

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**CHAIRMAN LENNIX MADERE**  
**VICE-CHAIR LARRY SNYDER**

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the Joel McTopy Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PRESENT AT ROLL CALL:** Larry Sorapuru, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Kurt Becnel, Councilman District I, Julia Remonet, Councilwoman District II, Lennix Madere, Councilman District III, Marvin Perrilloux, Councilman District IV, Michael Wright, Councilman District V, Larry Snyder, Councilman District VI, Thomas Malik, Councilman District VII, Jaclyn Hotard, Councilwoman-at-Large, Div. B

**ABSENT:** None

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

Councilman Becnel led the Prayer. Councilwoman Hotard led the Pledge.

Legal Counsel present was Keith Green, Jr., and Law Clerk Kennilyn Schmill.

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

There was no public comment at this time.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESSES:**

**Natalie Robottom - Proclamation - (Carry Over 08-14-18) LaPlace Frostop 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The above item to be removed from the agenda.

**Natalie Robottom - Presentation - Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Budget Presentation Award**

Natalie Robottom stated, "I think most of you know Robert who's our new Chief Administrative Officer, this is Miss Linda Lulue, who helped us design the new budget document. She's been working on it steadily for the last several years trying to make it easier to read and understand by the general public, separating funds, using charts and graphs to show the percentages. We worked very hard to address the concerns, express when we submit these budgets for review to the Legislative Auditor and to the Governmental Finance Office Association. And once again this year, our budget received an Award of Excellence, and we want to acknowledge and recognize (I think Julie may have been here earlier) our Finance Department management staff for this component of the budget which is presentation. In the past we have also received the Award of Excellence for the entire budget and the way it's accountable, but tonight I'd like to acknowledge you know the hard work of Linda, and Robert and Julie and the entire staff of putting together a document that surpasses the requirement and we did receive the actual, they provide you a plaque and if you continue to get the award you get a

sticker to add to it, we have received that, we're hoping to get representatives from Government Association to present it, but sometimes that's difficult. But this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the 5<sup>th</sup> year since we've moved to that new budget process that we've received this award. It is a lot of work, she's already started on this next year, and I just wanted to recognize and acknowledge them for their efforts and give you the opportunity to do the same. Linda can probably speak a little more to the work that's she's doing. Each year they grade it, and if there are areas you'd like, they'd like to address they specify that and of course we look at that immediately because we want to make sure to continue to improve the presentation."

Linda Lulue stated, "She didn't tell me I was going to speak. I love this aspect of my job though. I like to do the budget, I like to see where we stand, and what we thought we were going to do, and how the numbers actually turned out at year end on making the graphs because I know as a person, the charts make a lot more sense whether it's a bar graph or a line graph for the pie chart, as opposed to just the fiscal numbers and I do have people of the community and sometimes some of yawl, especially Mr. Wright, come up and ask us some of the questions, what does this mean, what does that mean? The only area that they have said, the GIF said, the want improvement in, is they want more information about the departments and statistics that they're supposed to be meeting. What are our departmental goals? So that's our only weak section, we got all fours and threes, four being the highest grade you can get in any area. So I want to thank the entire Finance Department and all departments, who helped me get me the numbers timely and I appreciate that."

Robert Figuero stated, "Quickly, selfishly my name is on the award to, include for the parish. But honestly again, Linda took the lead of this, I mean this is a complete team effort. Every department has to submit information, documentations, statistics and so forth. This is a very large document and very time consuming, so again it would be inappropriate for me to take any kind of credit for it. Again, Linda had the lead on this, all the department heads put a lot of time and effort into it, to include Julie, she assisted Linda with you know getting all the data together, compiling it and putting it into the document. But again, Linda deserves the credit so, with that said, Congratulations and Thank you."

Linda Lulue stated, "Thank you, thank yawl!"

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **ITEMS:**

Approval of Minutes - September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Councilman Snyder - Appointment of Kathy Giovingo to the Animal Advisory Board; Permit Approval - Unity in the Community Block Party - Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM; Permit Approval - 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Andouille Festival Run/Walk - Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - 8:00 AM; Permit Approval - East St. John High School Homecoming Parade - Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 PM; Permit Approval - Krewe of Dage' Parade - Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - following Krewe DuMonde Parade; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (August)

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to consent agenda items to include: Approval of Minutes - September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Regular Meeting; Councilman Snyder - Appointment of Kathy Giovingo to the Animal Advisory Board; Permit Approval - Unity in the Community Block Party - Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM; Permit Approval - 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Andouille Festival Run/Walk - Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - 8:00 AM; Permit Approval - East St. John High

School Homecoming Parade - Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 PM; Permit Approval - Krewe of Dage' Parade - Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - following Krewe DuMonde Parade; Robert Figuero - Monthly Financial Report (August). The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Snyder asked, "Yeah this is, what does this mean? Dage' or Dajay!"

Jean Stewart stated, "Good Evening Council. As Krewe of Dage', and all of my crew is out there in the red, we're very excited to have our 1<sup>st</sup> Krewe (I think LaPlace is big enough to have more than one Krewe) getting you know we got a lot of interest and we're very excited and I wanted to just read our mission statement right quick. 'To work within the River Parishes to promote education to expire learning, advance knowledge, and to strengthen our community. It takes a village. So I'll prime goal (we're non for profit) we're going to, our prime goal is to give Scholarships. And work within the school to help kids, that's where our money is going.' It's nothing we're going to keep the money or anything like that. It's going to help the kids and we're also looking to help kids who maybe could never afford to ride on a float. We're going to each try and get a kid on each one of our floats, who wouldn't normally have that opportunity because let's keep this tradition going. So that's our goal, we're very excited and we thank you for approving our permit."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I just think Ms. Stewart, how many floats we talking about?"

Jean Stewart stated, "Right now we have committed to 20 floats so far."

Councilman Perrilloux stated, "I'd like say much success to yawl. I'm looking forward to see what's going to happen. Thank you."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think it's an opportunity for a lot of people. Now we got two parades in LaPlace, and if you can't make one you can make the other one you know as far as participation. And I think that's big in just showing how much we're growing as a community. And I think that's great, I know my granddaughter will be looking forward to dancing. And I think she's marching in your Dage', whatever, I think she's going to march in that one and she may be marching in the other one also I don't know how she's going to do that you know, with the school I think. But look, congratulations and good luck to you guys."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Thank you, I'm thinking about what Councilman Snyder said about how she's going to march in both, but if you've ridden in a parade you'll know the people you see at the front on Main Street when you get over to Belle Terre you see the same people, so they figure it out, you know how to go in. But congratulations Jean, you know if you have anything to do with that I know it's going to be a good time just from my involvement with you and obviously you've got a lot of support here. And I think it'll be you know a good thing to even have a longer parade, it seems like you know since we've kind of moved the time up, I don't know why but it just feels like it's over quicker. Where you used to be able to make it all day, kind a you know barbeque, crawfish boils on the front yard, and now it's like when it's over it's just feels like it's breakfast time or brunch. So this I think will help bring back that you know barbeque, crawfish boil on the front lawn and have two good parades. So I wish you well also to the entire group."

Councilman Becnel stated, "Yeah Congratulations - cause when we saw yawl with the red shirts yawl solved the mystery. [Laughter] I kept saying, who are all those folks? But I tell you what, looking at yawl tonight and how yawl united, I see

*nothing but positive things for you all. And yawl just starting and remember: just follow the path that's in front of you all and I see nothing but success for y'all. I'm proud of y'all."*

*Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes Congratulations again, and I'm so glad to hear we're keeping our youth involved in the parades. And it's a family affair and it's also a good tradition to carry on and wish yawl the best of luck!"*

*Councilman Wright stated, "Just want to say Congratulations to the Krewe. Welcome Jean, great job and great mission."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "I know just about everyone that's involved in this parade out here you know I know everyone. And a lot of good people out there, okay and you have a real good mission, which is to help kids you know, first of all some of those that need help with their education, scholarships (that's very important), okay to increase the fact that you're allowing some kid to go to College and extend their education, and the fact that you want to allow some individual who never had the chance to experience the thrill of riding in a parade and opportunity to do that also. So those are all good goals and you know much success to each and every one of yawl and definitely this is not going to be a onetime parade. Okay, you can put this down as an annual permit approval for the Council. If you we can vote to make it a permanent 20 more years we'll do it. Alright and thank yawl for coming. Okay and I also thought that might have been some individuals from the Library cause I said the Library [Laughter] well it's not! Okay, than yawl so much for coming. Don't leave, no I mean they don't have to go home, I mean they can sit and watch the rest of the council meeting."*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES:**

There was no public hearing on ordinances.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "I would like to make a motion to accept the minutes from the finance committee meeting."

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to accept the finance committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 05-08-18) Council withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to REMOVE the item Larry Sorapuru - Council withdrawal from the River Parish from the TABLE. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Councilman Sorapuru moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to REMOVE the item Larry Sorapuru - Council withdrawal from the River Parish from the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Natalie Robotom - Resolution - R18-24 - A Resolution authorizing an LGAP application to the Office of Community Development for additional funds for the renovation of the St. John Theatre**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes this is LGAP is Louisiana Government Assistance Program, annually the Governor's office provides funding to local governments to assist with renovations of public facilities and buildings. In the past we've used those dollars for the Health & Human Services Department for the Senior Center across the river, and we had a request to make some repairs to the St. John Theatre, so the request this year is to apply for this grant in the amount of \$77,800.00 to support some of the renovations to the St. John Theatre."

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Remondet moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution R18-24. The motion passed unanimously.

**Natalie Robottom - Resolution - R18-25 - A Resolution authorizing Parish Administration to submit a Grant application to the Louisiana Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) through the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)**

Natalie Robottom stated, "This is a grant application for funds in the amount of \$220,714.42 or at least close, to re-stripe eleven (11) of our parish roads. They've been assessed based on the criteria that is provided by DOTD to fund the re-striping, and in order to move the project forward we need this resolution, and they would provide the funding to re-stripe eleven (11) of our roads."

Councilman Snyder asked, "You said there are eleven (11) streets?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Those are eleven (11) streets striped only in St. John Parish?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "I'm sorry."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We got eleven (11) streets with stripes on them in St. John Parish?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Mr. Snyder, you know your street is striped."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know mine is, that's why I'm asking this question."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay! Now stop it. Would you like for me to read the ones with some stripes?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "No ma'am. I just would like to know the eleven (11), eleven (11) streets."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay! There at least eleven (11) with stripes..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Oh yeah!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "And fortunately I want to thank Ms. Toombs and the Public Works Department for working really hard to get this, we were attempting to get some support for and they're actually going to pay for the entire thing. So we continue to after dollars and we continue to get them! And this is something we think will help with safety of these areas, and we're looking forward to proceeding."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So this, well you know I'm asking, my first time

asking/seeing, hearing about this...

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's the first time we've done it."

Councilman Snyder asked, "So, is there still be here some place in Cambridge that's involved in this?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Maybe! [Laughter] Yes Mr. Snyder, it's actually number one on the list. But I'm going to need you to go back to one of our items, in order for us to move forward."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I think they striped it before though. You'll striped it before."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We did. We did."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Yeah. A while back."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But you know what we do is different from what these companies do in terms of the quality of the striping..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "I understand."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And you know we do some of the work, but this would be at the standard of DOT."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay thank you."

**MOTION:** Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to approve Resolution R18-25. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER REPORTS:**

**Larry Sorapuru - (Tabled 03-13-18) Council's possible withdrawal from the River Parish Tourist Commission**

The above item remained tabled.

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Excuse me. Did yawl want to do Department Reports? No?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm sorry!"

Natalie Robottom asked, "Is that where we are? No?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah Department and Engineer Reports. Yeah!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay, I think Ms. Rhonda has a report."

Councilman Madere stated, "Ok okay."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I think the report, remember we set that up a while back that it's supposed to be submitted ahead of time, to be on the agenda. I think..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Sit down, never mind. Thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Wait a minute."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Get out early. It's just about the Health Fair. Yawl weren't there so. Don't worry about it."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah we'd like to hear about the Health Fair, she did it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "She did do it. And it is as listed on there, Department/Engineer Reports so..."

Councilman Madere stated, "We can make a motion to do it."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "We can make a motion. That's what I said..."

Councilman Madere stated, "Come on just do it. Make a motion. Make a motion. Can someone make a motion?"

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Malik motioned to allow Rhonda Lemons to present the report the results from the Health Fair. The motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Lemons, Director of Health & Human Services stated, "Good Evening Council. I would to share with you all some highlights from this Saturday's Health & Awareness Event. The event was very successful, it was held at REGALA Gymnasium. There were approximately, well for sure 280 participants. Some we could have missed during registration but 280 participants. Plus, I would like to recognize the sponsorships, which were Teche Action Clinic and Ochsner Medical Clinic. Also we received in kind donations of coffee and donuts provided by Duncan Donuts for the providers and volunteers. And in addition to that, we received gift cards from Smoothie King for the raffles. And I'd like to recognize those who participated and share with you guys what services were provided: Dr. Lackings provided Guided Meditation, Stress Management and Deep Breathing Lessons; St. John Sheriff's Department - Lessons on Self-Defense and other information; Ochsner Tobacco Cessation Department was there; Susan Bailey's Line Dancing; Walgreens provided Flu Vaccines, Teche Action Clinic provided Blood Pressure, BMI and Glucose Screenings; St. John's Health Unit and Office of Public Health provided HPV Vaccines and HIV Testing; the Greater New Orleans YMCA provided Car Seat and Seat Belt Safety Lessons; Ochsner and St. Charles Hospital had medical doctors and staff there. This was a very successful, we going to do this again. It was called Cardiac ABI (Ankle-brachial index) Screenings, where you were able to test the heart and see what's going on with your heart. St. John's Fire Department was a huge success, they provided Obstacle Courses for adults and for children, fire extinguisher lessons, CPR Instructions, and Carbon Monoxide Poisonings. And on top of that we had a Kids' Corner with Hop balls, hula hoop and jump rope. And everybody just line danced the event away. So it was very, very successful, people were happy. We decided this year to do more of an active event, one that consisted of a lot interactive activities amongs other people, so people were able to go from one component move from one component to the other component, and it was great. And Parish President and I did the Obstacle Course, and we did a great job at that too. So again, we would like to thank Teche Action and Ochsner Medical Clinic for their sponsorships and Duncan Donuts and Smoothie King. And I'd like to thank my volunteers, we had 45 volunteers. Thank you, that's why I didn't ask her to do the report I had a hard day. There were 45 volunteers, the participants consisted of adults and children because it was a Family Health and Wellness Event. And it was just awesome too. I know I'm jumping

around to see the little kids participate in the Kid's Corner."

**Jaclyn Hotard - (Carry Over 08-28-18) Update from Administration and Royal relative to the CDBG project**

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Yeah, this item was on the agenda before and I think it was that we had a, I don't know if it was the water, something was being cut off. But I'd like to just get an update maybe from Administration of whatever could be provided on the (I see here that they specifically sighted an issue that I raised, and so I'd just like to get an update from Administration as to where we are with that particular issue."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "We held a meeting, I think Councilman Wright was in attendance as well as Royal, our contractor, and Ms. Valentine. We met with the constituent and they had requested some documentation, we've forward those documentations to them, I believe we've copied Councilman Wright on those documents that they requested. We also stated that we were going to re-evaluate and see what we can do regarding that matter. We're still in the process of doing that and as soon as we, we evaluate and see if there's a solution we'll get back with the constituent."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "How long is that going to take? I think the meeting was...what do you think? Three weeks/four weeks ago?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes, that is correct."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "How long does it normally take to re-evaluate one particular case? I'm just asking."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well I really don't want to go in too much detail in reference to what was discussed in the meeting..."

Councilwoman Hotard interrupting stated, "I don't want the details."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "But I'll be more than glad to speak with you offline regarding the process. And I believe we did talk in the meeting and Councilman Wright was privet to that conversation as far as the details of what we're re-evaluating. As far as the length of time I cannot determine that, but we are looking at it, but it's something that I've discussed with Ms. Valentine on yesterday, and we're still seeing what we can do regarding that matter."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "So when you say we're re-evaluating, that's you and Ms. Valentine or?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "And Royal."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "And Royal?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you know when you all will have any you know, findings as far as the re-evaluation?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Not at this time."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "But it's not a matter, I mean it's not anything that we're you know, shoving under the rug, there's something we're looking at it and we definitely going to see what we can do. And of course as we told the constituent, we weren't making any promises but we will make every effort."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay, please leave this item on the agenda."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes. I think I talked to you Ms. LaVerne about an issue. Have we figured out what's going on with some misinformation some people are getting about where funds are coming from for elevation, where funds may be coming for rehab and property? And you know and why some people you know, are getting things done and some people are not? I don't quite understand that but I'm totally confused about it as far as; well a lady came to my house and a gentleman came to my house at the same time, they came to my house to talk about something. And the issue was that, there was some work being done to someone else's houses and her house been ready to get done. And everything was being done to the other house, they just got there's ready to do their work. And you know I'm just wondering, if there really an issue there or is that just different funds we're getting things from or what?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "No, there's no funds. There's the rehab funds that we have been allocated to do the home repairs. I know the conversation that you and I had on Friday, I think it was in regards to elevation and if we had received the funding and as I said to you in the conversation, is that we have not received those funds. We're still waiting for those funds to be awarded. In regards to who gets their home repaired first, I believe I explained to you that it's based upon first come first serve basis, as those who completed the application, so that's how it's determined. And so, and I believe you also had a conversation with Ms. Valentine regarding this matter as well. When I spoke with her on Friday, I believe she explained to you how that process works."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well she tried, but you know I gotta hard head and everything didn't soak in like it was supposed to."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Now, let me tell you how the scenario goes. The lady came to me and told me the situation. She said Mr. Snyder, my paperwork been complete. My paperwork was complete, then I helped this other lady to get her paperwork in order, now her house is being lifted and mine is not. That's why I'm asking is it two different sets of money we're getting, that's why that's happening? Or why did that happen?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well again in reference to the elevation, there were elevation dollars where individuals had received to get..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Yeah I think it was elevation dollars..."

LaVerne Toombs interrupting stated, "Right, that's elevation dollars."

Councilman Snyder stated, "You said first come first serve?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well in regards to elevation. With the first pool of dollars that we had, which was home repair we had with a rehab component in the elevation. Those are the dollars that we are in the process of finishing now. The other pool of dollars that you and I talked about is what we applied later, which

was last year for those (twenty-two) 22 homes I believe we applied for, for the elevation, which I believe that constituents are getting a little confused and for some reason or another believe that we had received the dollars, but we have not received those funds. We're still in the process of working things through so that we can get awarded. Even with the award I believe that we are, there's a 25% match in regards to that. And I believe that I spoke with the constituent that you mentioned to me and explained that to that constituent regarding the process as well as the fact that we haven't received the dollars. But as soon as we received the funds, we will be more than glad to reach out to those homeowners and let them know and see if they're interested in receiving those funds with that requirement."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And but now you see the dilemma here is that, one house is being repaired/lifted and the other one is not. And the one that's being lifted, got qualified after the other one. That's where my dilemma at. And if that can be explained to me and I could understand that, then I'm satisfied with it you know."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well we can, if you'd let us know who that homeowner is, we will be more than glad to look into it and we can call the homeowner and explain the process. Of course, you know there is no favoritism, I know that there was conversation regarding that as well, but there is no favoritism here, it's based upon application based on the completion of the application, making sure that we receive all the paperwork that was required, and then that's when we move forward on the repairs or elevation or etc."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But the only thing that I see that could explain that is that, I think they were one of those homes that were, was qualified but then we didn't have no money. And then when we got the money, they were put on a different part of the list it seems like. That's the only thing that would explain that. That's why this house who was qualified, as far as first before the second house, the second house got lifted the first house didn't. You see, and the only thing that could qualify that happening that way is the fact that, one got put on the side and then when they got the money, she was put back on the list but she put behind everybody else. Other than that, we've got an issue there you see."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "But Councilman, if I'm not mistake..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "[Inaudible]"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Right! But if I'm not mistaken, you and Councilman Sorapuru attended a meeting where we spoke to those homeowners, we explained to those homeowners regarding the fact that had/was short on funds, that we would do the repairs and that we would do the repairs and if were able to identify other dollars, then we could possibly move forward with the elevation. Which we were able to identify those dollars, apply for them and we are waiting for their award. If they're among those 22 homeowners, there's a possibility that their homes will be elevated. But again it's based upon that requirement."

Councilman Snyder stated, "But you see the thing about it is this, is that the first group is don't have to pay 25%. The second group got to pay the 25%. And that's an issue, and I can see why people can get upset about that. If I was qualified before her, why her house is getting lifted and mine not? And, but you're going to put me on the other list. But the other list I got to come up with 25% now."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Well I can understand their concerns, but again we made the effort and I can understand they're concerned about the fact that maybe one didn't have to pay the 25% and the other one did not. But again, you know we're looking into that 25%, of course we can't make any promises on that. But either they get their homes repaired and no elevation or the fact that we did go out and seek some funding for them to possibly get their homes repaired/elevated."

Councilman Snyder stated, "If I, Okay I tell you what! We got, if we can just save some time there, can I send you the, or call you and talk to you about the addresses?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And then you can look over them with Myra and figure out why it happened that way?"

LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes sir. I'll be more than glad to do that."

Councilman Snyder stated, "And if I can get that I'll be satisfied with that."

LaVerne Toombs stated, "No problem sir."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I just want to add to that Mr. Snyder, and I was going to request that. Cause sometimes you don't always, you and I had a conversation on the phone too! And sometimes you always get the correct information, but there are other reasons why sometimes it may be delayed. Even though her paperwork may have been submitted when it went out for bid, they may have all come in too high and then we had to go back out to rebid, or you know there's other reasons for delays as well, some of them unfortunately will awarded to contractors that had to pulled off the job so now I got to rebid your work and get another contractor. So without knowing this specific case, in addition to that original first come first serves, there are processes within the process that sometimes cause people to be off schedule. And there's no fault of theirs nor eyes that go through the bidding process and if all the bids are above the cap, well then we have to rebid that, which delays you know necessarily somebody who might have been ahead of somebody else, but because everybody overbid on their house, we had to get pricing that fits within the cap. So it makes us go back out as well. And again, not to say this is what happened to your resident but sometimes that throws people off. The other is, sometimes some contractors work quicker than others, as well and submit their and have an easier cash flow. So there's you know again our effort to try and let as many contractors as possible participate, we didn't always get the same level of work that could throw people off in terms of their schedule but, you know I don't want to say any of those were the reasons for this specific case, we'd have to look at it but that did occur in some cases that threw some people who had their stuff together initially, when out for bids, everything was too high we had to go back out and possibly somebody behind them got started before their work was started. But it is a concern, I fully understand the difference in the 25%, we're going to continue to see if we can access funding to help with matches, if we can do that we know that cause we know that benefited our residents to be able to get that done without coming up with a match."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Of course yeah thank you."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay one comment. I have a resident that they repaired her home and they never came back for the final inspection, and it's been like 7 months and they had an issue, she have an issue, they repaired a window that's

still leaking. And now she has mold growing in the back of that by that window. Okay and everything else it was done, but you know how they go back for the final inspection and signing, that never happened. So I'm going to give you her name and you know after the meeting I'll give you her name and address and you can send someone over there to finish that up. Cause that's one that has to be closed out."

### **Lennix Madere - Update on drainage and road repair in District III**

Verdell Kindrick stated, "Good Evening. The sinkholes in the Reserve project area were back-filled and compacted by Subterranean Construction. A walkthrough inspection of the construction site will be conducted before the end of the month to identify any other potential problems and make necessary repairs."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay cause that's what I was mostly concern about that walk through, to make sure that we don't have any other sinkhole developing and if they do have any, we can spot them and get them taken care of before this company actually get out of here. And only one other concern and that don't, that's not basically with you it's with, well I'm going to have to address it with Ms. LaVerne. Could you have Daron, he was supposed to go back and talk to a Ms. Turcuit and another individual, he has the address who's concerned about some dirt that he wanted these people to put back on his lot. He know the address to that guy, I don't have the address right now on that one. But he know he was, well I asked him a couple and he was supposed to take care of that and I haven't heard from him, and you know that's been like 6 weeks ago you know, so I would like for him and make sure that he take care of that so we can close that out with those individuals. And eventually take this drainage thing off the agenda cause it's been on there you know, and until we get everyone satisfied you know, I'm going to have to leave it on there. Okay and as far as the road repair is concerned we had that discussion last week and we're going to try for January, if the weather is right, when the list goes out you know to take care of Hickory Street and that other street. Okay and I'd like to say is, thanks to Mr. Verdell, he always respond to issues, one I had a couple of weeks ago with a canal, had a tree growing in it he took it out and the ditch, I mean the canal cleaned out. Okay so I want to thank you for that. And hopefully we get that thing situated with these other two residents on 26<sup>th</sup> Street to move forward with that. Okay, thank you."

### **Larry Snyder - Update on Community Service Implementation**

Councilman Snyder asked, "You said we're in the process of setting up a meeting with the District Attorney?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We can't get a time and date? Just can't get it or what?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah actually somebody couldn't meet Friday, and somebody else couldn't meet Monday. And so we're still trying to set that up."

Councilman Snyder asked, "Do we have but do..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "And I'm out of town for a week."

Councilman Snyder stated, "There is a resemblance of a Community Service Program

*going on in the Parish, am I right?"*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "Not being conducted by the Parish."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "No I know it's not being conducted by the Administration."*

*LaVerne Toombs asked, "Were you speaking from like a non-profit organization of some sort?"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Possibly yeah possibly right."*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "I do not know."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "If you have some direction for us we'll take it!"*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "I was just wondering. I was just wondering cause you know, we don't have to direct all the Community Service work it seems like you know that the Judges put someone on Community Service. I think it's up to them*

*Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "It should have been."*

*Councilman Snyder stated, "To go find things to do, am I right?"*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "That's what we thought."*

*LaVerne Toombs stated, "Yes."*

*Councilman Snyder asked, "Is that the way it works?"*

*Councilman Madere stated, "That's not the way it work. The last time we had Community Service..."*

*Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Well that was because there was some of them. But I know for a fact that, you know that we've had work done where people just come up, you go something that I can do at this church or at this school, or whereas I can get my community service hours in? You know cause along I'm thinking, we're holding this up. You know but I think it's all of us all the time, it's when these people get community service they can go out and get their own jobs and do."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "And get their paperwork signed to show they actually completed community service, which relieves them of their..."*

*Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Right exactly! Right! I think that's the way that works. I'm not quite sure but anyhow, I think we still need to get together on this meeting or if you can, appreciate that. Thank you."*

*Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah cause I think we need to get that straight, cuz I think you got two types of Community Service. Okay, you got Community Service through the high schools, okay with this Community Service through the Justice Department."*

*Natalie Robottom stated, "Right!"*

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm not talking about hiring contract..."

Councilman Madere stated, "That's what I'm saying..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "That's the unity of - that's something else."

Councilman Madere stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Some do that for a grade."

Councilman Madere stated, "Right, and they out to the various church or anything like this. Now I think and I may be wrong, that's why we need to have this meeting. The Community Service through the Justice Department, and I don't think they allow the prisoner or none of the prisoners, the person that have to do this go out and find something for themselves to do. That's why I think we need to have that meeting. We need to just have that meeting."

Natalie Robottom stated, "It's certain people will agree to sign-off on it, so if they can find somebody who for example: is there's a school or whatever says look, if you do this for me, I'll sign-off on your Community Service. And some people know people that they can you know access and do that. So you're right, it may not be as organized as what you're trying to do, but it is not the high school and it's outside of high school and there people who they need to get that done so they secure someone to provide them with the opportunity to work and get their paperwork signed."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well may have to just have that meeting to make sure we get it right. Okay?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "Okay."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to the Council's power as dictated by Charter**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right you know what prompted this, actually what prompted this is that, I was told we I think maybe it was told but when Mr. Madere was asked a question is that, being Councilman you know, can we visit sites and just look at sites. We may have to make decisions on properties, the shape it's in and things like that. And I think the last District Attorney told us that, you guys are Councilman, you can go anywhere you want to go. But you just you know you can't do certain things, I can't come to a meeting of the Administration and say, no you'll not going to do it that way or do this or do that. Na, I can't do that. But if I want to sit in on their meetings, I should be able to sit in on their meetings. And I'm just wondering, do we all know here know what power we have. I know, you know the Charter got the Charter is a high level document, but we you know do we really know all of our, the powers the Charter gives us as Councilmen. And is the Administration, I know the Administration is aware of it."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I have a copy of it right here!"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I'm serious."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And it's listed very specifically in the Charter by number."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I understand that I understand that I know your responsibility, I know our responsibility..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "We all have some."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Everybody responsibility. I understand that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder asked, "But, which part is first at the top? Isn't it the Council at the top, responsibility, Powers of the Council, then the Parish President?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Right!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Actually I think it references the Governing Authority as all of us first. First, and then it goes through and designates what the Council's authorities are, and then what the Parish Presidents' are."

Councilman Snyder stated, "So, that means if Governing Authority is all of us that means, I should be able to tell some of your people what to do then."

Natalie Robottom stated, "The Charter specifically prohibits that!" [Laughter]

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know that."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay right? Again, if you used I mean..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "They got they got..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "I can answer that..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "There's some Powers and then there's another section with some Prohibitions."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes."

Natalie Robottom stated, "But the Powers are fairly clear."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "I can answer that for Mr. I can answer that for you, cause I spoke specifically about that with Mr. Tom Daley. Because that question was brought up one time before. I was invited to a couple of meetings, departmental meetings, and somehow it got back, I was told through Administration and I went Mr. Bailey, call Mr. Daley and ask him. Okay, what can I attend and what cannot I attend? And he told me as a Council Member of St. John the Baptist Parish I can ride in any vehicle that has St. John the Baptist Parish name on it, I can go to any meeting that's concerning St. John the Baptist Parish, I can go to departmental meetings, I can go to administration meetings with your department head. The only thing I'm not allowed to do he told me, is to give orders or directives. Now if someone ask me a question or ask me to speak, he said I can. But I can, basically he told me I can be a fly on the wall, and sit in anything that concerns this parish. That was told to me by Mr. Tom Daley, I went directly to his office. Okay he say we are a member of the governing body. So how can a member of a governing body not be allowed in everything that's being governed by it? That sounds pretty stupid."

Councilman Malik stated, "I have a question for Mr. Snyder. Were you told that you couldn't enter a building or attend a meeting?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "No, but I was told...lock the gate and don't let them in."

Councilman Malik stated, "Oh is that right!"

Councilman Snyder stated, "I was told that happened. That's all I can say about that. Now it could have been semantics."

Councilman Malik stated, "Yeah."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Whereas, it wasn't really said that way, but someone who interpreted it that way."

Councilman Malik stated, "Like a universal key."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right exactly. So you know that's what I'm talking about. If we got issues, if the people that voted for us come to us with an issue and these are the same people that might be working with the parish. And why I got to go and talk to a boss and ask the boss about it, that's not like that. You know I like to see for myself, you know what I mean? And that's where the issues come in at. And then when you see one thing you see something else or see something else and if you can do something about it, let's work together let's get it done. That's it!"

Councilman Madere stated, "I think what you said we're going to get to that in this last topic. Because I do have some information on what you just said about locking the gates and everything. I do have some information on that. Okay, but according to what you have on the agenda, the answer to that question like I said is and Mr. Tom Daley gave to me directly, we can attend any meeting that's concerning St. John the Baptist Parish. Any meeting, he said we just can't give orders or directives, any meeting. And we can go to and ride in any vehicle, any vehicle that has St. John the Baptist Parish name on it. Okay, that's what I was told and that was good enough for me. And that's what I've been relying on. Okay and that was told to us by Mr. Tom that was told to me personally by Mr. Tom Daley cause I went to him directly with that question. So if you didn't know you know now. You can ride in anything and attend any meeting, just do not give orders or directives."

Councilman Becnel stated, "I just want to make a comment. He is right, we can ride in any vehicle. Because I take advantage of that during my lunch break, when I have to go see a constituent about an issue. Michael Johnson is Johnny on the spot for me. So ride in the vehicles all the time. He actually drives me around. So that's good that's a good point."

Councilman Madere stated, "And the reason why I know this because like I said, when I started out you know getting in vehicles I was well tried discouraged not to do these things okay, but I spoke when it was Planning & Zoning, the vehicle was actually purchased by the Sheriff Department, and Mr. Wayne Jones told me that it's their vehicle it's their insurance, we can ride in anything and I think I mentioned that to Ms. Robottom my first year in office and you told me at that time you didn't see any problem with it either. Okay and that's how I went back to that department and I told that individual who was trying to stop me, that the Sheriff Department said I can ride, the Parish President said I can ride, the

only one that told me I couldn't, that I could ride is Jesus Christ! [Laughter] That's what I told them. So in other words, don't keep bugging me about getting in their vehicle. Okay so the answer is, you can ride."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And that is the case. And I guess it's a, I think the documents are fairly clear in terms of what the Home Rule Charter allows in terms of your responsibilities as well as the prohibitions. When you guys took office, it was very specific and we did orientations where I purposely said, even though the Charter prohibits directing Directors that I didn't have a problem with you guys meeting and working with the Directors because they were the better source information. I know in the past there have been Presidents' that have forebided and blocked it, I don't think that's productive. So that is what you know I've encouraged. Now I know there's a specific incident that you guys are referencing, and we have discussion about it and it's like everything else. Mr. Snyder you referenced it with your constituents and many of you do. You don't always get the full story, and sometimes you do get enlightened on things that you might not otherwise get coming from a Director or Administration, but sometimes employees are not privileged to all the information either. So I request to you is as you did, you secured some information, we ask that you meet with us provided to us, obviously I don't condone any of the safety issues that may have been concerned and my staff knows and we've addressed it again 'Safety is Priority', so when you get any type of concern, it needs to be addressed, however you also were exposed to items that cost millions of dollars that not only there's no money for, you have no method of generating additional dollars. We continue to try and secure grant funding or low interest loans to help supplement the dollars that the parish has. But everything that's done is done on a priority basis. And I've said this repeatedly, some people been here longer than others. For many years we had no money, and it's unfortunate that there was some neglect..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Ms. Robottom I don't want to stop you, but that's not on this particular item. I think what you're referring to is the last item on the agenda."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Okay I thought you had moved to that. You didn't move to that?"

Councilman Madere stated, "Oh no, we hadn't gotten to that yet. So I'm going to allow you to make those comments when we get to that thing. Cause was specifically about the Charter. Okay and what you're talking about now is something pertaining to the meeting that we had."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Oh I think it started with the relationship in terms of..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Well..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Although it's not allowed, I think it's for you guys to work..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Right, and you never you personally never said anything as far as you know, and we all know I know for a fact that, and I respect that, I do not give orders to anyone. I do not, all we can do is give some suggestions on or make or ask for request for things to be done. But we do not give order to anyone. I think we all understand that, so what I think what you're referring to is going to come under that last topic, which has my name and Mr. Snyder on it. So at that time you'll be able to just you know say what you

have to say about that particular item."

**Larry Snyder - Discussion relative to protecting tap water wells**

Councilman Snyder stated, "This was put on here because in the middle of eating some watermelon, I was thinking about this levee coming up and I thought about the wells in the back back there, and I never heard any mention of what we're going to do to protect those wells when this levee go up, and I was just wondering if the Administration had made some recommendations to the Corps of Engineer or they may know something to be sure that our wells are protected somehow, cause they're going be they're not going to be inside they're going to be on the outside of the levee. I know St. James has some things they're doing up there to protect their property North of Airline Highway and I was just wondering if the Administration took that into consideration and exactly what as far as the Corps of Engineers plans are to help us with our water wells back there."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I can address that, they're not going to help us..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Ma'am!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "They are not going to help is, that is clear. However, as part of the project, there's going to have to be several Utility relocates, you know when we do projects if the Utilities Systems run through the project area there's a requirement to relocate that. It's not just our system, it's going to be you know other utilities that might run through the area that they're going to be under construction. Now keep in mind, it is outside of the levee system, which was part of the reason we wanted to move it to the river, it's vulnerable as it currently sits, and once outside the levee system we think it will be even more vulnerable. We have not addressed as they haven't made it to that point yet during construction, what will take place you know what is the plan, because while they're working in those areas, it's likely to not be accessible. And so we have to look at the final plans but we did make some suggestions and we're going to, our recommendations that that is not the best site for out water system, even more so since it is an approved and funded project, access will be even harder because the roadway will be separated with a levee, which will have to make us go completely around to access it, and if the water is being kept out of the parish, then it's piling up outside of the levee system which is where our water system is."

Councilman Snyder stated, "No it not!"

Natalie Robottom asked, "It will not?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "No. It will not, it's not designed that way..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting asked, "What do you mean?"

Councilman Snyder stated, "It's designed to, it's designed to make all that natural area back there to stay natural. There is going to be a mold around that levee and it'll be tied in with the regular pad area back there, whatever you call it..."

Natalie Robottom interrupting stated, "Right, so when there's a surge or a storm, like..."

Councilman interrupting Snyder stated, "Now if we get a surge, everybody got

problems."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Well that's right! Outside of the levee system."

Councilman Snyder stated, "I mean that's why with a levee it's going to be because a surge."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Right. That's what I'm talking about."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Not normally not during normal times."

Natalie Robottom stated, "You're correct, I'm not worried about normal times. What I'm saying when there's an event, which is usually when we have the most trouble..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Hundred year thing!"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah or some type of storm surge, because we'll have a levee that's keeping that water from coming into our community. It's going to stay outside the levee."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Oh I agree, agree."

Natalie Robottom stated, "And so our well system is outside the levee, so it'll be within that space where the surge or the tide or whatever is. So that is something actually you know I'm glad you brought that up, cause you know that's a concern of ours as well, what is that process for utility location or relocation and what are the interim measures that are going to be part of this project as it moves forward."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well we got we got some money that we're putting aside right now for the levee part of it. Why can't we use some of that money to protect our MCC buildings back there? Our electricity building cause that's mostly what's going to be the problem, the MCC building."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Like with a..."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Back there on 51. I mean it's that electrical building there you know that can't go under water. We got some berms back there now. What I'm saying is, if the Corps of Engineers not going to help us out there, it's better than going blow Fifty Million Dollar plant on this river out here, right now if we don't have the money to fix, we'll we're going to get to that. But you know I know the little area back here that's that consist of our water that 30,000 people drink from, can be, we can do something to help..."

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yeah we have some interim plans."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Talk about building a new water system right here on the levee out by the river."

Natalie Robottom stated, "We ultimately do have some interim plans that had to be approved after the..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, "We do?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Yes sir. Its part of the Corps involved, they provide

*us sand they provide the Hesco, there's a written document for interim measures for flooding of our infrastructure."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"But there is nothing in this plan with the levee to help us there."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Right."*

Councilman Snyder asked, *"Did we discuss that with them? Cause me, Larry, we're going to some meetings Larry & I and so who else going you know. And we're going to find all this stuff out if you know, we need to find some of these things out because that's our water supply."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"The actual document is on our website that has the 760..."*

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, *"I need to talk to somebody..."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Okay but like it list all the components of that project, whether its mitigation and what those estimated cost are. And repairing or replacing or removing our water system, was not one of those items. However, there are items for Utility or estimated cost for Utility relocation that is in the document and we can definitely you know speak with them. At our last meeting I know you're right St. James had some plans for their system that were outside and what was approved and the Corps was very specific and you're welcome to do them, you're welcome to do them you just have to pay a hundred percent. Okay, they will not be covered if they're not covered in this project. I think Mr. Sorapuru..."*

Councilman Snyder interrupting asked, *"What?"*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Like St. James is making a proposal to protect some of their infrastructure that wasn't included in the approved plan, and they were approved to do it they just will not be funded through this program. Do you remember that? They specifically said, you can do whatever you want you have to pay a 100%."*

Councilman Sorapuru stated, *"And I think..."*

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, *"That's additional though. That's additional plan."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Like if it's not in the plan."*

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, *"You got plans in the original plans to take care some areas back there."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Right. For critical, yeah to actually put levees around..."*

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, *"Levees, ring levees."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"Around critical infrastructure."*

Councilman Snyder stated, *"Exactly."*

Natalie Robottom stated, *"But for us they're enclosing our whole parish."*

Councilman Snyder stated, "I know."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "Yes Larry I'm glad you brought that up and now would be the time for us to you know put this on the table, but I think what you're referring to the monies that Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) we have coming in the taxes right now could even if the Corps of Engineers don't do anything, we should maybe come up with a plan our self, don't wait for them to decide if they're going to give us an opportunity to protect our wells, I think that's what Larry's trying..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "Exactly."

Councilman Sorapuru stated, "To express right now and hopefully we can get this on the table as soon as possible. I definitely would support that. Thank you."

**Larry Snyder/Lennix Madere - Discussion relative to Wastewater Treatment Plants, visits and findings pertaining to operating and safety conditions**

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well we had a meeting with Administration..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Hold up hold up a second. Someone coming up to the mic?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Oh I don't know if y'all have a question."

Councilman Madere stated, "No I mean is, Blake is the Director right? Wastewater Management."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Okay. Typically when there's discussion I thought it was just something yawl were bringing up."

Councilman Madere stated, "No."

Blake Fogleman stated, "We had a three hour discussion yesterday."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Yes we had a discussion with Mr. Blake and a couple of his subordinates and Ms. Robottom, about some issues we saw in the plant. Obviously a lot of things we can't do, because we just don't have the money. And we understand that, I know I do I understand that, but there are a lot of things that I think we came to an agreement on that we can do. I think we will try to do some of things. I'm just bringing this up to the public, because I was satisfied with the meeting and I think Mr. Madere was pretty much satisfied, we got our points over, we knew what some of the issues are and there was some safety issues and some operational issues and we got to look at both of them. But I think we could take care of the safety issues almost immediately, well some of them. You know now there's equipment out there that present safety issues and it's going take some time, but I think we just can't let it stay there like that because it's deteriorating, it's deteriorating, all the equipment in our plants are deteriorating. But I'm concerned about that, but I'm eagerly concerned about some of the safety issues and like for instance you know we told you about the tech shack for these people where they're going be at and I just don't think, I think they deserve better. These are people we're dealing with not animals you know, and I'm not saying that y'all treating them like animals no, but we just got to keep that in mind you know that these are people we're dealing with and we got to do what's best for them as much as we can. And the little things we need to do back there, I don't think we going have, they going cost us no arm and a leg,

*it's not going costing us no millions of dollars...*

Blake Fogleman stated, "I agree."

Councilman Snyder asked, "We got 7 plants or something like that?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Right something like that and they only be there in the daytime I think you see so. We just need to kind of listen at them a little bit and see what's going on. I mean I think we got, did we order this truck that we supposed to be ordering? We just ordered what? An electrical truck? I don't how much that probably cost \$80,000 for that thing. And I know we ordered another float machine, you know another one of those you know. Hey guys, you know these guys need a truck just to haul our stuff away, you know. They need a truck. The truck I saw the other day that was sad man you know. We just need to look at these things. I think we're paying somebody to haul our waste away now?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "We have, we actually have a couple of different contracts that come for like the headwork screen material and stuff. Our neighboring parishes do use haul companies to reduce their maintenance cost and long-term cost. In the interim of trying to get a new truck, we were going to plan on trying to see if we can get some of that load off us, so we can operate that plant properly and evaluate which path we wanted to choose."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Well you know I don't know if one of [inaudible] trucks will cost, you know I have no idea but I tell you one thing, [inaudible] two of them white trucks you'll got back, them \$60,000 white trucks and we can buy one of those trucks. One of those trucks..."

Blake Fogleman interrupting stated, "I need some more of those..."

Councilman Snyder interrupting stated, "One of those trucks that's going to do work, that's going to do work. These trucks do work, you know! These trucks do work them triaxle truck, they do so much work they wore it out. So I don't know, I just wanted to bring it to your attention. And we're not going to let this, weren't not going to forget about this guys, we got to try to at least help our employees out as much as we can with that."

Blake Fogleman stated, "If I may and Councilman, I'm sure have something as well I did step out and I apologize. I spoke to Councilman Perrilloux that wasn't able to meet yesterday with us. He also, I plan on setting something up cuz he obviously was on that tour and saw some stuff himself that he wanted to present. As you know we do have a long, long road ahead of us in the Wastewater Treatment Plants, just to put it out there, the last time any of those facilities were upgraded was 17 years ago. That's seven different plans mechanically operating and hasn't had a full blown upgrade since 2001. I will say, you know we did have a long 10 year Manager in the plants, he was holding things together and I think most of those employees were doing the same. It takes a while to turn those things around, we saw that in the Water Plants when we came aboard in 2015 and we intend on doing that in the Wastewater Treatment Plants as well."

Councilman Snyder stated, "Good."

Councilman Madere stated, "I just want to say a couple of things. First of all you said the last time you did anything those facilities was 17 years ago. And I

think I mentioned in the meeting to you and I made it perfectly clear to Ms. Robottom, I don't hold this Administration or you or this Council responsible for something that started 17 years ago. What I said in the meeting is, I hold this Administration and yourself, and this Council, and me, once we found out about these problems, if we don't do anything it, now I become responsible I become part of the problem. Okay and I don't want to be part of a problem that started 17 years ago. Those things should have been upgraded yearly, maintenance whatever it is, preventive maintenance, painting and all the things that's falling apart now over at those facilities. Okay and I'm not going to be part of the problem to continue that. I know to go back and straighten out 17 years of neglect, it's going to cost a lot of money. But we have to start somewhere, and where we have to start is with making sure that all the employees are safe and have all the equipment that they're supposed need at those plants. Okay that's the first thing, and upmost and Ms. Robottom and myself always said, that safety is paramount, okay for the employees. Okay so those things can be implemented, that don't have to take 10 years to do that. That can be done within 30 days or quicker, okay! Now when you talk about the mechanical devices, and the repairs and the painting and the money, that's going cost a lot of money. But, you start with the ones the little things that can be done. Okay and gradually as the big money come in or we find money, we do the big things. But you have to do something, we can't just sit idly by and let 17 years become 18 years and then 18 become 19 and then 19 become 20. Okay, so we have to do something okay? And that's my point that we have to do something, starting with making sure the employees are safe and taken care of and not eating in the same room where they're doing sampling. That's not good, that's not good at all. So we got to make sure that happens now. Okay like it should have happened before alright! And one other thing to, you mentioned and Mr. Snyder was referred to it, I want to explain it and I don't like it. When a resident call me and tell me they have a problem, okay especially someone you know anyone, but especially someone that I really know who's 80 years old, I'm going to react. Okay and you mentioned yesterday Reed (okay I'm a say it) said he was the one who told them to lock the gate, but he didn't say lock the gate to keep the Councilmen out, but he said he told them to lock the gate. And I told him in the meeting, well whoever you told it to and if you didn't say it like that, I would make sure that I let him know to say exactly what I say, not say what you want to say. Because I took it as being a way of saying the Councils' nose, we're causing problems okay? As the Council Members', when someone present a problem to us we try to solve it. So my intentions of going over there was to see what the situation was all about. And you mentioned that if DEQ come or something, I think you said they let you know they're coming? Did you?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Not all the time, no sir."

Councilman Madere stated, "Alright, not all the time. Okay!"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Actually there's a, when DEQ does any kind of inspection, we have 30 minutes to open the gate and let them access..."

Councilman Madere interrupting stated, "Okay and Reed told me that that was a law that say they have to keep the gates lock. Okay well, when people tell me things I go and find out myself. And I spoke to DEQ and I spoke to LDH, which used to be DHH. I spoke to both of them yesterday and today, in fact I had the lady send me the rules, and she sent it to me today. There's nothing say that those facilities should be locked in the daytime. The rules state when no one is there, they're supposed to be locked to keep entry. Okay! But Reed mentioned in the meeting that they're supposed to be locked all the time. And only open when somebody come

there or ask to get in there, okay but that's not what is said in this document. And I spoke to the lady at LDH and I had her send it to me. Okay! It's supposed to be closed when the employees leave for the day, then you lock then you lock it. And DEQ says that they don't have to call anyone, they can come anytime they want, and they are encouraged to come out and surprise individual parish or plants because their purpose is to find out if there's any violation. Okay, so he said they are not required to notify anyone, okay so I just want to make sure that everybody understand that. As a Council Member I do not have to notify, I can show up and he told me when you show up the person that should be there to greet me is the, whoever is in charge at that facility. He said that's who supposed to be there."

Blake Fogleman stated, "The Operator."

Councilman Madere stated, "The Operator. He say and if the Operator is doing his job when I come on the site, he'll see me. That's what was told to me by DEQ, and LDH. I had that information sent to me today. Okay so I just want to make sure and clear that up so there's no misunderstanding and no orders being given to these facilities to lock us out. Cuz if I need to get there as the Governing Body, I'm coming. Okay and they job is to make sure that they give us all the information that we need to find out. Okay so if you lock me out, I know nothing about safety concerns. If you lock me out, I know nothing about equipment that's broken, okay. Just not lock out okay just let me in! And that's what we're trying to do to make sure everything is right, and also while we're discussing, DEQ did tell me they went over to the Garyville site. Okay and you wanted me to pass this on, and I think he put it in a statement some things that should have been on site that was not there. Like a storm water prevention plan, that was not there."

Blake Fogleman stated, "It's at Elm Street."

Councilman Madere stated, "Okay huh!"

Blake Fogleman stated, "It's at Elm Street."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well he said..."

Blake Fogleman interrupting stated, "We actually have a full blown training morning at our laboratories office."

Councilman Madere stated, "Well you see that's the things I'm talking about. We're training and the facilities been open for years. And this something that everybody should know."

Blake Fogleman stated, "It's a requirement each year."

Councilman Madere stated, "Let me tell you what he told me. I got it right here. He said, Storm Water Prevention Plan should be on site. Okay, he say when he asked for it, it wasn't there. He said, an Annual Water Municipality Rehabilitation Environmental Audit should be on site, it wasn't there. And he also told me an Operational Water Plan should be on site and that was not there. So all I'm saying is, that's what he had in his report, that's what he told me. And he said those things need to be on site. So, and that's not mechanical and that's not employees, that's paperwork. So that has to be there, we have to make sure we have our paperwork right, we have to make sure our employees safe and try and fix as many broken machines as we can as the money comes in. That's what we have to do."

Blake Fogleman stated, "Councilman if you don't mind. They come to almost every site once a year, and there is not a time where they come in our plant where they just check off walking away with nothing. So we do, they that is something that came to our office and we have to address within 6 months, it's typically 6 months of what that in site inspection was. It was delivered to us I think two weeks ago by the Supervisor of that facility. So we addressed these issues as they come, we do that a lot of times on the fly and it doesn't escalate to anything other than checks and balances much like you all are doing."

Councilman Madere stated, "That's exactly what I'm getting ready to say, okay. If our check and balance was in line and in place, these things would have been checked off as being there. Okay so what I'm saying is our check and balance is not balancing cuz it was not there. Okay if they supposed to be there, they should be there whenever these individuals pop up because we don't know when they're coming. Just like he said, I asked him I said, did someone call you? He said no it was just a random check. Okay, so if you know (I hate to use football players), but if you know you're going to be randomly drug tested and you get busted, okay you got busted. Okay so what I'm saying is just make sure you have all these things that's supposed to be in place at the site. Okay and we won't get these like write-ups, it's a write-up you know. And those things the next time he come he expect those things to be there. That's all I'm saying and understand about check and balance. Okay, so we need to do more checking to get it right. Okay?"

Blake Fogleman stated, "Yes sir."

**MOTION:** Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Snyder seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss - Tomieka M. Williams v. John W. Granier, et al, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Docket No. 70276. The motion passed with Councilmen Becnel and Perrilloux absent.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Malik seconded the motion to go back into regular session. The motion passed with Councilmen Becnel and Perrilloux absent.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Hotard moved and Councilman Sorapuru seconded the motion to authorize the Parish to settle the case of Tomieka M. Williams v. John W. Granier, et al, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Docket No. 70276 in an amount to not exceed \$100,000.00. The motion passed with Councilmen Becnel and Perrilloux absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A.B. Houston vs E. J. Turley - Docket# C-72495 - to discuss litigation strategy

Roger Tassin v Matika White, et al, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC docket 72554, Div. B - to discuss litigation strategy

Kane County, Utah v. United States, Case No. 17-739C and 17-1991C

Tomieka M. Williams v. John W. Granier, et al, 40<sup>th</sup> JDC Docket No. 70276

Parish Buildings - Security

Any and all pending legal matters

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**18-31** An ordinance amending St. John the Baptist Parish Code of

Ordinances, specifically Chapter 14. - Fees and charges, Chapter 26. - Nuisances, Chapter 28. - Offenses and Miscellaneous provisions, Chapter 111. - Subdivisions, and Chapter 113. - Zoning, specifically those provisions related to abandoned and temporary signs, permitted and conditional uses, and the Major Corridor Overlay District boundaries with the purpose of clarifying the intent of existing language and procedures, as well as providing for other related matters (Parishwide, Docket No. TXT-18-02) (N. Robottom)

- 18-32** An ordinance approving a conditional use permit to establish a personal shed and storage area to include storage of boats, hunting, fishing, and crabbing equipment on a portion of Lot E of the Galva-Manchac Subdivision, also identified as assessed parcel No. 0400122600, located in the area generally bounded by Lake Maurepas, Lake Pontchartrain, Alligator Ln., Bait Alley, Galva Ct., and Old Hwy. 51, containing municipal address 113 Bait Alley, Akers, LA as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-18-1115) (N. Robottom)
- 18-33** An ordinance approving a conditional use permit to establish a Kayak tour business site including kayak storage, vehicle/commercial trailer parking, and a future commercial structure to include retail and a lodging unit on Lot C-1 of the Amy S. Boudreaux Tract, located in the area generally bounded by Lake Pontchartrain, Peavine Rd., and Gary Rd., containing municipal address 118 Gary Rd., LaPlace/Frenier, LA as shown in Exhibit 1 attached (PZR-18-1113) (N. Robottom)
- 18-34** A millage ordinance - An ordinance providing for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, to be spread upon the 2018 Assessment Roll (N. Robottom)

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

Natalie Robottom stated, "Good evening. Thank you to all the vendors and residents who joined us for the Health and Wellness Fair this weekend. Numerous health screenings were given, as well as flu shots and vision tests. The big hit was the Fire Department obstacle course that challenged us all physically and brought us into a day in the life of our own emergency responders! Phew, it was tough and I only did the children's course! I know our attendees enjoyed it as well as children and youth. The Sheriff and his staff were there, Ochsner, The YMCA, our Teche Action Clinic, line dancing and Zumba and so much more. We wish more people would have attended but it was a success and we have already started brainstorming ways to make it bigger and better than last year. Thank you to Rhonda Lemons and her staff for spearheading. On October 1st, the Motorist Assistance Program (MAP) will officially start in St. John. M.A.P. is designed to help stranded motorists, clear freeways of minor incidents and assist stalled vehicles. Not to mention it provides important protection to our first responders. A ceremony to commemorate the upcoming announcement and program will take a place in mid-October. More information on this will be sent out once finalized. Last week, the 45th Annual Festival Poster Reveal took place at the San Francisco Plantation Sugar Barn. We are very excited about this year's talented and energetic artist, Ciara Sanders, who is a college student at ULL and a native of LaPlace. Posters can be bought at local grocers beginning Friday, October 5th at Matherne's, Dons, Gregs, the Percy Hebert Building, and at the Edgard Courthouse. Ride passes have also been put in stores as we are gearing up

for this year's 45th anniversary Festival that will take place Oct 19-21 at Thomas F Daley Memorial Park. The band line up, craft and food vendor lists and more will be announced in the upcoming days. Don't miss any of the announcements, you can "like" us on Facebook, new to this year is Andouille Festival on Instagram, at our website [www.andouillefestival.com](http://www.andouillefestival.com), the government access channel, and more! The annual Pageant will take place on October 13th and Miss and Teen contestants are still needed. Please email or call Deanna Schexnayder if you are interested at [d.schexnayder@stjohn-la.gov](mailto:d.schexnayder@stjohn-la.gov), 652-9569. Applications are available to download online at [www.andouillefestival.com](http://www.andouillefestival.com) or can be picked up at our office. Important elections are coming up and we don't want our community to miss out on the chance to vote. This week is Voter's Registration & Education Week. The Registrars of Voters staff will be out registering people to vote at various locations. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, October 9, 2018 for the November 6, 2018 Louisiana Primary Election.

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018**

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am - Riverside Academy - 332 Railroad Ave, Reserve
- 1:00 pm - War Veterans Home - 4004 West Airline Highway, Reserve

**Thursday, September 27, 2018**

- 10:38 am - 11:10 am - West St. John High - 480 Hwy 3127, Edgard
- 1:00 pm - East St. John High - #1 Wildcat Drive, Reserve

**Friday, September 28, 2018**

- 10:00 am - St. John Council on Aging, Edgard. Please don't miss these opportunities to register if you have not. In addition to this week's activities, residents can always register to vote online at [www.geauxvote.com](http://www.geauxvote.com) or visit the Registrar of Voters Office in the Percy Hebert Building on the East Bank or in the Edgard Courthouse on the West Bank. Reminder, Utilities will be conducting a voluntary free chlorine burn beginning with Water Districts #1 and #2 (Edgard, Reserve, Garyville, Mt. Airy) starting October 1st. The Chlorine burn, for Edgard, Reserve, Garyville & Mt. Airy only and will last around 30 days. This is routine maintenance. There could be some discoloration or cloudiness in the water and possibly a slight chlorine odor or taste. However, the water is SAFE to drink during this time. Last week, the Human Resources Department led a state governmental ethics training for employees, board members and elected officials at REGALA gym. The training was very successful and had 85 attendees. For those that could not attend, St. James Parish Government will be hosting an ethics training on October 24, from 10:30am-11:30am at the West Bank Reception Hall on Highway 18 in Vacherie. As construction to the new Government Complex comes to a close, please be advised that services will start to move to the new building next month. We are anticipating moving Planning and Zoning first and then billing thereafter. More information regarding the move will be forthcoming. The St. John Sheriff's Office is now hiring 911 dispatchers to start immediately. The job comes with attractive benefits, retirement, insurance and the potential for overtime pay. Please apply at [www.stjohnsheriff.org](http://www.stjohnsheriff.org). Reminder, Ramp closures will take place this week at Belle Terre exit as DOTD closes out the project. The ramp will be closed from 8 pm to 4:30 am each night through Thursday. We are hoping that this project will be finished soon. Thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:42 PM, Councilman Malik moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Perrilloux absent.

/s/Lennix Madere  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

/s/Jackie Landeche  
Council Secretary