not in a rural area. I am talking about in a subdivision and in Reserve and if anyone says Reserve is a rural area you will have a big problem with the residents of Reserve and a big problem with me. Reserve is not a rural area. It is a historical part of St. John Parish along that River Road, they call it historical River Road. So any home that is in that particular area is not considered rural. In fact Reserve in the beginning was the capital of St. John Parish LaPlace was the one that didn't have anything and just started to develop. So LaPlace went from rural to what it is now and Reserve has never been rural. So your answer to my question is not the answer that I was asking you about. I am asking about an area inside of a residential area, inside of an area that has been developed and people have been living there and this particular area I have been there. I grew up there. So I knew that this particular land was maintained and cut, developed, had a horse on it and I could see clean across over 400 feet of that property plus they had an oil well that they drilled on that property. Now once the oil well was removed and the horses were gone I think the original owner of this property may have died and I think the property changed hands and this one big lot in that back area was allowed to grow into the condition that it is now that the residents that live across from it are the ones that are complaining about it and

I am not going around looking for things to complain about but as the Councilman in District III if anyone calls me with any concerns about any particular item it is my job and my duty to look into it and give them the best possible answer and according to what I read well I don't need to read it to you."

Carl Butler stated, "No I have read it already and again I am simply trying to understand the nature of the question and my understanding was that we were dealing with a wooded lot as you described that is in an area that perhaps is within 300 feet of a home."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right and the ordinance simply states any building, it doesn't necessarily have to be a house within 300 feet of any property, any building whether occupied or vacant it must be maintained at 12 inches and they don't say cut trees because the trees have been on that property for 30 - 40 years. We are talking about the grass and the bushes that have grown under those trees that needs to be cleaned out and that is what I am concerned about and it has nothing to do with a rural area. This is an area that has been developed, people have lived there for 40 - 50 years and I know exactly about the area you can't see two feet into that property now where you used to be able to see and I found out through Pictometry from that house to the softball field is over 300 feet so we were able to look 300 feet from that house into that property and now you can see 2 feet into it. So the residents would like to know according to the parish ordinance does it state that any property within 300 feet, and I think that is what it states, it must be maintained at 12 inches."

Carl Butler stated, "Again I think that the ordinance deals with grass. My understanding is that this lot has been reported and it has been inspected by the inspectors and they have determined that there are no citable violations because we are not dealing with grass we are dealing with a lot that has trees on it that has been there for over 20 years."

Councilman Madere stated, "That is not true. Here is what you are dealing with and I will take you over there if you want to see it then you might make a better judgment on it. Okay those trees that are there are big trees they have been there more than 20 years they are some big trees and the sampling of the little trees or the bushes that are underneath that area they are not trees they are just a lot of bushes that could be bush hogged down, that can be cut. I am not asking anyone with a tree company to go in there and start cutting trees that is not what we are asking for. We are asking for the grass because that property that I am talking about has the same thing that the property on 25th Street has just tall grass that has been allowed to grow and multiple and has become so thick that you need a bush hog to get out there and cut it. It is the same thing and the property on 25th Street would be looking just like the property on 31st Street if they were allowed to do the same thing that this property has been allowed to do and that is to just grow and grow and sure you have little trees that are two years old and if you don't do anything with it they will become three, four, five and twenty years old. So what I am saying is that according to this ordinance and I had three other lawyers look at it they say it is plain and simple it needs to be cut."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Mr. Butler and Mr. Madere if I may do you think it would be possible and maybe through P&Z that we can do another

inspection of the property to determine if it is a matter of overgrowth or if it is trees just to get a better ruling given all the facts we have here tonight."

Councilman Madere stated, "An inspection is not going to do it you need a ruling on this law then once you have a ruling on this law then the inspection can take place because the inspection the last time failed. It is not an inspection. You need a complete ruling on what the ordinance is saying and it was also amended to explain clearly what it meant. It says it shall be unlawful for an owner of any property, any property, whether occupied or vacant in St. John the Baptist Parish to permit the growth of grass or weed and that is what we are talking about to be cut grass and weed to a height of more than 12 inches within 300 feet of any existing building or be permitted to grow unhealthy trash debris and everything and the property that I am talking about has all of those classifications in there and this was given as an amendment to clarify what they meant. So I think it is clear that they mean those type of properties should be cut and maintained and not allowed to grow because if 25th Street was not cut we would have on 25th Street to the front of the River Road what we have half the way down 31st Street and like I said we don't want to hold up the meeting because we can talk about this at your office to get some clarification on it but I think it is pretty obvious what the intent was of any property and the key word is any."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you and just to touch on that really quickly I know we have belabored for a while but I do believe just after speaking with Ms. Sutherland she is aware that we do have some deficiencies in the process. We have identified them and they have taken some corrective action to help move them along. I don't know if we will actually be able to see the fruits of that labor until we get into next grass season because with the new system that is coming on line from SCP with some of the changes and more changes that we are going to make on the legislative side and with having those code officers have that repeat offender list all of those things working together I think that will actually help what we are facing here tonight. So I look forward to seeing some of that work itself through and I do appreciate Ms. Sutherland and you Mr. Butler for working hard at helping to resolve this."

Lennix Madere - Railroad crossing - improvements needed

Councilman Madere asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

Lennix Madere - Blighted house issues

Councilman Madere stated, "I know we have to sit down and come up with a policy for this but I received a list from you the other day on some homes that we will be sending to court to be demolished and I went and took a ride pass all of them except the one in Edgard and two of the ones that I observed, I don't know if you went and checked the list but there is a part in our ordinance that says that Mrs. Robottom can sign off on those two individual homes. I don't think that we need to go to court for those two particular homes because the one on Balsam Street there is no top or floor at all and two sides are missing. So I don't think we need to go to court on that one because it is about ready to fall down in fact one side of it fell off the other day when it rained."

So those are what they call emergency property that she can simply sign off on and that can be taken care of and the next one that is in that kind of condition I went there today in Mt. Airy on Dauphine Street there is only one side of that house left, the rest of it has already fallen down. So there is no need to go to court for those two properties we can save taxpayers money on those two they simply need to send a code enforcement officer out to those two areas, take a picture, show it to Mrs. Robottom she can take one look at it and sign off on it and within 24 hours those particular properties would be on their way out. So we are wasting our time to go to court with those two. The other ones that I went and looked at are very compatible to the one on 30th Street that I have been trying to get the parish to knock down and we can't seem to get that one to court and it is very compatible in terms of the condition of it and the property around it in fact the ones that are going to court are in better condition land wise then the one that I am trying to get to court that we can't seem to get on the list. The grass is cut and maintained by two of those properties and the house simply needs to be boarded up which was told I need to board up the one on 30th Street and the one on 30th Street is directly closer in proximity to any homes in that area. The other ones that we are getting ready to knock down and go to court on are 30 to 40 feet away from any existing house and one is so far back in the grass they would have to cut the grass to see that the building needs to be torn down. So what I am saying is I am not saying take them off of the list, keep them on the list cause they need to be cleaned up. I am just saying in my district on E. 30th that particular house needs to be added to that list and plus another fact is it basically 75% belongs to us because it has been adjudicated to the parish in a few months it will totally be the parishes property and being a part owner of that house in a few months I say tear it down and that is the one on 30th Street."

Angelic Sutherland stated, "Even though a property is adjudicated to the parish until the parish goes through some procedure to actually change the title over to the parish it does not belong to us. So again that is a measure that would have to be taken and as a matter of fact I have had some instances in the past where residents couldn't afford maybe to demolish properties on their own and wanted to actually sign over to us to say I give you permission to go ahead and demolish just bill it to me or what have you. I took that to legal and my advice from legal was no you have to go through the court process. So again you may want to take that up with legal counsel."

Councilman Madere stated, "I understand that I was just saying that house meets all the criteria that these other houses that you have on the list to be demolished not only does it meet the criteria that those houses met it probably in some instances passes some of those houses. So all I am saying is that house should be added to that list. I am not taking any houses off of the list that house should be added because it meets all of the criteria it is falling down, rotten, tall grass, there are snakes coming from the property so it is a problem for the people in that community and like I said it is the worst house in that area. So all I am saying is that I would like to see it added to that list and not simply boarded and secured. I definitely agree with the ones that I went look at that need to be removed but the one on 30th Street definitely is their first cousin. If you get a chance take a look at it."

Larry Snyder - Canal Cleanings

Councilman Snyder stated, "I talked to Brian about this and we are in the process of cleaning a lot of canals, all those that we can. The only question I have with this is the spraying of the canals. I am still not satisfied with the spraying. I don't know how we got these people to spray these canals either RFP's or RFQ's but I know one thing the canal back there, Lasseigne Canal, half of it is perfect the other half of it is full because he couldn't get to it to spray that is unacceptable to me that is unacceptable. You pay them to do a job then do the job. That is the only problem that I have with the spraying of the canals."

Brian Nunes stated, "We have addressed that problem specifically on that canal since you brought it to our attention before so I am going to follow up with the contractor in the morning and I will just ride out there with him myself and if you are available you could come with us."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I go back there all the time. I think he is just waiting for it to get cold and let the cold kill it. I am not sure but I know one thing the grass is back there flourishing in that canal and parts of it are as smooth as this table and they did a good job on the part that they sprayed. I don't know how to do it that isn't my profession but we need to get it sprayed right. We are paying them to do a job but other than that the other canals are looking good. The only thing I have a problem with is that spraying."

Larry Snyder - Insurance Committee

Councilman Snyder stated, "We have a committee and all of us are on the committee. Now today we will set a date for the meeting. Is the representative here from administration that is on that committee?"

Stacey Cador stated, "We do have one member from administration present Mrs. Kia Price the other member is a civil service employee who was appointed by the parish president to serve on the committee and I am sorry it was Julie Songy."

Councilman Snyder asked, "What about from the side of the employees?"

Stacey Cador stated, "They are not here tonight. Actually one member did resign I think the week of the last meeting and the other member has indicated that she is still interested in serving on the committee. I don't know if it is necessary for her to be named in the nominations that the employees will submit or if her seat will continue to be observed."

Councilman Snyder asked, "At the last meeting we asked that Mrs. Butler would take care of that for us and it is in the minutes did she do anything with it?"

Stacey Cador stated, "She has indicated to me that she will send out a notice to employees. It is usually done as a payroll stuffer. She will send that out to employees next week and give them a time frame to get the nominations to her and then from there the ballot will be counted. She stated that an election is held only when it is necessary to break

a tie between the top two individuals."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I don't have a problem with that. If they appoint someone that is fine with me I need to get a meeting together so that we can look at our insurance. Now I am looking at having the meeting next week Tuesday. Now it is up to the council I know some of them have to work but we can get at least 6 of us there and then we can start looking at this insurance because this is for the employees. I want to get the best insurance that I can get for them that is what this is all about. I don't know why we haven't contacted them yet it has been at least two weeks since we have talked about this they should have two people from civil service ready to go on Tuesday. Now we have shift workers on this council and we need to decide what is a good day for us to meet, I can do it next week Tuesday at 6:30 PM right here in the chambers now if we can't do that then fine but we need to look at it and get with our carriers right now and discuss a little bit about it."

Stacey Cador stated, "You are only missing one member of the committee. I can't imagine that that should hold up anything that you would like to get started unless the council feels like it is improper to meet without that seat being filled but you have more than enough members to start if you are looking to just put your thoughts together you have more than enough members to do that."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do they have a P&Z meeting next Tuesday or the Recreation? I know I can be here next week Tuesday."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I want to add this to the insurance committee and some of the other committees they have been committees of the entire council but sometimes some council members because we had so many committees at one time just like finance we make a recommendation to the council some council members who may not be able to be at the meeting the insurance committee can still make a recommendation to the full council so that it doesn't have to be a committee of the whole we have just always said if everyone wants to be on the committee they can but if not then the insurance committee can still make a recommendation to the council just as all the other committees. So I just want to put that out there that we can still meet even if all nine of us can't be there for that Tuesday the insurance committee can still actually meet."

Councilman Snyder stated, "We are the Insurance Committee."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "When we have set up committees we have had equalization, solid waste, insurance and generally a committee won't be a committee of the whole because the purpose of it is to have smaller committee meetings that can come and make a recommendation to the council but in the past all of the council members have said yes I want to be on all of the committees. I am just saying that it doesn't have to be that way in order to meet. I don't want to hold up the insurance committee meeting if all nine of us won't be there on Tuesday. I just don't want to hold up what it is that you are trying to do."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well we don't want to negate the urgency of this because we spend a lot of money on it and we just approved three proposals going out for insurance, for three different insurances and

do we know what is going to be in these proposals? We don't know what is going to be in the proposals. Are we interested in it? Of course we are interested in it it is our responsibility because it affects every one of our employees. So what I am saying is that if we can meet next week and I see we have 3-4 of us here that say that they can meet next Tuesday then let's do it and make sure that the employees are there and that the administration is represented and let's call a meeting for here at 6:30 PM next Tuesday and ask whoever has insurance with us right now to come and we can get our council secretary to send them an email and tell them we would like to have them here so that we can see what we have and go from there."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "You could set your meeting it doesn't have to be at 6:30 PM if the daytime is more convenient it is a committee meeting so you can set whatever is more convenient to the council and the pleasure of the administration. We have the ability to do that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Great once we get one meeting we can do what we want after that. I would just like for us to look at it. I have been here two years and we never looked at insurance we just let it roll and the people I see in the community they don't think they have a good insurance you can't go to the hospital unless you have \$750.00. You can't even get a heart transplant unless you have \$750.00. I don't know maybe all insurances are like that I haven't had a heart transplant lately so I don't know but I have heard people say that they have to have the money before they go into the hospital and is that the best we can do?"

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Those will be some good discussions to have in that committee meeting."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay Insurance Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 1st, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers."

Art Smith - Update on Canal dredging West Bank

Councilman Smith stated, "I put this on there because there are a lot of canals on the West Bank that are getting stopped up, trees are growing in them and we have snakes coming out of them now especially down Castle."

Brian Nunes stated, "We are aware of the problems on the West Bank. The first one we are going to do is actually on Castle Drive and that is the canal that we spoke about earlier. We agreed to rent the equipment then we had a problem with moving the equipment because it has to go over the bridge and we needed some permits and we needed an escort but we did work with the supplier and agreed on a price for all of that. He is going to provide the escort and the permits and that requisition was actually signed today. So tomorrow we are going to coordinate with the supplier as far as to start the scheduling and get the equipment over there and that Ben Canal on Castle Drive is the first one that we will be doing. The other ones we are going to look into doing but there is an extremely high cost in keeping this equipment. I think it is over \$1,000.00 a day to rent it so we are going to do as much as we can in-house on the ones that are permitted but as far as keeping the equipment long term it is really not feasible at this point. We are going to do the worse ones and then continue to prioritize after that."

Councilman Smith stated, "Well if you get with me there are a couple of other canals that really need to be cleaned on the West Bank. If you and I can get together I will show you where they are stopped up and where they have trees growing in the canals and everything else."

Brian Nunes stated, "I can get with you this week."

Art Smith - Planning & Zoning Department

Councilman Smith asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

Lucien Gauff - Comcast

Councilman Gauff stated, "Okay I could carry this over. I did speak with members of Comcast they finally called me back, Mrs. Smith did but I know Mr. Madere and some others have had some issues that they would like to see representatives from Comcast here. She told me that she wasn't notified by anyone from administration that was her reply to me as to why she had not been to our meetings and she said usually Paige calls her anytime she is on the agenda. So she did reply and eventually call me back and gave me some information and said that we were all communicated with as far as the increases in our bills. She said there was communications that went out in the bill mail outs and I know I didn't see it in mine and a lot of others told me that they didn't see it but I couldn't argue or dispute that since she said it was mailed out but I know we have seen a lot of increases in our bills and we really don't know why so I am still going to try to get her to come here and explain to us what is going on. There isn't a lot that we can do the state now regulates cable and Comcast not so much the municipalities and she does feel like it is very important to come here and see what our concerns are but I have not seen her yet so maybe we can send a message that we would like to have her."

Paige Falgoust, Public Information Officer, stated, "Okay I know in the past whenever she was asked to come there were a couple of times she was asking for questions and they were going back and forth. We had also sent the contact information for you guys to invite her to the meeting since you all had the questions. The couple of times that we did ask her to come sometimes her schedule did conflict with our schedules but moving forward I know that you have her contact information if you would like to ask her to attend the meeting on your behalf."

OLD BUSINESS:

Ranney Wilson - Drainage and Drainage equipment

Councilman Wilson stated, "Last week I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Nunes and Mr. Vincent and we took a ride in Garyville in the short period of time that we rode around looking there was very little that they could see. Everybody is talking about canals over here I don't know if I have a canal problem because I can't get the water from the ditches to the canals. I would like to ask I rode my 4-wheeler out there and I was able to get to a lot of places that you are not normally going to be able to get to because it might be too far of a walk and you can't get vehicles out there. I suggest that public works

purchase two 4-wheelers to go ride some of these places. It is not a big item. I don't have the parish insurance and that is \$14,000.00 a year you could easily go buy two of them if I give my part up. I will make a budget amendment tomorrow if necessary to get this done."

Randy Vincent stated, "Thank you Mr. Wilson I just spoke to Mr. Nunes and we do not have a 4-wheeler to go back there. I think I know what you are talking about because we did pass on one of the roads where we could not get through. I will get with Mr. Nunes and we will take a look at the budget and take a look at what will be needed and we will get with President Robottom on that issue and advice the council what we need to do with that."

Councilman Wilson stated, "What you need is a 4-wheel drive 4-wheeler to get to the areas and like I said everybody is talking about canal problems. I don't know if I have a canal problem because I can't get the water from the ditches to the canals. I don't mind amending the budget to take my insurance money out if I have to that is plenty enough money for it."

Randy Vincent stated, "I will get back with you on that Mr. Wilson."

NEW BUSINESS:

Torri Buckles - Resolution - R13-35 - A resolution stating St. John the Baptist Parish's interest in participation in Louisiana Enterprise Zone Act Louisiana R.S. 51:1781-1791 designating Enterprise Zones and Economic Development Zones within St. John Parish

Randy Vincent stated, "The Enterprise Zone, or EZ program is a jobs incentive program that provides Louisiana income and franchise tax credits to businesses hiring at least 50% of net, new jobs from one of four targeted groups. Louisiana Economic Development has determined which census block groups are eligible to become Enterprise Zones and each eligible group must be designated by the Council via a resolution. Administration recommends approval. In this particular resolution we have to indicate by resolution that we are willing to participate in the program. It is done on a formula basis. They send us all of the maps indicating which areas have been designated as enterprise zones and they actually give us some options where we can add or change a zone from the date that we pass the resolution up to 10 years out. So it is basically giving the indication that allows businesses to get tax credits in their jobs."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Well it also says that they have a certain group that the Economic department targets to participate in this and they hire from that particular group that is what I don't understand how will that affect our people here who may not be in that group or don't know anything about that group."

Randy Vincent stated, "Well it is a formula that is applied state wide. They do the demographics of our area and it is based on income and they determine what areas based on the population and the income in those particular areas they determine what areas qualify as an EZ zone. So it is applied on a statewide basis, a level playing field across the state and it is where our people live and where our businesses are located."

Councilman Snyder asked, "But it is for businesses not individuals?"

Randy Vincent stated, "Yes and it is good for our businesses or participate in the program they are encourage to hire our citizens and create those jobs because once 50% of their new jobs threshold is met they are good for the tax credit. So it is good for our citizens."

Councilman Wilson stated, "We have had that in the past many years back. Is this something that stopped?"

Randy Vincent stated, "The zones never went away just every ten years they update the zones."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Gauff seconded the motion to approve Resolution - R13-35 - A resolution stating St. John the Baptist Parish's interest in participation in Louisiana Enterprise Zone Act Louisiana R.S. 51:1781-1791 designating Enterprise Zones and Economic Development Zones within St. John Parish WHEREAS, in accordance with the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program requirements of St. John the Baptist Parish agrees: To participate in the Enterprise Zone Program; To assist the Department in evaluating progress made in any Enterprise Zone Within its jurisdiction. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

Cheryl Millet - Hurricane Isaac

Councilwoman Millet asked that this item be carried over in her absence.

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss St. John the Baptist Parish vs. Myrtle F. Victor, Roba Inc., and Adair Asset Management, LLC, 40th JDC, #63827. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet absent.

Councilman Perrilloux excused himself from the meeting before the Executive Session began.

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go back into Regular Session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Parish Buildings - Security

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

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

Any and all pending legal matters

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

13-40 An ordinance amending ordinance No. 94-74 so as to incorporate new streets into the St. John the Baptist Parish address system. (N. Robottom)

13-41 An ordinance granting approval to re-zone a portion of Lot 11, Block 36, Hope Plantation from the current Zone of R-1 to C-1 with the intention of approval to make all of Lot 11, Millet Brothers Subdivision to be zoned C-1, situated in Section T-11-S, R-6-E, Garyville, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZR-13-1031) (N. Robottom)

13-42 An ordinance granting approval for a family re-subdivision of Lot 2 of the Darryl Chauvin Estate being a portion of the Adolph De Lamotte Tract and the Leroux Tract into lots herein designated as Lot 2-A and Lot 3 of the Darryl Chauvin Estate situated in Sections 6 & 7, T-12-S, R-18-E, Edgard, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana (PZS-13-1071) (N. Robottom)

13-43 An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for **Praise Place Subdivision**, Lots 27 through 83 and parcels V-1, V-2 and V-3, on East 22nd Street, situated in Section 46 and 47, T-11-S, R-7-E, Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish. (N. Robottom)

13-44 An ordinance granting approval to further extend the valid period of time of Conditional Subdivision Approval for an additional twelve (12) months for **Coles Landing Subdivision**, Phase IV, lots 148 through 208, and Parcels D, F, G & H, situated in Section 91, T-11-S, R-7-E, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish for 12 months (N. Robottom)

13-45 An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to purchase immovable property and improvements described as Remainder of Parcel 3 of lot H, New Era Plantation, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana by Act of Cash Sale from Entre Nous LLC, funded by the St. John the Baptist Parish's Disaster Recovery Community Development (CDBG) Program and to execute the Act of Cash attached hereto and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property. (N. Robottom)

13-46 An ordinance granting approval for the Parish President to purchase immovable property and improvements described as Parcel 3A of Lot H, New Era Plantation, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana by Act of Cash Sale from Landmark Urban LLC, funded by the St. John the Baptist Parish's Disaster Recovery

Community Development (CDBG) Program and to execute the Act of Cash attached hereto and all other documents necessary for the Parish of St. John the Baptist to acquire title to the property.
(N. Robottom)

PRESIDENT' S REMARKS

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good Evening - In the wake of the recent rare waterborne amoeba finding in St. Bernard Parish, I would like to take this time to re-assure our residents that our Utilities Department is taking proactive measures to insure that the parish's drinking water supply is safe. Out of caution, additional sampling and testing procedures have been implemented beyond the 55 monthly samples required by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. Proper disinfection is the main method of controlling bacterial growth and St. John routinely monitors chlorine residuals in water lines throughout the parish. These systems will continue to be closely monitored as we strive to provide the safest, highest quality water to our residents. I am extremely excited to announce that last week we closed on a \$5.5 million low interest loan for 20 years at 3.45% through the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. Funding acquired through the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund will go toward altitude valves, new filters and the water line under the river. These improvements will create redundancy throughout the water system, while the parish takes advantage of 30% forgiveness of the loan's principle. This was a great opportunity pursued by the parish with a great team. St. John the Baptist Parish has been awarded the \$1 million FY 2013 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) through the Louisiana Office of Community Development to fund the operation of the Reserve/Edgard ferry. Although the annual cost of \$2.2 million to operate the ferry exceeds the grant award, St. John Parish is working to secure additional funding to operate the ferry for an additional seven months. In addition to securing funding, St. John Parish Administration is working with DOTD, who is providing technical assistance, to finalize a CEA for use of the ferry assets and the Request for Proposals for a ferry operator. Thanks to everyone who came to the public hearing sponsored by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last week. They recently after they announced the tentative levee selection, alignment C, which protects St. John Parish but leaves out our neighboring parishes to the west. The meeting was to receive public comments about the project. Before the study can be finalized, the Corps must fully review and evaluate all comments received during the 45 day public comment period which ends October 7. Comments should be directed to Regional Planning and Environment Division - South New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 or through email at WSLPAdmin@usace.army.mil A Town Hall Meeting will take place in Garyville tomorrow evening at the Garyville Library, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to give Garyville residents the opportunity to address concerns with Council Members and Parish Administration as well as ask questions. The St. John Business Training Center will host a free seminar tomorrow from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. titled "Show me the Money." The center is located inside the South Central Louisiana Technical College campus at 181 Regala Park Rd in Reserve. This Saturday, September 28, St. John the Baptist Parish Officials and the Keep St. John Beautiful Committee will host a Fall Clean Sweep event consisting of a parish wide clean up with volunteers from around the community and various agencies and groups. Clean Sweep will kick off at Highway 51 Park on

Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Groups and individuals who wish to assist with clean-up efforts are asked to call Dana Milioto at 985-652-9569 to reserve specific neighborhoods or public areas to clean. Interested participants can also sign up online at sjbparish.com Supplies can be picked up in advance on Friday, September 27 at the Percy Hebert Building from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on Saturday, September 28 at Highway 51 Park. Anyone interested in participating in the 2013 St. John Andouille Pageant still has time to turn in their application before the deadline tomorrow evening. Applications for the pageant are available at www.andouillefestival.com or for pick up at the St. John Parish Government Office. Applications can be delivered to Dana Milioto at 1801 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace. Participants can also bring their applications to the Andouille Pageant informational meeting to be held tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John Theatre. All are invited to attend the pageant on Saturday, October 5 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Theatre. Come join the fun and see who will be crowned the 2013 Andouille Miss and Teen Queens. Beginning October 7 through 20, the LaPlace library will be closed for renovations that will include additional computers, new carpet, and rearrangement of the library collection within the building. The Reserve, Garyville and Edgard branches will remain open during the renovations. The library will be open for precinct voting on October 19. The central library will reopen on October 21. The 40th annual Andouille Festival will take place October 18 through 20 at Hwy 51 Park. Participants are needed for the Andouille Eating Contest, the Gumbo Cook-off which will happen on site this year and an Apron Art Contest. Download an application at www.andouillefestival.com and return to the St. John Economic Development Department at 1801 W. Airline Hwy in LaPlace by deadline. The Keep St. John Beautiful committee will be sponsoring an Andouille Run, to be held Sunday, October 20 at 8:00 a.m. at the park. Those interested can download an application for the run at andouillefestival.com. St. John Parish Health and Human Services Department (DHHS) will be sponsoring a Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at REGALA gym. Basic health screenings, educational handouts, CPR demonstration, healthy nutrition and physical fitness information will be offered as well as various lectures with question and answer sessions. The Health Fair is open to adults and children free of charge. For more information please call the DHHS at 985-536-4955. Night out Against Crime is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15. You can register your party now at stjohnsherriff.org or by calling 652-7058. The Canadian National (CN) Railroad began improvements to railroad crossings in Garyville on Monday. The work is expected to last through October 2, 2013. As a result, closures will be implemented on Museum St., and the railroad crossings at Historic Main St., N. Church St., and N. Little Hope St. on the dates listed below, weather permitting. Schedule is: Wednesday September 25- Thursday September 26 - N. Little Hope Street railroad crossing closed, Friday, September 27 - Monday, September 30 - N. Church Street Railroad Crossing closed, Tuesday, October 1- Wednesday, October 2 - Historic Main St railroad crossing closed. Highway 44 and Church St. in Garyville will also experience intermittent road closures this week. Please use caution in this area. All road closure information is available on the government access channel, St. John Parish website and social media. River Parishes Hospital is holding a Pink Lady Luncheon and Fashion Show in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Friday, October 5 at noon at LaBelle Place Reception Center in LaPlace. A donation of \$15 includes lunch,

speakers, and a fashion show. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Please contact tammy Waltz at 985-653-1644 for tickets. The Parks and Recreation Department is continuing to offer Basketball Free Play at Regala Gymnasium on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Anyone interested in free play should contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 985-652-9569, ext. 1169 or 1168."

CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL BRIEFS

Councilman Gauff stated, "First off I would like to congratulate the St. John Warriors again on a great year glad to have those young men come through with their families and Ms. Shelby Reine that has to be a great feeling to be a world champion and at such a young age congratulations to her. I do have a town hall meeting along with Mr. Ranney Wilson for tomorrow night at the Garyville Library for an update on District II and any concerns so come out and join us from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. I did want to say that Saturday is clean sweep for St. John Parish so come out and join us for that. For our Pleasure Bend constituents Mr. Smith and I will be over there with Senator Gary Smith on Thursday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM at Fred's so if any of you are available come out there will be a town hall in Pleasure Bend. Another thing is Breast Cancer Awareness, the Pink Lady Luncheon, I am on the hospital board so I am helping to push that on October 4th at Noon. Also the UNCF walk/run is October 5th and that is for the United Negro College Fund."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I would like to express my condolences for the Sanders family and the Hayes family and I hope my wife gets better soon so that I can get out sometimes."

Councilman Wilson stated, "Just another reminder of the town hall meeting at the Garyville Library. I would like for people to have their complaints written with their names on it because I am sure we aren't going to get to everything in one night. Also can we get Brian to get the grass cut at the Timbermill Museum please and in Reserve by the old Godchaux high school by the school board?"

Councilman Smith stated, "I just want to say thank you to Mr. Gauff for having my back when I was ill and it is great having you on the board."

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:58 PM, Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Millet and Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Jaclyn Hotard
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche
Council Secretary